

The MESSENGER

Volume 14, Issue 1

January 2009

HAPPY NEW YEAR

A suggestion for 2009: when you wake up, sit on the side of the bed and say, "God, if I don't get anything else done today, I want to know You more and love You better."

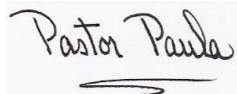
Since God didn't put us on earth just to fulfill a to-do list, he's more interested in what I AM than what I do. That's why we're called human beings, not human doings.

So, in:

Happy moments, PRAISE God.
Difficult moments, SEEK God.
Quiet moments, WORSHIP God.
Painful moments, TRUST God.
Every moment, THANK GOD.

Have a blessed day, every day of 2009.

In His Service,



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GOOD NEWS FOR THE NEW YEAR!!!

WE at St. Matthias UMC did a good job to complete God's work in the year 2008.

- This year WE purchased 28 bicycles and helmets to donate to the Salvation Army for Christmas gifts.
- WE reached the goal of raising \$5,000 for the narthex renovation so we would meet the challenge by an anonymous donor who will match the \$5,000. WE actually raised \$5,721 (to date), so our narthex renovation fund has a healthy start of \$10,721! The estimate for the renovation is about \$25,000 but we are well on our way.
- Our Christmas Eve offering totaled \$800.10. These funds are sent to United Methodist Family Services to be used for their mission: Touch a Life. Create a Future.
- This year WE raised \$1,700 for the staff Christmas gifts.
- WE have paid down the church building debt (from \$220,000) to \$43,031.81.
- WE have paid down the parsonage loan (from \$40,000) to \$16,128.70.

Working together, WE are a powerful force at St. Matthias United Methodist Church.

2009 is going to be fine!

Mary Lou Pitzer

Treasurer

January

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				01 New Year's Day Office Closed *7pm Trustees *7pm Al-Anon	02	03 *9am Cub Scouts
04 *6:30pm Cub Scouts *7pm UMYF	05 *7pm Cub Scouts	06	07 *11am Prayer *7pm Choir	08 *5:30pm Girl Scouts *7pm Worship Committee *7pm Al-Anon	09	10 *6:30pm F.U.N Group Dead Tired Party
11 *12pm Kid's Club *12pm SPRC *6:30pm Cub Scouts *7pm UMYF	12 *7pm Cub Scouts	13	14 *11am Prayer *7pm Finance Committee *7pm Choir	15 *7pm Ad. Council *7pm Al-Anon	16	17 *7pm Bridge
18 *7:30am UMM Breakfast *6:30pm Cub Scouts *7pm UMYF	19 *7pm Cub Scouts	20 News Letter Deadline *7pm UMW	21 *11am Prayer *7pm Choir	22 *5:30pm Girl Scouts *7pm Al-Anon	23	24 *8:30am Ashland District Training
25 *6:30pm Cub Scouts *7pm UMYF	26 *7pm Cub Scouts	27	28 *11am Prayer *7pm Choir	29 *7pm Al-Anon	30	31

DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR?

None of us will be able to hear anything during a church service if we don't have Sound System operators!

Training for Sound System Operators is scheduled for Saturday, January 10, 2009, at 2 pm. One hour of training is more than sufficient for you to learn how to check microphones and push a button or two!

Please consider learning about the system, and then volunteer to run the sound system one service a month. If we have 10 people trained and volunteering, each of us would have about one service a month.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Once again, as the year 2008 comes to a close and we prepare to begin the new year 2009, I'd like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Finance Committee to thank you—the people of St. Matthias—for your generosity and financial support this past year.

Because of you, even in these troubled economic times, we have been able to pay all of our bills and obligations on time, maintain our facilities, compensate our staff, and purchase the necessary materials to carry out the mission of St. Matthias United Methodist Church. It appears that as of this writing, the operating expenses may end up the year at slightly ahead of the operating revenues, but by a relatively small amount.

Because of you, we once again were able to fulfill 100% of our obligations to the Conference and District. Many churches are not able to meet this goal.

Because of you, this year we used zero operating funds to make the monthly payments on our parsonage renovation loan—and we are currently on target to pay it off twelve months early, less than two years from now.

