

# April 2019 Events & Activities

For more information, please see our website, [www.matthewroad.org](http://www.matthewroad.org) or call the church office at 972-641-2717.

- April 4th:** Young @ Heart Breakfast at Outlaws, 8:30AM
- April 5th:** Women's Ministry Lunch @ IHop, see pg 3 for more info  
Youth C2, see Zach or Ben  
Men's Campout, see Michael West
- April 13th:** Women's Ministry T-Shirt Craft Class, see ad on pg 3 for more info
- April 14th:** Deacon Meeting, 4:00PM, Conference Room
- April 19th:** Good Friday Service, 7:00PM, Sanctuary
- April 21st:** Sunrise Service, 7:30AM, Front Lawn  
Easter Services, 8:30AM/11:00AM/6:15PM
- April 24th:** Finance Committee Meeting, 5:15PM, Teller Room
- April 26th:** Parents Night Out, 6:30PM, must RSVP to [cyndikking@msn.com](mailto:cyndikking@msn.com)  
Secret Church, 7:00PM, see Zach
- April 28th:** Deacon Ordination Service, 12:15PM, Sanctuary

## Regular Weekly Activities

<b>Sundays</b>	
Morning Worship	8:30 & 11:00AM
Morning Bible Study (all ages)	9:45AM
Evening Bible Study (all ages)	5:00PM
Evening Worship	6:15PM
<b>Mondays</b>	
K2 Primary Academy (during the school year)	8:45AM
PAW Program	9:00AM
<b>Tuesdays</b>	
MRA (during the school year)	8:30AM
Young @ Heart Activities	9:45AM
<b>Wednesdays</b>	
K2 Primary Academy (during the school year)	8:45AM
PAW Program	9:00AM
AveNew (youth)	6:30PM
Adult Choir (during the school year)	6:30PM
AWANA (children)	6:30PM
Adult Bible Studies	6:45PM
<b>Thursdays</b>	
MRA (during school year)	8:30AM
<b>Fridays</b>	
Chick Time, at Chick-Fil-A (Camp Wisdom)	9:00AM
<b>Saturdays</b>	
Men's Coffee Group (Good Day Café, GP)	7:30AM

**ANNIE ARMSTRONG**  
EASTER OFFERING  
FOR NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS

**Our Goal: \$10,000**

### The Story of Annie Armstrong:

Annie was born in Baltimore at a time when women were not expected to lead. She served, challenged churches to action and rallied support for missionaries. Ultimately, she was recognized as a national Southern Baptist trailblazer, renowned for visionary missions leadership.

### A few of Annie's Contributions:

- Led the formation of missions' organizations for children
- Raised support for missionaries to Italian and Jewish immigrants
- Handwrote over 18,000 letters in one year advocating for missions
- Gained support for the first black, female missionaries
- Secured funds to relieve China missionary, Lottie Moon, who had served for 11 years without a furlough
- Advocated for Native Americans and impoverished mountain people

Today, over \$1 billion has been given through the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering®. All gifts—100%—support more than 5,000 missionaries in church planting and compassion ministries across the U.S. and Canada.

HE HAS  
RISEN  
JUST AS  
HE SAID.  
Matthew 28:6

Matthew Road Baptist Church ... a place to call home

## HOME PAGE

APRIL

VOLUME 12 ISSUE 4

### Isaiah 40

The student ministry started a new series of Bible studies on Wednesday evenings focusing on Isaiah 40. Isaiah 40 provides such an encouraging picture of God and His love for His people. Isaiah, as a complete work, is quite an interesting study. A number of years ago, I attempted to read the entire Bible in 30 days. I didn't quite make it, taking twice that amount of time to complete the task. However, the short duration meant reading whole books of the Bible in a single sitting. I still remember spending around 3 hours reading Isaiah from beginning to end. The impact of consuming the entire work without taking a break provided a new appreciation of several aspects of the book. The most significant observation that came from an uninterrupted reading was the vibrant shift in tone between chapters 39 and 40. Chapter 39 concludes with the sad prophecy of the impending assault on Jerusalem by the Babylonians. Hezekiah acted foolishly in regards to his guests from Babylon. He showed the foreign dignitaries all of the wealth of Jerusalem including the tools of the sacrificial worship in the temple. In his pride, he sinned against God and enticed the Babylonians to plunder the city. Isaiah chapter 40 opens with a declaration of encouragement for the city of Jerusalem.

There is an amazing concurrence in the structure of Isaiah and the structure of the Bible as a whole. Isaiah has 66 chapters. The Bible has 66 books. Isaiah has two definitive sections, chapters 1-39 and chapters 40-66. The Bible has two definitive sections, the 39 books of the Old Testament and the 27 books of the New Testament. The opening to Isaiah chapter 40 becomes the language of the opening message of the New Testament. Isaiah 40:1-5 says, "Comfort, O comfort My people," says your God. "Speak kindly to Jerusalem; And call out to her, that her warfare has ended, that her iniquity has been removed, that she has received of the LORD'S hand double for all her sins." A voice is calling, "Clear the way for the LORD in the wilderness; Make smooth in the desert a highway for our God." Let every valley be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; and let the rough ground become a plain, and the rugged terrain a broad valley; Then the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all flesh will see it together; For the mouth of the LORD has spoken." Matthew 3:1-3 says "Now in those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." For this is the one referred to by Isaiah the prophet when he said, "THE VOICE OF ONE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS, 'MAKE READY THE WAY OF THE LORD, MAKE HIS PATHS STRAIGHT!'" There is also a remarkable connection between the final chapter of Isaiah and the final book of the Bible. Chapter 66 of Isaiah corresponds to the 66th book of the Bible with the following language: "Be joyful with Jerusalem and rejoice for her, all you who love her; Be exceedingly glad with her, all you who mourn over her...For thus says the LORD, "Behold, I extend peace to her like a river, and the glory of the nations like an overflowing stream...For just as the new heavens and the new earth Which I make will endure before Me," declares the LORD, "So your offspring and your name will endure. And it shall be from new moon to new moon and from Sabbath to Sabbath, all mankind will come to bow down before Me," says the LORD." Revelation 21 contains similar language to Isaiah 66. "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God...The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it."

