



March 2009

St. Matthew's

Good News

Newbury
Park

WWW.NEWBURYPARKCHURCH.COM

"SPRING BACK TO THE 70'S!"



ANNUAL TALENT SHOW SATURDAY, MARCH 7

The annual talent show fundraiser and extravaganza will be on Saturday, March 7, from 6:30 - 8:30pm. The theme is "Spring Back to the '70's," celebrating springtime and a decade best known for its bad taste in fashion. So bring friends, family, and anyone you see on the street! Tickets are on sale before and after church and at the door for just \$7 for adults and \$3 for children (extra donations to St. Matthew's gladly welcomed!) We've got a lot of great acts but could squeeze in a couple more! Also, dust off those bell-bottoms, Nehru jackets and miniskirts that you've been saving all these years and wear them to the show - the best '70s costume wins a prize!

YOUNG FAMILY GROUP

We will not be meeting during the month of March, but we would like to encourage all of you to attend the talent show on March 7th. We hope to see you in the show or in the audience! Our next gathering will be on Saturday, April 4th. We are planning a pizza night. Save the date for good food and fellowship. More details to come. Call Ryan and Tanya Blanck at 529-5703.

ADAM HAMILTON

Christianity AND World Religions

Wrestling With Questions People Ask



St. Matthew's
Small Groups
Gather to Study

"Christianity
and
World Religions"

Wrestling with
Questions People Ask
by
Adam Hamilton

St. Matthew's small study groups have begun a new study, "Christian and World Religions" by Adam Hamilton. The following groups will meet:

Day	Time	Leader	Location
Sunday	8:45a	Debi Dyer	Fireside Rm.
Sunday	7:00p	Pastor Bob & Beth	Parsonage
Monday	11:00a	Pastor Bob	Fireside Rm.
Monday	6:00p	Dan Overton	Fireside Rm.
Tuesday	7:00p	Linda Norberg	Linda's Home
Thursday	7:00p	Allen & Judy Saute	Saute's Home
Friday	12:30p	Tina Martin	Fireside Rm.

For more information, please contact the group leader or the church office. Sign up sheets are also available in the Church Narthex.

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



Good News Church Family



Prayer Chain

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

New

Eddy Callens - Diagnosed with brain cancer. (Suzanne and Jim Ford's son-in-law)

Erin Basset - Back pain and injured disks. (Sharon Brown's granddaughter)

Continue to pray for:

Mia Stoutenborough - Diagnosed with bone marrow disease and searching for a donor for bone marrow transplant. (Paul Stoutenborough's grand daughter)

Ramona Hallit - Recovering from surgery.

Kathy Sasso - Diagnosed with heart arrhythmia. (Jackie Heinemann)

Amelia Shear - 88 years old, recovering from colon surgery and making progress. (Jan Shear's mother-in-law)

Ann Chiorella - Up-coming eye surgery due to diabetes. (Elsie Figueroa)

Bea Forbes - Healing of virus in her eye and restoration of her eye sight (Kathy Holzer)

Troy Shear - Recovering from corrective nose surgery and doing well. (Jan Shear's grandson)

Chris Lambardo - Diagnosed with blood clots in lungs. (Betty Johnson)

Family and friends of Ella Fletcher - With the passing of our dear friend Ella. (John Fletcher)

Robin Shear - Dealing with health issues. (Jan Shear's daughter)

Carol Riggins - Continued health. (Jan Shear)

Paula - Continued healing from back and leg pain due to sciatic nerve. (Lynda Starman's Sister)

Roger - Continued healing. (Kathy Martin)

Pray for those in cancer treatment:

Jill Smalling - (Joyce Wheatly)

Glenn Grago - (Casey Goldberg)

Lonnie Mercer (Doris Wright)

Tom DeCuir - (Dana DeCuir)

Kassie - (Carla Von Zell)

Carol Phillips - (Christa Lamb)

Zona Stratheran - (Chris McEachern)

Lisa Magorien - . (The Saute Family)

Marv Whisman - (Christy Whisman)

Alex - (Detweiler Family)

Katie Floyd - (Saute Family)

Jane Cosarelli (Patti Adams)



Please be sure to write down your prayer request in our prayer book located in the Narthex before worship. This enables our worship leaders to mention your loved one in prayer and to make sure their name is listed in our weekly prayer list published in the bulletin and the monthly Newsletter.



