

The MESSENGER

Volume 14, Issue 4

April 2009



Come with me to a third grade classroom....There is a nine-year-old kid sitting at his desk and all of a sudden, there is a puddle between his feet and the front of his pants are wet. He thinks his heart is going to stop because he cannot possibly imagine how this has happened. It's never happened before, and he knows that when the boys find out he will never hear the end of it. When the girls find out, they'll never speak to him again as long as he lives. The boy believes his heart is going to stop; he puts his head down and prays this prayer, "Dear God, this is an emergency! I need help now! Five minutes from now I'm dead meat."

He looks up from his prayer and here comes the teacher with a look in her eyes that says he has been discovered.

As the teacher is walking toward him, a classmate named Susie is carrying a goldfish bowl that is filled with water. Susie trips in front of the teacher and inexplicably dumps the bowl of water in the boy's lap. The boy pretends to be angry, but all the while is saying to himself, "Thank you, Lord. Thank you, Lord!"

Now all of a sudden, instead of being the object of ridicule, the boy is the object of sympathy. The teacher rushes him downstairs and gives him gym shorts to put on while his pants dry out. All the other children are on their hands and knees cleaning up around his desk. Their sympathy is wonderful.

But as life would have it, the ridicule that should have been his has been transferred to someone else – Susie. She tries to help, but they tell her to get out. "You've done enough, you klutz!"

Finally, at the end of the day, as they are waiting for the bus, the boy walks over to Susie and whispers, "You did that on purpose, didn't you?" Susie whispers back, "I wet my pants once too."

May God help us see the opportunities that are always around us to do good.

In His Service,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Pastor Paula".

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 3** Family Ministry
- 7** Youth Ministries
- 8** Holy Week Worship Schedule



April 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			01 *11 am Prayer *6pm Food, Fun, Fellowship & Learning *7pm UMYF Wednesday Night Bible Study *7pm Choir	02 *7pm Trustees *7pm Al-Anon	03	04 <i>Waxing floors S.H.</i>
05 Palm Sunday *11 am Easter Cantata 3 pm 1 st Annual Easter Tellin' *6:30pm Cub Scouts	06 *7pm Cub Scouts	07 *7:30pm UMYF Meeting	08 *11 am Prayer *7pm UMYF Wednesday Night Bible Study *7pm Finance Committee *7pm Choir *UMW	09 Maundy Thursday *7pm Maundy Thursday Service	10 Good Friday *7:30pm Tenebrae Service	11 *9 – 5 pm Prayer Labrinyth
12 Easter *6:30am Sunrise Service *8:45am Worship Service *11 am Worship Service	13 *7pm Cub Scouts	14 *Worship Committee	15 *11 am Prayer *2pm UMYF "Drop In" *7pm Choir	16 *7pm Administrative Council *7pm Al-Anon	17	18 *7pm Bridge
19 *7:30am UMM Breakfast *12pm SPRC *6pm UMYF BRIDGE *6:30pm Cub Scouts *7pm UMYF	20 Newsletter Deadline *7pm Cub Scouts	21	22 *11 am Prayer *7pm Choir	23 *6:30pm Girl Scouts *7pm Al-Anon	24	25
26 *6:30pm Cub Scouts *7pm UMYF	27 *7pm Cub Scouts	28	29 *11 am Prayer *7pm Choir	30 *Women's Emmaus Walk *7pm Al-Anon		



FAMILY MINISTRY

Spring is just around the corner...and so is our **1ST ANNUAL EASTER TELLIN'!!**

This is one of four opportunities throughout the year that Family Ministry will provide to come together as an *entire church family* and celebrate the seasons! Our hope is that everyone~ young and young at heart, families and singles, grandparents and great grandchildren~ *everyone* will come and share in the fun, food & family fellowship and *celebrate with us!* We will celebrate Summer with an Annual Church Picnic & Softball Game, Fall with A Harvest Fest, Winter with A Christmas Caroling Party, and Spring with The Easter Tellin'!

You will find detailed information about The Easter Tellin' both within this newsletter and on our Family Ministry Bulletin Board located just outside the social hall. *Please be certain to SIGN UP on the sheets provided on the bulletin board or by calling the church office!* ****We must have an accurate count of both children and adults to ensure a successful Egg Hunt, treats for the children and food for everyone!**** Should you wish to participate in any way...by acting with the UMYF in the Live Easter Story, helping with one of the fun activities, or providing a covered dish or dessert... we have a place for you! Simply sign up on the Volunteer Sheet or let me know!



