



Ascetics: The Character of God and the Beauty of the Universe - Part 1

Who Made You?

We begin with the most basic of questions. How did the universe come to be? All evidence points to the temporal nature of the universe. It had a beginning. It will have an end. Just like us, the universe constantly changes. It ages, getting older every day. Galaxies collide with other galaxies. Stars explode and die. Our own star had a beginning and will eventually run out of energy and die. The earth ages, along with the rest of us. The earth had a beginning and will come to certain end. Just like the universe, just like our sun and our planet, each of us had a beginning. There was a time when you did not exist. There is coming a time when you will die. Just like humans, the universe will eventually die. The universe is not eternal.

From where did the universe come? How did the universe begin? The Bible opens with emphatic language in addressing this most basic question. *"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."* The universe exists because God made it. This answers the question of causality. What caused the universe? How did it get here? God put it here. That is how the universe came into being. That is how the earth and our sun came into existence. God made the heavens and the earth and everything on the earth.

If there is no God, extremely difficult questions arise. How does a contingent, dependent, temporal universe come into being? How does non-existence become existence? Some say the universe just is or that it is eternal. This seems to be as audacious a claim as a person claiming that they have no beginning or that they have always been. If asked, "How did you come to be?" most will answer with statements about conception, birth and parents. Hopefully no one will claim that they have always been or that they were self-created. Any foolish language like that should prompt immediate scoffing - "You have NOT always been." When confronted with the origin of the universe, any claims to eternity or self-creation should be met with similar skepticism. If the universe has a beginning someone or something brought it into existence. The most rational answer to the question of how the universe came into being comes from the affirmation of Genesis 1:1. God, a non-contingent, independent, self-sufficient, eternal being, brought the universe into existence - *"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."*

In R.C. Sproul's book *Not a Chance*, he describes a radio news report that aired when the Hubble Telescope was launched. The news report "quoted a noted scientist who declared, 'Fifteen to seventeen billion years ago the universe exploded into being.' The operative words are the last three, 'exploded into being.'... Whence does something move into *being*? The only logical alternative is non-being. Does the statement mean that fifteen billion years ago the universe exploded from non-being into being?...This is so absurd that it seems to be downright silly." In addition to this quote from his book, I once heard R.C. Sproul say that if the universe exploded into being out of nothing, "Can you imagine the explosion that NOTHING makes? If there was ever a time there was nothing -



A million years ago, a billion years ago, a trillion years ago, what would there be now? Nothing." It is illogical to speak of a temporary universe exploding out of nothing and into something.

It is tremendously helpful to know the cause for the universe's existence. God made the world and everything in it. An eternal, self-existent God brought a temporary, dependent universe into existence. However, simply stating that God created the universe still leaves the fundamental question of why unanswered. Not surprisingly, the children's catechism begins with the issue of causality. The first question of the catechism is, "Who made you?" Answer: "God made me." The second question, "What else did God make?" Answer: "God made me and all things." From the opening verse of the Bible, God's word clearly states that He is the source of all things. A chorus of other verses supports this claim. In addition to God's revelatory word, there is a wealth of philosophical, ethical and scientific arguments that come to bear on this debate.

(To be continued in the May Newsletter)

Ride to Rescue



2016 Ride to Rescue
Sunday, May 1st, 3:00pm

Join us Sunday, May 1st, 3:00pm at Lynn Creek Park, Pavilion #2, for a time of fun, fellowship, food and worship!

All proceeds will be used to benefit the orphanage in Myanmar, Burma.

To register go to www.matthewroad.org.

Don't forget to fill out your release forms, found at www.matthewroad.org/forms, and turn in by April 20th!

Get Connected

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



This Spring we are studying the book of Matthew! 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.

