

Home News Announcements Sports Opinions Classifieds/Directories Contact Us

Basket Planting Class *HURRY! Space is Limited*

Thursday, February 25 • 6 p.m. or Saturday, February 27 • 10 a.m.

You Plant It - We Take Care of It Until May • www.NelsonNursery.com

NELSON NURSERY Inc.
Garden Center
25834 Main Street
Zimmerman
(763) 856-2441

Click [HERE](#) to submit your questions



SPORTS
PREPZONE.COM

The Bank
OF ELK RIVER

MEMBER FDIC

Zip Time °F °C
Weather Underground

Matthews followed God’s calling

Thursday, 30 April 2009



Natalia Matthews read with her grandmother Mary Matthews during the Elk River pastor’s battle with breast cancer. Spending time with God’s word was part of Mary Matthews’ life throughout her life after being saved in 1972.

by Jim Boyle
Editor

Mary Beth Matthews’ life was spinning out of control in the summer of 1972, at least until she accepted Jesus Christ into her life.


He helped her beat back the lure of drugs that were taking so many youth hostage in her hometown of Buffalo. She took back her life, helped others find theirs again and found her soulmate in Bill Matthews, who would also go on to give his life to the Lord, too.

She remained a faithful and diligent servant to her Lord and savior ever since. Her life became an amazing journey that included pastoring to thousands in Michigan and Minnesota alongside her husband of 36 years, serving as a missionary to the sick and poor around the world and to motherhood — her most prized work for God.

Elk River Municipal Utilities

We work for you Day-In and Day-Out (and nights too!)

Home Security Monitoring For only **\$18.75 mo.**



Elk River Municipal Utilities
13069 Orono Parkway,
Elk River, MN 55330 •
763-441-2020
www.elkriverutilities.com

PASS IT ON

1000 Acts of Random Kindness

[View recent submissions](#)

Her most visible work locally has been as a pastor with her husband at Solid Rock Church in Elk River. Bill and their six adult children, who remain the heart and soul behind Solid Rock Church, celebrated her life on April 21 at a service filled with songs of praise and victory.

She died April 13 after beating back cancer for several years.

She was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2005 and she managed to reach the three-year mark and was given a virtual clean bill of health last October.

She stayed in the Word throughout the entire time, reading the Bible daily and taking every opportunity she could to sing God’s praises.

She made one last stand against the dreaded disease after it reared its ugly head again this past Christmas, and medical tests demonstrated to the family the aggressive spread of cancer was stopped dead in its tracks days before her death. It was cause for celebration, family members say.

Her lungs, however, were no match for pneumonia that set in a day or so later and sent her back to a hospital bed. Family surrounded her once again and she laid hands on them to pray before they watched her say her last words: “It’s so beautiful.”

Her children plan to honor her by trying to live their lives out the way she did.

“The world didn’t have a hold on her,” said daughter Rachel Smith. “She desired God.”

Smith described her mother as a genius who had the IQ to prove it and the athleticism to be in the Olympics, but her heart called her to motherhood.

“She had the intelligence, the skill and the ability to do anything or be anything, but she didn’t choose,” Rachel said. “She asked, ‘God, what do you want me to do?’ ”

Smith said her mission in life became raising her children, serving the Lord here locally and in her home, and going to other countries to preach the gospel.

Bill and Mary Matthews preached to crowds of thousands, in many open air venues filled with people as far as the human eye could see.

“My wife had a phenomenal impact on people all over the world,” the Rev. Bill Matthews said. “She helped me a great deal.”

Her children — Chelsea Smith, Rachel Smith, William IV, Mindy Olivares, Andrew and Emily Maldonado — wondered how with six kids she managed to make them all feel like they were her favorite. She spent her life as a mother imparting wisdom and the truth of the Bible, knowing all along it would bring them close. But she never compromised her faith in a rush to befriend her children.

“She knew she was responsible to the Word and to God and nobody else,” said one of her children. “Not in a rebellious way, but in a way that she didn’t have fear of man, but she had fear of God.”

She battled cancer in a way that showed her family God was more powerful than cancer.

“She handled cancer very gracefully,” said Dr. Gauri Nagargoje, a cancer specialist who treated Matthews. “It was amazing to see her maintain the kind of poise she did.”

Matthews’ last mission trip was to Bulgaria in October. Surgery, radiation, chemotherapy and prayer left her in a position to go and do what they both felt called to do as a young man and woman.

Bill and Mary got married in July 1973. The couple moved to Missouri in the middle of the following year so Bill could work as a youth pastor at a Baptist church. They came back to Minnesota to attend Bible school.

Bill went on his first missions trip to preach in 1980 with another man, and Mary followed him the next year. They led outdoor crusades.

“We both felt called to mission work,” Bill Matthews said.

The couple went to Michigan in 1983. Bill became an associate pastor at a church there in 1988 and in 1990 became a full-time pastor. The couple and their children would stay there until 1992, when they got to call to take over the struggling Solid Rock Church.



The decision was not easy, but Bill Matthews said it was where God wanted them to be.

They nursed the church back to health and brought stability, all while developing a progressive, Bible-based church focused on the Word and



Are you taking a winter vacation?

- Yes, I'm going somewhere warm
- Yes, a Winter Fun (skiing, snowmobiling)
- Yes, I'm staying in MN
- No, not this year
- Other

Vote

Results



Order prints here!
myCapture

Elk gymnastics meet vs. Park Center

NW Suburban Conference Nordic Ski meet

spectrum play



missionary work.

The church will continue its Bible-based approach and its commitment to missions work.

Pastor Mary Matthews wouldn’t want it any other way.

Bill and Mary Matthews on the back of a bus on a missions trip.

Social Bookmarking



[< Prev](#) [Next >](#)

[\[Back \]](#)

We have 12 guests online

WEEKLY MEETINGS

- Monday
- Tuesday
- Wednesday
- Thursday
- Friday
- Saturday



MOVIE REVIEWS

- "Invictus"
- "Avatar"
- "Sherlock Holmes"
- "Daybreakers"
- "Nine"
- "The Imaginarium of Dr. Parnassus"
- "A Christmas Carol"
- "Twilight New Moon"
- "Brothers"
- "Armored"
- "Everybody's Fine"
- "2012"
- "Boondock Saints II: All Saints Day"
- "New York, I Love You"
- "Precious: Based on the Novel "Push" by Sapphire"
- "Red Cliff"
- "The Road"
- "Planet 51"

HAPPENINGS

- 2/2-23 Storytimes offered at Rogers Library
- 2/2 Learn a 'latte' about Women of Today
- 1/31 Rogers High School baseball meeting set
- 1/30 Community invited to 'At the Game'
- 1/30 History buffs invited to genealogy talk
- 1/30 Elk foundation banquet set in Otsego
- 1/30 Knights of Columbus to serve spaghetti dinner
- 1/29 Dinner to be served at the Legion
- 1/26 Learn Catholic bishops' stance on health care
- 1/26 Register soon for scrapbooking fund raiser
- 1/27 Driver improvement course set in Nowthen
- 1/24 Hymn sing scheduled at Svea Hill Church
- 1/29 Register soon for scrapbooking fund raiser
- 1/25 Grad party parent planning meeting slated
- 1/23 Scouts' annual Pinewood Derby scheduled
- 1/23 Rehearsals for 'Alice in Wonderland' to begin
- 1/23 Amateur radio license exams to be given
- 1/22 Register soon for 4-H fine arts workshop

Star News | 506 Freeport Avenue - Suite A, Elk River, MN 55330 | Voice: 763-441-3500 | Fax: 763-441-6401