

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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 Permit No. 311

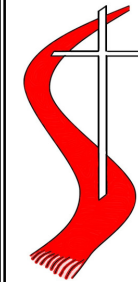


September 2009

St. Matthew's Good News

**Newbury
 Park**

WWW.NEWBURYPARKCHURCH.COM



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."

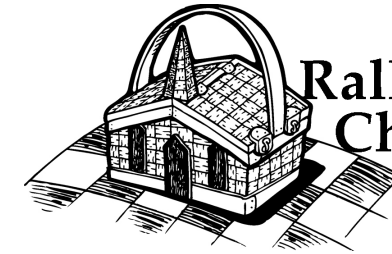
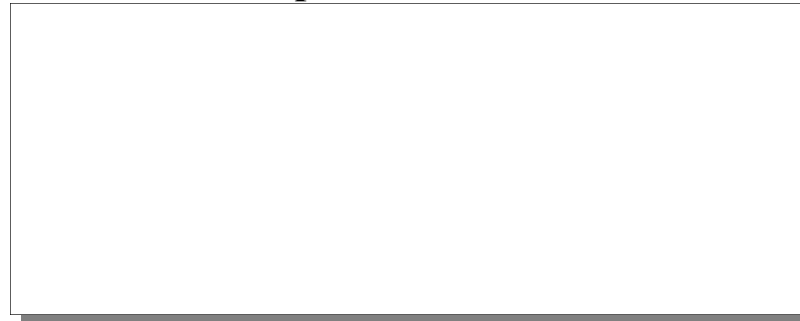
Mission Statement

Bring spiritual wanderers and seekers into relationship with Jesus Christ

Grow as disciples in small group community

Serve out of our calling and giftedness

St. Matthew's
Good News
 September 2009



Rally Sunday Church Picnic

September 13
 11:30a - 1:00p

RALLY SUNDAY, CHURCH PICNIC
ST. MATTHEW'S FAMILIES, FRIENDS AND
NEIGHBORS!

Join us for an all church picnic and potluck on *Rally Sunday, September 13* from 11:30am to 1:00pm at Banyan Park. Bring a potluck dish to share with St. Matthew's families and get ready for some fun! There will be HOT BBQ's available to grill your own meat and lemonade will be provided. This will be a great time to get acquainted with many of your church family members. Sign-ups will be in the Narthex so we can see how many families are coming, and which dish you will bring to share. See you there!

Sponsored by Sunday School

Angel Dancers

Our Angel Dancers are practicing on Sunday mornings at 9:00am, and will be performing at the 10:00am worship on Rally Sunday, September 13th. For more information about our Angel Dancers, please contact Juliane Detweiler at 480-4980.

Rally Sunday September 13th

We will celebrate Rally Sunday at the 10:00am worship where Bibles will be presented to new 3rd graders. All youth who have participated in the Confirmation studies will be confirmed.

Sunday School Picnic

A celebration picnic will take place after our Rally Sunday Worship at Banyan Park at 12:00noon. Bring your own meat to BBQ and potluck dish to share.

The Servant Ministry Team

Our Serve Group has been very busy. They served a meal on August 8th at St. Julie's Catholic Church for the homeless. The youth helped to prepare take out sack lunches as well. Also, volunteers at the Wesminister Free Clinic were provided a meal coordinated by the Servant Ministry on August 19. The Westminister Clinic also provides free medical care at the Simi Valley United Methodist Church.

Membership Sunday, September 27

Membership Sunday will be held on Sunday, September 27 at the 10:00a worship. If you are interested in joining the church, there will be an information meeting on Saturday, September 12th from 9:00a to 12:00noon at the church in the Fireside Room. If you are interested in church membership, see Pastor Bob Ferguson and or contact the church office, to pick up a membership packet to be filled out and returned by September 12th. Our new members will be welcomed with a potluck lunch following worship service. A sign-up sheet for the potluck will be out on September 7th after church.

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 Coats	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 Members to Annual Conf.	Pam Pond, Team Leader	Education & Youth Team
Barbara Crowdis	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 small group community and to SERVE out of calling and giftedness.