Parent Meeting for
Preteen Camp
Sunday, April 10 at
12:15pm AND 4:30pm,
Library



VBS Info Meeting for
Volunteers
Sunday, April 24,
12-12:30
Conference Room



Sunday School

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



PRETEEN CAMP
AT MT. LEBANON
JUNE 27TH - JULY 1ST
SEE BRITTANY

- VBS: June 13th - 17th
- Preteen Camp at Mt. Lebanon: June 27th - July 1st
- Camp 3:17 Sports & Arts Day Camp: July 18th - 22nd



Student Ministry

For any questions
about anything @ anytime,
contact Zach (210-818-8002)

Bible Studies:

- High School Guys (9-12th) @Geisendorffs, Mondays, 6:30pm (Tim Wittman)
- High School Girls @ Christine Wehrli & Maggie Dean's, Thursdays 6:30pm (Christine & Maggie)
- High School Guys (Students in area) @ the Kings, Mondays 6:30pm (Weston Southers)
- Middle School Guys @ the Hines, Mondays, 6:30pm-8pm (leader tba)
- Middle School Girls @ the Halsells, Mondays, 7:00pm - 8:00pm (leader tba)
- Athletes Guys Bible Study/ Open Basketball @MRBC Mondays 6:00pm (Zach)

Music Ministry



Children's Choir: 6:00-6:30, Education Building (2nd floor)
Adult Choir: 6:30-7:30, Sanctuary

Matthew Road Academy

Matthew Road Academy is currently in the middle of our 4th school year. Approximately 200 students venture onto the MRBC campus every Tuesday and Thursday to take various courses, including math, foreign languages, fitness and fine arts. Most students attend full time, meaning they complete all needed academic subjects, plus an elective or two.

On Mon/Wed/Fri they are at home with a parent, completing assigned work that is required to be turned back in the following school day. Accountability is high and I am proud that the majority of the students, despite a rigorous curriculum, are on the A honor roll.

This unique education model is called the University Model. Research shows students who complete their lower education through this model learn study habits and a work ethic that they carry with them into successful college years.

The Class of 2016 is comprised of 13 graduating seniors with plans to attend Bible colleges, community college and universities. We are proud that our seniors have worked hard and have been accepted into the schools of their choice.

Having started with just 30 students, our growth shows MRA has found a need in our community and we enjoy ministering to these Christian families as they strive to raise and disciple their children through these informative years.

We are now taking applications for the 2016-2017 school year. Because we are currently at max capacity in grades 3rd-10th, all incoming applications will be reviewed and prayed over.

If you are interested in your student attending MRA, or know a friend who may be, please visit us at: www.matthewroadacademy.org

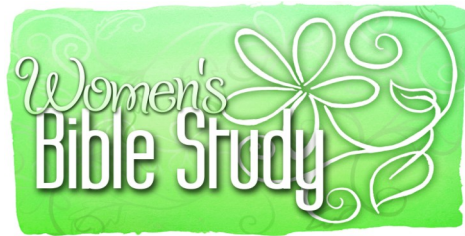
As a self funded ministry of MRBC, this is a paid private school option; however, it is the heart and desire of Pastor Daniel and myself to keep MRA an affordable education opportunity for the community.

We look forward to another great year and appreciate your prayers as our 22 staff members educate, disciple, and love the students and families who attend this year.

~ Blessings, Candice McClellin, MRA Administrator (469-200-0227)



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
- the Epistles

Monday Nights

Nina Wilhite
- Genesis

Wednesday Nights

Cyndi King
- the book of Luke

Thursday Nights

Vicki Germer
- Pursuing God's Love

Friday Mornings, Chick Fil A

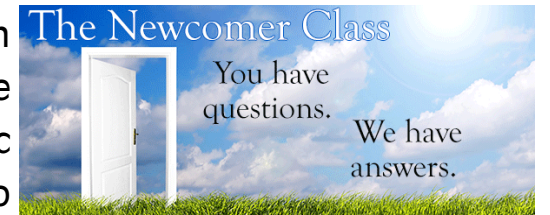
Cyndi King
- The book of Luke



NewComer's Class & Luncheon

Since we have people attending our church from every type of church background, we have established an on-going class that 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 have returned to our church 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 Friday, April 29th, at 6:30pm, in our Fellowship Hall. Dinner and childcare are included. Please RSVP at the Welcome Desk or email mrbcinfo@matthewroad.org.



