

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

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Newsletter Deadline  
 May 20<sup>th</sup>

**St. Matthias United Methodist Church**  
 426 Deacon Road  
 Fredericksburg, Virginia 22405  
 Phone: (540) 373-8759  
 Email: [office@stmatthiasumc.org](mailto:office@stmatthiasumc.org)

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

# The Messenger

Volume I, Issue 5

May 2010

### NEEDED:

Our monthly newsletter, The Messenger, is taking on a new look! Help is needed to create a new logo specifically for St. Matthias. If you or anyone you know would like to submit a logo design, please email Chris at [office@stmatthiasumc.org](mailto:office@stmatthiasumc.org) or Dianne Moore our newsletter editor at [Dianne.moore@cox.net](mailto:Dianne.moore@cox.net).

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## One of My Favorite Stories about Hope..... Retold

The school system in a large city had a program to help children keep up with their school work during stays in the city's hospitals. One day a teacher who was assigned to the program received a routine call asking her to visit a particular child. She took the child's name and room number and talked briefly with the child's regular class teacher.

"We're studying nouns and adverbs in his class now," the regular teacher said, "and I'd be grateful if you could help him understand them so he doesn't fall too far behind."

The hospital program teacher went to see the boy that afternoon. No one had mentioned to her

that the boy had been badly burned and was in great pain. Upset at the sight of the boy, she stammered as she told him, "I've been sent by your school to help you with nouns and adverbs."

When she left she felt she hadn't accomplished much. But the next day, a nurse asked her, "What did you do to that boy?" The teacher felt she must have done something wrong and began to apologize.

"No, no," said the nurse. "You don't know what I mean. We've been worried about that little boy, but ever since yesterday, his whole attitude has changed. He's fighting back, responding to treatment. It's as though he's decided to

live." Two weeks later the boy explained that he had completely given up hope until the teacher arrived. Everything changed when he came to a simple realization. He expressed it this way: "They wouldn't send a teacher to work on nouns and adverbs with a dying boy, would they?"

Each of us can be a ray of hope to someone who is having a hard time.

"Don't take away someone's hope, it may be all they have."

Yours in faith, love, and hope,

Pastor Paula

## Food Cards



**Need Food!  
 Buy Scrip!**

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

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

## FACELIFT

St. Matthias is planning a facelift to our Sanctuary. This is being done to enhance our worship experience in both the near and future timeframes. A project committee has been formed from members of the Worship Committee and the Board of Trustees. This committee will develop a phase plan (near & far term); similar to that used by the highly successful Narthex Renovation Team.

A report will be generated by the Sanctuary Renovation Team which details the first phase and describes the features of latter phases to enhance the sanctuary. A list of the changes includes (not all listed changes are included in

Phase 1:

- A. Glare Reduction Window Film
- B. Improved Choir Lights

- C. Secure Sound Booth
- D. HD Projector & Screen
- E. Conceal Screen by artistic design
- F. Enclose & paint Front-Side Walls
- G. Add hanging microphones above choir
- H. Update the Sound System equipment

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The United Methodist Women will be catering a reception at an awards program at Stafford Senior High School on June 1.

Once again we are asking for help from the congregation. Money from this event will go toward the parsonage

loan. We would appreciate any monetary support you can give.

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 to all who sent cards to me offering their sympathy and concern for me at this time in my life.

My mother, Lelah Felix, age 94, died April 4, 2010 in Claremont, California. I, along with my brother and sister were at her bedside when she "got her wings,"

as Arlene Haney so apply stated when I talked with her at church last Sunday. I never realized how wonderful it would feel to open a card from

someone who 'cared,' about me and my feelings. Your thoughtfulness has been greatly appreciated.

Love,  
Jacque Arthur

## This Month's Birthdays!

1	Benjamin Belako
2	Billie Jean Hardwick
6	David Conrad
6	Jennifer Moore
7	Tim Bray
8	Jennifer Brennan
8	Debra Garland
8	Walt Smith
10	Paul Balgavy
10	Westin Davis
11	Kalli Duling
11	John Nedza
13	Ben Earnhardt
16	Sonny Bray
16	Michelle Holmes
16	Gretchen Nichols
16	Domenic Scarcia
17	Joseph Dunkin
19	Andra Reventlow
20	Deborah Davis
20	Roger Morgan
20	Joshua Polen
20	Jeffrey Thompson
21	Carole Hall
22	Christie Conrad
22	Kendall Wilkerson
23	Christian Zwileneff
26	Patsy Vida
27	Lois Nedza
28	Julie Dixon
28	Jennifer Little

