

## Hope Springs Eternal

*"But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you." Romans 8:11*

On a regular basis, I deal with situations of deep and overwhelming heartbreak. It is an occupational hazard for me. I am regularly at hospitals, funeral homes and cemeteries. In these moments, we pray for God's healing. I believe that God does answer prayers, and even brings healing in many cases. However, He does not always heal someone when we ask Him to. Sometimes He answers by allowing the illness to progress or He even allows death itself to come. We pray for miracles and yet He has perfect knowledge and perfect timing in these moments, even when we cannot see His orchestration of events from our limited viewpoint. All we can see is illness ravaging our loved one's body. We see death's definitive reality. It feels hopeless. It seems like our hearts will never heal. We cannot see the divine workings around us and through us.

This must have been how the disciples' felt. They saw the soldiers arrest Jesus. Some of them followed along to the place of His trials. They saw Him crucified, and they watched Him die. Two of His disciples took His dead body down from the cross and placed it in a tomb nearby. Grief, pain, heartache, disillusionment, anger, despair, and much, much more, must have dominated the thinking and emotions of the disciples. Their pain was so deep that they may have literally felt death's grip on themselves as they contemplated the death of Christ. "He's gone." "Our lives were a fraud." "We have followed Him in vain." "We should have never gotten involved." "If we had stayed in Galilee and minded our own business, our ignorance of these events could have provided protection from this painful reality." "My heart aches to the point of breaking beyond any repair." God allowed the three days of overwhelming, penetrating loneliness to permeate the lives of these followers. His message to them was painfully clear. "Here is the reality of sin and death." "Here is the reality of brokenness in this life." The disciples were going to minister to a fledgling church racked with persecution, suffering, and even death. God gave the disciples the clearest demonstration of the penetrating impact of the ravages of human sin. Then, like the breaking of the dawn as it defeats the power of the night's darkness, God demonstrated His victory over death. God breathes life back into Jesus Christ. In that one moment, in that first inhale of oxygen into Christ's lungs, God shattered the power of sin and death forever in our lives. It took the disciples all day long to grapple with the meaning of it all. From despair, to confusion, to doubts, to wonder, to faith, to joy, on the day Christ had risen from the dead the disciples processed all that had transpired. God had instantly destroyed all the power of sin and death over His chosen ones. It took these disciples all day, even several days, to understand it all.

It is not surprising that we take time to work through similar emotions. When someone is sick or dies we, like the disciples, work through a series of emotions. We despair. We are confused. We doubt. We then begin to see these trials in light of the breaking dawn of the resurrection of Christ. We begin to imagine the implications of His empty tomb, especially in the life of our precious husband, wife or child. Faith is renewed through the work of God's gracious presence. Faith is established through our contemplation of His Word. The final, victorious emotion comes after days, weeks, months or even years: Joy. Victorious joy comes and overpowers our despair. This joy is ours as we allow the truth of what God has done in Christ to seep into the crevasses of our mind. Why does the resurrection of Christ bring hope when my spouse, parent or child dies? Because God has a habit of bringing His children back from the dead. In Romans 8:11, Paul tells us that in the same way that God raised Jesus Christ, He will also raise us up. The Spirit of God dwells in us and accomplishes many things in our lives. There is a work to be done by the Holy Spirit that is in the future. He will bring life to our mortal bodies. He will do this. We know that He will because He already has. God has a habit of bringing life into the mortal bodies of His beloved children. Hope springs eternal. Even now Lord Jesus, come.



*Children are a priority to Jesus;  
so they are a priority to us.*

No one is too young to learn the importance of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. We know children learn best when they are having FUN in the process.

Through creative programming and special events planned just for them, the children at MRBC have FUN learning about God's plan for their lives.