At St. Matthew's

Men's Bible Study Thursdays at 11:00am

Our Men's Bible Study who meets every Thursday at 11:00 are studying the book of Exodus as well as viewing a DVD showing the evidences of the Exodus. For more information on this study, please contact Pastor Bob. All men are welcome.

Women's Bible Study, Fridays at 12:30p

Our Women's Bible study will resume in September. If you have questions, please contact Tina Martin our group leader. All women are welcome.

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

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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

Tina Martin and family - With the passing of Tina's father.

Continue to pray for:

Gary Gauwain - Successful removal of skin cancer and waiting for skin graft. (Jan Gauwain)

Victoria - 27 years old had cancer and reconstructive surgery; cancer was also found in her liver. Prayers for healing. (Friend of Ruth Bushart)

Barbara Goldberg - Recovering from hernia and gall bladder surgery and doing well. (Casey Goldberg's daughter)

Vincent Beltz - Nephew diagnosed with cancer impending around the aorta artery. (Carol Riggins)

Ed Starman - Continued healing. (Lynda Starman)

Audry Feathers - Continued healing so she can return home from rehab. (Nancy Liedblad's mother)

Peter Crecion - Had bone marrow transplant and having severe complications. (Maria Vaisiere)

Melvina Louise - Prayers for needed employment and business increase.

Jean Arndt - Diagnosed with lymphoma in the bones. (Romana Hallit's mother)

Robin and Kathleen - Prayers and healing for continued health problems. (Jan Shear's Daughters)

Mike Foster - Prayers for health concerns. (Lynda Starman)

Mary Folsom - Is doing well but continued prayers for comfort and healing.

John Holcomb - Making excellent progress from Gillian Barre Syndrome. Is now off the ventilator, feeding himself and is in a powered wheel chair. Now in rehab center in Boston. (Barbara Crowdis' cousin)

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

Evelyn Bonnema - Wisdom for doctors to diagnose blood loss. (Jan Gauwain)

Anne Starr - Continued prayers for comfort.

Mia Stoutenborough - Diagnosed with A-Plastic Anemia and having daily blood transfusions. Continued healing. (Paul and Judy Stoutenborough's grand daughter)

Pray for those in cancer treatment:

Andreas Knickman (Jen Kuo)

Verita Hooker - St. Matthew's

Elsie Figueroa (Beth Ferguson)

Mother Shirley - (Cheryl Qualls)

Glenn Grago - (Casey Goldberg)

Carol Phillips - (Christa Lamb)

Zona Strathearn - (Chris McEachern)

Marv Whisman - (Christy Whisman)

Alex - (Detweiler Family)

Katie Floyd - (Saute Family)

Jane Cosarelli (Patti Adams)

SMALL GROUP STUDIES BEGIN SEPTEMBER 15

Dan Overton - Monday, Sept. 21, 6:00p "One Month to Live" (Fireside Room)
Thursday, Sept. 24, 7:00p "One Month to Live" (Fireside Room)

Pastor's Bob - Sunday Sept. 13, 7:00p, "One Month to Live" Pastor's home

Beth Ferguson - Tuesday, Sept. 15, 10:00a "Prayer" (Fireside Room)

Continued on page 4



September Birthdays

- 9-01 Carolyn Sylvester
- 9-01 Gary Gauwain
- 9-02 Dana DeCuir
- 9-06 Patrick Szafraniec
- 9-08 Nathan Inouye
- 9-09 Ralph Matthews
- 9-12 Eleanor Kuntz
- 9-12 Emma Blanck
- 9-12 Steve Wayda
- 9-12 Rob Jacobson
- 9-12 Linda Norberg
- 9-12 Dorothy Lewolt
- 9-15 Mary Folsom
- 9-16 Casey Goldberg
- 9-16 Blade Dyer
- 9-16 Sharon Brown
- 9-17 Andrew Schott
- 9-18 Kent Detweiler
- 9-20 Emily Lethcoe
- 9-25 Rebecca DeCuir
- 9-26 Maria Vaissiere
- 9-27 Jack Doman
- 9-30 Lynne Hartley
- 9-30 Bob Martin
- 9-30 Sili Jacobson
- 9-30 Sean Saute