## May Birthdays & Anniversaries



9	Lucien & Harriet Lane
16	Thomas & Missy Rosner
21	Charles & Barbara Kendall
22	Joseph & Bobbie Dunkin
24	Matthew & Beth McBride
29	Cliff & Tammi Ellis
31	Barry & Peggy Jones

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



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 *6:30pm Cub Scouts *7pm UMYF	3 *6:30pm Cub Scouts *6:30pm Disciple I	4 *7:30pm UMYF *7pm Trustee Mtg.	5 *10am UMW *11am Prayer *7pm Choir	6 *7pm Al-Anon	7	8
9	10 *6:30pm Cub Scouts *6:30pm Disciple I	11	12 *10am UMW *11am Prayer *7pm Choir *7pm Fi-	13 *7pm Worship *7pm Al-Anon	14	15 *7pm Bridge
16 *7:30am UMM Breakfast *12pm Kid's Club *6:30pm Cub Scouts *7pm UMYF	17 *6:30pm Cub Scouts *6:30pm Disciple I	18	19 *10am UMW *11am Prayer *7pm Choir	20 Newsletter Deadline *7pm Ad. Council Mtg. *7pm Al-Anon	21	22
23 *6:30pm Cub Scouts *7pm UMYF	24 *6:30pm Cub Scouts *6:30pm Disciple I	25	26 *10am UMW *11am Prayer *7pm Choir	27 *7pm Girl Scouts *7pm Al-Anon	28	29
30 *12pm Potato Bar	31 Memorial Day Office Closed					

## ST. MATTHIAS UNITED METHODIST YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

### Dear Youth and Parents,

St. Matthias is so much more than a place of worship to me. It is home. It is family. And I absolutely know it is the church home of THE MOST AMAZING YOUTH EVER! Ever since Mick and I became UMYF leaders back in December 2007, I have had an incredible blessing added to my life. I have discovered a "filling station" at St. Matthias! Every Sunday, I walk through the doors of the youth room, and my heart and soul are filled to overflowing with love and laughter, compassion and caring, acceptance and purpose, and a deep joy.

Each of you are such unique and wonderful gifts, filled with so many special talents and abilities, and have offered your love and hugs so freely to us over these past few years. I have been so blessed by EVERY experience we have shared together, both the laughter and the tears, the "AMAZING God times"...praising God together, seeking God together, serving God together, and learning about His love for us, together! It has been such a gift to see how God has worked in each of you, and through you... and how He shines in so many of your eyes and smiles! I get so excited when I think about the future, because I CAN-NOT WAIT to find out how God will call on each of you to serve Him, and in what wonderful ways you will respond to His call...and be BLESSED!

It truly broke my heart when I told Pastor Paula I would need to step down from UMYF in April...it hurts even worse now April has arrived. It came much too quickly. I cannot say enough HOW MUCH I LOVE YOU GUYS!!! If it weren't for my mother needing me to care for her as she convalesces from serious surgery... and our family moving to Orlando in June... I would NOT be leaving UMYF!!!

Did I mention just HOW MUCH I LOVE YOU GUYS!!! EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU!!! UMYF will continue without interruption, as Mrs. Reichard, Mr. & Mrs. Rivera and Mr. Wood have some awesome blessings in store for you! I also KNOW that an awesome Youth Director will arrive in God's perfect time, and together, you will continue to do incredible things for Christ. (Remember: IF you don't put God "in a box" He will exceed any expectation you have!)

As I write this, my mother's condition is very precarious, and I have no way of knowing how many weekends between now and our move I will be home with her. I hope Mick & I can come "hang out" with you guys soon! I am already waaay past due on a "filler up" of UMYF hugs & laughs, blessings & smiles!

**SHINE ON!**  
Dixie  
MATTHEW 5:16

\*\*\*\*\*

**The family of  
Ralph Redding  
acknowledges with deep appreciation your kind  
expressions of sympathy**

*To the Saints at St. Matthias:*

*Thank you so much for your love and support following the Homegoing of our father and grandfather. Your cards and notes and in-person expressions of sympathy and understanding have been a source of solace and strength to our family. A special "thank you" to Pastor Paula for visits, prayers and supportive words at the hospital and at home. Also, special thanks to Carol Hall and the choir for their support and generous gift of a memorial plant.*

*Jerry, Ruth,  
JR, Vicki and Cliff Redding and Burton*



## Mother / Daughter Banquet

May 12, 2010 at 6:30 pm

The UMW of St. Matthias invites our ladies to bring their daughters, mothers, grandmothers, aunts, nieces, and/or granddaughters to our banquet on Wednesday evening, May 12, 2010. If you don't have family that lives close by, then bring someone special who is *like* a mother, daughter, etc. Bring your someone special and enjoy the evening. Our meal will be casual and simple; those coming are **asked to bring a salad or a dessert**. There should be plenty of laughter as Sherry King promises to liven up the evening with games. If you would like to help set up or decorate, please call Sherry King 373-1759 or Debbie Whittington 372-7521.

