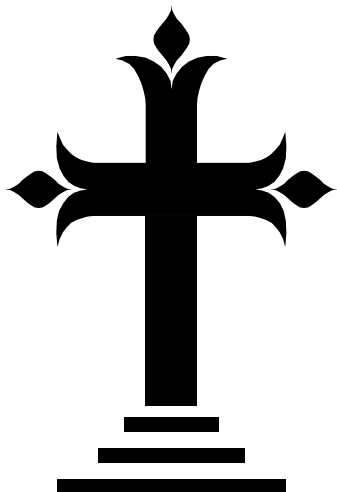


Saint Matthew's Episcopal Church



101 Saint Matthew's Lane
Spartanburg, South Carolina 29301
(864) 576-0424
www.stmatthewsepiscopal.org

Our mission is to preach, teach, heal and make disciples.

**Sunday Service – 10:00 A.M.
Preceded by Christian Formation 9:00 A.M. |
Wednesday Evening Prayer & Healing Service – 6:30 P.M.**

**The Right Reverend Daniel P. Richards, Bishop
The Reverend Paul R. Abernathy, Resident Priest
Donna Simpson, Organist/Choir Director
Derek R. Langley, Director of Christian Formation
Caitlin Roberts, Preschool Director
Michelle Pierce, Director of Communications
Jane Bird, Church Administrator
Anna Channavong & Melissa Pellin, Nursery**

The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 6, 2026

The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two The Word of God

Please talk to God in silence before the service; after the service talk to friends

Prelude

“The Lord Will Provide Passion”

Solo: Derek Langley

Landon Wolfe, Capitol CMG, 20024

Processional

“At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing”

Hymnal 174

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: *And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.*

The Celebrant says the Collect for Purity

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Gloria

BCP 356

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:

have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the
Father: receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen

Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The First Reading

Ezekiel 33:7-11

God pleads that the people admit and renounce their evil ways, so to be led into righteousness and joy.

A reading from the Prophet Ezekiel:

You, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, “O wicked ones, you shall surely die,” and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life. Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: “Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?” Say to them, As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

Lector: The Word of the Lord

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Psalm 119:33-40 *(In Unison)*

- 33 Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes, *
and I shall keep it to the end.
- 34 Give me understanding, and I shall keep your law; *
I shall keep it with all my heart.
- 35 Make me go in the path of your commandments, *
for that is my desire.
- 36 Incline my heart to your decrees *
and not to unjust gain.
- 37 Turn my eyes from watching what is worthless; *
give me life in your ways.
- 38 Fulfill your promise to your servant, *
which you make to those who fear you.

- 39 Turn away the reproach which I dread, *
because your judgments are good.
- 40 Behold, I long for your commandments; *
in your righteousness preserve my life.

The Second Reading

Romans 13:8-14

The law of love has no loopholes, for its purpose is to blanket all situations, transforming us as vessels of God's grace.

A reading from the Paul to the Romans:

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Lector: The Word of the Lord

People: *Thanks be to God*

Gospel Hymn

"Christ is Made the Sure Foundation"

Hymnal 518 (1,2) (3,4)

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 18:15-20

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People: *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

Jesus said, "If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.
People: *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*
Sermon "Fighting Fair"

The Rev. Paul Abernathy

Nicene Creed

*We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.*

*We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.*

*For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.*

*For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.*

*He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.*

*We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.*

*We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.*

Silence

Prayers of the People, Form III

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest;
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions

Hear us, Lord;
For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

Silence

The People may add their own thanksgivings

We will exalt you, O God our King;
And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions.

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;
Who put their trust in you.

The Prayer for the Calling of Our New Rector

Gracious Father, whose Word declares there is a season for everything and a time for every matter under heaven, we humbly ask Your Holy Spirit to guide the minds and hearts of our family of Saint Matthew's as we seek and choose a new rector. We pray You will help us receive a faithful pastor who will care for Your people and equip us in our ministries, such that we may continue to preach, teach, heal, and make disciples with joy and thanksgiving for the glory of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

The Confession

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence

Minister and People

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Absolution

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.
Amen.

Stewardship Speaker

Mark Simpson

Peace

All stand.

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Holy Communion

Offertory Anthem

"It is Well With My Soul"

by Phillip P. Bliss/Arr. Leanne Lnagley (1976, Word Music, Inc.).

Offertory Hymn

The Doxology

Hymnal 380 (vs. 3)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer A

BCP 361

The people remain standing.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: *We lift them to the Lord.*

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: *It is right to give him thanks and praise.*

The Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus

David Dubay 1990, www.palmettopastor.com

Holy, holy, holy Lord. God of power
and might.

Heaven and earth are full of Your Glory.

Lord we sing Your praise.

Hosanna in the highest.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the
highest. Lord we sing Your praise.

Holy, holy, holy, Lord. God of power
and might.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of
the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the
highest. Hosanna in the highest.

Lord we sing your praise. Lord we sing
your praise. Lord we sing your praise.

The people stand or kneel.

The Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. *AMEN.*

The Celebrant then continues

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

BCP 364

People and Celebrant

*Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen*

Breaking of the Bread

BCP 364

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: *Therefore let us keep the feast.*

Fraction Anthem

Sung

Wonder Love & Praise #875

Cantor or Choir

Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, }
The dis - ci - ples knew the Lord Je - sus } in the

1. *Congregation* 2. *Cantor or Choir*

break - ing of the bread. Be bread. The

bread which we break, al - le - lu - ia, Is the com -

Congregation

mun - ion of the bod - y of Christ. Be

known to us, Lord Je - sus, }
ci - ples knew the Lord Je - sus } in the break - ing of the

Cantor or Choir

bread. One bod - y are we, al - le - lu - ia, for though

Congregation

man - y we share one bread. Be known to us, Lord

Je - sus, }
Je - sus } in the break - ing of the bread.

(From RiteSong. ©2026 Church Publishing Incorporated. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission.)

The Celebrant says

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

All baptized persons are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

Communion Hymns

“Show Me Your Ways”

by Russell Fragar (2014, J.W. Pepper)

Show me Your ways that I may walk
with You. Show me Your Ways, I
put my hope in You.

The cry of my heart is to love You more, to
live with the touch of Your hand.
Strong each day, show me Your ways.

“Come With Us, O Blessed Jesus”

Hymnal 336

“And Now, O Father”

Hymnal 337

“Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive”

Hymnal 674

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

*Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

The Blessing

The priest blesses the people, saying

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, make you perfect in every good work to do his will; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

Hymn for Going Forth *“God is Love, Let Heaven Adore Him!”*

Hymnal 379

Announcements

Dismissal

Celebrant: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Servers

Eucharistic Minister (Vested):	Susan Pretulak
Eucharistic Minister:	Kathy Amick
Lector:	Heather Garrett
Crucifer:	Eleanor Garrett
Torchbearers:	Mary Jo Garrett, Debbie Richardson
Greeter:	Lee Anne & Steve Williams
Ushers:	Matt Cox, Larry Dodd
Streaming and Sound Tech Team:	Brett Reese, Jane Bird, Randy Mathis
Vestry of the Month:	Rob Rhoden

Birthdays and Anniversaries this week

9 Noah Courier
Kirsten White

12 John & Dana Broughton (A)
James Upton

For a Birthday

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servant as *he/she* begins another year. Grant that *he/she* may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen *his/her* trust in your goodness all the days of *his/her* life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For a Wedding Anniversary

O God, You have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church; Send therefore your blessing upon these your servants N. and N., that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:

Ministry of Christian Formation Leaders and the Commission on Christian Formation

The Anglican Cycle of Prayer:

The Episcopal / Anglican Province of Alexandria

SAVE THE DATE

September 6, 2026

Sept 6 NEW SCHEDULE

9 - 9:45 Christian Formation

Preschool: 6mo – 5K to Nursery. Welcome our new

Elementary: 1st – 5th grade, Large Classroom. Meet your teacher in the Narthex at 9 am.

Teens: EYC Room. Meet your teacher in the Narthex at 9 am.

Adults: Fr. Paul with Holy Grounds in the St. Matthew's Kitchen.

10:00 One Sunday Service

EYC (Episcopal Youth Community). 5:30 pm w/Derek. 'till Sept. 13.

Bible, Bread & Wine w/ Father Paul at 5:30 pm in the Kelly Room.

Sept 7 Monday, Labor Day, Church Office Closed

Sept 8 Tuesday Women's Bible Studies resume 2nd & 4th Tuesdays at 11am & 6:30pm, Library.

Sept 9 Wednesday Evening Holy Eucharist w/Healing, 6:30 pm.

Sept 13 9 - 9:45 Christian Formation

Preschool: 6mo – 5K to Nursery.

Elementary: 1st – 5th grade, Large Classroom. Meet your teacher in the Narthex at 9 am.

Teens: EYC Room. Meet your teacher in the Narthex at 9 am.

Adults: Fr. Paul with Holy Grounds in the St. Matthew's Kitchen.

10:00 One Sunday Service

EYC (Episcopal Youth Community). 5:30 pm w/Derek.

Bible, Bread & Wine w/ Father Paul at 5:30 pm in the Kelly Room.

Sept 16 Wednesday Evening Holy Eucharist w/Healing, 6:30 pm.

Sept 20 9 - 9:45 Christian Formation (No Preschool, Elementary, or Teen Christian Formation today)

Adults: Andy Donnan in the Kelly Rm: What does it mean to be "the church"; no Holy Grounds today.

10:00 One Sunday Service: Feast of St Matthew's with Potluck in Gym afterwards.

Bible, Bread & Wine w/ Father Paul at 5:30 pm in the Kelly Room.

WORSHIP

Sundays:

Holy Eucharist, 10:00 am 'til October.

Christian Formation, 9 - 9:45 am.

Childcare in the Nursery, 6 mos - 4 yrs.

Episc. Youth EYC: 5:30 pm Youth Rm.

Bible, Bread & Wine, 5:30 pm. Kelly Rm.