**Regular scheduled programs sponsored by  
the preschool ministry:**

- Parents' Night Out once a month
- Moms and Mentors for moms of all ages and stages once a month
- 2 day a week preschool (P.A.W.)
- See the back of newsletter for a schedule of Sunday School/Nursery hours

For more information, please contact Cyndi King at [cyndikking@msn.com](mailto:cyndikking@msn.com)



Kids in kindergarten through sixth grade won't want to miss learning about their Creator and Savior through creative environments, engaging teaching, and quality events designed just for them. Check out our webpage for times and details or contact Brittany at [brittanymrbc@gmail.com](mailto:brittanymrbc@gmail.com) for more information.

Come check us out at  
[facebook.com/mrbcchildrens](https://www.facebook.com/mrbcchildrens)

Questions regarding the children's ministry or how you can join the leadership team?  
Email [brittanymrbc@gmail.com](mailto:brittanymrbc@gmail.com).

# A | V | E | N | E | W

AveNew Student Ministries focuses on equipping, discipling and guiding junior high and high school students to a loving relationship with Jesus Christ.



MRBC Student Ministry



@ave\_new



@avenewstudentministrymrbc



Text @avenewstu  
to 81010  
for reminders!

MRBC College Ministry presents:

## SHHHH... SECRET CHURCH

April 20, 2018 @ 5PM-11PM  
Secret meeting in Fellowship Hall  
Pastor Daniel (Book of John)

**RSVP TO ZACH AT (210)818-8002**

Daniel Sweet will be teaching over the Gospel of John (Mynamar's Theological Studies)  
No Technology will be used  
Dinner: Rice and Veggies @ 7:30pm  
(Suggested donation \$15)

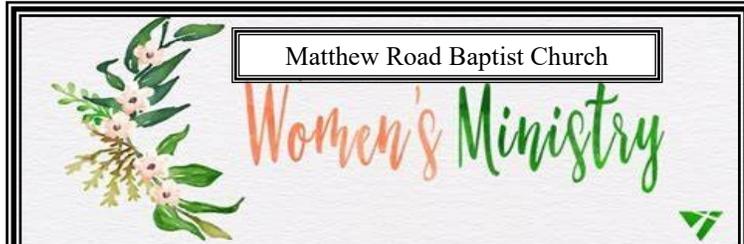
What For: To Raise Funds for the College Mission Trip to New York City July 15th-21st

*\*Childcare is available. Please contact Cyndi King before April 15th for PNO on April 20th. Kids will participate in Secret Church until 6:30pm, then ushered into PNO. The cost is \$20 per child and \$10 per sibling after.*



We are a growing group of young adults in their 20's & 30's who spend our Wednesday nights together, year round. We study His Word, and seek to leave a lasting impact on the world around us every day.

For upcoming events follow us on our webpage at:  
<http://www.matthewroad.org/ministries/20somethings/>  
 on Facebook at:  
[facebook.com/20something-MRBC-267268119969356/](https://www.facebook.com/20something-MRBC-267268119969356/)  
 Or contact Rachel at:  
[rachel@matthewroad.org](mailto:rachel@matthewroad.org)



We reach out to women of all ages, encouraging them to

*Love God*

- & -

*Love People*

Equipping them to become fully developed Women of the Word, building **COMMUNITY**, that will sustain us as we journey through this life.

For more information on how to get involved with Women's Ministry go to our webpage:  
[matthewroad.org/ministries/womens-ministry/](http://matthewroad.org/ministries/womens-ministry/)

or  
 check us out of Facebook at:  
[matthewroad.org/ministries/womens-ministry/](http://matthewroad.org/ministries/womens-ministry/)

Matthew Road Baptist Church is dedicated to developing Kingdom-minded men to be servant leaders in the home, the church, and in their communities.