March Birthdays

3-01 Susie Carter

3-02 Beverly Atkins

3-06 Jim Cerone

3-07 Amy Tobin

3-08 Bob DeCuir

3-08 Ron McMahon

3-08 Lily York

3-12 Betty Johnson

3-12 Shirley Watmore

3-13 Anne Starr

3-14 Charles Lamb

3-15 Fred Wardell

3-16 Pam McDonald

3-16 Margie MacArthur

3-19 Adele Wojciechowski

3-19 Cassidy Dyer

3-20 Ed Starman

March Anniversaries

3- 9 - Roy and Ceil Adler

3-18 - Jim and Suzanne Ford

3-20 - Ed and Marcia Miyasaka

3-27 - Dennis and Jackie Heinemann

3-28 - Joelle and Shawn Murray

3-30 - Vern and Adele Wojciechowski

Meet Our New Members

Steve and Susan Roe



We are pleased to introduce to you our new members, Steve and Susan Roe who recently joined St. Matthew's Church Family. Please warmly welcome Steve and Susan.

Steve and Susan joined our church family on Sunday, January 11, 2009.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Weddings

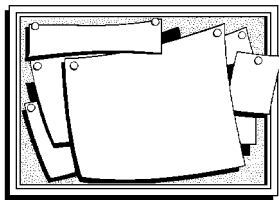
St. Matthew's has a variety of venues for wedding services. If you are interested in holding a wedding service, call the office for information. We offer a full service wedding coordinator as well.

Baptisms

Contact Pastor Bob to arrange.

Housewarmings

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



Good News Bulletin Board



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www.NewburyParkChurch.com

Fax (805) 498-6984

stmatthewsumc@yahoo.com



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

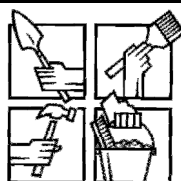
TREAT THE CHILDREN AT OUR CHILDREN'S CENTER WITH A GROCERY GIFT CARD

Our children at the center are always in need of snack items. Due to our high enrollment of afterschool age children this year, our snacks deplete quickly. So, if you would like to help support this vital ministry of St. Matthew's, gift cards from Albertsons or Vons are always welcome. Gift cards may be dropped off at the Children's Center or may be placed in the Children's Center mail box in the church office.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Our prayer shawl ministry is off to a wonderful start. Thanks to many of the women in the church we have a great supply of beautiful prayer shawls. If you are wondering what a prayer shawl is, I will explain. Prayer shawls come in many different sizes, shapes and colors. While they are being made prayers are said for the person who will be receiving it. When the need for a prayer shawl arises we gather together and say specific prayers for the recipient while we tie fringe onto the shawl. I also have a card that explains this ministry, which can be delivered with the shawl.

If you have a loved one, co-worker, neighbor or friend that needs to be wrapped in God's love, give me a call and we will get together, tie fringe and pray. **Hugs, Kathy Holzer, 498-7107 or kholzer@aol.com**



CHURCH WORKDAY

LOVE GOD WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH - BRING GLOVES. MARCH 21, 9AM-2pm.

Please join us for our ALL CHURCH work day to spruce up our home of worship. We have projects for all interests and levels including painting, window washing, planting, trimming and general cleaning. Join our potluck lunch at noon!!!

Debi Dyer 805 376-0466

SAVE YOUR FRESH AND EASY RECEIPTS!