September Anniversaries

- 9-2 - Marvin and Judy Jacobsen
- 9-3 - Pat and Amy Tobin
- 9-9 - Jim and Margie MacArthur
- 9-10 - Jim and Barbara Crowdis
- 9-13 - Bob and Dana DeCuir
- 9-20 - Bill and Lynne Hartley
- 9-21 - Paul and Allisa Zimmerman
- 9-26 - Frank and Tina Martin
- 9-29 - Jay and Erica Alexander



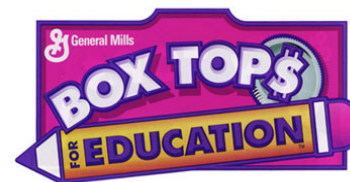
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stmatthewsumc@yahoo.com



ANNOUNCING THE BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR THE CHILDREN'S CENTER

Please save all those

"Box Tops for Education" panels from your cereal boxes, snack foods, frozen veggies, baked goods, paper goods, and other items. Bring them to church and put them into our special "Box Tops" box for the Children's Center. The box will be located in the narthex. For each box top sent in, we get 10 cents, and every bit helps! You can also log into:

www.boxtops4education.com to get more information on products and learn how to sign up to support us by going shopping at your favorite online stores! Look for special fall offers in your newspaper! Questions? Jennifer Kuo 498-0764, or jenkuo@verizon.net
Thank you for your support!



Support Our Children's Center

CAMPBELLS LABELS FOR EDUCATION PROGRAM

Please note that there have been some changes in the Campbell's soup label program. The front labels of the various products are no longer the part to save. Now, there should be a small coupon on the product that indicates it is the Campbell label item portion to save. The Labels for Education program appears on a variety of products from Campbell's products, to items from Pepperidge Farm, V8, Prego and other brand names. Please place these items into the same Box Tops for Education container in the Narthex. By saving and submitting these "Labels", we can redeem them for educational items for the Children's Center (pens, paper, outdoor supplies, etc.). Look for special fall offers in your newspaper! Questions? Jennifer Kuo 498-0764, or jenkuo@verizon.net
Thank you for your support!

Children's Center



THE NINTH ANNUAL CHILDREN'S CENTER CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE

Yes, it is a bit early to be thinking about Christmas, but it is right around the corner.

We are in need of donations of

items to sell for both the boutique and the bake sale. Boutique items or monetary donations can be directed to the Children's Center staff. Bake sale items can be brought to church before the 10am service on the sale date, or dropped off sometime on the Friday before. We are also in need of a few volunteers to help the children shop on the Friday sale day. We like to have a volunteer work with one child at a time to help them shop, pay and wrap their presents. Any amount of time you have is greatly appreciated. Contact the Children's Center if you can help, or you can call Jennifer Kuo directly. All proceeds benefit the Children's Center. Thank you for your support!

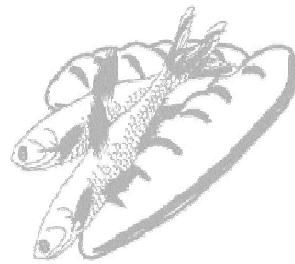
Friday, December 11, 2009, 11:45am-4:00pm,
Shopping for children only. Gift wrap and tags will be provided.

Sunday, December 13, 2009, 9:00am-11:30am
Shopping for everyone! We will also have a bake sale that will benefit the Children's Center.

Sunday, December 20, 2009, 9:00am -11:30am
An additional shopping day with just a few items for sale on the Boutique side and plenty of baked goods on the Bake Sale side.

Thanks to all those who supported us last year and helped us to raise over \$400 for the Children's Center!

Questions? Jennifer Kuo 498-0764, or jenkuo@verizon.net



Good News

Servant Ministry & Social Action Teams

HUNGER SUNDAY - IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT FOOD

At St. Matthew's, the first Sunday of each month is designated as Hunger Sunday. Nonperishable foods as well as baby care items and hygiene items such as shampoo and toothpaste can be left at any time in the blue tub in the Narthex. The Servant Ministry Team delivers the donated items to Manna (our local food bank) after the first Sunday of the month. In these hard economic times, the less fortunate now need our help more than ever. Please share God's love by keeping Manna's shelves full!!