Wednesdays: Holy Eucharist w/ Healing,
6:30 pm in the Sanctuary.

Every Evening: Compline, 9:15 pm. Live
on St. Matt's Facebook.

SERVICE & FELLOWSHIP

Food Pantry & Free Medical Clinic:

Wednesdays: Welcome & Assist Clients, 9:30-11am

Contact Harvey Gloystein, 713-816-0112

Tuesdays: Setting Up for Wednesdays

Contact Heather Yevcak, 704-560-3905

Brotherhood of St. Matthew's: 2nd Tues./mo. 6:30 pm.

Women's Bible Study: 2nd & 4th Tues./mo. At 11 am or
6:30 pm. Study guides provided. In the Library.

Daughters of the King: 2nd Sat./mo. 2 pm.

Choir: Wednesday nights 7 - 8 pm.

Education for Ministry (EfM): Resumes in fall.

Vestry: 3rd Tues./mo. 6:30 pm, Library.



How to Support St. Matthew's with Online Giving and Beyond

Scan the QR Code or visit stmatthewsepiscopal.org/giving to donate online.

Remember there are many ways to support St. Matthew's: pledges, stock gifts, online giving, or direct transfers such as Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs)

Parish Prayer List

Alex Garmise
Betsy Tolley
Carol & Doug Wishard
Cheryl & Mike Jacobson
Debbie Townsend
Debbye Edwards
Deborah Smith
Denise Cannon
Donnie Bird
Don Davis
Edith Webb
Ena Stapleton
Ethel Tortorice
Florence Donnan
Gail Stellar
Gene Halford
Geoffrey Thomas
Glyn Shackelford
Hazel Cannon
Hester Martin
Jackie Bailey
Jandy Williams
Jerry Bowers
Juanita Thaxton
Karen Garber
Kathleen Bonner
Kate Price
Kathy Miller
Kathy Wood
Katie Ponder
Kim Cope
Leesa and Phil Simmons
Lindsay Leaman
Louise Rambo
Louise Wickersheim
Lynn Kerfoot
Maria King
Marie Urquhart
Mary File
Max & Angie Painter
Neil Thomas
Peggy Ewing
Pete Hulett
Robin Hayden
Scott Garber
Shirley Gould
Steve and Sandy Spanitz
Susan Cherry-Casey
Vivianne Carey

Expectant Mothers

Amy Beckler
Mary Geraldine

Babies & Families

Louisa Miller Matys (grand-daughter of Shep & Kathy)
Wendel Sullens

Friends & Family

Al Hipp
Dr. Arturo Riojas
Bart Owens
Bill Kerfoot
Boone Brooks
Brian Yanaconne
Bruce Schneider
Carlos Anthony Frias, Jr.
Father Charles Smith
Charlton Sy
Chelsea Smith
Chris Solem
Christopher Oxford
Chuck and Pat Piazza
Cindy Holtzman
Dale Pretulak
Danet Peterson
Danielle Anne Baum
David and Nancy Church
David Morgan
David Sanabria
David Wright
Deacon Samuel
Dee Wolfe
Detra Peyton
E J Thompson
Ed Bloomfield
Elizabeth Greco
Emily Painter
Forest
Hannah Holscher
Harriett Seabrook
Jerry
Jing S
John Dennis
Joy Hope
Joyce Ford
Joyce TD
Justus Link
Lib Hughes
Lisa
Lourdes Go
Lourdes Loreto
Lynn Fields
Marianne Beck
Maryann Yevcak
Matthew Garrett
Maggie Elrod
Mary Nelle Beckler
Michael Szlepcsik
Mildred Pretulak
Nancy Butler
Nancy McCart
Patti Hart
Patrick Albert
Paul Jones

Philip Watters
Rakim Jr.
Rich Turner
Ricky Ford
Rob & Sandra Brown
Robert Baker
Rocio Navarro Linares
Roger Go
Ronny Thompson
Rylan Buckley
Satoya Means
Saydet Didert
Sterling Anderson
Steve Ford
Suzi King
Terry & Ronald Coleman
Thongbay Voravong
Tina Bain
Tom Archer
Tracie Powell Wilkin
Travis & Kimberly
Trish Wilson
Wayne Fisher
William Bracey

Military/First Responders

Evan Eleck
LT Anna Lee Van Abel
CAPT Baxter Murray
SPC Clayton Cole
PVT Courtney S. Detwiler
Jack Bankhead, Firefighter
PVT James C. Garber
CPO John Watters
Jordan Bailey, Firefighter
LT Joshua Van Abel
CAPT Katie Donnan
SPC Katie Villatoro
LT Mason R. Beebe, IV
CAPT Pace Murray
Lt. Rebecca M. Beebe
Officer Robert Molina
2nd LT Trevor Owens
Will Townsend
Kozimor Family
Missions/Missionaries
Drs. Ryan & Chelsea Porter
Roberto & Cameron Vivanco
Laura & Jorge Estevez
Education = Hope
Food Pantry
GoForth Recovery
Kairos Prison Ministry
Safe Homes
St. Matthew's Preschool