



The Great Declaration

“Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He was asking His disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” And they said, “Some say John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; but still others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Matthew 16:13-17

Caesarea Philippi was known as a center of pagan celebrations and worship. A natural waterfall and associated pool provided the setting for Greco-Roman styled carousing. Jesus withdrew from the Jewish areas, giving an opportunity to prepare Himself and the disciples for His triumphant entry, crucifixion and resurrection. In this pagan setting, on the verge of the most important moment in human and eternal history, Jesus tests the disciples by posing this question, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” As with many theological debates, the prevailing winds of the day reflect a variety of possibilities: “John, Elijah, Jeremiah or some other Old Testament prophet.” Jesus’ initial question and the disciples’ answers follow a more academic approach, a sort of polling to determine the mood of the culture about the Son of Man. The second question is far more personal. In the first He refers to Himself in a distant, third-person manner – “the Son of Man” and He refers to the opinions of others in a distant, third-person manner – “people.” The second question gets intensely personal on two fronts. Jesus refers to Himself in the first-person as “I am” and to the disciples in the direct and second-person manner as “you.” This is the natural progression when it comes to the person of Christ. Every person on the planet must grapple with His identity. It often begins in a rather academic manner. The individual hears about Christianity through a friend or radio

program or through a book or maybe they attend a church. They begin to contemplate the nature of religion in general, and the claims of Jesus in particular. However, no one can remain at a distance. Jesus does not intend for us to function in this third-person manner. Ultimately the identity of Jesus Christ is intensely personal. It is impossible to be a Christian from a distance. Christ calls us in close. He calls us personally. He calls us to a commitment of thought and life. “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter’s response is especially striking in light of the location of their discussion – walking among the idolatrous statutes representing dead religions and dead gods in Caesarea Philippi. “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” This is the defining issue of our day. Religious debates will rage. What religion best represents humanity before God? This question will rage but it misses the point. The question is not “what is the best way for us to reach God?” The question is “what has God done to reach down to us?” Religion pursues God on our terms. Jesus Christ pursues us on God’s terms. That is why Simon’s confession must become the confession of each and every person. This confession goes beyond a mere intellectual ascent. This confession goes beyond religious posturing. The implication is clear. Our only means to a relationship with the living God is through His resurrected Son. The relationship God makes with us through Christ creates a natural response on our part. If Jesus really is the Christ, the Son of the living God, our intense, personal loyalty must follow that confession. Jesus Christ is the living Son of God, crucified and risen again from the dead. He demands my unending worship and loyalty.

~ Daniel



Want to be kept “in the loop”?

Check out our Monthly Newsletter, at the Welcome Desk
or online at www.matthewroad.org.

In addition, we have a Weekly Announcement Sheet,
also at the Welcome Desk.

Want to receive our weekly email?

Send an email with your request to mrbcinfo@matthewroad.org.



Missed a sermon?

**Want to share our sermon series
with a friend or family member?**

**Check out our website and
listen to or download our sermons.
www.matthewroad.org**

Children's Ministry



Wednesday Nights, for kids ages 3* - 6th grade
6:30pm - 8:00pm

*3 year olds in Cubbies must be potty trained, and have turned 3 by Sept. 1st. A parent must stay on campus through the duration of the program. See our website to see what Adult Bible Study classes we have for you.

Sunday Nights 5:30pm
Education Building
2nd floor



We are studying the Beatitudes. Join us as we learn what it means to be a disciple committed to going out into the world to make disciples! For K - 6th Grade.

Sunday School

Join us every Sunday
morning from 9:45-10:45am
as we journey through the
Gospel Project.



Student Ministry

**For any questions
about anything @ anytime,
contact Zach (210-818-8002)
or Jonathan (214-796-9181)**

January 10th -

Youth Workers' Luncheon @12:15pm (after Morning 11:00am service)

We will meet til 1:45pm. We have some new things to go over and we need your input on it. I'll provide lunch, updates, and schedule for upcoming year, and we have some important decisions coming up regarding the youth program so we need everyone here!

Please RSVP to Diana Hines and Zach if you are coming -

(diana@matthewroad.org; zach@matthewroad.org)



January 23rd -

Youth Parent Breakfast, 9:00am,

Cost: \$5, Located at Matthew Road Baptist Church
Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall

****This is our 1st one! The morning will include breakfast and a guest speaker on subjects dealing with your youth and you! Tickets are available! See Zach.**



Music Ministry



Children's Choir: 6:00-6:30, Education Building (2nd floor)

Youth Choir: 5:45-6:15, Choir Room (Behind Sanctuary)

Adult Choir: 6:30-7:30, Sanctuary

Grace Groups

Wonder about how faith and mental health intersect in today's world? Do you feel like some people have told you that, if you just believed enough or prayed enough, then you or your loved one would not be struggling with a mental health difficulty? Come Experience Hope. Experience Perspective. Experience Grace. Here is what a couple of people have said about being involved in Grace Groups at Matthew Road:

