



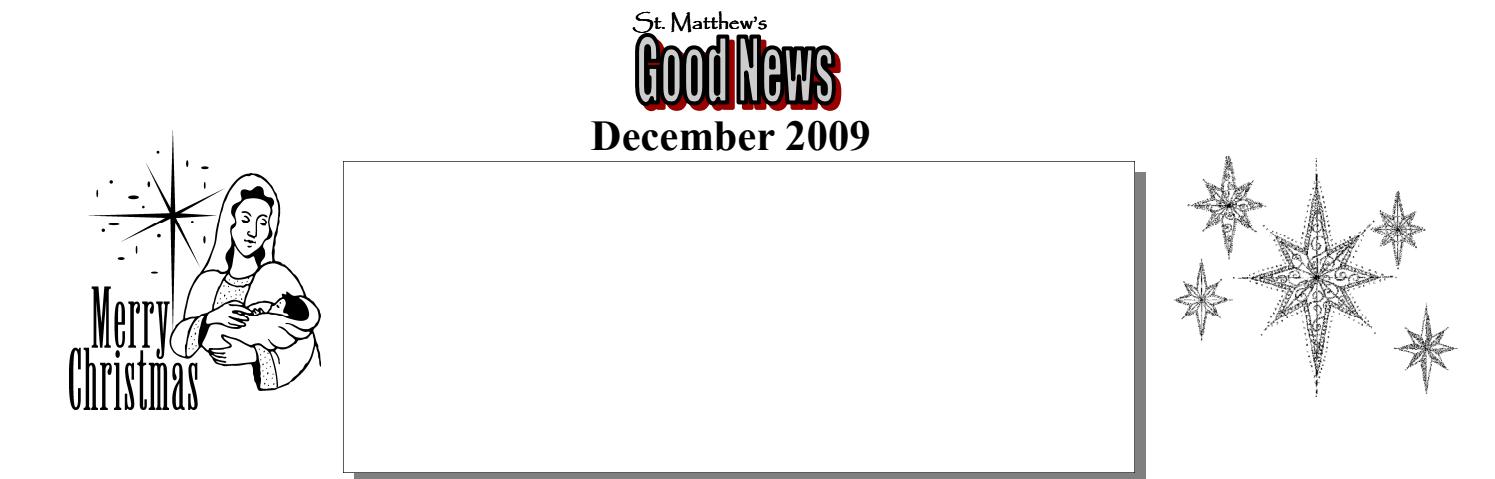
St. Matthew's United Methodist Church
1360 S. WENDY DRIVE, NEWBURY PARK, CA 91320 (805) 498-6910
Return Service Requested

Bob Ferguson, Senior Pastor

Sunday Worship: 8:30 am Informal Service
9:30 am Nursery Available
10:00 am Traditional Service with Choir and Child Care
10:00 am Sunday School - Children and Youth

Church Office Hours: 9 a.m.- 3:15p.m. Monday-Thursday

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
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Thousand Oaks, CA
Permit No. 311



St. Matthew's in Ministry

Bob Ferguson	Pastor	Joanne Stone	Treasurer	
All the People of St. Matthew's	Ministers	Delia Kellogg	Financial Secretary	
Rev. Dr. Mary Ann Swenson	Resident Bishop	Barbara Crowdus	Membership Secretary	
Rev. Ms. Catie Coots	District Superintendent	Ben Kuo, Chair	Children's Center Board	
Carol McClellan	Administrative Assistant	BRING GROUP		
Kory Reid	Music Director	Beth Ferguson, Team Leader	Radical Hospitality	
Arian Galavis	Accompanist	Carla Von Zell	Wedding Hostess	
Narima Latif	Children's Center Director	Beth Ferguson, Team Leader	Outreach/Communication	
Ashlee Walker	Nursery Attendant	GROW GROUP		
Linda Norberg, Chair	Administrative Council	Rev. Joe and Dorothy Lewolt	Membership Care Team	
Barbara Crowdus & Jack Doman	Lay Members to Annual Conf.	Pam Pond, Team Leader	Education & Youth Team	
Barbara Crowdus	Lay Leader	TBS, Team Leader	Discipleship Ministry Team	
Nathan Inouye, Chair	Staff Parish Relations Comm.	Bob Wiles, Team Leader	Worship Team	
TBD, Chair	Stewardship Committee	SERVE GROUP		
Bill Hartley, Chair	Board of Trustees	Rod Womer & Barbara Karplus	Servant Ministry Team	
Bob Biery, Chair	Finance Committee	Tina Martin, Team Leader	Social Action Team	

St. Matthew's Mission is to **BRING** spiritual wanderers and seekers into relationship with Jesus Christ, to **GROW** as disciples in a small group community and to **SERVE** of our calling and giftedness.

*** PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY ST. MATTHEW'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 1360 S. WENDY DRIVE, NEWBURY PARK, CA 91320 (805) 498-6910 ***



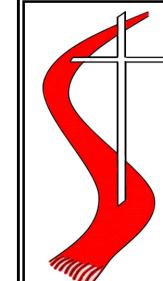
December 2009

St. Matthew's Good News

WWW.NEWBURYPARKCHURCH.COM

Newbury
Park

St. Matthew's United Methodist Church
Purpose & Mission Statement



Our Purpose

"To Grow in our relationship with God, ourselves, and others. To carry out the ministry of Jesus Christ."

Mission Statement

Bring spiritual wanderers and seekers into relationship with Jesus Christ
Grow as disciples in a small group community

Christmas at St. Matthew's

Children's Christmas Program

"What Child Is This?"

Sunday, December 13
10:00 am Worship

Christmas Cantata

"The Christmas Light" by Benjamin Harlan

Sunday, December 20

8:30am and 10:00am Worship
Sanctuary Choir

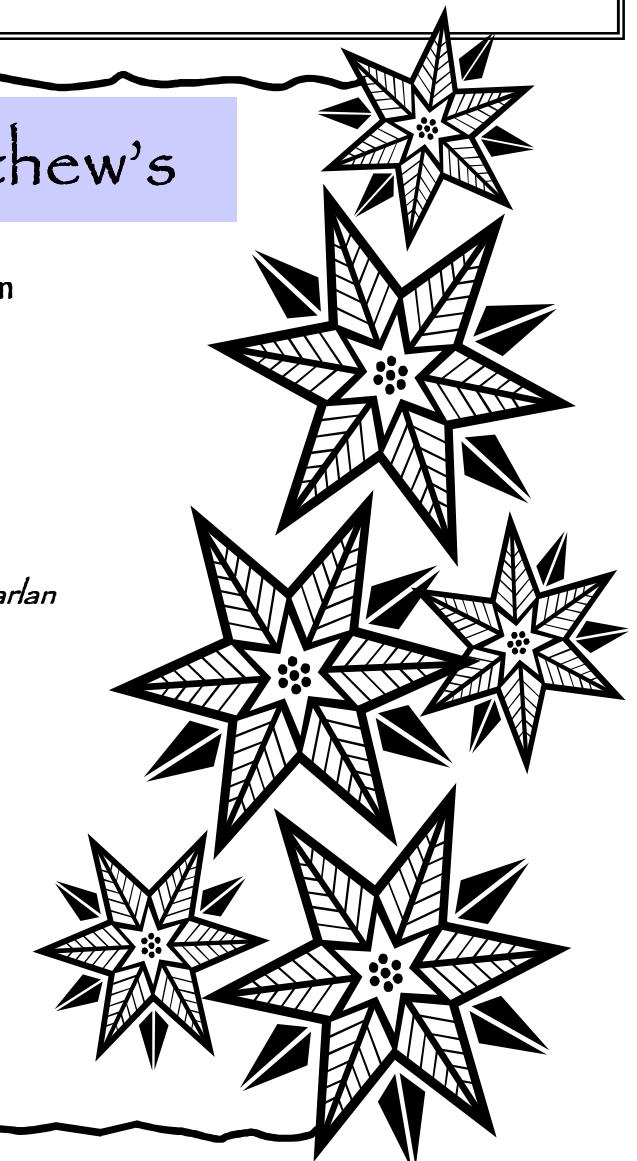
Kory Reid, Directing

Arian Galavis, Accompanist

Handbell Choirs and Guest Musicians

Christmas Eve Services

Thursday, December 24
7:00pm and 11:00pm



Worship Services are held
Sundays at 8:30 and 10 a.m.

8:30 a.m. service is "come as you are. This service is more contemporary."

10:00 a.m. is our larger service featuring choirs and more traditional music and singing from the hymnal.



Good News Church Family



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www.NewburyParkChurch.com

Fax (805) 498-6984

stmatthewsumc@yahoo.com



Prayer Chain

To put a request on the prayer chain, contact the church office or Lynne Hartley (498-6365), Prayer Chain Coordinator.

