

A Christ-centered Community of Faith, Reaching,

Teaching, Loving and Serving

For You, O Lord, are my hope.

Psalm 71:5

# THE MESSENGER

St. Matthias United Methodist Church

JANUARY 2018



“For everything there is a season, and a **time** to every purpose under heaven,” begins the third chapter of Ecclesiastes. If you’ve ever attended a time management seminar, you discover that time is not really something we can manage. Perhaps a better way of looking at the living of our days is “**Managing Multiple Priorities.**” We hope to use wisely the time we have been given. We cannot learn that lesson in our own strength. In Matthew 6:33 Jesus teaches us to seek **first** God’s kingdom and His righteousness. If we put God **first**, we will have all we need to accomplish His good will for our lives.

As we approach a new year, what are your **hopes** and **dreams**? Spend some quiet time with God, asking Him what **His priorities** are for your life, your family, and our church. A good prayer to pray is Psalm 90:12 “Lord, teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.” Our prayer is that God will lead us to make wise choices honoring Him as Lord of our lives.

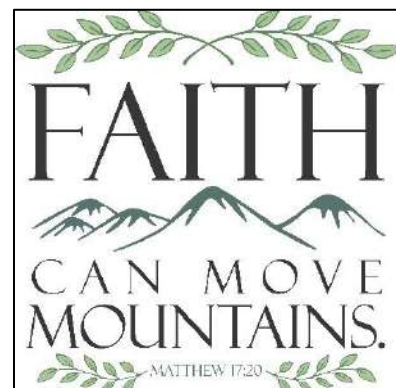
Remember, God loves you and offers abundant life, life full of purpose and meaning in Jesus Christ! (John 10:10) Give thanks every day for the richness of life. Determine to share live-giving words and deeds with others God places in your pathway. (Eph. 4:29) Let the Lord Jesus be your song and your peace in the night.

Author and Pastor John Killinger raises this challenge in his book, **Letting God Bless You**: “*Permit God to bless you. Don’t look around you and think how hard life is. Look around and see how filled with mystery and goodness it is. See how wonderful the world looks when you know God is at work redeeming it ....*”

May our Lord bless you in 2018 as we watch and pray: “*New every morning is Your love, great God of light, and all day long You are working for good in the world. Stir up in us desire to serve You, to live peacefully with our neighbors, and to devote each day to Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ the Lord.*” [ From “An Order for Morning Praise and Prayer,” UM Hymnal, p. 877]

*With you on the journey with Christ as our Light and Salvation,*

*Pastor Pat*



# UPCOMING EVENTS

In This Issue:	
Upcoming Events.....	p. 2
UMW, F.U.N. Group.....	p. 3
Kid's Club, Youth Group.....	p. 4
Children's Christmas Program.....	p. 5
Calendar.....	p. 6
Birthdays & Anniversaries.....	p. 7

## VITAL CHURCH TEAM

Will meet on Tuesday, January 9, 6:00 p.m. at Garaffa's Pizza to make plans for the year ahead. Want to join this enthusiastic, energetic group over delicious pizza? Call or email Mary Ella Fuquay if interested, so we can let the pizza shop owner know how many chairs we need. We welcome all to our meetings!

**POC:** Mary Ella, (540) 479-8265

## CHRISTMAS CARDS

**Don't throw those Christmas cards away!** Save the fronts for Ruby Courtney and put the signed portions in a special box for yourself. Each day, draw out a card and pray for the person!

## SUNDAY A.M. DISCIPLESHIP

Sun., January 14, 9:45 a.m. ~ The Seekers will be beginning a study of Paul's Letter to the Romans on Sunday, January 14, 2018. Our study will follow the outline of J. Vernon McGee's *Thru The Bible* study of Romans. The outline will be provided. Purchase of a book is not necessary. For those who wish to follow along with J. Vernon McGee's Book, please let Mary Ella Fuquay know. There are two volumes, and are currently priced at \$8.66 and \$8.97 respectively on Amazon or for \$6.29 each at Lifeway. (Shipping may apply). We look forward to your joining us for this long-term study (We will break for a Lenten study the Sunday after Ash Wednesday, and resume the Romans study after Easter). We expect to finish prior to Labor Day!

