

Ascetics: The Character of God and the Beauty of the Universe - Part 3

Psalm 19:1 “The heavens are telling of the glory of God”

King David was the author of several of the psalms in the Bible. Crafting these poetic verses provided him an avenue for praising God. In this Psalm, David praised God for the creation. He declared, “The heavens are telling of the glory of God.” The heavens, inanimate objects, lifeless, soulless, collections of atoms, declare God’s glory. The heavens tell a story. They speak of God’s character. It is not that the stars communicate audibly. Instead, they tell God’s story through their beauty. In telling God’s story, they give testimony to specific, observable attributes of God. God is a God of revelation. He reveals His plans and His purposes. In this case God reveals His glory through the stars. The glory of God speaks of all that God does and all that He is. The heavens declare this about God.

God calls on His creation to speak concerning His plans and purposes. He commands His creation to communicate His attributes. It is not just the stars and galaxies through which God proclaims His beauty and His wisdom. Even the smallest, seemingly most insignificant creatures proclaim God’s glory. The following is an excerpt from *Recapture the Wonder* by Ravi Zacharias.

The red knot is a sandpiper that each year journeys from the southern tip of South America to the eastern shores of the United States and beyond and then back again. That round-trip expedition, which covers more than eighteen thousand miles every year, takes the red knot through the arctic islands of the Canadian North, making brief “refueling” stops on the beaches of Delaware Bay and Cape Cod.

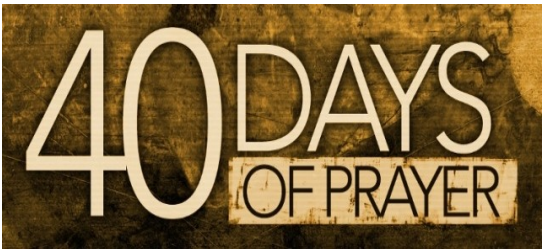
The birds begin their northward journey in February each year, hundreds of thousands of them, up the coast of Argentina, over Brazil, with periodic stops to feed. From the northern coasts of South America, they take to the air for a nonstop week of soaring above the Atlantic that brings them around mid-May to touch ground on the marshy shore of Delaware Bay at the very time horseshoe crabs are laying their eggs by the millions. When you consider that during their sojourn in Delaware each red knot might consume 135,000 horseshoe crab eggs, you know they need that stop and time it perfectly. Plumped up for the remainder of their marathon across the vast Canadian terrain, they make their final stop north of Hudson Bay. There, in ideal northern summer conditions, they mate and breed, each female laying four speckled eggs, which she and her mate take turns incubating.

Baby red knots build up their bodies soon with the feathers growing fairly rapidly. There is an incredibly scripted schedule for everything in the process. By mid-July, the females leave the males and their offspring, and start heading south again. The males leave almost exactly one week later. The little ones fend for themselves and then, in late August, they commence their nine-thousand-mile journey to Tierra del Fuego. They begin that flight, their first of such magnitude, without parental companionship. Somehow, with a precise “destination” in mind, as if equipped by flawless radar and instruction, they make their way from northern Canada along the eastern American coast and across the Atlantic to Guyana, Surinam, knowing precisely where to make their sojourns for food. And then, in what appears like a dated and timed appointment, “coming in on a beam,” they rejoin the family at Tierra del Fuego for the southern summer.

Here, on the balmy beaches of Tierra del Fuego at the southern tip of South America, they feast, fattening themselves. A long molt and ideal temperatures combine to replace their beaten feathers so that they are ready for the long journey back north. What it takes a whole crew of highly skilled men and women at a pit stop in the Indianapolis 500 or a coterie of mechanics and ground staff to get a plane ready for its return flight, the red knot does by its own wit and understanding of natural resources.

The heavens declare the glory of God. So do the birds. What attributes of God do we see in the red knot? At minimum, we see the wisdom of God and the grandeur of God in the intricate details of the universe. We see the reflection of His omniscience and His continual presence in every atom of the universe, all communicated in this remarkable flight. The red knot’s migratory patterns function as a prism through which we observe the remarkable plan and design of God in His creation. I have observed this in a similar pattern of the migratory flight of the monarch butterfly. Every year the monarch butterfly population migrates north for the summer and south for the winter. During the summer they can be seen all over North America. In the fall, they return thousands of miles to the same monarch reserves in western and central Mexico. Amazingly, none of the butterflies make the round trip. The life span of the butterfly is far too short. The butterfly population returns to nesting sites and not one of them is a repeat customer. All of these delicate insect travelers make one and only one trip. Incredibly, some even travel from the southern tip of Florida across the Gulf of Mexico in order to arrive at their destination. Imagine, butterflies traversing the Gulf of Mexico. How do they find the right place? No evolutionary explanation can effectively answer this question. None of them have ever been there previously. Who is guiding these fragile creatures to these locations? God guides them for the purpose of demonstrating His wisdom and design in nature. Examples like this from nature are legion. Everywhere we look we see God’s handiwork in His creation.

