

SBU TO AWARD HONORARY DOCTORATES TO CLARK, MATHES

BOLIVAR, Mo. — Wayne Clark of Bolivar and Mark Mathes of Springfield will receive honorary doctorates from Southwest Baptist University during the annual Founders' Day chapel service at 10 a.m. Monday, March 1, in Pike Auditorium.

SBU awards honorary doctorates to recognize outstanding individuals who have made significant contributions to society and to Kingdom work.

Wayne Clark

Wayne Clark, who served 25 years as a faculty member in SBU's accounting department, including serving as department chair beginning in 2002, earned his bachelor of science degree from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 1978. He received a master of business administration from Missouri State University in 1992 and holds the designation of Certified Public Accountant.

Prior to SBU, Clark worked in telecommunications as assistant vice president of operations before becoming president of Missouri Telephone Company. In addition, he was a staff accountant and senior tax accountant at Price Waterhouse.

During his tenure at SBU, Clark was instrumental in establishing the high-quality reputation of the accounting department. And in 2012, he was presented with the SBU Faculty Life Beautiful Award, which recognizes faculty who demonstrate a Christian lifestyle, excellence in teaching and sacrificial service. Clark also received the MMS Blue Chip Award from Miller Management System in 2017 for helping MMS carry out its mission and for having "served the Kingdom of God across denominational lines and helped the church become more effective."

Clark also has funded scholarships for students, as well as helped fund projects undertaken by the University. He also has been key to getting other institutions and individuals involved in giving to SBU.

Clark and his wife Lee Ann are active members of First Baptist Church-Bolivar and have two grown children – son, Michael, daughter, Lacy, son-in-law, Kyle, and grandson, Jamie, who is 1 year old. Clark spends most days playing golf at the Bolivar Golf Course.

Mark Mathes

Mark Mathes currently serves as the minister of music at Crossway Baptist Church in Springfield. He earned a church music degree from Baptist Bible College and attended SBU from 1987-1991 and 2002-2003. Mathes also has served as music minister at churches in Festus and Salem.

In addition to being a music minister, Mathes has traveled with his family sharing gospel music with churches, as well as performing at the Ozark Gospel Music Festival and Silver Dollar City.

Mathes also is a gifted songwriter and has written more than 100 songs. He received the 2003 BMI award for "I'm Not What I Was," recorded by Gold City, as well as the MAGMA Lifetime Achievement Award in 2014. In 2015, he was nominated for a Dove Award for his song, "Sometimes It Takes A Mountain," recorded by the Gaither Vocal Band. The song also featured the Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir and has been performed by the Prestonwood Baptist Church Choir of Plano, Texas, and the Bellevue Baptist Church Choir in Memphis.

In 2019, Mathes signed an exclusive publishing contract with Sunset Gallery Music and won the 2020 Absolutely Gospel Music Traditional Single of the Year Award for "Sing In The Valley," which was recorded by The Perrys. Mathes' songs also have been recorded by The Hoppers, The Blackwood Brothers, Barbara Fairchild and other Southern Gospel artists.

Mathes and his wife, Leisa, have two children, Bobbi Reavis and husband Caleb, Chad Mathes and wife Jessica, and six grandchildren: McKenna, Mica, Brody, Pacer, Ridge and Bo. He enjoys having dinner and spending time with his family, table tennis, gardening, writing songs and singing with his family group on the weekends.

While the ceremony is not open in person to the public for the safety of all participants and guests, the event will be available via livestream both during and after the ceremony at: www.SBUniv.info/HonorsChapel21.

For more information, contact the President's Office at (417) 328-1500.

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