Because of you, the Communion Fund, also known as the Pastor's Discretionary Fund, received \$4,277 this year. These funds are administered by our Pastor to address financial needs of individuals and families here in our community.

Because of you, St. Matthias gave \$1,749.61 to the Society of St. Andrew, \$1,170 to Fred Camp, \$775 to the Red Bird Mission, and \$677 to UMCOR.

Because of you, and on your behalf, St. Matthias sent a team of nine volunteers to the Gulf Coast of Mississippi for a week, to work on the ongoing Katrina disaster relief efforts there. Thanks to you, \$1,983 was raised to fund those efforts.

Because of you, during the Christmas season, \$1,684 was collected to purchase bicycles and helmets. These bicycles represented about one-third of all the bicycles given out by the Salvation Army in Fredericksburg this Christmas. Another \$290 was collected for Christmas giving to Hope House this year. And because of your desire to recognize the year-round efforts of our wonderful staff at Christmas time, a record amount was donated for Staff Gifts this year.

(cont'd on page 4)

Because of you, as of this writing, \$4,485 has been collected towards the proposed Narthex Renovation project here at St. Matthias. Because of a generous anonymous offer from a local business owner, this amount (and any additional up to \$5,000 collected by year-end) will be matched. So we are off to a good start on funding this project.

Because of you, there were many other non-monetary donations that also occurred during 2008, which I hope to have as the topic of a future column.

Thanking you for all that you do,

Kathleen Smith
Finance Committee Chair

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

Thank you, to all the children who worked so hard decorating the Christmas cookies and delivering them to some of our "shut-ins". You did a wonderful job and you were/are truly appreciated!

The next Kid's Club event will be on January 11th after the 11:00 service. We will be creating something at **Kid's and Clay**. The children will all get a turn to create an item out of clay, using the pottery wheels. They then paint their creation and have it baked. Mrs. Hogue will go back and pick up the works of art a week or so later.

Important Info: This will be a "hurry up and get there" event, so bring a bag lunch with you to church. We will eat it after the 11: am service and then car pool up Rt. 17 to the store. Cost for this event is \$7.50; please bring exact change. Kids club is picking up the rest of the cost. Also, this is an RSVP event. There are a limited number of pottery wheels, so Rosa MUST know who is coming by January 2nd!!!

So, put it on the calendar and e-mail Rosa Hogue at rosahogue@cox.net

F.U.N. Group

(Submitted by Evelyn Penn)

Do you know the words that actually make up the acronym F.U.N.? I didn't, so, I placed a phone call to the man who would know.....Mike Trant.

Turns out, the F.U.N. Group name is very fitting: Friends Unlimited Nondescript.

The group that meets (and it's never exactly the same people two times in a row) are **Friends** of St. Matthias UMC. The group is **unlimited** in many aspects....who meets, how many meet, where they meet, and what they do. The meetings and participants are **NonDescript**, meaning there isn't any particular description to describe who they are and what they do.

EXCEPT they do have FUN, no matter what they are doing and who is doing it!

Don't miss the "Dead Tired" Party on January 10. Sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex, and don't forget to bring that gift that you wished you hadn't received!

I wonder who will end up with the bread with the Christmas scene in it this year?

St. Matthias Youth Ministries



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 take place February 27-28. The fast begins 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.**

We will spend time in January learning more about the issue of world hunger and how we can make a difference both locally and globally. Please invite friends who feel called to participate in this amazing event to join us! We need adults to support us in this effort by preparing the meal that will break our fast. Please consider where God is calling you, and please join us in praying for the lives that will be impacted!

UMYF YOUTH COUNCIL

Please join me in congratulating the following representatives that will serve on the UMYF Youth Council for the first half of 2009:

6th grade: Shelby Davis,
7th grade: Rebecca Sprow,
8th grade: Westin Davis,
9th grade: Megan Anderson,
10th grade: Michael Beaton,

11th grade: Tyler Morgan and
12th grade: Amanda Murray.
These youth will help plan and program upcoming UMYF events!



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. Signups are located on the narthex bulletin board. Teams will be created, and will be composed of guys, girls, youth and adults. We have needs for players, cheerleaders, referees, scorekeepers, concessions...and, of course, captive fans! This is a great intergenerational event, and a wonderful opportunity for outreach to friends! Come and see what team is awarded the Werner Trophy for 2009!