### Coming in June!!!

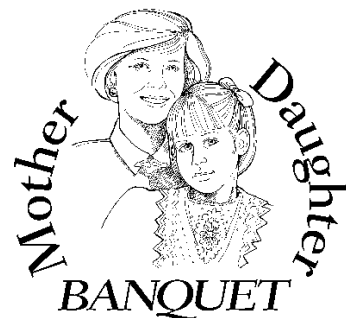
Ladies, you are invited to lunch for our June meeting of the UMW, which is June 9. We will be having lunch at an historic Eileen's. We will gather at the church 10 am for a short meeting & devotional. Then we will carpool to the restaurant as parking is limited. Come and join us as we get-away to our own hometown. We won't be meeting again until September.

### Wednesday is Craft Day

Join us each Wednesday at 10 am for our craft workshop. We work year long for our fall craft bazaar. Supplies and ideas are provided. We always need more hands. Come join the fun.

### ON GOING PROJECTS for UMW ITEMS EVERYONE SHOULD BE SAVING:

1. Quart Jars
2. Items to place in Shoe boxes used for Children's - Samaritans Purse - Christmas gifts (already have enough boxes, just need these filler items
  - A. toys that will fit in the boxes
  - B. school supplies
  - C. tooth paste
  - D. tooth brushes
3. old stamps
4. old cards with small pictures
5. used tea bags
6. Christmas Gift Basket Items:
  - A. Tea towels (new)
  - B. Decorative hand towels (new)
  - C. Ornaments
  - D. Candles
  - E. gadgets



### April Meeting of UMW

Our Trolley ride in Fredericksburg was a big hit!!! We had 24 in attendance. Our driver was informative and entertaining. Thanks to all who came. Your presence made it a big success!!

Hope to see you in May.

## Kid's Club

### All children grades 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> are invited

May 16<sup>th</sup>, Kid's Club will be leaving at 12:15 pm for La Grange Farm to go PONY back riding! Pack a bag lunch and bring it with you. We will eat at the farm while we receive a lesson on "pony etiquette". We will also go for a hay ride. The cost per child will be \$10.00 each. You must dress in blue jeans (no khakis or sweatpants) and boots are recommended (hiking boots will work, tennis shoes if nothing else, absolutely

no open toed shoes allowed.) We should be back at church around 2:30 pm. Invite a friend to share in the fun!

**In order to confirm this booking, we need a head count ASAP. Thank you in advance for your prompt response!**

A permission slip must be filled out before anyone may attend. If you have any questions contact

Rosa Hogue at [rosahogue@cox.net](mailto:rosahogue@cox.net) or Julie Dixon at [jrdixon11@cox.net](mailto:jrdixon11@cox.net)



## Prayer Encounter Workshop

Saturday, June 19, 2010 Fredericksburg, Va.

The Evangelical Fellowship of the Virginia, in cooperation with Tabernacle United Methodist Church and Wilderness Community United Methodist Church of Spotsylvania, is offering a *Prayer Encounter Workshop* on Saturday, June 19, 2010, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The registration fee for the Workshop is \$30 per person and includes a box lunch and snacks. Each participant may reserve an optional workbook at a cost of \$15.00 each. Make checks payable to Tabernacle United Methodist Church and mail to Michelle Pinheiro, Tabernacle United Methodist Church, 7310A Old Plank Road, Fredericksburg, Va. 22407.

The purpose of the Prayer Encounter Workshop is to enhance an individual's prayer life and to resource a congregation's prayer ministries. The presenter will be The Rev. Dr. Terry Teykl. Terry's passion for prayer is contagious as he communicates foundational principles and practical ideas. Terry is an ordained Elder in the Texas Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church.

The deadline for registration is Monday, June 14.