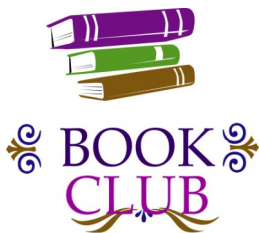
Parents Night Out



Parents Night Out is back!
We no longer always meet on the third Friday of each month, so check out the new dates:

April 29th
May 27th
June 24th
July 15th
No PNO in August

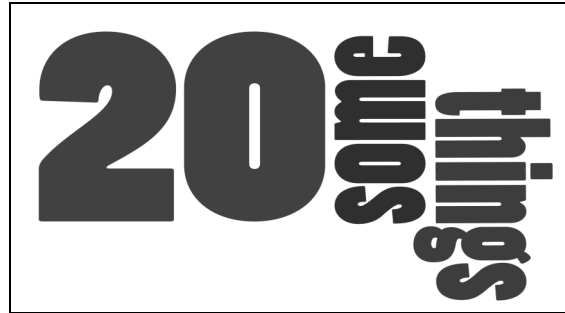
Please note: You must RSVP to cyndikking@msn.com to ensure your child's spot.



Join us as we discuss Percella Shire's Book "Ferverent" and enjoy a Potluck lunch at Candice McClellin's home
701 Gentry Drive, Arlington TX 76018
469-261-3779 - Please RSVP
Fridays, 11:45am

You have an enemy...and he's dead set on destroying all you hold dear and keeping you from experiencing abundant life in Christ. What's more, his approach to disrupting your life and discrediting your faith isn't general or generic, not a one-size-fits-all. It's specific. Each chapter will guide you in crafting prayer strategies that hit the enemy where it hurts, letting him know you're on to him and that you won't back down. Because with every new strategy you build, you're turning the fiercest battles of life into precise strikes against him and his handiwork, each one infused with the power of God's Spirit.

20Somethings & Singles



Activities:

- ☺ April 30th - Activity, see Rachel
- ☺ May 15th - Ranger Game, see Rachel
- ☺ July 24th - 30th: Mission trip to Mexico, cost \$250, see Rachel

Classes:

- ~ Sunday Morning 9:45 am: Daniel Sweet leading
- ~ Sunday Night 5:30 pm
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!

Mexico Mission Trip
July 24th - 30th
Cost - \$300
More info to come...

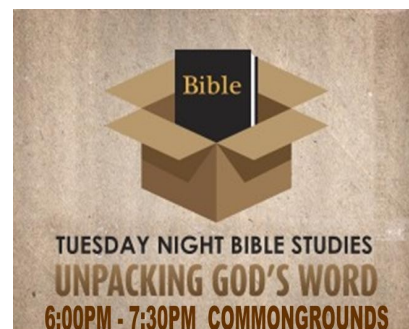


College



Class: Sunday Morning, 9:45am
 Ed. Bldg., 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!



April 2016 Events & Activities

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

- April 2nd:** 20Somethings Event, see Rachel
- April 3rd:** B&G Meeting, 4:30pm, Conference Room
- April 7th:** Young @ Heart Breakfast at Outlaws, 8:30am
- April 8th - 9th:** Youth Equip Conference, see Zach
- April 10th:** Preteen Camp Meeting, 12:15pm, Library
Deacon Meeting, 4:00pm, Conference Room
Preteen Camp Meeting, 4:30pm, Library
- April 11th - 15th:** Men's Conference, see Daniel
- April 15th:** MRA Field Day, see Candice
- April 17th:** Youth Mission Training Day, 12:15pm, CommonGrounds
- April 20th:** Finance Committee Meeting, 6:00pm, Church Office
- April 24th:** VBS Volunteer Meeting, 12:15pm, Conference Room
- April 27th:** Quarterly Business Meeting, 6:00pm, Fellowship Hall (*vote on new church constitution*)
- April 29th:** Newcomers Class & Dinner, 6:30pm, Fellowship hall
Parents Night Out, 6:30pm, Worship Center *must RSVP with Cyndi, cyndikking@msn.com

Discipleship

Sunday Nights:

- ◇ 20Somethings - Fellowship Hall, 5:30pm
- ◇ Adult Discipleship - Choir Room, 5:30pm
- ◇ Ladies Bible Study - Conference Room, 5:30pm
- ◇ Young Marrieds Bible Study - Fellowship Hall, 5:30pm
- ◇ Adult Couples Class - Library, 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
Children's Choir	5:45pm
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
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Fridays

Chick time at Chick-Fil-A	9:00am
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Saturdays

Men's Coffee Group (Good Day Café, GP)	7:30am
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Financials as of March 25, 2016

Budget Income	\$ 258,899
Budget Expense	\$ (258,930)
Net Budget	\$ (31)

Average Morning Attendance for March: 366

Average 7:17 Service Attendance for March: 122