Save your Fresh and Easy receipts! For the month of March, 2009, Fresh and Easy will give the Children's Center \$1 for each \$20 spent during a shopping trip to Fresh and Easy. This means a receipt of \$20-\$39.99 will get \$1, \$40-59.99 will get \$2, etc. All you need to do is shop there and bring your receipts to church. They can be dropped off directly to the Children's Center, or placed in the Children's Center slot in the office. You can also place them in the Fresh and Easy can in the Narthex. Need to add a few dollars to get up to a \$20 increment? Nutritious snack items can be purchased and donated to the Children's Center as well. We appreciate all of your generosity and support.



GAD-ABOUT ACTIVITY FOR MARCH

The Gad-Abouts will tour Camarillo Ranch on **Wednesday, March 18 at 11:00**. Entrance Fee: **\$5.00**. It is the former home of the Adolfo Camarillo family. It is a fully restored 1892 Victorian mansion, stables, gardens, and barn. It contains family correspondence, restoration photos and silver saddles placed on the original Camarillo white horses. We will meet at the church at **10:30** and carpool. Lunch will be at a nearby restaurant (to be determined.) Please see Kathy Nubling if interested or sign up on the sheet in the Narthex.

Looking Forward!!!



Holy Week and Easter Services

Sunday, April 5 Palm Sunday Worship

8:30 and 10:00a Worship

A celebration of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem with St. Matthew's Children processing with Palms.

Thursday, April 9 Maundy Thursday

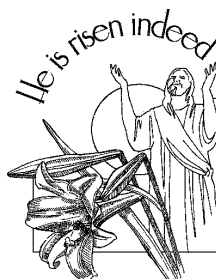
Seder Service 6:30p

We remember the last supper by celebrating the Passover Seder as Jesus and his apostles did on the night before the crucifixion of Jesus.

Friday, April 10, Good Friday

Tenebrae Service at 7:00p

The word "tenebrae" comes from the Latin meaning "darkness." In this dramatic service, all of the lights and candles on the altar are gradually extinguished until the room is in complete darkness. At the moment of darkness, a loud noise occurs symbolizing the death of Jesus.



EASTER SUNDAY CELEBRATION Sunday, April 12

ALLELUIA! JESUS IS RISEN!!

Sunrise Service at 6:00a in the patio area (weather permitting)

Easter Worship 8:30 & 10:00a in the Sanctuary



Good News In Worship



Worship Staffing for March

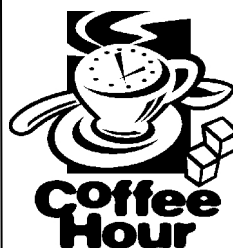
March 1
 Preaching Pastor Bob Ferguson
 Worship Leader Dan Overton
 8:30am Liturgist Scott Spindel
 10am Liturgist Kathy Nubling
 10am Ushers Jim Ford and Randy Holzer
 Acolyte Alex Chow
 Counters Dan Overton, Casey Goldberg, Dennis Heinemann
 Nursery Tanya Inouye
 Flowers Barbara Thaden
 Coffee Betty Johnson, Pat Mohn
 Sound/Recording John McDonald
 Welcome/Greeter Carla Von Zell, Betty Johnson
 SS Teachers Kristin Bertrand, Pam Pond

March 8
 Preaching Pastor Bob Ferguson
 Worship Leader Dan Overton
 8:30am Liturgist Lynne Hartley
 10am Liturgist Rod Womer
 10am Ushers Jay Alexander, John McDonald
 Acolyte Matthew Chow
 Puppeteers Tabitha Dyer, Kelly Chow
 Counters Joanne Stone, Tim LeRoy
 Nursery Tanya Blanck
 Flowers Jackie Heinemann
 Coffee The Saute Family
 Sound/Recording Ralph Matthews
 Welcome/Greeter Judy Saute, Tanya Blanck
 SS Teachers Kristin Bertrand, Charlene Wardell, Dana DeCuir

March 15
 Preaching Pastor Bob Ferguson
 Worship Leader Dan Overton
 8:30am Liturgist Beth Ferguson
 10am Liturgist Marilyn Matthews
 10am Ushers Kent Detweiler, Mike Bertrand
 Acolyte Kelly Chow
 Counters Marvin/Judy Jacobsen, Mike Summers
 Nursery Georgia Forbes
 Flowers Vem Wojciechowski
 Coffee Nancy Lethcoe
 Sound/Recording Bill Hartley
 Welcome/Greeter Doris Williams, Marion Vausbinter
 SS Teachers Kristin Bertrand, Janice Kakazu, Pam Pond