"Grace group has become a new staple in my life where I look forward to this time of fellowship and community each week. The group provides a safe and comfortable place to be able to open up and share about the struggles of living with a mental health condition, and to look at truths from the Bible and how it applies to mental health with people who understand the struggles and difficulties I am blessed and thankful that God brought this group of incredible individuals into my life to help me know I'm not alone." (A Living Grace Group member)

"Being a part of a family grace group has provided me with a safe place to share about the ups and downs of having a loved one with a mental health difficulty. Each week we have a different topic we cover that helps us think about how to be an effective support to our loved one. The group doesn't try to "fix" either me or my loved one, but supports, encourages and prays with me." (A Family Grace Group member)

Family Grace Group meets on Mondays from 6:30-8:00. It is aimed at those who have a family member with a mental health difficulty. Contact Greg or Meg Trihus for more information (972-372-9671 or mtrihus@gmail.com)

Living Grace Group meets on Thursdays from 6:30-8:00. It is aimed at those with a mental health difficulty who are striving for recovery. Contact George Fritts for more information. (682-422-6722 or gfrittslpcintern@gmail.com)

Women's Ministry



Weekly Bible Studies:

Sunday mornings

Rachel Sullenger & Tiffany Marich
- the book of Timothy
Joy Richards & Chris Anderson
- the book of Acts

Sunday nights

Meg Trihus & Others
- the book of Acts

Wednesday Nights

Cyndi King
- the book of Luke

Friday Mornings, Chick Fil A

Cyndi King
- The book of Luke



Ellen Van Treuren is offering a painting class to the Women of MRBC. Come join us for this time of fellowship - you will come away with a beautiful painting.

Space is limited you must reserve your spot.

Make your reservation to

rachel@matthewroad.org by January 11th;
payment due at registration.

Who: Women of MRBC

When: January 16, 10am - 1pm

Where: Fellowship Hall

Cost: \$17.00

What to bring: Your Special Salad to share

No childcare is provided

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Contact Nina
nina.wilhite@hotmail.com
(817) 517-9736

NewComer's Class & Luncheon

Since we have people attending our church from every type of church background, we have established an on-going class, which provides basic information about our church. We would like to invite you to our NewComer's Class & Dinner. We request that all new members attend this class. We also invite those who have not yet joined our church or rejoined our family, and wish to learn more about our church home. As a part of the class, we will explain what we believe, how we operate, our vision, and a little about the background of our church. This informal setting will allow you the opportunity to ask questions and grow in your understanding of the ministries of our church.

Our next class is Sunday, January 10th, at 12:15pm, in our Fellowship Hall. Lunch and childcare are included. Please rsvp to the Welcome Desk or email mrbcinfo@matthewroad.org.



PAW



Preschool Academy of Westchester (PAW) is a quality preschool program for children ages 9 months - 5 years old. Your children will enjoy their classroom activities planned around our curriculum, "Wee Learn" (published by LifeWay).

At our program, your child will learn about sharing, healthy living, academics, music, American Sign Language, the Bible, manners, cooperation and giving. It is a time for both you and your children to enjoy.

Schedule: We are a Monday & Wednesday preschool. Our hours are 9am - 2pm.

Tuition and Fees: Please call for tuition, fees and policy information.

**Pease call Cyndi King, at 972-641-7380,
for more information about our program.**

LIVING PROOF

**Last day to register is
2/28/16!**

Women's Retreat

March 4 - 5, 2016

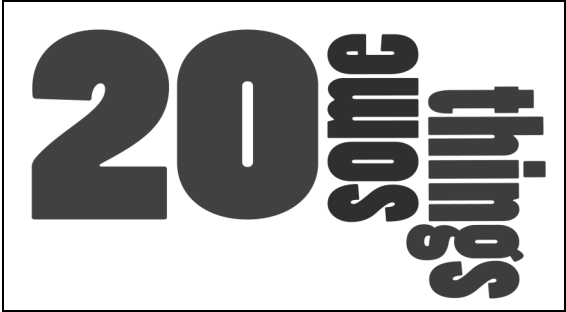
Waco, Texas

Beth Moore Living Proof, Live

- Cost: \$100.00 per person, if staying 4 to a room. This includes cost for the conference & hotel room. (Fairfield)
- \$55.00 due at registration
- Saturday breakfast is included, you will be responsible for dinner Friday night and lunch Saturday.

