

The MESSENGER

Volume 14, Issue 2

February 2009

Matthew 7:7 says, "Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you."

This is a familiar passage, yet one we question. Jesus' words tell us not only that we need to bring everything to God, but that God will respond to our need.

There are three verbs in this passage: "ask", "search", "knock". The word "seeking" is often used in the O.T. and Jewish tradition for prayer, with God's will as the object.

"Knocking" was also a Jewish expression for prayer. So, "ask", "seek", and "knock" and not three different actions, but three Jewish expressions for prayer.

Our prayer is to be a quest and an expectation. God does not need us to inform or persuade him, but we need to pray our needs in order to be in better relationship with God, aligning ourselves with his will and way.

Prayerfully In His Service,

Pastor Paula

A Message from Lay Leadership (Nominations) Committee:

Each of us who is a member of the United Methodist Church has made this **promise**:

"to uphold the United Methodist Church by my prayers, my presence, my gifts and my service."

How are you doing thus far in 2009 with your promise-keeping?

Have you made a commitment to yourself and God to pray, to be in worship, to contribute financially, but you haven't yet figured out what your gift of service could be?

There are needs and ministries waiting for your participation and leadership. Some examples are:

- media fix-it person
- greeters and ushers for worship services
- sound system workers
- office helpers
- worship leaders
- drivers for our elderly
- coordinator for our "drivers' services",
- video person to film, edit & transfer for projection use.

Please contact the office, 373-8759, and say, "Yes, I'll help with that!"

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February

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
01 1pm UMYF Super Bowl Flag Football Tournament 6:30pm Cub Scouts	02 7pm Cub Scouts Scout Walk Through	03 6pm Girl Scouts 7:30pm UMYF Meeting	04 11am Prayer Mtg. 7pm Choir	05 7pm Trustees 7pm Al-Anon	06	07
08 12pm Kid's Club 6pm UMYF Council 6:30pm Cub Scouts 7pm UMYF Red Bird Reception	09 7pm Cub Scouts	10 6pm Girl Scouts	11 11am Prayer Mtg. 7pm Choir	12 5:30pm Girl Scouts 7pm Worship Committee 7pm Al-Anon	13 UMM Dinner	14
15 7:30am UMM Breakfast 12pm SPRC 6:30pm Cub Scouts 7pm UMYF BRIDGE	16 7pm Cub Scouts	17 6pm Girl Scouts 7pm UMW	18 11am Prayer Mtg. 7pm Choir	19 7pm Finance Committee 7pm Al-Anon	20 Newsletter Deadline	21 5:30pm Administrative Council 7pm Bridge 7:30pm UMYF Concert
22 6:30pm Cub Scouts 7pm UMYF	23 7pm Cub Scouts	24 6pm Girl Scouts	25 Ash Wednesday 11am Prayer Mtg.	26 5:30pm Girl Scouts 7pm Al-Anon	27 6pm UMYF 30 Hour Famine	28 7pm UMYF 30 Hour Famine

Our Lenten Devotions

To facilitate a deeper spiritual journey this Lent, we will be distributing a devotion booklet to the entire congregation, comprised of meditations by persons attending St. Matthias. **We would be blessed by your participation.**

Directions:

- 1 Your meditation should be 100—400 words. If possible, include a Bible passage for the day's reading. You may include a 1-2 sentence prayer if there is space.
- 2 You do NOT have to choose a particular Bible passage, nor one specifically quoted about Jesus' last days.

You may use your own ideas or you may choose from the suggested "starter" ideas below:

- a. one time I heard God speak or show me the way
- b. a hymn or a scripture which speaks to me and why
- c. how I use/d a Bible lesson to help me in my daily life
- d. how journaling or my prayer life helps me grow
- e. a service (Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter) that I remember or that changed my spiritual life
- f. how my family celebrates this holy time and why
- g. what the cross on Easter morning means to me
- h. when I think of anointing oil, I recall....
- i. or the music of Lent/Easter reminds me of.....
- j. the fragrances of Easter lilies brings back memories of
- k. a drawing about Lent/Easter (5 ½" x 8 ½" please)
- l. Other

Can we count on you to contribute to the Lent Booklet? Please submit your meditation hard

copy in Chris' mailbox in the hallway or email your submission to office@stmatthiasumc.org **NO LATER THAN February 22.** If you have any questions, call the church office at 540/373-8759.

Thank you. May you take yet another step in your spiritual journey through this effort and gift.