The Family Ministry committee members are Mick and Dixie Davis, Rosa Hogue, Linda Reichard, Ben and Brenda Wood. At our first meeting, we drafted our mission statement which reads as follows:

“The mission of St. Matthias UMC Family Ministry is to create an environment for families to confidently grow together in Christ.”

After Easter, we will begin a **“Friday Night at the Movies!”** The movie selection will always be appropriate for families with children but will be entertaining for an older audience as well! Of course popcorn will be provided...and tissues if required! We can also make it a dinner date by adding pizzas to the fun! Stay tuned!

While we have some exciting ideas that we are eager to implement in the coming months, we are still always limited by our own imaginations! Please help us design this ministry around our combined needs and our combined creativity! Let us know if you ever have a suggestion, need or interest. Together we will allow God to do great things with us, in us and for us~ and all to His glory! Shine on! Dixie Davis



Job Available -- Please Say Yes

3-4 times a year we offer Wednesday night sessions of food, learning, and fellowship. We need someone to make the 5 phone calls to set up the dinners for the evening. You will not have to figure out the teaching materials or lead the discussions, merely organize the provision of dinner. Please say “Yes.” Contact Pastor Paula 373-8759 paula@stmatthiasumc.org or Valerie Wick 899-8837 Val@cox.net.

Worship Committee

Many, many thanks to all of you who have been so generous in giving the funds needed for the purchase of new Bibles and hymnals. We now have the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible and *The Methodist Hymnal* at every seat, including those in the choir and the alcove areas. Each of these new books has a bookplate on the inside cover, noting the name of the giver and the name of the person who is honored or remembered through this gift.

As you have probably noticed, the new Bibles are red and have page numbers that differ from those in our older Bibles. The reason for that difference (as is true for many things) is simply age. Our blue New Revised Standard Version Bible, published in 1989, is no longer available as Cokesbury has a new edition. The red edition was published in 2007 and has a slightly larger type size, a condensed section "To the Reader," and is without a pronunciation guide. These few differences result in changed page numbers, but have no effect on the content of the books, chapters, or verses.

We are also thankful to the unnamed person(s) who provided the total amount needed to purchase all of the copies of the hymnal of praise music, *The Faith We Sing*. The music included in this collection will certainly help all of us as we "Make a joyful noise to the Lord...break forth into joyous song and sing praises," Psalm 91: 4.

The Worship Committee appreciates as well those of you who provide flowers for our sanctuary. They bring joy and visual beauty into our place of worship. For Easter, the Committee has asked Barbara Nash to make available not only the traditional Easter lily, but also other spring flowers that you may want to provide for the services. The order form for those can be found in the bulletin.

Psalm 100
Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.
Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing.
Know that the Lord is God. It is he that made us, and we are his, we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name.
For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

United Methodist Women Catering

The United Methodist Women (UMW) will be catering a reception at an awards ceremony at Stafford Senior High School on May 26 for approximately 700 people. We will realize about \$2100.00 if we can get enough monetary donations from the congregation to pay for our expenses. Money received from this event will go toward the parsonage loan and the Narthex renovation. We would appreciate any monetary support you can give for this. Please give your donation to Mary Lou Pitzer, Shirley Glover or Ruby Courtney. If your donation is by check, please make check out to "St. Matthias UMW".

Thank you for your support.

Thanks
Ruby

.....

SUNDAY SCHOOL program this Summer

We are excited to continue our regular year-round, age-level Sunday School program for children, i.e. there will be NO one-room School house.

Thanks to those of you who have volunteered so that we might meet every child's age and grade level needs. We do still need a teacher in the 3-5th grade. Is God asking YOU to teach a child the faith? Please contact Valerie Wick at 899-8837 or [Val @cox.net](mailto:Val@cox.net) to be a part of God's plan!

Our 30 Hour Famine

Submitted by Linda Reichard

Our 30 hour famine started out with a cross,
made with thousands of sticks to signify the loss,
of all the dear children that we lose every day,
because they have no food, or no place to stay.

So we wanted to make a difference,
show the world that we cared,
with pledges of money
and prayers that we shared.

Friday night our hearts broke seeing the child and the vulture,
we saw no difference in skin, no difference in culture.
It was a child in need
just like you, just like me
like our friends, or our neighbors, or maybe our family.

When Jen told us the news that our goal was achieved,
there were tears in our eyes
HOW AWESOME IS GOD INDEED!

By Saturday morning our hunger was growing,
but it was easy to forget because of what we were knowing,
that we were more hungry for God than burgers and fries,
because we saw the light in each other's eyes.