New

Lauren Stone - Prayers for direction in life's path. (Joanne Stone's grand daughter)
Dale Berry - Hospitalized with mild stroke. (Kathy Winter)

Continue to pray for:

St. Matthew's Children's Center - Keep in prayer our Children's Center and its teachers.

Cheryl Qualls - Prayers for comfort and healing.

Shirley Watmore - Continued healing from viral attack on her heart. (Dorothy Lewolt)

Susan Roe - Continued healing from surgery.

Helen Blum - Continued healing from back pain.

Audrey Feather - Continued healing. (Nancy Liedblad's mother)

Barbara Thaden - Continued healing from brain surgery.

Nivea Guevara - Continued healing from brain tumor. (Elsie Figueroa's sister)

Fred Collins - Prayers for quality of life as he deals with lung disease. (Kathy Martin's father)

Anne Star - Continued prayers for comfort.

Pray for those in cancer treatment:

Andreas Knickman (Jack Doman)

Candi Howard (Pam McDonald)

Mia Stoutenborough (Paul and Judy Stoutenborough)

Eddie Callens (Jim and Suzanne Ford)

Jean Arndt - Ramona Hallit

Vincent Beltz - Carol Riggins

Victoria - Ruth Bushart

Verita Hooker (St. Matthew's)

Elsie Figueroa (Beth Ferguson)

Mother Shirley - (Cheryl Qualls)

Carol Phillips - (Christa Lamb)

Zona Strathearn - (ChrisMcEachern)

Marv Whisman - (Christy Whisman)

Alex - (Detweiler Family)

Katie Floyd - (Saute Family)

Jane Cosarelli (Patti Adams)

SPECIAL EVENTS

Weddings

St. Matthew's has a variety of venues for wedding services. If you are interested in holding a wedding service, call the office for information. We offer a full service wedding coordinator as well.

Baptisms

Contact Pastor Bob to arrange.

Housewarmings

Housewarmings are a wonderful time to have a Blessing of the Home.

Please Contact Pastor Bob.



December Birthdays

12-01 Joan Roper
12-04 Barbara Karplus
12-07 Hanna Sylvester
12-08 Christy Whisman
12-09 Tanya Blanck
12-12 Scott Detweiler
12-16 Marvin Whisman
12-20 Sid Suggs
12-22 Kari Wilson
12-22 Brett Hanley
12-22 Steve Curtis
12-25 Bob Mohn

December Anniversaries

12-16 - Tanya and Ryan Blanck
12-20 - Beth and Bob Ferguson
12-21 - Marilyn and Ralph Matthews
12-24 - Patti and Bill Adams
12-27 - Dorothy and Joe Lewolt
12-28 - Susan and Steve Roe
12-29 - Donna and Jack Doman
12-31 - Delia and Gary Kellogg
12-31 - Barbara Karplus & Rod Womer



Please make the following Directory Changes

Jay and Erica Alexander

1255 Ramona
Newbury Park, CA
Phone: 262-2402
Email: ericalxndr@gmail.com

Arline Nester

233 Vista Bonita
Newbury Park, CA
Phone: 480-4810

If you have changed your phone number or e-mail address, please contact the church office with that information.



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Fax (805) 498-6984

stmatthewsumc@yahoo.com



Good News



(Continued from page 5)

Julianne Detweiler has Angel Dancers rehearsing for our Children's Christmas program. They meet from 9:00a to 10:00a on Sunday mornings in the Wesley Room. The Dangerous Boys Club directed by Kent Detweiler also meets at the same time.

Ever met an angel,
An angel here on earth?
When you do, then you'll know that
There is a heaven.

For an earth angel stands alone
Slightly above ground, floating as if
On a cloud, as if the ground
She walks on are petals of flowers,
Whispering sweet things, and as
Fragrant as a child's breath.

When you meet an angel
The world becomes pleasant,
A world more tolerable, bearable,
Pleasurable world.
A world worthy of life.

When an angel walks,
She walks with
Assuring grace, head held high
Proud of each step,
Showing a beauty far beyond
Words yet said.
Words that can only be of love.
And when you hear this angel
A certain chime rings
Through the air softly,
Deft tones of pleasant rhyme,
A sound so fine.

And when you dance with an
Angel, the dance is effortless,
A dance that only an angel
Dances, a swirl in a cloud
Of mist, a poetry of movement,
An aria defined.

And when you kiss an angel,
Her taste is clear, sweet, savoring
And safe. A pungent pleasure
Of life's divine meaning. A kiss complete.