## 4 Cans for Conference

**What's needed?** *4 cans of food per every lay and clergy member of the 2010 Annual Conference!*  
That means:

**1 can of vegetable/fruit**, such as corn, beans, peas, mixed vegetables, potatoes, pasta sauces, peaches, pears, mixed fruit, etc.

**1 can of meat/fish/pasta**, such as corned beef, canned chicken, tuna, salmon, tamales, spaghetti-o's, ravioli, etc.

**1 can of soup/stew**, including ready to eat soups, beef stew, gumbo, Brunswick stew, vegetarian soups, etc.

**1 pull-open can**, with a variety of contents, that may be opened without an additional can opener, as many go directly to people living on the streets without kitchen access.

**What's the back-story?** We Virginia United Methodists have a long tradition of bringing missional supplies to Conference every summer, starting with the baby Blankets that used to ring our plenary sessions, to the truckloads of potatoes we now bag, to the array of Conference Kits – school, health, flood relief, etc – and special offerings. This year, each lay and clergy member is asked to bring a *minimum* of 4 cans of food to Annual Conference in Norfolk in June, to benefit the SEVA Food Bank. *If every attendee brought at least 4 cans of food, we might easily be able to deliver more than 10,000 cans (or 5 tons of food) by the end of Conference, and supply the SEVA Food Bank with a substantial resource for its work.*

**What other items does the SEVA Food Bank need?** Boxed food items, including hot and cold cereals, pasta, grits, monetary contributions (tax deductible, with checks payable to SEVA Food Bank), bread, dried beans, powdered milk and other drinks, etc.

**What's not needed?** Novelty items, damaged cans/pouches, expired/old cans, rusty cans, soft drinks, alcohol content items, spices, items which require complex preparation and/or equipment, glass jars, home-canned items, perishable items, OTC medications, non-sealed items, etc.

**Who's the SEVA Food Bank?** See their web-site: [www.foodbankonline.org](http://www.foodbankonline.org). The SEVA Food Bank is a non-profit operation, one of many across the Commonwealth of Virginia and other states, that helps feed those in need.

**Who can participate?** Individuals, Sunday School Classes, Youth Groups, Friends, any and all givers (including *folk outside the UM tradition*), Lay Persons, Clergy (*active and retired*), children, families, and ANYONE who cares about the hungry in Tidewater, or anywhere!

**All it takes is 4 cans of food.**

**Cans for Conference**



## **Administrative Council Meeting** **Thursday, April 15, 2010**

**DEVOTION:** Romans 12: 1-10. God rewards those who work “invisibly”. No service for Christ goes un-noticed. We are one church yet many members with many gifts. Let us all use the gifts given us to glorify our risen Lord.

**CALENDARING:** The following additions were made to the calendar.

- 24 April – UMM to serve breakfast at Micah ministry
- 2 May – All donations for Red Bird need to be at the church
- 3 May – Cub Scouts will put the backpacks together for Red Bird
- 15 May (7:00am) – Potato drop for Society of St. Andrew (SOSA) at Peace UMC
- 23 and 30 May – Pastor Paula will be on vacation
- 30 May (4:00pm) – Serving at Thurman Brisbane Shelter

**SAFE SANCTUARY:** Peg Jones and Michael Trant will lead the training. The Safe Sanctuary committee will be trained first and will draft a church policy. MANDATORY church-wide training (for all volunteers/staff who work with youth/children and anyone else who is interested) will be 13 June (another date to be determined).

**PLANNING CONFERENCE: Postponed from 16 May until late summer**

**CHECKING VITAL SIGNS:** We now have copies of the book if anyone is interested in reviewing it. First review of the information indicates we have already done most of the program when the Study Committee did their report. The program could be shortened as a result of the surveys and work done by the Study Committee.

**SCOUT LIAISON:** Gordon Payne is the Institutional Representative.

**FINANCE REPORT**

- Expenditures exceeded revenue for March.
- There are 11 payments left on the church loan and 7 remaining on the parsonage loan.
- March had the lowest revenue to date, yet revenue is ahead of 2009.
- We should be at about 25% of the budget spent, and we are.

**MISSION REPORT:** Lots of things continue to happen with missions at St. Matthias.

- UMM serving breakfast at Micah Ministries April 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00am.
- Red Bird mission donations will be collected May 2 with Scouts filling backpacks May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Bob has volunteered to take the backpacks to Red Bird Mission the second week in May. If anyone is interested in going, please contact him.
- SOSA potato drop will be at Peace UMC May 15 at 7:00am.
- Thurman Brisbane dinner will be served May 30.
- Mission is looking for host families for participants in the “Trail of Dreams” walk. More information to follow.
- “School Dressing Day” will be the summer mission project.
- Missions wants to partner with UMYF to expand the recycling of items at St. Matthias.