Upcoming Opportunities to Serve

- Disaster Preparedness Kits - October
- Thanksgiving Food Baskets - November
- Alternative Christmas Market - December
- Christmas Shoppe - December
- Christmas Gift Cards - December

ARE YOU A GOOD SCOUT?

By Jack Doman

I never made it to the rank of Eagle, but I was a Boy Scout. While it has been a long time, I still remember the admonition to "Be Prepared". I hope that you were able to join us for the presentation by the American Red Cross in how to be prepared for disasters. They shared some great ideas with us.

Now is the time to put one of those good ideas to work. Our goal this month is to bring new materials that our youth can assemble into kits to be kept here at St. Matthew's in case of a local disaster. You may choose from the following items to purchase and bring to church in September:

- 1 hand towel (15" x 25" up to 17" x 27", No kitchen towels)
- 1 washcloth
- 1 comb (large and sturdy, not pocket-sized)
- 1 nail file or fingernail clippers (no emery boards or toenail clippers)
- 1 bath-size bar of soap (3 oz. and up)
- 1 toothbrush (single brushes only in original wrapper, No child-size brushes)
- 6 adhesive plastic strip sterile bandages

This is another way that we can reach out to others and potentially help ourselves at the same time. Remember the Bible tells us that "God helps those that help themselves". We will provide more details soon.

MESSAGE FROM OUR SOCIAL ACTION TEAM

There are many noteworthy environmental groups working diligently to provide educational information about our planet. The Social Action and Environmental Servant Team uses articles from many of these resources. We do not specifically endorse any group but hope to provide St. Matthew's congregation with various articles and websites that may become areas of service as you become inspired to learn more about God's precious creation.

International Coastal Cleanup: trash in our ocean and waterways is entirely preventable.

Join the 24th annual International Coastal Cleanup September 19th, 2009. Ocean Conservancy's 24th annual International Coastal Cleanup will be held on September 19, 2009 at beaches, rivers, lakes and streams across the planet. Last year, some 400,000 people in 100 countries participated and removed almost seven million pounds of trash. To register for the Clean up nearest you, visit: www.oceanconservancy.org.

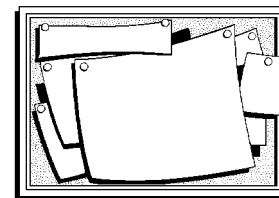
Protect the Arctic

As concerned citizens marked the 20th anniversary of the Exxon Valdez oil spill, a series of public hearings were held to discuss expanded offshore oil drilling. "A generation after the tragedy of Exxon Valdez, we find ourselves debating expansion of offshore oil drilling, through it would do little to bring down gas prices. We must be particularly careful in vulnerable environments like the Arctic. Currently, no capacity is in place to handle accidents and spills in its ice-filled seas. We need to take a time-out to make rational, science-based decisions on whether we can and should move forward," noted Janis Searles Jones, vice president of national conservation policy and legal affairs at Ocean Conservancy.

Losing Our Best Weapon Against Climate Change

When it comes to global warming, the loss of our forests is taking a worse toll on us than is the world's entire transportation sector. According to the U.S. Forest Service, the United States continues to lose about 6,000 acres of open space a day as natural ecosystems are developed for urban, agricultural and industrial uses. With more than 20 percent of green house gas emissions worldwide stemming from deforestation and land conversion, wise forest management is crucial. The Wilderness Society is taking the lead by calling on Congress to ensure that wise forest management is part of the strategy to combat dangerous global warming.

Climate change is already impacting our forests and will continue to do so for decades to come. If we are to help forests adapt to changing climates and protect their ability to store carbon, public and land managers in particular need long-term funding that is not subject to the annual appropriations process.



Good News

Bulletin Board

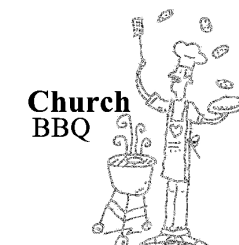


Albertson Gift Cards

SNACK ITEMS FOR OUR CHILDREN'S CENTER

Our children at the center are always in need of snack items. If you would like to help support this vital ministry of St. Matthew's, gift cards from Albertsons 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.