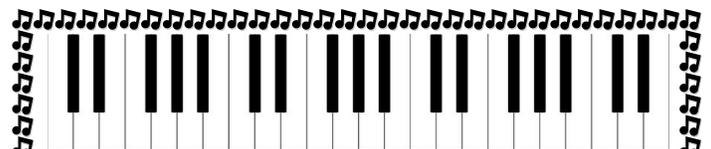


Our Men's Ministry is focused on developing men to make an eternal impact for this generation and those to come. We accomplish this mission through Bible study, evangelism training, leadership development, accountability, mentoring, retreats, mission trips and special events.

Check out our ministry page at  
<http://www.matthewroad.org/ministries/mens-ministry/>  
 or contact Phil McGlothlin, at [phil@matthewroad.org](mailto:phil@matthewroad.org), for more info about our Men's Bible Studies and Events.



**Tuesday morning at 9:45** with a few funny stories and a devotional thought but some of our favorite things to do are BINGO (which includes prizes), dominoes, an incredible lunch, and lots of laughs. Come join us. We meet in the fellowship hall in the worship center (Red Roof Bldg) and no reservations are required. (suggested donation: \$2.00 per week).



Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises! Psalm 98:4 (ESV)

There is a place for YOU in our music ensembles at Matthew Road! Our goal is to glorify God and to lead the church to actively and passionately praise our Lord through song.

If you are interested in singing, the choir is a great place use your gifts. There are no auditions and you won't be put on the spot. We rehearse on Wednesday nights at 6:30pm. We're currently preparing for our Spring musical, so it's the perfect time to jump on board!

If you are an instrumentalist or are interested in joining our tech crew, please see Jeff or email [jeff@matthewroad.org](mailto:jeff@matthewroad.org).

## *April 2018 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 1st:** ~ Sunrise Service, 7:30am, Front Lawn, muffins to follow  
 ~ Resurrection Sunday Services - 8:30am, 11:00am & 6:45pm
- April 4th:** ~ Missions Committee Prayer Meeting - 8:00pm, Library
- April 5th:** ~ Young @ Heart Breakfast at Outlaws, 8:30am
- April 6th - 8th:** ~ College Ministry Retreat, please see Zach Van Veldhuizen
- April 6th:** ~ Youth Sponsored Dinner & Movie Date Night, 7:00pm,  
 CommonGrounds, please rsvp to [avenewstudents@gmail.com](mailto:avenewstudents@gmail.com)
- April 8th:** ~ Deacon Meeting, 4:30pm, Conference Room
- April 13th:** ~ Titus 2 Fellowship, please see Cheryl Witherspoon
- April 20th - 21st:** ~ Men's Spring Campout, see Phil McGlothlin
- April 20th:** ~ Secret Church, see ad on pg 2 of April Newsletter  
 ~ Parents Night Out, 6:30pm, Worship Center,  
 must rsvp to [cyndikking@msn.com](mailto:cyndikking@msn.com)  
 ~ Teachers 3 R's Fellowship, please see Jami Wittman
- April 25th:** ~ Finance Meeting, 5:15pm, Teller Room
- April 29th:** ~ Ride to Rescue, more info to come!

### *Regular Weekly 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 (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
Collide (youth)	6:30pm
Adult Choir (during the school year)	6:30pm
AWANA Club (children)	6:30pm
Adult Bible Studies	6:45pm

#### *Thursdays*

MRA (during school year)	8:30am
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#### *Fridays*

Chick Time, at Chick-Fil-A (Camp Wisdom)	9:00am
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#### *Saturdays*

Men's Coffee Group (Good Day Café, GP)	7:30am
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[www.matthewroad.org](http://www.matthewroad.org)

**VISIT OUR  
WEBSITE**



[contact us](#) | [learn more](#) | [get answers](#)

### *FREE Newcomers Class*

We have people attending our church from every type of church background. In response, we have established an on-going class, which provides basic information about our church. We invite those who have not yet joined 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, May 6th, 12:15pm,  
in our Fellowship Hall.

Lunch and childcare are provided.

Please rsvp to [mrbcinfo@matthewroad.org](mailto:mrbcinfo@matthewroad.org).