When we found out about laminae that we had a cross deep
inside,
more tissues, more tissues,
more tears in our eyes.

We played games in our tribes,
laughed and had fun,
but we were so on fire for the Father and Son!

We broke into our affirmation circle
sharing our love for one another,
then off to the sanctuary
to break bread with our brother.

When we sat down to eat
remembering without a doubt,
all of those children who would be without.
But also remembering we made the world a better place,
and we all thanked God for his love and his Grace.



Jesus' Children

"Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them,
for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

Matthew 19:14 niv

Kid's Club

All children grades 2rd through 5th are
invited

April 19th Kid's Club is going **Bowling**. After
the 11:00 am service we will eat the usual bag
lunch together in the social hall and then car
pool to Liberty Lanes at Massaponax. Cost
will be \$9.00 which includes the lane and shoe
rental. Time will depend on how many people
participate. If we have 15 bowlers we can
bowl two hours. If we have less, we don't get
the group rate and only bowl one game. So
invite a friend and join use for a fun day of
friends, fellowship and bowling!

~~~~~

**Flower Pots needed** to transplant some aloe  
plants into for the Women's Plant sale. Please  
contact Martha Haselbush 373-9352.

~~~~~

*Thanks to my St. Matthias church family for
the food, cards, visits, prayers and telephone
calls after my surgery. We fell blessed to be a
part of this loving congregation. I am
recovering well.*

Peace and grace.