Also, please find the list in the Narthex of items that can be purchased at Costco. Thank you for your help in giving to our children at the center.



Church BBQ

Save the Date!

All Church BBQ, Sunday, October 25th

We will celebrate the culmination of our Stewardship Campaign with an all church BBQ with Vern Wojciechowski at the grill. Please mark this on your calendar. More details will follow.

ATTENTION ALL PUPPETEERS

I'd like to meet with all of the current puppeteers, and anyone else interested in becoming one of the puppeteers during our 10 am worship service. We'll meet for just a few minutes after the 10am service on Sunday, September 20, 2009. If you can't make it, please call or email me to let me know. Anyone who is interested in joining our puppeteer list should also plan on attending, or contact me if you can't make it. Puppeteers of all ages are welcome and the only requirement is the ability to read (first or second grade and up). This is a great way to participate in the worship service, particularly if you are reluctant to speak in front of people, as you can hide behind our puppet stage! Thank you! Jennifer Kuo jenkuo@verizon.net, 805-498-0764

SAVE YOUR FRESH AND EASY RECEIPTS!

Fresh and Easy is once again making donations to schools and daycare centers. Thanks to your help, the Children's Center received over \$150 from the receipts saved and turned in during their spring promotion. This is easy money, as all we need to do is save receipts with totals of at least \$20 or higher. For every \$20 spent between September 15 and December 31, 2009, the Children's Center can earn a dollar. Thus for a receipt with a total of \$20 - \$39.99, the Center earns \$1. For each receipt with a total of \$40-\$59.99, the Center earns \$2 and so on. Please bring your receipts to church and either place them in the Children's Center mailbox, or the marked can in the narthex. Thank you! For questions, please contact Jennifer Kuo, jenkuo@verizon.net, 805-498-0764.

GAD-ABOUTS, UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Sunday, Sept. 6 – Visit the Vietnam Wall Replica, displayed at Pierce Bros. Memorial Park in Westlake Village after church; we will car pool from church. Bring a sack lunch and we will eat before we leave. Please contact Kathy Nubling (498-6479) or Ruth Bushart (499-1397) for more information.

FLEA MARKET/RUMMAGE SALE SATURDAY OCTOBER 3RD AT 8:00A ON THE CHURCH PATIO

It's time to clean out those closets and garages and join St. Matthew's for their annual Flea Market. Tables will be set up to accommodate your for sale items. You will set up your own area as well as make the sales. All unsold items must be taken home after the sale. All proceeds go to St. Matthew's General fund. For more information, please contact Ruth Bushart.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT ST. MATTHEW'S

September 13 - Rally Sunday; followed by an All Church Picnic at Banyan Park.

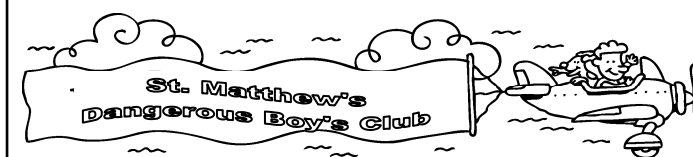
September 19 - Hallelujah Days at Magic Mountain for interested families. See Pastor Bob or Beth.

September 27 - Membership Sunday, welcoming new members to our church family with an All Church Potluck on the patio.

October 25 - Stewardship Sunday; followed by Church BBQ on the Patio.

November 14 - Progressive Dinner - watch for more details.

December 6 - Alternative Christmas Market sponsored by the Servant Ministry Team. All Church Potluck on the patio.



We have started a new small group at St. Matthew's; St. Matthew's Dangerous Boy's Group. We started our group on August 2 for Boys ages 4-14. The group will meet until September 13. The group will participate in activities such as building a go-cart, hiking, paper airplane making, pirates, and more. Boys are welcome to drop by and check it out. What great fellowship for young boys! For questions or more information, please contact our fearless leaders, Kent Detweiler (480-4999), Erick Birgy (437-6551) or Ryan Blanck 529-5703.