Circle These Dates on Your Calendar...

January 4 Youth Council, 6:00-7:00pm
UMYF, 7:00-8:30pm

January 11 High School Trip to the National Holocaust
Museum, 11:00am
UMYF, 7:00-8:30pm

January 18 BRIDGE 6th Grade Program, 6:00-7:00pm
UMYF, 7:00-8:30pm

January 25 UMYF, 7:00-8:30pm

And Save the Date for these Upcoming Fantabulous Events...

February 1 UMYF Super Bowl Flag Football Tournament

February 27-28 30 Hour Famine www.30hourfamine.org

June 5-7 Spring Retreat at Camp Highroad

Contact Jen Brennan, Director of Youth Ministries, at
540-226-7311 or email her at
jbrennan@wearegodsgirls.com

Hymnals

We are short 40 hymnals for the sanctuary. Cost of each book is \$20, which includes printing St. Matthias' name on the front cover and a bookplate acknowledging your gift. If you would like to donate a hymnal, please send the following information, along with your check, to the church office.

Name _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Make sure you write "Hymnal" in the memo portion of your check.

"Sing, Sing a Song...."

Didn't you enjoy the special music provided by our choir during the Advent season?

Have you ever thought you'd like to have the fun we have in the choir? Oh, you didn't realize we have FUN doing what we're doing?

Well, we do, and we'd love for you to join us. You don't need special skills or talents. Come and we'll make you feel welcome and let you have fun with us.

We meet every Wednesday evening from 7 pm to 8:30 pm.

Questions? Call Carole Hall, 540-786-3194

Active Men at St. Matthias

Joe Dunkin received a plaque from the St. Matthias UMM at the recent Cantata recognizing his long, varied, and always helpful role in our church family. Perhaps best known to the men as the "chef" of Sunday morning UMM meeting, Joe has also taught music in our annual Vacation Bible School, led and conducted numerous classes and Bible study groups and always been an active member of the Choir. And, he usually has a joke tugging at the corners of his ready smile. Joe, Thanks for all that you do for us.

On Fri. Feb. 13, the UMM will host a special "Sweethearts" Dinner in the Social Hall. After dinner, a quartette of singers will entertain us for about an half hour. The menu is: NY strip steak (chicken is the alternative), baked potatoes, green beans, fancy salad, and cake. Price will be \$ 12.50 a person, \$ 24.00 for a couple [cupid lives!]. Advance reservations are necessary to insure seating capacity and avoid food wastage. Sign-up sheets will be posted Narthex in mid-January.

The 2009 UMM Officers have been elected: President, Gordon Payne; V.P. Facilities, Tom Wiegand; Chaplain, Larry Davis; and Treasurer, Roy Werner. If you have a particular activity that you'd like to have included in Men's activities, please contact any of the officers. Our initial organization meeting will be Sun., Jan. 18th at 7:30 a.m., come one and all.

Wishing everyone a Happy and healthy 2009. God Bless all.



January Birthdays & Anniversaries

1	Doris Jerman
3	Sherrie Roland
5	Gwen Gesswein
7	Craig Cate
7	Don Clark
7	Elizabeth Morris
7	Michael Murphy
8	Linda Reichard
9	Missy Rosner
10	Riley Wilkerson
12	Melissa Leese
12	Janet Smith
13	Rebecca Sprow
14	Geoffrey Morris
15	Linda Carraway
15	Heather Ladue
17	Alex Von Schwanitz
19	Kiana Brooks
20	Rebecca Doyal
22	Katie Hawkins-Plum
22	Larry Vida
23	Thomas Rosner
23	Rachel Scarcia
23	Adam Sullivan
23	Roger Varela
23	Nicholas Zwileneff
26	David Arthur
27	Merinell Vance
29	Dennis Carraway
29	Evelyn Penn
30	Darryl Barnes
31	Betsy Anderson
31	Lisa Scarcia



2	R. Allan & Sherry King
13	Larry & Deborah Davis
25	Tom & Susan Wiegand

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
January 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
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