Pastor Paula and the Worship Committee

Here's a **sample 117 word meditation by a teen-aged boy:** "When I think about prayer and communicating with God I don't contemplate the how, the when or the why, I just do it. I find the time, whether it's at a scout camp-out, a sleep over, or just quiet time at home. I feel as though He is always there to just listen and give me His opinion. These little moments of pure serenity help to rejuvenate and awaken both my spirit and mind. I've never learned to formally pray. I feel a much more personal connection when I "show up unexpected" at God's door. Not once has he refused to let me in; never has he turned me away. That is why I keep coming back."

United Methodist Women (UMW) Catering Service

Ruby Courtney and Shirley Glover

During 2008 the UMW made \$4,105.00 from their catering services. Most of this money was used to pay on the parsonage loan and some was given to the narthex renovation. Many, many thanks to all who helped by donating food or cash, and to those who helped prepare and serve the food. We really appreciate your help and support.



**Need Food!
Buy Scrip!**

Food Cards

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

*Do you have your Food Cards for February?
Cards may be purchased during Sunday
school hour in the Church office.*

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.

Trustees Announcement

Vernon (Junior) Posey

The Trustees would like to announce that the Narthex Renovation will now be completed in 3 phases, as funds become available.

- The first phase will be the glass enclosure of the Narthex entrance.
- The second will be the actual renovation of the Narthex.

- The final phase will be the hallway floors throughout the church.

Through the gracious giving of the St. Matthias family, funds are now available for the first phase. Construction will begin on the glass enclosure as soon as the contractor can start. The Trustees would like to thank all of St. Matthias for their generosity.

Do you remember *Rev. Keith Mottley* and *Rev Jim Ritter*? Want to catch up on their "doings"? Stop by the bulletin board outside the office and read updates on their families (courtesy of Margaret Ann Holt).

January 5, 2009

Dear Pastor Paula,

I cannot begin to thank you and the members of St. Matthias enough for all the support and care you offered my aunt and cousin over the last four years as Doris fought her battle with cancer. You have an extraordinary congregation, one that has truly embraced the concept of a "church family." I have never known of another church that has demonstrated such devotion and concern. The many, many meals, visits, calls, cards, and personal assistance that were provided were all appreciated far more than you will ever know. The enclosed donation to the church is but a small token of that appreciation. It is given with deep gratitude for all that the church did in assuring that the funeral service for Doris was a beautiful tribute and memorial to her. We know people sacrificed time with their own families during the holiday season to help with the service and the reception following, and we are truly grateful.

We pray that God will continue to bless the St. Matthias congregation in all of its missions and projects.

Sincerely,
Diane Boiler



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 2nd through 5th are invited

Valentine's Day is coming up and Kid's Club has a tradition of visiting a local nursing home to share God's love on this holiday. So, on Feb. 8th, we will meet in Room 10 after the 11:00 am service to create cards and gift bags. We will then car pool to Greenfield Assisted Living (off of White Oak Rd.) to pass out the bags and visit with some of the residents.

After our visit, we will come back to church and have our own little Valentine's Day party with an Ice Cream Social. We will have the ice cream; you bring your favorite topping! ☺

There is reception for the Minister of Red Bird Mission following the eleven o'clock service, that you are invited to participate in. If you do not wish to participate, please bring a bag lunch.

If you have any questions, please call or Rosa Hogue at rosahogue@cox.net

Vacation Bible School (VBS) & Education Meeting

It is never too early to start thinking about VBS. The Education and the Children's Ministries committees will have a meeting to discuss this and other topics at 7:00 pm on January 29th, at Valerie Wick's house. Please call her at 899-8837 if you need directions.

If you miss this meeting but would like to participate, please call Val or Erica Murray, and plan to join us at our next meeting on March 26th.

St. Matthias Youth Ministries



WILL STARVE FOR FOOD.

WHAT IS THE 30 HOUR FAMINE?

World Vision

The 30 Hour Famine is an opportunity for participants to fast for 30 hours and engage in experiential learning about world hunger and the responsibilities we have to help make a difference in people's lives. World Vision's 30 Hour Famine will be taking place February 27-28. The fast will begin on Friday at 1:00 pm. We will gather at the church at 6:00 pm, and then our fast will be broken with a light dinner at 7:00 pm on Saturday. Youth will be asking for donations- **every dollar raised feeds a child for one day.**

Please see the youth bulletin board outside the youth room for additional information.