ST. MATTHEW'S EMERGENCY FUND

St. Matthew's has an "emergency fund" for those in need such as St. Matthew's family members and referrals to St. Matthew's. This fund has been depleted, therefore, we are asking for donations to support this fund. If you are able to do so, please make a check payable to St. Matthew's United Methodist Church earmarked "Emergency Fund". Thank you in advance for your generosity.



Good News In Worship

Worship Staffing for September

September 6
 Preaching Rev. Bob Ferguson
 Worship Leader Dan Overton
 8:30am Liturgist Bob Wiles
 10am Liturgist Randi Berry
 10am Ushers Mike Bertrand and Jim Ford
 Acolyte Juliet Forbes, Jordyn Alexander
 Counters Dan Overton/Casey Goldberg, Dennis Heinemann
 Nursery Georgia Forbes
 Flowers Joanne Stone
 Coffee Please sign-up
 Sound/Recording Bill Hartley
 Welcome/Greeter Pat, Bob Mohn
 SS Teachers Kristen Bertrand, Pam Pond

September 13
 Preaching Pastor Bob Ferguson
 Worship Leader Dan Overton
 8:30am Liturgist Alice Huston
 10am Liturgist Tina Martin
 10am Ushers Nancy Liedblad, Bill Hartley
 Acolyte Alexander Chow
 Puppeteers Alisa, Austin Zimmerman
 Counters Barb Crowdis, Randi Berry
 Nursery Carolyn Sylvester
 Flowers The Holzers
 Coffee Judy Jacobsen
 Sound/Recording Randy Holzer
 Welcome/Greeter Carla Von Zell
 SS Teachers Kristen Bertrand, Charlene Wardell, Dana DeCuir

September 20
 Preaching Pastor Bob Ferguson
 Worship Leader Dan Overton
 8:30am Liturgist Beth Ferguson
 10am Liturgist Jen Kuo
 10am Ushers Nathan Inouye, Harry Lamb
 Acolyte Jonathan Kuo
 Counters Jason/Nancy Lethcoe, Mike Summers

Nursery Tanya Inouye
 Flowers The Hartleys
 Coffee Please sign-up
 Sound/Recording John McDonald
 Welcome/Greeter Judy Saute, Tanya Blanck
 SS Teachers Kristen Bertrand, Substitute Pam Pond

September 27
 Preaching Pastor Bob Ferguson
 Worship Leader Dan Overton
 8:30am Liturgist Lynne Hartley
 10am Liturgist Carla Von Zell
 10am Ushers Mike Summers, John McDonald
 Acolyte Tabitha Dyer, Daphne Jordan
 Puppeteers Nancy Liedblad, Ceil Adler
 Counters Marvin, Judy Jacobsen, Lorraine Randall
 Nursery Tanya Blanck
 Flowers Judy Jacobsen
 Coffee Please sign-up
 Sound/Recording Ralph Matthews
 Welcome/Greeter Marion Vausbinder, Doris Williams
 SS Teachers Kristen Bertrand, Janice Kakazu

October 4
 Preaching Pastor Bob Ferguson
 Worship Leader Dan Overton
 8:30am Liturgist Scott Spindel
 10am Liturgist Pam Pond
 10am Ushers TBD
 Acolyte TBD
 Counters Jan Gauwain, Ceil Adler
 Nursery Joyce Wheatly
 Flowers Arline Nester
 Coffee Please sign-up
 Sound/Recording TBD
 Welcome/Greeter Ruth Bushart
 SS Teachers Lynne Hartley, Janice Kakazu



Bible Readings for the Month

September 6 -14th Sunday after Pentecost
 Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23
 Psalm 125 or Psalm 124
 James 2:1-10 (11-13), 14-17
 Mark 7:24-37

September 13 - 15th Sunday after Pentecost
 Proverbs 1:20-33
 Psalm 19
 James 3:1-12
 Mark 8:27-38
 Mark 8:27-38

September 20 - 16th Sunday after Pentecost
 Proverbs 31:10-31
 Psalm 1
 James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a
 Mark 9:3-37

September 27 - 17th Sunday after Pentecost
 Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22
 Psalm 124
 James 5:13-20
 Mark 9:38-50

Small Study Groups Continued from page 1

The Gad-Abouts - Kathy Nubling, Cheryl Qualls - Tuesday Sept. 22, Book TBD
Kathy Nubling's Home