March 22
 Preaching Pastor Bob Ferguson
 Worship Leader Dan Overton
 8:30am Liturgist Bob Wiles
 10am Liturgist Barbara Karplus
 10am Ushers Nathan Inouye, Nancy Liedblad
 Acolyte Alex Chow
 Puppeteers Allisa/Austin Zimmerman
 Counters Jan Gauwain, Ceil Adler
 Nursery Carolyn Sylvester
 Flowers Jackie Heinemann
 Coffee Please sign up
 Sound/Recording Ralph Matthews
 Welcome/Greeter Ruth Bushart, Lynda Starman
 SS Teachers Kristin Bertrand, Janice Kakazu, Charlene Wardell

March 29
 Preaching Pastor Bob Ferguson
 Worship Leader Dan Overton
 8:30am Liturgist Alice Huston
 10am Liturgist John Fletcher
 10am Ushers Harry Lamb, Mike Summers
 Acolyte Alex Chow
 Counters Dan Overton, Casey Goldberg, Dennis Heinemann
 Nursery Joyce Wheatly
 Flowers Please sign up
 Coffee Please sign up
 Sound/Recording Randy Holzer
 Welcome/Greeter Judy/Marvin Jacobsen
 SS Teachers Pam Pond, Cathy Will, Dana DeCuir



We still need sign-ups for our after worship coffee fellowship. If you would like to participate, please see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Narthex. This is a great time to share your favorite baked good and greet our congregation after Sunday worship.



March 1 - 1st Sunday in Lent

Genesis 9:8-17
 Psalm 25:1-10
 1 Peter 3:18-22
 Mark 1:9-15

March 8 - 2nd Sunday in Lent

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
 Psalm 22:23-31
 Romans 4:12-25
 Mark 8:31-38

March 15 - 3rd Sunday in Lent

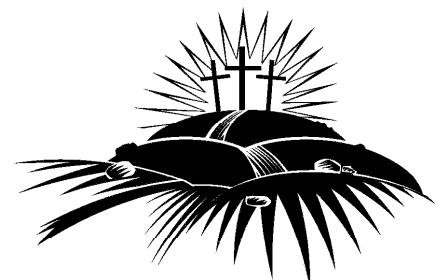
Exodus 20:1-17
 Psalm 19
 1 Corinthians 1:18-25
 John 2:13-22

March 22 - 4th Sunday in Lent

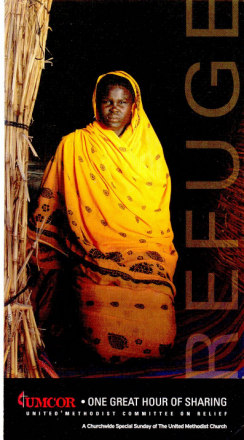
One Great Hour Of Sharing
 Numbers 21:4-9
 Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
 Ephesians 2:1-10
 John 3: 4-21

March 29 - 5th Sunday in Lent

Jeremiah 31:31-34
 Psalm 51:1-12
 Hebrews 5:5-10
 John 12:20-33



LENT



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING Sunday, March 22, 2009

“For you have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in their distress, a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat.” Isaiah 25:4a, NRSV

Give to One Great Hour of Sharing. For some refuge means a roof over their heads and a safe place to sleep. For others it is the security that food is on the table, access to health care, opportunity for education, or a job provides.

For Hayat Ibrahim refuge means something as simple as a fuel-efficient stove. These stoves provided through UMCOR’s partnership with the Cooperative Housing Foundation mean that Hayat, her daughter and sister have to spend less time looking for firewood, a sometimes dangerous task, in Darfur. “If we don’t want to go out for firewood, we can buy a little charcoal and use it for cooking,” she says.