**TRUSTEES REPORT:** Doug reported the Trustees continue to make improvements.

- Classroom 17 will not be painted per request from UMYF.
- Two heat pumps have been purchased and will be installed in the pastor's office and the church office.
- “Parking for Visitor” signs have been purchased and will be affixed to the lamp posts.
- There is to be NO parking on the side. This is a fire code regulation.
- Trustees are rethinking how best to repair the parking lot.

**SANCTUARY RENOVATION PROJECT:** Doug reported the committee reviewed six components for the renovation/facelift of the sanctuary. They are:

- Glare from the windows
- Lighting for choir
- Control booth for the audio/visual system
- Projector/screen
- Concealing the screen by artistic design
- Enclosing front side walls

**COMMUNICATIONS:** Don reported

- He is looking into having another pictorial directory made this fall.
- Verizon FiOS was installed on 19 April.
- He is still looking for feedback for the church website.



**You are invited to a Sweet Potato Drop, Saturday, 7AM, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010**  
**Society of St. Andrew's Potato and Produce Project**  
 Hosted by Peace United Methodist Church,  
 and the Spotsylvania (Fredericksburg) Cluster of UMC Churches.  
**7AM 'til Noon. UMM, UMW, UMYF, and scout groups invited**  
**To bag and load potatoes for Regional Food Closets and Church Pantries**

**Help is needed to bag potatoes, and load food bank trucks.**  
 For more information or to participate, call Bob Dixon at 373-6718.

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"Mission Opportunity to Peru - August 2010"  
 Wilderness Community UMC in Spotsylvania is organizing a mission trip to  
 Lima, Peru August 2-10, 2010. Open to Youth and Adults, Middle Schoolers  
 may attend with a parent or designated guardian. \$200 deposit by May 15 and  
 \$1600 total cost. For more information contact Pastor Keith Boyette at  
[pastor@wildernesschurch.org](mailto:pastor@wildernesschurch.org) or by calling 540-972-8808.

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### Projected FUN Group and Senior FUN Group Activities for 2010

#### FUN Group

#### Senior FUN Group

May: Mount Pony Theatre/Dinner  
Culpeper, VA

June: Tour Monpelier mansion  
Orange, VA

September: Seafood @Capt. Johns  
Cobb Island, MD

October: Historic Fredericksburg walk/  
Lunch downtown

December: Christmas Theatre at the West End Assembly of God  
Richmond, VA

(October 1st deadline for signing up and paying for this event.  
Tickets must be reserved well in advance.)

All of these events are tentative and subject to date changes due to scheduling conflicts  
that may arise. The FUN Group Committee will keep you informed.

Announcements and Sign Up sheets will be posted for each activity on the bulletin  
board in the narthex

## Some Financial Q's and A's

### Do We Pay for Communion?

No, it is offered free of charge, just as God's gift of salvation and grace is free.

### Why are there baskets where people drop money after receiving communion?

Those baskets receive the special offerings people give to help others. The money goes into a *Pastor's Emergency Fund* and is used to help people in this congregation and outside in the community.

### Why a special collection on communion Sunday when offerings are taken every Sunday?

The offering received every Sunday pays for the on-going costs of running the church – the same sort of expenses that your household budget covers: mortgage, utilities, repairs/maintenance, staff salaries, the pastor's medical/retirement benefits, books, music and teaching materials, and the worldwide outreach serving needs through the United Methodist Church.

#### *Your money does a lot!*

Your money also provides mission outreach programs. However, special emergency needs come up for people in this congregation and people who have heard that we are caring Christians (those who are homeless and need a night in a motel, those who need gas money to get back home, those who are hungry).

### How do I know my gifts to the communion offering are used well?

The Pastor tries to be a good steward of your monies and investigates, as much as possible, the needs presented. Of course, there will be occasions when the pastor's judgment may not be perfect in understanding and dealing with the need. Every attempt is made to made wise decisions with the money you have entrusted to this outreach.

### What are some occasions when communion money has been used to help?

- A. a tank of gas for family members to get to a Richmond hospital where a family member was taken due to an accident
- B. short-term motel lodging for a man recently released from prison so he could get to his job
- C. oftentimes --food cards for congregation members who are surviving on a financial edge

Matthew 25:34-36, 40

*"Come you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.'.....just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."*