Love,

Janet Smith and Ray too!

~~~~~

## Morning Circle of the UMW

The Morning Circle of the UMW had their first meeting on March 11<sup>th</sup> with 11 women in attendance. It was a very productive meeting where we discussed ideas for the future. Meetings will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 10 am beginning April 8, 2009 in room 10. Some ideas discussed include: a craft workshop, guest speaker on women's issues, book reviews etc. It was also discussed the possibility of a quarterly meeting either in the evening or an after church covered dish dinner and/or a dinner meeting at a local restaurant which will allow the women who are working to participate. The annual Plant Sale in conjunction with the UMM Yard Sale is set for May 2, 2009 in the church parking lot. Mark your calendars and plan to purchase your spring flower and vegetable plants from the UMW. The Bazaar is set for October 3, 2009. If anyone would like to share craft ideas, we would appreciate your help as we prepare for the bazaar. If you have questions and/or suggestions please call. We look forward to seeing you at our April meeting.

UMW Officers

Merinell Vance, President  
Phone: 374-1468  
e-mail: MVance141verizon.net

Ruth Payne, Treasurer  
Phone: 373-8828  
e-mail: grmdn@cox.net



## ST. MATTHIAS UNITED METHODIST MEN

The Methodist Men (UMM) are planning their annual yard sale on May 2, 2009 between the hours of 8AM and 2PM in conjunction with the UMW plant sale. The proceeds from the men's yard sale will be given to support the Narthex Renovation Project. This is a good time to do your spring cleaning and bring those special items that clutter up your house to the church on May 1<sup>st</sup> or early May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Please do not bring any clothing. While you are there on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, you may purchase some beautiful plants from the ladies. If you have large items that need to be picked up for the yard sale, please call Gordon Payne at 373-8825.

The UMM are planning a fall rock fish fishing trip sometime during October/November 2009. If you think you might be interested, please call Gordon Payne so he can know how many will be going when he contacts the charter boat captain for an available Saturday date.

### HELP WANTED

POSITION: Acolyte Coordinator

DUTIES: Make a new schedule in September

Train new acolytes

Maintain candle lighter

COMPENSATION: Training our young people to bring God's light into the sanctuary, and return it to the community outside of St. Matthias' four walls.

Anyone interested in this position, see or call Susan Sprow (540-374-9328) or Becky Hubbard (540-371-8355).

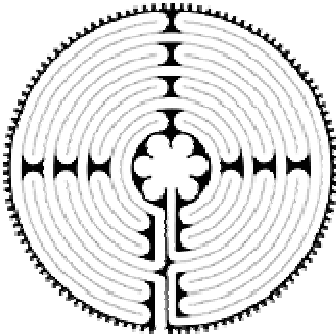
# St. Matthias Youth Ministries

## DATEABLE RULES

UMYF has been breaking out by guys and girls on Sunday nights to study the book The Dateable Rules. We've had some great discussions, and we hope that this time together has helped facilitate some very important discussions at home. I will be sending some materials home at the conclusion of our study for you to talk about with your youth... as a church, let's support them in making God-honoring decisions when it comes to dating!

*UMYF would like to send a **BIG** thank you to Regina Wilkerson for making the curtains that are hanging in the Youth Room! Thank you Mrs. Wilkerson for sharing your time and talents with us to help make the Youth Room a cozy (and fashionable!) spot for us all to spend time!*

## PRAYER LABYRINTH



A Prayer Labyrinth will be available in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, April 11, from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Designed for prayer and reflection, the labyrinth is a path that you can walk and meditate on the meaning of Christ's sacrifice and His gift of salvation. On Friday, April 10, UMYF will gather in the Social Hall to create this labyrinth. Laying out the labyrinth will take many hours and many hands... please stop by and give whatever time you can!

### Circle These Dates on Your Calendar...

- April 1** Wednesday Night Food, Fun and Fellowship, 6:45pm
- April 5** UMYF, "The Dateable Rules" 7:00-8:30pm
- April 8** Wednesday Night Food, Fun and Fellowship, 6:45pm
- April 10** Assemble labyrinth in the Social Hall 10:00am-2:00pm
- April 11** Labyrinth Open 9:00am-5:00pm
- April 12** EASTER: No UMYF
- April 19** BRIDGE 6:00-7:00pm, UMYF 7:00-8:30pm
- April 26** UMYF 7:00-8:30pm

### Save the Date...

- May 17** Youth Sunday
- June 5-7** "For Such A Time As This" UMYF Middle School and High School Retreat
- June 20** Run Amuck Race, 8:00am
- June 26-27** Awakening 2009 Lock-In

Jen Brennan, Director of Youth Ministries [jen@stmatthiasumc.org](mailto:jen@stmatthiasumc.org) 226.7311



# HOLY WEEK

## Season of Lent Worship Schedule

### **Palm Sunday, April 5**

8:45 am Worship Service with Palms, Communion 11:00 am Choir's Easter Cantata  
3:00 pm Easter Tellin' for families

### **Maundy Thursday, April 9**

7:00 pm Re-enactment of First Supper, Holy Communion

### **Good Friday, April 10**

7:30 pm Tenebrae Service

### **Saturday, April 11**

9:00am to 5:00 pm Social Hall open for Prayer Labrinyth

### **Easter Sunday, April 12**

6:30 am Sunrise Service outdoors by the crosses  
Breakfast afterward in Social Hall  
8:45 am Worship Service  
11:00 am Worship Service

**PLEASE NOTE**  
Good Friday Service, April 10, will begin at 7:30 p.m.  
NOT 7:00 p.m.  
Easter Sunrise Service, April 12, will begin at 6:30 a.m.  
NOT 6:45 a.m.

These changes were made in consideration of sunrise/sunset times to best facilitate the beauty of the services.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Food Cards**



**Need Food!  
Buy Scrip!**

*Purchasing Food Lion or Giant Cards = \$\$\$\$ for Parsonage Loan*

*Do you have your Food Cards for April? Cards may be purchased during Sunday school hour in the Church office. The grocery stores return 5% of our purchases, eg. for every \$20.00 gift card you purchase, we earn \$1.00!*