All participants must submit a permission form and signed covenant.

Please see Jen if you are in need of these materials.

Is Your Three-Legged Stool Balanced?



UMYF kicked off 2009 talking about the balance of our mental, physical and spiritual sides. In small groups, we made commitments to focus on each of these daily in the coming year. If you have taken the challenge to read all of the New Testament in 2009, check the youth bulletin board for February's daily reading calendar. Be on the lookout for upcoming information on the UMYF walk/run training for our 4 mile race in June!!

UMYFL SUPER BOWL II FLAG FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT



Get ready for Super Bowl II! Join us Sunday, February 1 at 1:00pm!

All youth grade 6 and above, as well as all adults in the church are invited to participate in the flag football tournament. If you have not signed up, please join us anyway, and you will be added to a team. Come and see what team is awarded the Werner Trophy for 2009!

Circle These Dates on Your Calendar...

February 1 Super Bowl Flag Football Tournament, 1pm

February 8 Youth Council, 6:00-7:00pm

UMYF, 7:00-8:30pm

February 15 BRIDGE 6th Grade Program, 6:00-7:00pm

UMYF, 7:00-8:30pm

February 21 Newsboys/December Radio/KJ-52 Concert, 7:30pm

February 22 Soul'd Out Worship Service, 7:00-8:30pm

February 27-28 30 Hour Famine, 6:00pm Friday-7:00pm Saturday

Contact Jen Brennan, Director of Youth Ministries, at 540-226-7311 or email her at

jbrennan@wearegodsgirls.com

Treasurer's Report

Mary Lou Pitzer

The Board approved the budget for 2009 at the meeting on January 14, 2009. The budget is about \$600 more than last year. They added a couple new lines to the budget.

The following items were approved:

- \$3500 for the UMYF so they could have a retreat,
- \$1200 was approved for Missions; they will be feeding the homeless shelter 6 times a year,
- Money was added to the budget to complete some of the church and parsonage repairs that have been put off for some years, and
- The board dropped the parsonage payment for 2009 because we are a year ahead in our payments.

The church was blessed this year and we hope that we will continue to grow with attendance, gifts, talents, and prayers in the New Year.

Christmas Wishes Fulfilled!

To all who helped to fulfill the Christmas wishes of our Angel Tree and Dove Project recipients, thank you! You helped to brighten their spirits and bring smiles to their faces. God bless you.

Your coordinators,
Evette Russett, Rosa Hogue, and Liz Conn

Important Email Address Changes!!!

Don Clark, Communications Chair

The church office email address is now:

office@stmatthiasumc.org

Pastor Paula's email address is now:

paula@stmatthiasumc.org

Pizza and Praise Nights at Boston House of Pizza

GOOD NEWS! You can support our United Methodist Youth Fellowship (UMYF) fundraising AND enjoy Boston House Pizza, all at once!

Every Monday night, for every pizza you order between 4:00 pm – 10:00 pm, Boston House will give our UMYF \$3.00 for every large pizza, and \$2.00 for every medium pizza you order! Look for coupons on the bulletin board in the narthex!

St. Matthias UMYF Fundraiser	
Date: _____	
Name: _____	
# of Pizzas: _____	
Large Medium	
Total Amount: _____	
10 Leland Road 371-1419	
BOSTON HOUSE OF PIZZA	

Church Humor

My pastor put sanitary hot air hand dryers in the rest rooms at his church and after two weeks took them out. I asked him why and he confessed that they worked fine but when he went in there he saw a sign that read, "For a sample of this week's sermon, push the button."



February Birthdays & Anniversaries

7	Fran Varela
10	Katherine Morgan
11	Ross Potts
12	Patrick Brennan
12	Roger Morgan
12	Tyler Belako
13	Elaine Shanks Glover
13	Jane Studley
14	Linda Bailey
14	Bobbie Jeverna Haynes
15	Rusty Gardner
16	Alexis Bush
18	Ethel Carraway
18	Michelle Thompson
19	Jordan Duling
19	Betsy Mosley
20	Paul Morris
22	Terry Hill
22	Hallie Loftice
22	Richard Moore
22	Cameron Trant
24	Catherine Hull
24	Megan Smith
25	Tyler Jenkins-Harris
25	Ryan Smith
27	Earline Haney
27	Gabrielle Hull
27	Kathy Smith
29	Louise Zwieneff



26	Charles & Barbara Doyal
27	Greg & Betsy Anderson

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
February 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**

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