Hayat adds that the stove provides her with some extra time as well as greater security, “With the time that I save collecting firewood, I can go look for food and take care of my children or even have some time to rest.”

BE THERE AND BE HOPE WITH UMCOR

Through comprehensive programs that help provide healing and hope for some of the world’s most vulnerable people, UMCOR is there on your behalf providing refuge to people in distress.

ONE GREAT HOUR SHARING

Gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing lay the foundation of all of UMCOR’s work by covering the costs of doing business. This means that all gifts designated to specific programs can go 100% to that program because UMCOR’s basic expenses are covered. Please give generously. **To donate online, go to www.umciving.org/OGHS.**



Above are Scouts from Boy Troops #730, #3730 and Girl Scout Troop #403

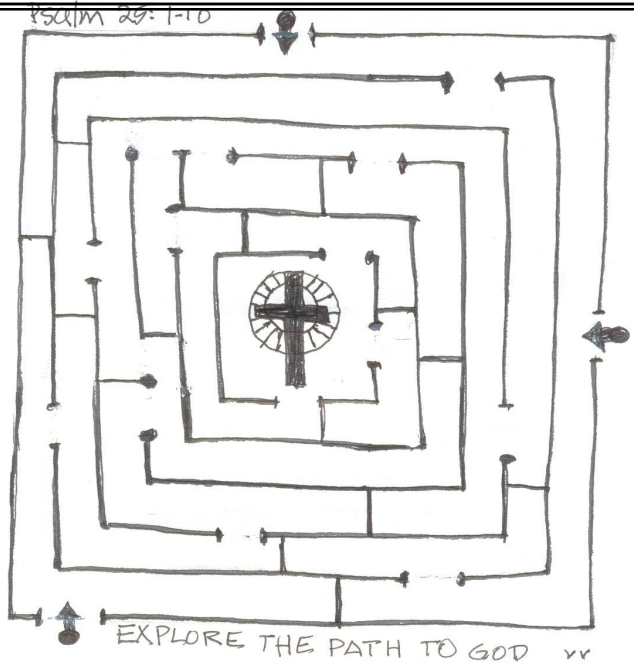
St.
Matthew’s
United
Methodist
Church

Celebrates

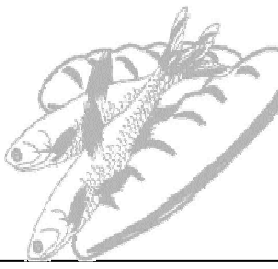
Scout
Sunday

February 1,
2009

Can You Find the Pathway To God?



Roland Roy '09



Good News



Servant Ministry



A SPECIAL THANK YOU!

As your Pastor, I want to extend my thanks and gratitude to a couple of people. The first is Roland Roy. Many of you know how gifted Roland is with his art. His paintings and sketches are well known. I want to say how much it means to me and all of us who have benefited from his gift. When ever I thank him personally, he is quick to remind me that the Spirit of God blesses him and he wants to pass it on. It is his way of saying "thank you" to God for the gift of art. I gave Roland a list of sermons texts and themes for the next quarter and he presented to me many thought provoking and beautiful drawings for St. Matthew's bulletin covers. I told him that I was going to collect and save them each week. "Thank you very much" Roland. He has also done beautiful portraits for families who have experienced the death of a loved

one. God has enabled him to capture a sense of who the person was/is spiritually. I commend you, Roland, for your use of Gods' gift to be the gift you are. Thanks again, so very much.

Another person who has used her gifts and abilities to bless St. Matthew's is Christy Whisman. If I remember correctly, she works as an auditor for the State of California. Christy has just completed an audit of our church books. Our United Methodist Book of Discipline requires us to do this, keep a copy on file and forward copies to the District Conference. I have been at churches where it was a difficult task to get the audits done. Either the volunteers didn't feel qualified or the price of hiring it was prohibitive. Thank you Christy, you have indeed blessed us.

Both Roland and Christy have offered priceless gifts to God and we have benefited.

If you know of someone who has been a blessings to others and or to our church, please let Carol or I know and we will try to get it in future editions of THE GOOD NEWS.