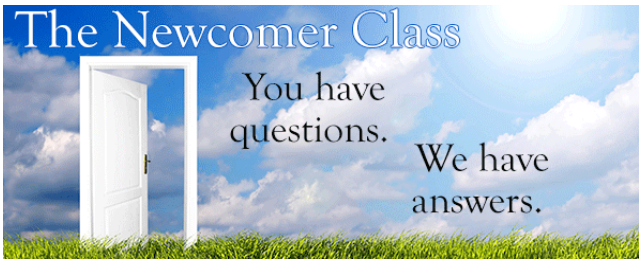
~ Daniel



This Fall, we will have 40 days of focused individual and corporate prayer. Daniel will be writing a devotional book to guide us through these days.

Special prayer times will be Sunday & Wednesday Nights, beginning Sunday, August 21st.

More info to come!



Sunday, June 12th
12:15pm, Fellowship Hall

Since we have people attending our church from every type of church background, we have established an on-going class, which provides basic information about our church. 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 the opportunity to ask questions and grow in your understanding of the ministries of our church. Lunch & Childcare are provided. If you would like to attend, please contact the church office at mrbcinfo@matthewroad.org, or call 972-641-2717 to RSVP for this class and childcare, if needed.

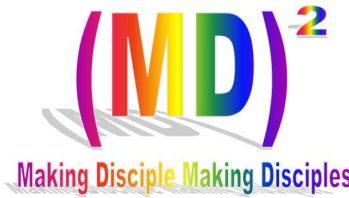
Children's Ministry



Wednesday Nights, for kids
completed Kindergarten - 6th grade
6:45pm - 8:00pm

Summer Verses - Come finish your Awana book
or work on extra credit verses from 6:30pm - 6:45pm,
in the Ed Bldg.

Sunday Nights 5:30pm
Education Building
2nd floor



This Summer we are studying the book of
Matthew! Join us as we learn what it
means to be a disciple committed to
going out into the world to make
disciples! For Completed K - 6th Grade.



Sunday School

Join us every Sunday morning from
9:45-10:45am as we journey
through the Gospel Project.



PRETEEN CAMP
(FOR COMPLETED
3RD-6TH GRADES)
JUNE 27TH - JULY 1ST
SEE BRITTANY FOR
LATE REGISTRATIONS.

- VBS: June 13th - 17th
- Preteen Camp at Mt. Lebanon: June 27th - July 1st
- Camp 3:17 Sports & Arts Day Camp: July 18th - 22nd



VBS 2016 Info!

WILD WEEK -VBS 2016! Monday-Friday, June 13th - 17th; 6:00pm -8:30pm
Visit www.matthewroad.org/ministries/summer to register online!

Calling all Volunteers! There is still time to sign up to help at VBS! See Brittany ASAP.

June 5th - 4-5:30pm, Matthew Room in the Education Building - VBS Volunteer Meeting -
June 11th -VBS Set Design & Decoration - 9am-12pm

Attention Sunday School classes - Be ready to sign up to provide the volunteer
meals at VBS. See Brittany or Ms. Thelma.

Youth Ministry

For any questions
about anything @ anytime,
contact Zach (210-818-8002)

June 20th-25th
High School Camp
Cost:\$300



June 27th-July 1st
Middle School Camp
Cost: \$300

Summer Reading Seminar

Wednesday evenings at 6:45 PM in the library,
June 22nd through July 20th

Join us as we read and discuss these impactful books together,
with the goal of developing our spiritual walk.

Books are available at the Reading Seminar Sign-up table,
in the Worship Center Foyer.

Please sign up before taking a book.
*\$4 suggested donation for each book.