Questions, or to RSVP, please contact Rachel
at rachel@matthewroad.org

20Somethings & Singles



Activities:

- ☺ February 6, 2016 : SIngle Conference
- ☺ June 25 - 30, 2016: Destin, cost \$350
- ☺ August, 2016: Mission trip to Mexico, cost \$250

Classes:

- ~ Sunday Morning 9:45 am: Daniel Sweet leading Explore God, part of the Explore God.com movement (Ed Bldg)
- ~ Sunday Night 5:30 pm: Jared Scott leading a study in Ephesians (Fellowship Hall)
- ~ Wednesday Night 6:45pm: Steve Hines leading Acts/Epistles (Teller Room)

Contact Rachel at rachel@matthewroad.org to find out the latest events & activities!

SINGLES

Night of Praise, talk, food and fun

When: February 5th, 7PM
Where: Matthew Road Baptist Church, Common Grounds
What: Game - Battle of the Genders
Worship, Devotional, Panel Discussion, Pie Bar
Cost: Free

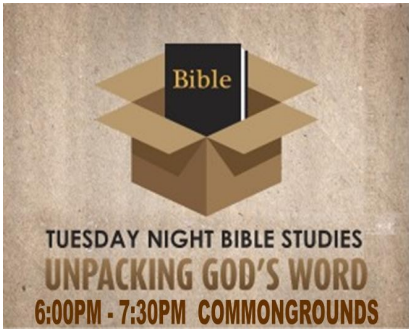
Join us for a night of fun. Two the Fridays before SIngles Awareness Day (Valentines Day) we will have a time together. Three churches are joining together to celebrate our life in Jesus, play games, worship together and eat pie. Who can ask for more? To sign up contact: rachel@matthewroad.org or stephen@matthewroad.org

College

COLLEGE
BIBLE STUDY

Class: Sunday Morning, 9:45am
Ed. Bldng., 2nd Flr.
Teacher: Kevin & Caitlin Marek
Studying: various books of the Bible

Contact Steve at stephen@matthewroad.org to find out the latest events & activities!



January 2016 Events & Activities

For more information, please see our website, www.matthewroad.org, or call the church office at 972-641-2717.

- January 1st - Church office closed in observance of New Year's Holiday
- January 6th - 20Somethings F1rst Conference, Gateway Church, leaving MRBC at 5:30pm
- January 7th - Young@Heart Breakfast at Outlaws, 8:30am
- January 10th - Youth Leader Lunch and Meeting, 12:15pm, CommonGrounds
NewComer's Class & Lunch, 12:15pm, FH
- January 11th - Women's Faith, Fellowship and Accountability Group begins, 6:00pm FH
- January 16th - Women's Painting Class, 10:00am, FH
- January 23rd - Youth Parent Breakfast & Guest Speaker, 8:00am, FH

Discipleship

Sunday Nights:

- ◇ 20Somethings - Fellowship Hall, 5:30pm
- ◇ Adult Discipleship - Sanctuary, 5:30pm
- ◇ Ladies Bible Study - Conference Room, 5:30pm
- ◇ Young Marrieds Bible Study - Library, 5:30pm
- ◇ Adult Couples Class - Fellowship Hall, 5:30pm
- ◇ Guy Talk for youth - CommonGrounds, 5:30pm, see Zach for exact location
- ◇ Girl Talk for youth - CommonGrounds, 5:30pm, see Zach for exact location
- ◇ MD² for children - Education Building, 5:30pm

Wednesday Nights:

- ◇ AWANA for children - Ed. Building, 6:30pm
- ◇ Collide for youth - CommonGrounds, 6:30pm
- ◇ Adult Bible Studies - Library, 6:45pm
- ◇ Women's Bible Study - Conference Room, 6:45pm
- ◇ 20Somethings Bible Study - Teller Room, 6:45pm

Regular Scheduled Activities

Sundays	
Morning Worship	8:30 & 11:00am
Morning Bible Study (all ages)	9:45am
Evening Bible Study (all ages)	5:30pm
7:17 Service	6:45pm
Mondays	
K2 Primary Academy	8:45am
PAW Program	9:00am
Women's Bible Study	6:00pm
Tuesdays	
MRA (during school year)	8:30am
Young @ Heart Activities	9:45am
College Bible Study	6:00pm
Wednesdays	
K2 Primary Academy	8:45am
PAW Program	9:00am
Wednesday Night Dinner	5:15pm
Proclamation (youth choir)	5:45pm
Children's Choir	6:00pm
Collide (youth)	6:30pm
Adult Choir	6:30pm
AWANA (children)	6:30pm
Adult Bible Study	6:45pm
20Somethings	6:45pm
Thursdays	
MRA (during school year)	8:30am
Fridays	
Chick time at Chick-Fil-A	9:00am
Saturdays	
Men's Coffee Group (Good Day Caf�, GP)	7:30am

Average Morning Attendance for December: 375
Average 7:17 Service Attendance for December: 141

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!”
2 Corinthians 5:17
Happy New Year to our Church Family and Friends!