Blessing to you all,
Pastor Bob

FOOD DONATION MATCHING BONUS!!!

Nonperishable food donated between now and the end of April will help our local food banks earn a portion of the \$1,000,000 being donated by the Alan Shawn Feinstein Foundation for hunger programs. The more food items we collect the more money we earn. Food donations may be placed in the container near the entrance of the sanctuary any Sunday. This is a great way to double our giving. Let's take advantage of this opportunity!

WE WALK BECAUSE THEY WALK

852 million people go to bed hungry every night. They are people just like us, but because of poverty they must walk to accomplish the most basic tasks. They walk for food, water, and firewood, to escape violence, to seek shelter, to farm their fields, to find employment, and to go to school. A CROP Hunger Walk is fun, but it is also an opportunity to learn what millions of people have to do each day just to survive – they walk. Donations from CROP Hunger Walks fight poverty at home and abroad. CROP projects include providing seeds, tools, and training for African farmers; emergency medical supplies for hurricane victims in the Gulf States; tents and blankets for Pakistani families devastated by an earthquake; and vocational training for indigenous communities in Latin America. Twenty-five percent of the funds raised support local hunger programs such as Manna and Meals on Wheels.

Join us on the Conejo Valley CROP Hunger Walk on Sunday, March 8, at Cal Lutheran University. Registration is 12:00 to 1:00 PM and the walk begins at 1:00 PM. There is a 6.2-mile route and a 4.5-mile route. Contact Barbara Karplus or Rod Womer at 499-3115 for more information or pick up a donation envelope from the mobile display board at the church. If you can't walk, but want to support the St. Matthews team you can make a donation by giving a check made out to CROP Hunger Walk to Barbara or Rod or donate on line at www.cropwalkonline.org (select California, select Conejo Valley Crop Walk, select St. Matthew's United Methodist Team).

Don't Forget Manna!

We continue to collect food donations for Manna, the Conejo Valley Food Bank. Manna accepts both food and personal items. Please place your donations in the blue container located in the Narthex.

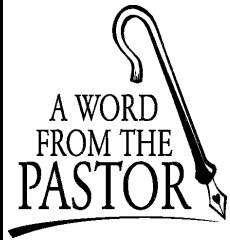


Upcoming Opportunities to Serve

- CROP Hunger Walk – March 8
- Easter Food Baskets –
Pick up March 29
Return April 5
- ACTION Day of Caring – June 6
- UMCOR Kits – June

Office Hours are 9 a.m.—3:15 p.m.
Monday through Thursday

Office phone (805) 498-6910 Fax (805) 498-6984
EMAIL: stmatthewsumc@yahoo.com



THE SHEPHERD'S PEN

Dear Friends of St. Matthews

By the time you get this article, I hope you are enjoying the new study we are doing church-wide. It is based upon a book by Adam Hamilton. The title is "Christianity and World Religions." The sub-title of the book is "Wrestling With Questions People Ask." It is a six week study which will cover an introduction that explains the reason for looking at other world religions. One of the chief reasons pertains to our wide spread exposure to other religions in our day. Another reason is the necessity of having some basic understanding of world religions in light of the fact that religion seems to be at the center of many of the conflicts in our world. The rest of the book is broken up into chapters dealing with Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, Judaism, and Christianity. Since this is an introductory course, the material covered will be limited to the central beliefs and teachings of each.

For each of the religions there will be a brief discussion of their origin and/or founder(s). For each of the religions there is a brief discussion about their scriptures and/or their basic beliefs which they adhere to and teach. And then there is a brief comparison and contrast to Christian teaching and faith.

There were four basic areas where beliefs were contrasted and compared. The first had to do with the nature of God. In other words, what is God like? The second had to do with the nature of humanity. What is it that

makes us who we are? Why do we suffer and die? That leads into the third area having to do with the way of salvation. In other words, how can we face and overcome suffering and death. And the fourth area has to do with understanding what happens after death. In other words, how do world religions deal with death and what follows it? All these questions and more are covered in the materials from Adam Hamilton's book and/or video presentations. I will also be doing a sermon each week on the topic and introducing my perspective as well.