For those who purchase Food Cards on a regular basis, the Church thanks you. For those who haven't availed themselves of this convenient way to shop for groceries, please consider doing so.

Cards are available in \$20 and \$50 amounts and can be used at Food Lion/Bloom or Giant. Purchasing cards from the church, using cash or check made out to St. Matthias UMC, makes shopping easier (you don't have to remember the checkbook, cash, or credit card – just have your food card with you) and helps pay down the Parsonage Loan.

*Consider purchasing Food Cards as another means of stewardship for our church. It doesn't require any extra out of pocket expense, and it does something good for the church.*

FAMILY MINISTRY PRESENTS

# THE 1ST ANNUAL EASTER TELLIN'

In partnership with UMYF & Children's Ministry!

**Date: Palm Sunday, 5 April 2009**

**Time: 3:00 to 6:00 pm**

**Place: St. Matthias church grounds**



**COME ONE! COME ALL! COME & EXPERIENCE THE EASTER STORY** as it is portrayed by our UMYF! Join the children as they greet Jesus with palm fronds and shouts of


**HOSANNA** as He rides in upon a donkey! The story will unfold before the children's eyes as we all follow Jesus & His disciples from the Last Supper to the Garden of Gethsemane, from His trial before Pilate to the foot of The Cross, and ultimately to the empty tomb where Jesus reveals to us all that **HE IS RISEN!**

**EVERYONE IS INVITED...**from the young to the young at heart!

## **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:**

**3:00 - 4:00 The Live Easter Tellin' !**

**4:00 - 4:45 Celebration Stations!**

 A "petting" area to see spring's newest additions...(baby chicks, baby goats, a lamb, a bunny...) and be reminded of God's gifts of new life and new beginnings!

 Easter egg decorating station!

 Family relays and games!

**4:45 - 5:00 EASTER EGG HUNT!**

**5:00 - 6:00 COOK OUT!** (Burgers & hot dogs prepared by UMM)



**Please SIGN UP** on the FAMILY MINISTRIES bulletin board or by calling the church office! We want to have enough hidden eggs & food for everyone! Also, please note the "volunteer sign up sheet" if you would like to "act" or help out, we have a place for you!

## Amazing.... Simply Amazing

36 fasting youth  
+ 14 supportive adult chaperones  
+ 2 little kid mascots  
+ the generosity of so many who responded to the  
Hunger needs of children in the world  
= **\$11,804**

**That is the total amount of pledges raised for the 30 Hour Famine!**

This will be matched 5 times over by government funds!

This is enough to feed **2,361 kids for a month!** Praise God!

*Terrific youth...great cause....bounteous generosity...awesome God!*

---

### FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

This month, the Finance Committee would like to use this space to express a message of gratitude to our congregation for your continued faithfulness in your financial support of our church. Because of you, we are encouraged and grateful that so far, we have not had to face the economic hardships and difficult decisions that other churches may be having to face. In last month's issue of the financial newsletter for the Virginia United Methodist Conference, it was reported that due to the weak state of the economy and the recession that we are all experiencing, which has lead to decreased apportionments revenue, six connectional ministry staff positions would be eliminated.

Two months into our current fiscal year, St. Matthias has experienced a slight net operating loss. However, operating revenues continue to run ahead of last year's, our Narthex Renovation Project is more than 50% funded only a few months into the process, and your support of our youths' recent famine event was nothing short of amazing!

Your Finance Committee pledges to continue their efforts to be good financial stewards of the funds you give. We are so blessed here at St. Matthias to have a congregation that is not only able, but willing to maintain the spirit of faithfulness in their giving, despite the current economic environment.

We are grateful.

Kathleen Smith  
Finance Committee



# April Birthdays & Anniversaries

|    |                       |
|----|-----------------------|
| 1  | Adam Bray             |
| 2  | Bob Gmitter           |
| 2  | Peter Russett         |
| 3  | Barry Jones           |
| 3  | Douglas Reading       |
| 7  | Harriet Lane          |
| 8  | Nancy Ann Morgan      |
| 10 | Cheryl Posey          |
| 11 | Julia Nedza           |
| 12 | Lucien Lane           |
| 13 | Robert Dixon          |
| 13 | Nicole Zwileneff      |
| 16 | Brian Hawkins-Plum    |
| 17 | Stephanie Nichols     |
| 19 | Bonnie Gardner        |
| 19 | Pete Wick             |
| 19 | Regina Wilkerson      |
| 21 | Susan Ganger Glover   |
| 21 | Herbert Pitzer        |
| 21 | Erin Wetzel           |
| 24 | Joe Reichard          |
| 24 | Bill Wade             |
| 25 | Wallace Clark         |
| 25 | John Duling           |
| 26 | Fenton Piggott        |
| 30 | Mackenzie Beth Barnes |



|    |                          |
|----|--------------------------|
| 5  | A.C. & Shirley Glover    |
| 5  | Jim & Helen Powell       |
| 6  | Jeff & Laraye Berry      |
| 6  | Mike & Erica Murray      |
| 14 | Roger & Margaret Morgan  |
| 20 | Walter & Frances Gaylord |
| 21 | Keith & Andra Reventlow  |
| 21 | Larry & Regina Wilkerson |
| 26 | Roger & Fran Varela      |

Please let the church office know if there are any errors or omissions with this list. We are constantly working on updating our files.

Newsletter Deadline  
April 20

Sunday School  
9:45 a.m.  
Sunday Worship Services  
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.  
Nursery Hours  
8:45 a.m. – Birth to 2 years  
Sunday School Hour – Birth to 2 years

**Nursery Volunteers Always Needed!!!!**

**St. Matthias United Methodist Church  
426 Deacon Road  
Fredericksburg, VA 22405**

|                                                                                 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| NON-PROFIT<br>ORG.<br>US POSTAGE PAID<br>FREDERICKSBURG<br>VA<br>PERMIT No. 235 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Return Service Requested\*\*Time-Dated Material\*\* Please Expedite