Our itinerary, also available at the Welcome Desk, is as follows:

June 22 (Theological/Biographical)

*A Place for Healing: Wrestling with the Mysteries of Suffering,
Pain and God's Sovereignty*
By Joni Eareckson Tada

June 29 (Theological/Apologetic)

Truth Matters: Confident Faith in a Confusing World
By Andreas Kostenberger, Darrell Bock and Josh Chatraw

July 6 (Devotional)

A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23
By W. Phillip Keller

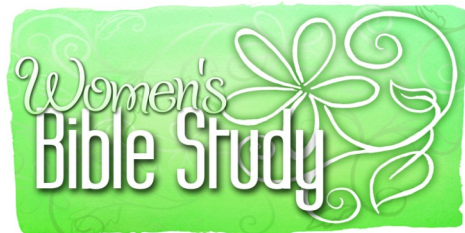
July 13 (Theological/Devotional)

God Loves You
By David Jeremiah

July 20 (Biographical)

God's Double Agent
By Bob Fu

Women's Ministry



Weekly Bible Studies:

Sunday mornings

Rachel Sullenger & Tiffany Marich
- the book of Acts
Joy Richards & Chris Anderson
- the book of Acts

Sunday nights

Meg Trihus
- the Epistles

Monday Nights

(please contact the office for the summer schedule)

Nina Wilhite
- OT Survey

Wednesday Nights

Cyndi King
- the book of Luke

Friday Mornings, Chick Fil A

Cyndi King
- The book of Luke
Book Discussion
- "Fervent" by Priscilla Shirer
at the McClellins' home,
701 Gentry Drive, Arlington
11:45am

"Take-a-Slice"



You are invited to the
"take-a-slice" meeting
for the
MRBC
She Teaches
Women's Ministry!

Feeling led by the Lord,
but don't want to "bite off"
a big commitment?
Then join us for this fun and
informative meeting.

Who: Any one currently involved in
Women's Ministry or women that feel
God's calling on their lives to serve in
Women's Ministry

When: Sunday May 29th, 12:15pm

Where: Fellowship Hall

What: Update on the past year and a
look forward to the year ahead with
ideas for the future
and lunch

RSVP to rachel@matthewroad.org

Save the Date

~ Prayer breakfast, August 20th

~ Painting Party, October 15th

More info to come!

Destin

July 6th - 11th

Please join us in prayer for ladies
attending this dynamic event!

We have filled all our available spots, however,
if you would like to be placed on a waiting list,
please email Rachel at rachel@matthewroad.org

For those going to Destin, we will have a brief meeting
on Sunday, June 26th at 5:00pm in the Conference Room.
Please contact Rachel if you are unable
to attend the meeting.

Women's Conference

September 17th

"She Teaches"

How do we live in this disposable society
as people of the Covenant? Come and find out!
We will have tracks for Marriage, Child-rearing,
Teenage raising, Grand-mothering,
Don't Waste Your Life and so much more!
More info to come...

Watermelon Social

CHURCHWIDE WATERMELON SOCIAL

Sunday, June 12th

6:15pm, Front Lawn

Come take a break from the heat
and enjoy some cold watermelon.

We furnish the watermelon,
you furnish the fellowship!



Parents Night Out



We no longer always meet on the third Friday of each month,
so check out the new dates:

June 24th

July 15th

No PNO in August

Please note: You must RSVP to cyndikking@msn.com to ensure your child's spot.

Grace Groups

Do you or someone you know struggle with a mental health difficulty? Consider joining a grace group! Grace groups focus on the positive with each meeting hopefully ending in greater understanding and vision concerning mental health difficulties. Our Grace Group does allow time to share pressing needs and pray for one another; however, our focus each week is on learning how to filter difficulties through God's grace and implementing the many practical skills and tools presented during the meetings.

Family Grace group (for someone supporting a loved one with a mental health difficulty) meets on Monday evenings at 6:30 in the Teller room. Contact Greg or Meg Trihus (greg.trihus@sil.org, or meg.trihus@wycliffe.org) for more information.

Living Grace group (for someone struggling with a mental illness) meets on Thursday evenings at 6:30 in the Teller room. Contact George Fritts (gfrittslpcintern@gmail.com) for more info.

20Somethings & Singles

20some things

Mexico Mission Trip
July 24th - 30th
Cost - \$300
see Rachel for info

Activities:

- ☺ July 24th - 30th: Mission trip to Mexico, cost \$250, see Rachel

Classes:

- ~ Sunday Morning 9:45 am: Daniel Sweet leading
 ~ Sunday Night 5:30 pm
 a study of various books of the Bible (Fellowship Hall)
 ~ Wednesday Night 6:45pm: Dinner and Discussion, see ad below

**Contact Rachel at rachel@matthewroad.org
 to find out the latest events & activities!**

20something and College Ministry

"What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us." A.W. Tozer.