Linda Norberg - Tuesday, Sept. 22, 7:00p
"One Month to Live" (Class full)

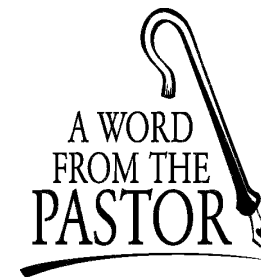
Jack Doman - TBA

Men's Study Group - Thursdays 11am
on-going, Fireside Room

Women's Study Group - Fridays, 12:30p
on-going Fireside Room or Tina Martin's Home

If you would like to join one of our study groups, sign-up sheets are available in the Narthex or you can e-mail Dan Overton or Casey Goldberg at kclou@myway.com.

Good News



THE SHEPHERD'S PEN

Dear Friends,

Ever talk with God? Ever wonder if He was listening?

It is often said that Christians have every reason in the world to be optimistic. We know that God is on our side, after all, according to Matthew 28:20, he has promised, "I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

And yet, if we were really honest about it, we'd admit that life can still be a challenge. Days can still seem ho-hum, rather than the awesome adventure we secretly long for.

Ever been there? Ever wonder, does God really care? Ever hunger for more out of life?

If so here's the exciting news you've been waiting for: Our church family is about to embark on a six week study that can change how you feel about your relationship with God, yourselves, and others through covenant, conversation, and commitment to life. Before it is all over, you will be able to talk with God, with each other, and others more confidently understanding how to "live all the days of your life," per the well known Irish blessing.

So where do you come in? First of all, know that the church-wide study will involve more than just a series of Sunday-morning sermons. You'll also read one of three books entitled, "Scarlet Thread", "One Month to Live", or "Prayer, does it make any difference?" Any one of these will give you insights, and can help you define just how it is you can know God is listening and has made a way for us to converse with him and live a life without regret. You will be given the opportunity to be part of a group and to openly discuss what you are learning.

We'll end the study together on Commitment Sunday, when you'll have a chance to put your faith in action.

Please don't miss this church-wide opportunity to grow in relationship to God, each other, and others. Make plans now to attend a worship service and sign up for one of the groups and order your book.

And know that your life can be transformed by talking to God, to each other, and to others.

In Christ together,

Pastor Bob Ferguson

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St. Matthew's Children's Center

St. Matthew's United Methodist Church has an excellent **Day Care Center**. If you have or know any one with pre-schoolers please encourage them to enroll their children at our school. There is also an After School Day Care program for elementary School Age Children. For enrollment information, please contact our Center's Director, Narima Latif at 480-3805.

"Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?"

Our new dinner adventure, "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?", coordinated by Suzanne Ford and Beth Ferguson, has and is still being enjoyed by St. Matthew's families. We are grateful to those who signed-up to be a host home. The host homes were given names and phone numbers of people to invite; only the host knew who was coming to dinner. When participants arrived for dinner, they found out who their dinner partners would be. Participants were asked by their host to bring a salad or dessert and the host home provided the main course. The dinners have and are being held between August 1st to September 15th. We hope to do this program again in January 2010.

Our host homes were: **Dan Overton and Casey Goldberg, Kent and Juliane Detweiler, Bob and Beth Ferguson, Suzanne and Jim Ford, Linda Norberg and Dale van de Wetering, Marvin and Judy Jacobsen, Jan and Gary Gauwain, Dennis and Jackie Heinemann, Randy Berry and Doris Williams.**

We would like to thank all the host homes for making "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?" a great success.

Gad-Abouts

Our Gad-Abouts enjoyed a day at the Ventura County Fair on August 11th. If you want to know more about our Gad-About events, contact Ruth Bushart at 499-1397 or Kathy Nubling at 498-6479.

Young Family Group

The Young Family Group, coordinated by Ryan and Tanya Blanck, enjoyed a picnic at Banyan Park on Saturday, August 15th. In July, a minor league baseball game was attended in Rancho Cucamonga. Watch the Bulletin and Newsletter for future upcoming events. If you want to know more about "the Group", contact Ryan and Tanya Blanck at 529-5703.