**POC:** Patrick Lonergan, (540) 907-9794

## MAKING DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS (HONDURAS 2018)

On 7 January 2018, after the 11:00 service, we will be having our first meeting to discuss the mission trip to Honduras. The dates for the trip are 26 May-2 June 2018. A \$200.00 nonrefundable deposit will be due NO LATER THAN 15 January. If you have any questions or would like further information, please contact Peg Jones, 540-775-5729, pegjonesva@gmail.com.

## REMOVING OF THE GREENS

It is time for the beautiful Christmas decorations to come down and packed away for next year. Removing of the greens will take place Saturday, January 6 at 10:00 a.m. Anyone wanting to help is invited to come!

**POC:** Erica Murray, (540) 907-3263

## POSSIBLE F.U.N. GROUP TRIPS:

1. Shannon Air Museum at our nearby Shannon Airport, where our own Butch Cover is a docent!
2. Terra Cotta Army exhibit at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond (exhibit is on until 3/11).

Watch for sign-up sheets to indicate interest only; we'll set up the trips based on numbers of folks who want to attend.

**POC:** Mary Ella Fuquay, (540) 479-8265

# UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

United Methodist Women officers will be holding a planning meeting over lunch (location to be determined) on Monday, January 8. This will precede our regular meeting on Wednesday, January 10. Come and join us and give your input for the year ahead! Call or email Mary Ella Fuquay if interested; we'll meet at church and go to lunch from there. **POC:** Mary Ella Fuquay, (540) 479-8265 or mefuquay@gmail.com



**F.U.N. GROUP TRIP coming up!** On January 2, let's carpool to Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens to see the beautiful light display AND hear the wonderful roaming carolers that evening! We'll leave the church parking lot at 4:30 p.m., have a light supper in the Lewis Ginter cafe, and then stroll the gardens to enjoy the lights. Please sign up on the sheet on the mail bulletin board, and indicate if you wish to be a driver or a rider. Last year's trip for this same event was wonderful!! **POC:** Mary Ella Fuquay

From Stewardship Matters of Virginia LLC\*

Comments on the new Tax Cut and Jobs Act (H.R. 1) recently passed by the US Congress

After reading several summaries and reports by financial advisors and tax experts, I urge you to pass this information along to your congregation ASAP via e-sources regarding charitable contributions. Also, share it on Sunday morning with a way for anyone not prepared to give then be able to bring such contributions before the end of the day. Primarily, this affects only those who itemize their deductions.

**SUGGESTION:** IF YOU GENERALLY FILE TAXES USING SCHEDULE A, ITEMIZED DEDUCTIONS, you will be wise to pay forward charitable contributions now before the end of 2017. The Tax Cut and Jobs Acts (H.R. 1) recently passed by congress makes some serious changes that will effect charitable contributions. There are other changes that are not addressed here.

In 2018 the standard deduction will be raised significantly and may wipe out the value of itemized deductions. Therefore, any advance contributions in 2017 will have value now that may not have value for your 2018 taxes. E-contributions made no later than December 31 are acceptable.

In addition, the wise Finance Committee will note such extra contributions and provide a way to preserve these funds to be used throughout 2018 and not spend the funds prematurely.

Consult the Virginia UM Foundation, [www.vaumgifts.org/news](http://www.vaumgifts.org/news) or [www.HuffingtonPost.com](http://www.HuffingtonPost.com), [www.Forbes.com](http://www.Forbes.com) for more information, or your tax advisor.

Stewardship Matters of Virginia LLC, Rev. David A. Rash, helps churches grow faithful and generous stewards, disciples of Jesus Christ.

\*Rev. David Rash, Stewardship Matters of Virginia LLC is not a certified financial planner nor an attorney and urges anyone with questions to consult the proper experts.



## KIDS CLUB & YOUTH GROUP



Kid's Club joined with the Gardner family for an Advent & Ornament party on December 10. The children listened to the Christmas Story and the meaning of Advent. They made LOTS of crafts and ornaments. There was even a visit from Santa! A great time was had by all!



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The Children's Choir will sing at the 11:00 service on Sunday, January 21! All children are welcome to join us. We practice during the first 15 minutes or so of the Sunday School hour, 9:45.

POC: Liz Morris, [momx3gnmad@verizon.net](mailto:momx3gnmad@verizon.net) or [540-226-5133](tel:540-226-5133)



## KIDS CLUB CHILDREN'S PROGRAM



The Children's Christmas Program was held on January 17. It was entitled "Come and See". The children did a beautiful job and the program was followed by a birthday party for Jesus. We "gave gifts" to the baby Jesus by placing hats/scarves/mittens/etc. on our Warm Tree. These warm items will be given to the children at Hope House. It was a wonderful way to remember the true meaning of Christmas for the children. And for us.



