

July 2019 Events & Activities

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

July 3rd:

~ Only Youth Evening activities - all other Bible Studies/Activities canceled

July 4th:

~ Church office closed

July 13th:

~ Women's Ministry "Paint with Ellen", 10:00am, FH, see Rachel

July 14th:

~ Women's Ministry Team Meeting, 1200pm, FH,

~ Deacon Meeting, 4:00pm, Library

July 18th - 21st:

~ Youth @ Sabine Creek Camp, See Ben

July 19th:

~ Parents Night Out, Worship Center, 6:30pm, must rsvp to cyndikking@msn.com

July 23rd:

~ Mom's Time Out, See Cyndi

And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us.
- 1 John 5:14 ESV

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

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JULY

VOLUME 12 ISSUE 7

Diminished Glory and the Blame Game

It has to be someone else's fault. Someone else must be to blame. We love the blame game. Children blame siblings. Parents blame children. Husbands blame wives and wives blame husbands. Politicians blame the media. Employees blame their bosses and bosses blame employees. Technology provides an entirely new and expanding realm of objects for blame, the cell phone didn't work or the e-mail failed. Fewer and fewer individuals have the moral fortitude to take responsibility for their own actions. The development of the blame game emerged a long time ago. The initial game of blaming others came from Adam and Eve. Our ancestors, both genetically and morally, demonstrated this uncanny ability to blame someone else for their troubles.

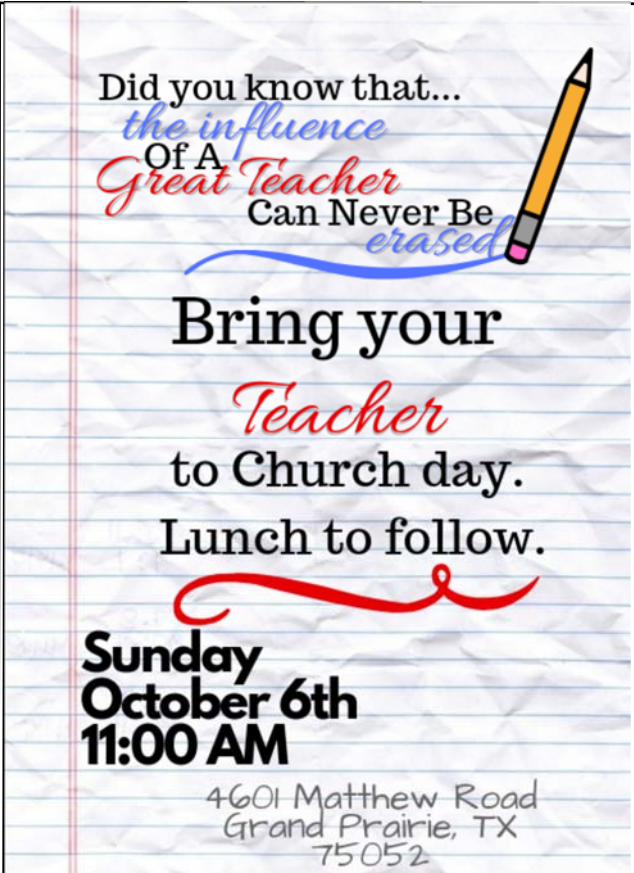
In Genesis 3, God confronts Adam and Eve in a manner that is similar to the way a parent confronts a child. His indirect approach of asking probing questions provided an opportunity for humanity to come to terms with what had happened. "Where are you?" God knew the exact location of Adam and Eve. "Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" God knew that Adam and Eve had betrayed Him for their own desires for power, self-governance, and independence. These questions were not for the gleaning of knowledge. God knows all things perfectly. Instead, these questions provided the first family a moment to reflect on what had transpired. These questions also provided the first family a chance to openly confess and accept the responsibility for what they had done. Right on cue, Adam and Eve plunge humanity into the second aspect of human rebellion. The first feature of human rebellion is autonomy – the desire for "self-rule." The first act of sin reflected Adam and Eve's desire to usurp God and take over His rightful place as divine authority. The serpent convinced them if they ate the fruit they would be "like God, knowing good and evil."

The second facet of human rebellion is to blame someone else for our treason against God. Adam responded to God's question evasively. If you have ever asked your children a direct question, this is the type of nuanced answer that seven-year-old children give. "Adam, did you eat of the tree...?" "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me from the tree and I ate." A simple "yes" from Adam would have given us some hope for his future and for ours. However, the nuance of his response sounds so much like us. We have learned very little in the thousands of years of divine history. An initial reading of the text may lead us to conclude that Adam is blaming his wife for his sin. However, his reply is more subtle. Adam responded by putting the ultimate blame on God Himself. "The woman whom You gave to be with me..." From Adam's perspective, God was culpable. If God had not given him the woman, everything would have been great. Eve, for her part, blames the episode on the serpent. "The serpent deceived me..."

Blaming God or blaming others marks the human condition as much today as when those first wayward souls took that fateful bite. Some blame the church. Their lack of attendance and involvement in the very institution that Jesus Christ describes as His bride is the fault of a preacher or deacon or Sunday school teacher. Some blame their family. Their lack of financial discipline harkens back to the patterns of spending their parents' model for them. Some blame the past.