Join us on Wednesday nights during the summer as we investigate how our "beliefs in God" affect our world view and enjoy dinner together!



Text Rachel, and let her know if you can come!
 972.965.9970

Who: Singles 18+
When: Wednesday @ 6:45pm
Date: June 1 through summer
Where: Fellowship Hall

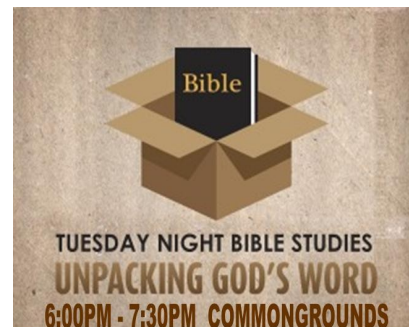
*First night's menu:
 Chicken fried steak,
 baked potatoes, green beans
 and cheese cake.*

College

COLLEGE
BIBLE STUDY

Class: Sunday Morning, 9:45am
 Ed. Bldg., 2nd Flr.
 Teacher: Kevin & Caitlin Marek
 Studying: various books of the Bible

Contact Steve at
stephen@matthewroad.org
to find out the latest
events & activities!



June 2016 Events & Activities

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

- June 1st:** 20something and College Ministry Dinner & Bible Study begins, 6:45pm, FH
June 2nd: Young @ Heart Breakfast at Outlaws, 8:30am
June 4th: Deacon Training, 8:15am, Fellowship Hall
June 5th: Youth Parent Meeting, 12:15pm, CG
 VBS Volunteer Meeting, 4:00pm, 2nd Flr Ed Bldng
 Frappes Celebration for 717 Service Anniversary, 6:45pm, Worship Center
June 10th: MRA Fundamental Friday begins, contact MRA for more info
June 11th: VBS Set Design & Prep, 9:00am, MRBC Campus
June 12th: NewComers Class & Lunch, 12:15pm, Fellowship Hall
June 13th - 17th: VBS, 6:00pm - 8:30pm, MRBC Campus
June 19th: Father's Day
June 20th - 25th: Senior High Camp, see Zach
June 24th: Parents Night Out, 6:30pm, Worship Center *must RSVP to cyndikking@msn.com
June 27th - July 1st: Preteen Camp, see Brittany
 Jr. High Camp, see Zach

Discipleship

Sunday Nights:

- ◇ 20Somethings - Fellowship Hall, 5:30pm
- ◇ Adult Discipleship - Choir Room, 5:30pm
- ◇ Ladies Bible Study - Conference Room, 5:30pm
- ◇ Young Marrieds Bible Study - Fellowship Hall, 5:30pm
- ◇ Adult Couples Class - Library, 5:30pm
- ◇ Guy Talk for youth - CommonGrounds, 5:30pm, see Zach for exact location
- ◇ Girl Talk for youth - CommonGrounds, 5:30pm, see Zach for exact location
- ◇ MD² for children - Education Building, 5:30pm

Wednesday Nights:

- ◇ Wacky Wednesdays for children - Ed. Building, 6:30pm
- ◇ Collide for youth - CommonGrounds, 6:30pm
- ◇ Adult Bible Studies - Library, 6:45pm
- ◇ Women's Bible Study - Conference Room, 6:45pm
- ◇ 20Somethings/College Bible Study - Fellowship Hall, 6:45pm

Regular Scheduled 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
Women's Bible Study	6:00pm

Tuesdays

MRA (during the school year)	8:30am
Young @ Heart Activities	9:45am
College Bible Study	6:00pm

Wednesdays

K2 Primary Academy (during the school year)	8:45am
PAW Program	9:00am
Collide (youth)	6:30pm
Adult Choir	6:30pm
Wacky Wednesdays (children)	6:30pm
20Somethings/College	6:45pm

Thursdays

MRA (during school year)	8:30am
--------------------------	--------

Fridays

Chick time at Chick-Fil-A	9:00am
Book Study "Fervent"	11:45am

Saturdays

Men's Coffee Group (Good Day Café, GP)	7:30am
--	--------

Financials as of May 13, 2016

Budget Income	\$ 420,091
Budget Expense	\$ (404,936)
Net Budget	\$ 15,155

Average Morning Attendance for May: 338

Average 7:17 Service Attendance for May: 180