# January 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>2</b> 7:00 WBB	<b>3</b> 10:00 am UMW Crafts 7:00 Choir Practice	<b>4</b> 6:30 a.m. Micah Brkfst 10a.m. Mother's Devotional 6:00 p.m. UR 6:29 Prayer 7:00 Al Anon 7:00 Trustees	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 7:00 PLAM 8:00 Men's Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Removing of the greens
<b>7</b> 12:15 Emmaus Reunion 4:00 Griefshare 5:00 Praise Practice 5:45 Evening Worship 6:30 UMYF	<b>8</b> 9-11 Food Pantry 10:00 am Prayer 5:30 Upper Room 6:30 p.m. Cub Scout	<b>9</b> 7:45 a.m. Exercise 11:30 Disc. 4 1:00 God's Celebrators 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts 6:30 Vital Church @ Garraffa's Pizza 7:00 WBB	<b>10</b> 10:00 am UMW Meeting 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts 7:00 Choir 7:00 Finance	<b>11</b> 10a.m. MD 6:00 p.m. UR 6:29 Prayer 7:00 Al Anon 7:00 Worship	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 7:00 am Pray Like a Man 8:00 Men's Bible Study 1:00 pm Emmaus Gathering
<b>14</b> 9:45 a.m. 2nd Sunday Fellowship 9:45 Romans study begins 4:00 Griefshare 5:00 Praise Practice 6:30 UMYF	<b>15</b> 9-11 Food Pantry 10:00 am Prayer 5:30 Upper Room 6:30 p.m. Cub Scout	<b>16</b> 7:45 a.m. Exercise 11:30 Disc. 4 1:00 God's Celebrators 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts 7:00 WBB	<b>17</b> 10:00 am UMW Crafts 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts 7:00 Choir	<b>18</b> 10a.m. MD 6:00 p.m. UR 6:29 Prayer 7:00 Al Anon 7:00 Ad. Council	<b>19</b> 1-5 p.m. Love & Laundry	<b>20</b> 7:00 Pray Like a Man 8:00 Men's Bible Study
<b>21</b> 7:30 a.m. UMM Breakfast 9:45 a.m. Romans Study 11:00 Children Sing 12:15 p.m. Kids Club Event 4:00 Griefshare 5:00 Praise Practice 6:30 UMYF	<b>22</b> 9-11 Food Pantry 10:00 am Prayer 5:30 Upper Room 6:30 p.m. Cub Scout	<b>23</b> 7:45 a.m. Exercise 11:30 Disc. 4 1:00 God's Celebrators 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts 7:00 WBB	<b>24</b> 10:00 am UMW Crafts 5:30 p.m. Bell Choir Resumes 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts 7:00 Choir	<b>25</b> 10:00 a.m. MD 6:00 Upper Room 6:29 Prayer 6:30 p.m. Cub Scout Comm. Mtg. 7:00 Al Anon	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 7:00 Pray Like a Man 8:00 Men's Bible Study
<b>28</b> 9:45 a.m. Romans Study 4:00 Griefshare 5:00 Praise Practice 6:30 UMYF 3:30-7 p.m. Thurman Brisben	<b>29</b> 9-11 Food Pantry 10:00 am Prayer 5:30 Upper Room 6:30 p.m. Cub Scout	<b>30</b> 7:45 a.m. Exercise 11:30 Disc. 4 1:00 God's Celebrators 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts 7:00 WBB	<b>31</b> 10:00 am UMW Crafts 5:30 p.m. Bell Choir 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts 7:00 Choir			

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Sherrie Roland
- 4 Haley White
- 5 Mitch Gallant
- 7 Craig Cate
- 7 Don Clark
- 7 Elizabeth Morris
- 8 Gail Day
- 8 Linda Reichard
- 9 Pat Tony
- 14 Geoffrey Morris
- 17 Kiana Brooks
- 20 Becky Doyal
- 22 Jason Toombs
- 22 Katie Plum
- 22 Larry Vida
- 23 Roger Varela
- 23 Todd Repass
- 23 Wayne Hogue
- 27 David Kinneer
- 27 Merinell Vance
- 29 Evelyn Penn
- 30 Darryl Barnes
- 31 Betsy Anderson

The food pantry ladies would like to thank everyone for their contribution over the past year. We served an average of three families a week and were able to distribute two bags of food to each family. We also take food to Empower House and Hope House once a month. The Boy & Girl Scouts have also generously donated to the food pantry making it possible to hand out 17 Thanksgiving food baskets and 14 Christmas food baskets this year. The hope is to be able to provide Easter food baskets next year. Thank you for your support as we continue to meet the needs of less fortunate families in the New Year.