I have met an angel and
There are just a few. She does
Exist, even in chaos. I see
This angel. And this angel is you.

By Roland Roy



The All Church Workday was held on Saturday, November 21st from 8:00am to 2:00pm; with a potluck lunch. There were numerous work projects accomplished.

The Gad-Abouts enjoyed a train ride from Simi Valley to Olvera Street in Los Angeles on November 17th. Watch the Sunday morning bulletin for upcoming events.

New Members - Welcome Arline Nester who joined St. Matthew's church family in October. Welcome to St. Matthew's, Arline!!!

New Grand Parents - Congratulations to Jim and Barbara Crowdus for the birth of their new grandson, Calvin Alexander Nguyen, born to Tricia and Truong Nguyen.

Congratulations to Bill and Lynne Hartley on the birth of their new grand daughter, Emrie Danielle Hartley, born to Mike and Danielle Hartley.

The Youth Service was held on November 15th. Joelle Saute brought an inspiring message of testimony. Our liturgists were Sean Saute, Kyle Culler and Jordyn Birgy. Our greeters were McKaylee Bertrand, Carly Doderlein and Daniel Pond. Our greeter for the first service was Daniel Pond. Second service, Travis Doderlein, Jonathan Kuo, Taylor Bertrand and Colin Wheatley were our ushers. Kelly Chow blessed our Tithes and Offerings.

Upcoming Events If you have an upcoming event and would like to share that news with St. Matthew's, please submit it to the church office or Beth Ferguson.



Good News In Worship

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Fax (805) 498-6984

Holiday
Worship
Schedule

Worship Staffing for December

December 6

Preaching Pastor Bob Ferguson
Worship Leader Jack Doman
8:30am Liturgist Alice Huston
10am Liturgist Jackie Heinemann
10am Ushers Mike Bertrand/
Bill Hartley
Acolyte Alexander Chow
Counters Jason/Nancy Lethcoe/
Mike Summers
Nursery Tanya Blanck
Flowers John Fletcher
Coffee Jackie Heinemann
Sound/Recording Ralph Matthews
Welcome/Greeter Donna/Jack Doman
SS Teachers Pam Pond, others TBD

December 13

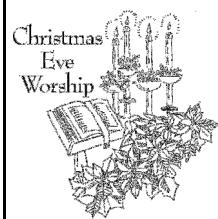
Preaching Pastor Bob Ferguson
Worship Leader Jack Doman
8:30am Liturgist Beth Ferguson
10am Liturgist Dan Overton
10am Ushers Nancy Liedblad/
Nathan Inouye
Acolyte Jonathan Kuo
Puppeteers No Puppets Children's
Christmas Program
Counters Casey Goldberg
Nursery Dan Overton,
Dennis Heinemann
Flowers Tanya Inouye
Coffee Casey Goldberg
Sound/Recording Casey Goldberg
Welcome/Greeter Randy Holzer
SS Teachers Pat and Bob Mohn
No Sunday School

December 20

Preaching Pastor Bob Ferguson
Worship Leader Jack Doman
8:30am Liturgist Scott Spindel
10am Liturgist Ralph Matthews
10am Ushers John McDonald/
Harry Lamb
Acolyte Tabitha Dyer
Counters Jan Gauwain/Ceil Adler
Nursery TBD
Flowers Tina Martin
Coffee The Fords
Sound/Recording Fred Wardell
Welcome/Greeter Carla Von Zell/

SS Teachers

Betty Johnson
No Sunday School
Choir Christmas Program



Christmas Eve December 24

7:00pm Usher - TBD
11:00pm Usher - TBD
Sound/Recording
7:00p - John McDonald
11:00p - Bill Hartley

December 27

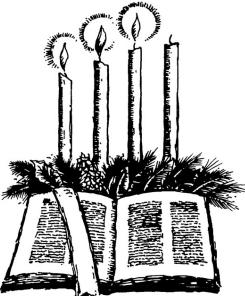
Preaching Pastor Bob Ferguson
Worship Leader Jack Doman
8:30am Liturgist TBD
10am Liturgist Randi Berry
10am Ushers Mike Summers/
Ralph Matthews
Acolyte Jordyn Alexander/
Lark Detweiler
Puppeteers TBD
Counters Joanne Stone/Tim LeRoy
Nursery Joyce Wheately
Flowers The Kelloggs
Coffee Please Sign up
Sound/Recording Ryan Blanck
Welcome/Greeter Judy Sauter/Tanya Blanck
SS Teachers Lynne Hartley/
Janice Kakazu/
Charlene Wardell