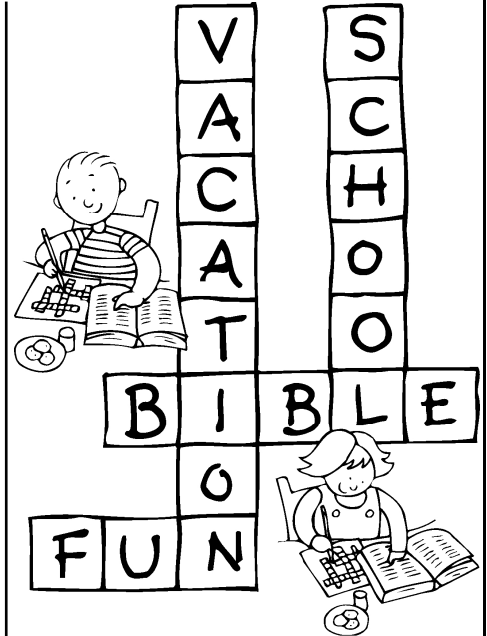
Adam Hamilton and I will not be the only ones you will hear from. On the video which will be used at each group, there will be presentations and answers straight from the various religious leaders that Adam interviewed. They came from the main centers of worship for each of the religions being presented.

This study on Christianity and the World Religions will not answer all of our questions but it will give a good basis for understanding our neighbors and friends who belong to one of them. It will also, I believe, give us a greater appreciation for our own Christian faith.

If you missed out on this opportunity, do not despair. Check the group listings and call one of the leaders and ask if you can join their discussion group for that week. Also materials will be available for self study after the series. I have to say that you will get the most out of this if you are part of a group.

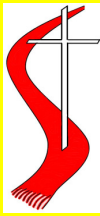
In Christ's Service Together,

Pastor Bob Ferguson



Mark Your Calendars! We will be having VBS during the week of June 22nd from 9:00am until 12:00pm. We will spend five mornings together learning about the fruits of the spirit. We will focus on a different one each morning and learn how to put them into practice. Children entering preschool (potty trained only) - 5th grade are welcome to attend. Encourage your children to invite their friends and neighbors as well. There will be no charge to attend! Youth entering jr high and high school are welcome to attend as helpers, so I would be glad to talk to any who are interested. I am also in need of adult volunteers, so please contact me if you are interested. Thank you, Tanya Blanck 529- 5703.





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

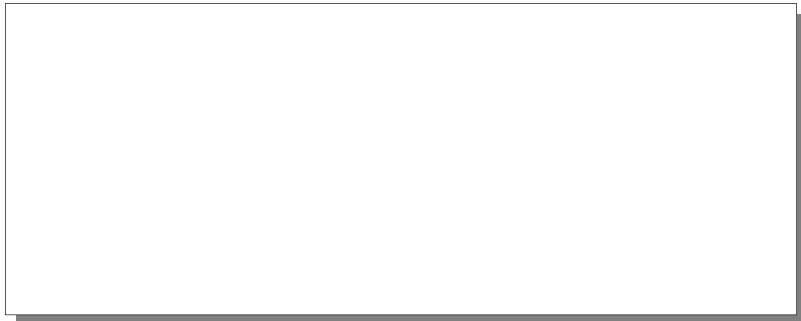
Non-Profit Org.
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PAID
 Thousand Oaks, CA
 Permit No. 311

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

St. Matthew's
Good News
March 2009



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 Crowdis	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 Crowdis & Jack Doman	Lay Member to Annual Conf.	Pam Pond, Team Leader	Education & Youth Team
Barbara Crowdis	Lay Leader	TBS, Team Leader	Discipleship Ministry Team
TBD, Chair	Staff Parish Relations Comm.	Bob Wiles, Team Leader	Worship Team
Cheryl Qualls, 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 in discipleship through small group community and to SERVE out of our calling and giftedness.