St. Matthias Building for the Future Fund

2017 Goal: \$12,000

2017 Received: \$15,297

## JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 R. Allan & Sherry King
- 6 Darryl & Dawn Kehrer
- 25 Tom & Susan Wiegand

Ladies Exercise class kicks off 2018 at 8 am ~  
Tuesday, January 9, 2018.

Come join the ladies for a fun filled hour while getting fit. All are welcome, no matter what your fitness level.

Cost: \$70 for a 10 week session.

Time: 8 a.m. Tuesdays.

Lead by Marie Vaz, a Professional Personal Trainer with 25 years of experience.

Contact Cathy Bray for more info at  
[540-371-1380](tel:540-371-1380) or [cathy@twobrays.com](mailto:cathy@twobrays.com)



Thank you for your generous gifts, love and prayers this past year. May God richly bless you!

TRUSTEE REPORT  
December 2017  
Rich Kaufmann

As I write this article we are closing in on another year. First, I want to thank the trustees for their support and help throughout the year. Thanks to Peter Vernimb, Patrick Lonergan, Derrick Hoiska, Barbara Knutson, Mark McClelland, David Hawkins and Brandon Keene. Our focus during the year was to do what was right for God's house and not our own interests. I think we accomplished this objective.

In review here is a list of projects we worked on:

- Purchased a new dishwasher, soil and clean tables for the kitchen. Thanks to the generosity of the UMW who funded the items.
- Installed security cameras inside and out on the church. For years we have known of kids climbing on the roof where there is expensive equipment. Now we will have evidence to give to the police. We were also made aware of suspicious activities occurring in the parking lot in the early morning hours.
- Started construction of a much needed storage shed. While it was a very challenging project to find a contractor to do a small job we finally have the foundation in place. Trustees have decided to build the rest in the spring; so watch out for the announcement for help. A big THANK YOU to Jennifer Sprow who drew the architectural plans as a school project. Jennifer, Free Lance Star's November student of the month from Stafford, won a silver medal for technical drafting at the district championship and gold medal for additive manufacturing at the state championship and gold medals for architectural drafting at the district, state and national championships.  
**Congratulations Jennifer!!**
- Thank you to Mike Murray for removing an overgrown tree at the parsonage and Peter Vernimb for pressure washing the ramp and railing. Also Derrick Hoiska sealed the parsonage driveway before winter.
- We completed the ceiling insulation project of the social hall, kitchen and bathrooms thanks to David Hawkins and Derrick Hoiska.
- Thanks to the Girl Scout troop for resurfacing our playground area and cleaning the toys.
- Pastor Pat, Peter Vernimb and I interviewed at least three cleaning firms when Greg Anderson obtained employment in DC. Cheerl's Cleaning Service was ultimately chosen and I have heard numerous compliments on her work.
- Thanks to Mark McClelland for replacing light bulbs and ballasts in most rooms to LEDs which will help save electric usage.
- Replaced the garbage disposal in the kitchen.
- Had the road sign repaired so the glass doors can be easily raised and lowered.
- There may be other items that were handled and I thank whoever worked on them.





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



## St. Matthias United Methodist Church

A Christ-centered community of faith, reaching, teaching, loving, and serving.

"A church alive is worth the drive!"

***A Prayer Covenant Congregation of the Virginia Conference***

Phone: (540) 373-8759 - Email: [office@stmatthiasumc.org](mailto:office@stmatthiasumc.org)

**8:45 & 11:00 Worship**

Staffed nursery for infants – 5 yrs.

**1st & 3rd Sundays**

5:45 p.m. Evening Worship

**Discipleship Groups 9:45 – 10:45**

Classes for all ages: 3 years - adults

Staffed nursery for infants - 2 years

***Nursery Volunteers Always Appreciated!!!!***