Con't on pg 2



For more information about our upcoming events & Bible studies, please see our website: [matthewroad.org](http://matthewroad.org)

Con't from pg 1

Isaiah 40 functions as a hopeful look forward for the city of Jerusalem and the nation of Judah. I wonder if Isaiah took some time away from prophetic ministry after the depressing end to Isaiah 39. The language deviates so significantly between chapters 39 and 40 that many scholars speculate that maybe a different author wrote Isaiah 40-66. I believe that the marked difference can be explained by the same author who has been changed through the passage of time and with newly received divine revelation. The pressing questions in the mind of Jerusalem at this critical juncture in her history become crystalized as the author expands his message of hope. "Comfort Jerusalem." But how can Jerusalem receive a message of comfort when the city nears the coming destruction at the hands of Nebuchadnezzar? Does God know about their plight? If He knows, does He care enough to do anything to intervene? Even if He knows and cares, does He possess sufficient power to change their situation? The answer comes to the reader in a succession of promises based on the nature of the God of creation. The One who created and knows all of the starts, is strong enough and sufficiently informed in order to intervene. Unlike the idolatrous practice of praying to a piece of wood or a fashioned piece of metal, the God of creation measures the waters of the earth in the palm of His hand and measures the heavens with a divine ruler. He knows, He cares, and He is big enough to do something about it. Isaiah 40:10-11 "Behold, the Lord GOD will come with might, with His arm ruling for Him. Behold, His reward is with Him and His recompense before Him. Like a shepherd He will tend His flock, in His arm He will gather the lambs and carry them in His bosom; He will gently lead the nursing ewes."

Isaiah 40 promises salvation for Jerusalem, but ultimately salvation for us all. The preparatory message of John the Baptist as a forerunner of Christ as articulated in Isaiah 40 reveals the ultimate plan of salvation, Isaiah 40:5-9 "Then the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all flesh will see it together; For the mouth of the LORD has spoken. ... Lift up your voice mightily, O Jerusalem, bearer of good news; Lift it up, do not fear. Say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" Was it this text that prompted John the Baptist to say of Jesus, "He existed before me?" Did the divine allusion in Isaiah 40 cause John to realize that the promise of salvation for Jerusalem would be a divine person sent by God? God is powerful enough, loving enough, knowledgeable enough to save us all through His divine plan of sending His Son. When Jesus Christ came, the angels announced His divine nature and the shepherds worshiped. When Christ came into Jerusalem during His public ministry, He announced that "I am the Light of the World...I am the Good Shepherd..." When Christ spoke to His disciples, He told them that "I am the Vine...I am the way the truth and the life..." When the disciples encountered Him after His resurrection, they worshiped Him. John prepared the nation for the coming of the glory of the Lord to be revealed. John announced the good news, "Here is your God!" Isaiah 40 functioned in the life of Jerusalem as a message of hope in a world of despair. Now, 2700 years later, we read this same message of hope with the knowledge of God's fulfillment of this text through John's testimony and the coming of Jesus Christ.

~ Daniel

## Easter Services



**Good Friday Services, Friday, April 19th, 7:00PM, Worship Center**

**Sonrise Service, Sunday, April 21st, 7:30AM, Front Lawn**

**Resurrection Day Services, Sunday, April 21st, 8:30AM/11:00AM/6:15PM**

### Women's Ministry



We have numerous opportunities throughout the week to study God's Word together. Please check out our Women's Ministry page for our class days and times:  
matthewroad.org/ministries/womens-ministry/

#### **Outfit a Lady from a Battered Women's Shelter**

Do you have one outfit you can provide for our guests? Please bring a gently used outfit on a hanger to the church office, or to church on Sundays, between Monday, April 8th and Wednesday, May 1st. We will setup a shopping environment for our ladies. Only one nice outfit please.

We are also collecting Walmart gift cards in the amount of \$15.00 (or increments there of), to hopefully provide everyone with a new pair of shoes, or whatever they need.



Please be in prayer for our May 4th

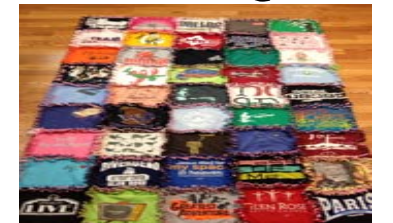
**Monthly First Friday Lunch at IHOP, 12:00 PM (Carrier & I-20)**

Women's Conference

**9/  
21  
/19**

The Women in the Gospel of John @ Matthew Road Baptist Church

### **T-shirt Quilt**



Turn your old T-shirts into a cozy quilt! Bring your old T-shirts cut into 12x12 squares. For questions on quilts and parts, contact Pat Mudd @ 972.998.9332.

Lunch provided by Women's Ministry, but you **MUST RSVP by April 10th:** rachel@matthewroad.org.

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

⚙ **Summer Studies (June - August):**  
5:30pm - *How to Read the Bible for All It Is Worth* by Gordon Fee  
6:30pm - June, Galatians; July, Philippians; August, Pastoral Epistle

⚙ **September 21st:** Women's Conference, Cost \$15.00, details TBA