Please note: We have new sign up charts for Flowers and Coffee Fellowship for the up-coming new year, so please take a moment to sign up. This is a great opportunity to celebrate a loved ones Birthday or Anniversary.



stmatthewsumc@yahoo.com



Advent BIBLE READINGS

December 6 - 2nd Sunday of Advent

Malachi 3:14
Luke 1:68-79
Philippians 1:3-11
Luke 3:1-6

December 13 - 3rd Sunday of Advent

Zephaniah 3:14-20
Isaiah 12:2-6
Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:7-18

December 20 - 4th Sunday of Advent

Micah 5:2-5a
Luke 1:47-55
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-45

December 24 - Isaiah 9:2-7

Isaiah 52:7-10
Psalm 96
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-20

MERRY CHRISTMAS

December 25 - Christmas Day

Isaiah 52:7-10
Psalm 98
Hebrews 1:1-4
John 1:1-14

December 27 - 1st Sunday after Christmas

Isaiah 9:2-7
Psalm 96
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-20

Good News

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The Shepherd's Pen

"Fires burn
brightly only as long as
they're stoked".

Sunday October 25th, you had the opportunity to commit to new levels in your relationship with God. You boldly filled out cards, and in a wave of momentum turned them in.

Had any second thoughts since? Had any doubts that

you'll actually be able to meet that financial commitment, or fit the area of service into your busy schedule? That's not such a bad thing. It means that you've given God room to work and that without new dependence on him, it's not going to happen.

God delights in our dependence on him, you

know, He waits for us to ask for help. But when we have all the answers already or we do things in our own strength, we leave no opportunity for him to be glorified. It becomes about what we can do; rather than what he can do through us.

In the coming weeks, as the lessons from "Prayer: Does it really make a difference?" settle into your consciousness, it will be possible for you to lose steam and to forget what it was all about. On the other hand, you could take what you've

learned and build on it. Remember the very first talk, the one that talked about connecting with God?

Over the past forty days, you gained new insight into how prayer does make a difference, and discovered that the only thing that will really help is consistent prayer. That is prayer based upon Bible study, acts of service, fellowship with other Christians, and regular financial gifts. All this is part of how prayer makes a difference by our participation.

That kind of prayer is not the type that puts out a fire. Rather, it's the kind that stokes it, and allows us to burn so brightly that we draw others to us like moths to a flame. So what will you do to keep that fire burning brightly, keeping the principles of the last few weeks in the very front?

How about this? The next time you pray and hear of an answer to prayer, you'll be compelled to practice prayer even more. It is the practice of prayer as the Bible teaches it that will transform us, until that day when we don't even recognize who we used to be.

Together in Christ,

Pastor Bob Ferguson

Pastor Bob Ferguson



Fax (805) 498-6984

stmatthewsumc@yahoo.com



HAPPENINGS AT ST. MATTHEW'S

The Servant Ministry Team
continues to collect for Manna.
If you wish to donate food
items, there is a blue container
in the Narthex where food can be dropped off.

The Servant Ministry Team collected food items and five Thanksgiving food baskets will be presented to households who are in need. Gift cards from the scrip table will be collected by the Servant Ministry Team for Christmas gifts for individual families in need. Watch the bulletin for announcements. The Team will also be serving the homeless meal on the evening of December 20th. Cooked food items and servers will be needed. Watch for a sign up list on the bulletin board either in the Narthex or patio area.

The Servant ministry will also sponsor the third annual Alternative Christmas Market on Sunday, December 6 please see the article on the Bulletin Board Page of this newsletter.

The church kitchen construction is coming along nicely. Thank you to all who have continued to sign-up to bring refreshments for the month of December; we are utilizing the sink in the Fireside Room and the Wesley Room for making coffee and clean up. Refreshments are being served in the patio area.

Christmas Events – Save the dates.

- December 4th – Decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas 9:00a -12:00p.
- December 4th, 5th – Servant Ministry helping with the Community Christmas Shoppe.
- December 6th - Alternative Christmas Market

Children's Center Christmas Program, Sunday, December 13th at 10:00am Service, "What Child Is This?" written by Pam McDonald will be presented. The children are rehearsing right after the 10am worship service. Thank you to the children, parents, Pam McDonald, Casey Goldberg, Kathy Winter, Kory Reid and Arian Galavis, our music director and pianist, and all the Sunday school teachers who are making this program possible.

(Continued on page 7)