Regular Weekly Activities

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



Financials as of June 28, 2019

Budget Income	\$ 490,710
Budget Expense	\$ (506,142)
Net Budget	\$ (15,432)

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Their uncontrolled anger emanates out of a poor upbringing. Some blame the rejection by others. Their inability to remain committed to their relationships comes from their fear of abandonment. All of these events may truly impact us. However, the first step of restoring God's presence in the midst of these troubles is an honest and complete confession of responsibility. "Lord, I am the one who took the fruit and ate it. Please have mercy on me." "Lord, I am the one who abandoned the church, my family, and my friends. Please forgive me and help me." "Lord, I am the one who is so selfish as to lose my temper and speak harshly. The sin is mine. Wash me of my sin. I cannot, on my own, control this passion that burns in me. It is entirely the work of my own evil desires. Please come and give me strength."

Adam and Eve were destined for removal from the garden once the first stroke of rebellion occurred. However, it did not bode well for humanity when the second act of humanity became a step further from the Creator, an act of denial and deflection. This approach drives us further from the face of God. Having seen the glory of God face to face, Adam and Eve traded the unmuted glory of God for a diminished glory. In the process, their approach of blaming someone else showed that they lacked the moral compass to see the severity of their decision and they lacked the moral fortitude to take full responsibility for their rebellion. Where are we right now with regards to sin's sway on our life? Is it someone else's fault that you are bound by lust, pornography, greed, envy, bitterness, anger, gossip? Or will we own what is rightfully ours? "Lord, I have sinned against You. No one else is to blame. I confess without nuance. I acknowledge and accept complete responsibility for my pattern of life that is inconsistent with Your will. Help Me, Oh Lord!"

~ Daniel

Children's Ministry



- Our schedule each Wednesday:
- ☺ 6:30-6:40 PM
Scripture Memory
 - ☺ 6:40-7:05 PM
Bible Study with New City Catechism
 - ☺ 7:10-7:35 PM
Worship through Music or Art (Choose one track for the summer)
 - ☺ 7:40-8:00 PM
Wet & Messy Games on the Lawn

Women's Ministry

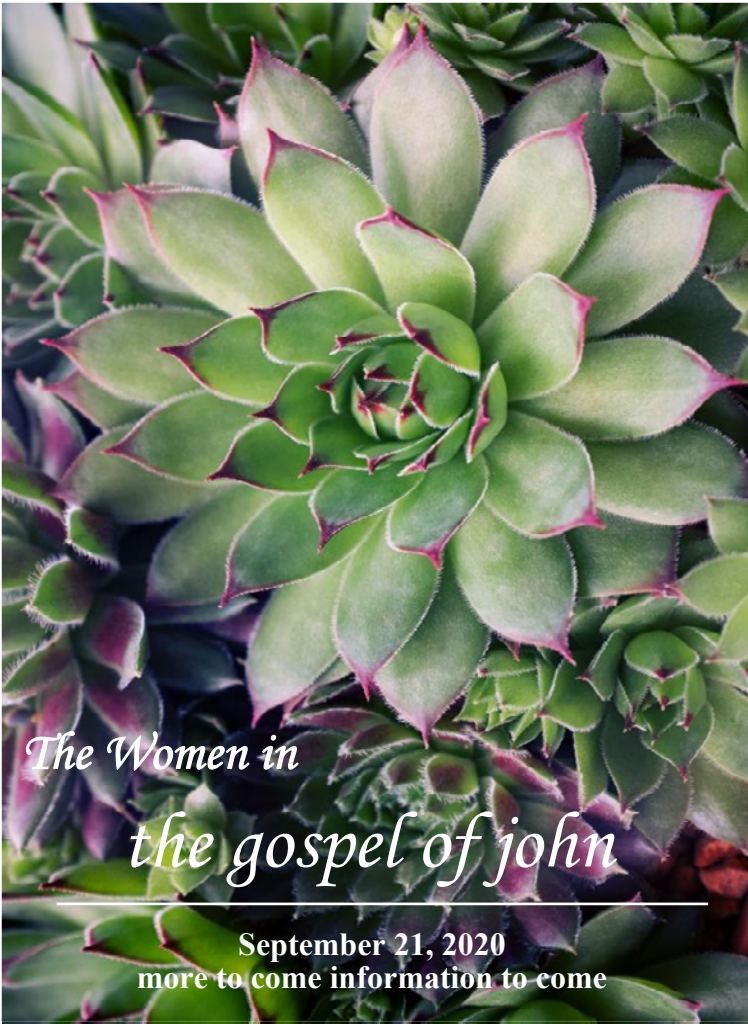
Weekly Bible Studies:

Sunday Mornings
Rachel Sullenger & Tiffany Marich -
The Minor prophets, Library, 9:45 AM
Joy Richards -
Hebrews, Lecture Room (by water fountain), 9:45 AM

Sunday Nights
Jamye Aldape -
Job Bible Study, Fellowship Hall, 11:00am
Meg Trihus -
The Epistles, Conference Room, 5:00 PM

Wednesday Nights
Various Teachers
Women of the Word, Lecture Room (by water fountain), 5:30pm
Diana Hines
Philippians Study, Lecture Room (by water fountain), 6:30pm
Cyndi King -
Book of Acts, Conference Room, 6:30 PM

Friday
Cyndi King - 9:00 am -
The Minor Prophets, Chick Fil A (Camp Wisdom), 9:00 AM
Jamye Aldape -
Job Bible Study, Fellowship Hall, 11:00am



Upcoming EVENTS

Paint with Ellen
July 13th
Cost - \$20
Potluck Salad

GAME DAY
August - more details to come

Breakout Breakfast

October 19th, 10am to 1pm
Cost: \$5.00

A chance to go to the breakouts you missed at conference.

Cookie Decorating

November 16th
Sweet Lizzie's Bakery
More details later

Praying the Scriptures through Advent

Women's Ministry
December 6th, 7:00 P.M.