



The Messenger



Volume 1, Issue 8

September 2011

Pastor's Thoughts

The most important thing in your life is your relationship with God. Period. Everything else is secondary: family, friends, job, country, house, car, education, reputation, any important thing you can name is not as important as your relationship with God.

I believe this with all my heart, but it leads to some trepidation. What does a human being's relationship with God look like? God is, after all, everything we are not: infinite, eternal, all-knowing, all-powerful, everywhere all the time, bigger than the universe He created. How in the world are people supposed to have a relationship with someone or something that is virtually beyond our comprehension?

That's a good question. It seems impossible. But, we need to keep in mind a couple of things. We can understand the basic nature of God through the life, ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. He was God in the flesh, and reveals to us many important and wonderful things about his Father. And, it's very good to remember that our God, who is all those bigger-than-all-of-us things, loves us more than we can imagine. God loves us infinitely and aggressively. God loves us no matter who we are, where we live, what we do, how we look, and even how we live. God's grace, God's generous and amazing grace, is constantly being showered down upon us. God's love for us flows over us and through us, all the time. It's just a matter of being open to it to receive it. We need to be paying attention to what God is up to in the world and in our lives. Then, we can be aware of God's love and generosity.

So, instead of answering the first question, I imply other questions: How do we pay attention? How can we be open? How can we be aware? We need to develop and nurture an attitude of attentiveness to God. We need to find a posture, a stance of attentiveness that will allow us to recognize God's gifts, and allow us to "hear" what God is trying to say to us all the time, everywhere.

We do this by developing a lifelong practice of prayer, speaking to God and listening to God. This includes conversational prayer, and the quiet listening practices of meditation and contemplation. We need to study the Bible to find what God is saying to each one of us, personally, at that moment. We need to gather with others to worship and praise God, as well as to hear, again, His word through silence and sermon, hymns and prayers. And, any authentic relationship with God will lead us to serve God by serving God's Creation (which means every living thing, not just Christians, not just religious people, not just people who love us, not just people, period).

Prayer, study, worship and service. These are the things that will open us up to receive all God is trying to give us all the time. It's a good thing we are all part of a church that offers those very things. Let's work and play together to make St. Matthias a beautiful community of faith and service, so that we can offer Christ to others as well as grow as disciples ourselves. The Adventure is just beginning.

Peace and Prayers,
Walt

August Administrative Council News

DEVOTION: "People invest time and energy into developing their career; their bodies and relations, but often neglect the spiritual dimension of their lives. How do you actively pursue spiritual growth?"

Calendar Changes: The following changes were made to the church calendar.

ADDITIONS:

- 11 Sep: Dust & Ashes will lead both services
- 11 Sep: Katrina Meeting, 12:00
- 12 Sep-31 Oct (every Monday, 10:00am, at church): Bible Study, "Who Stole my Church?"
- 12 Sep-31 Oct (every Monday, 7:00pm, on Facebook): Bible Study, "Who Stole my Church?"
- 13 Sep-1 Nov (every Tuesday, 7:00pm, at church): Bible Study, "Who Stole my Church?"
- 18 Sep: SPRC Meeting, 12:00
- 20 Sep: SpiriTed, 7:00pm
- 2 Oct: Katrina Meeting (commitment), 12:00
- 7 Oct: Set up for UMW Craft Sale/Fall Festival
- 8 Oct: UMW Craft Sale/Fall Festival, 8:00am-3:00pm
- 9 Oct: Children's Sabbath
- 11 Oct: Sr FUN Group to Graves Mountain Lodge
- 14 Oct: CHARGE CONFERENCE REPORTS DUE TO CHRIS
- 30 Oct: Potato Bar, 12:00
- 6-12 Nov: Katrina Mission Trip
- 7 Nov: District Charge Conference, 7:00pm, Hillcrest UMC
- 16 Nov: Finance Committee Meeting

DELETIONS:

- 7 Oct: Bridge
- 8 Oct: Children's Sabbath (moved to 9 Oct)
- 30 Oct: Charge Conference Reports are due (moved to 14 Oct)
- 9 Nov: Finance Committee Meeting (moved to 16 Nov)

New Charter Organization Representative (COR) for Cub Scout Pack: Michelle Thompson will serve as the new COR for the Cub Scout Pack we sponsor.

KUDOS: Thank you, Michelle, for serving in this position.

New Children's Ministry Committee Chair: Joan Polen has stepped up to serve as the head of Children's Ministry.

KUDO: Thank you, Joan, for listening to God's call.

Vacation Bible School (VBS): We had another successful VBS program this year. There were 52 children (41 of whom were not regular attendees at St. Matthias). A follow-up letter will be sent to the families of those who are not regular attendees inviting them to become a part of St. Matthias.

KUDOS: Thank you to Cheryl Potts and her staff for all the hard work that went into making it a success.

KUDOS: Special kudos to the Youth who also helped with the program.

Electronic Giving: Kathy Smith reported the Finance Committee is getting ready to launch the pilot program for electronic giving. The link will be put on our website for all to use or a form will be available in the office. The charge to the church is \$25.00 a month for the link and 25 cents for every transaction. We will not do charge card/debit card giving at this time. The program will run through the beginning of the year. Anyone interested in participating, please contact Kathy or Walt Smith.

Survey Committee: The committee will be contacting each member of the congregation soon.

UMYF Program: A meeting was held and 13 interested adults attended. It was decided the Group to Give Direction to Youth Ministry would be formed to support the program. A few offered to serve as leaders for UMYF.

School Dressing Days: Several people from St. Matthias served at School Dressing Days. Thank you to all who donated clothing, school supplies, and toiletries. All indications are it was another successful event that supported over 1500 needy children in the area.

Endowment/Memorial Funds: We have been batting around the idea of creating an Endowment Fund at St. Matthias. Derrick Hoiska did research and explained to the Ad Council what an endowment fund is and the steps we have to take to create it. He will write a detailed article for the newsletter and draft a presentation for a local charge conference and present it at the October Ad Council meeting for an official vote whether or not to establish an Endowment Committee.

Fall Festival: Derrick presented the idea of having a community fall festival the same time as the UMW Craft Sale on 8 October. Some ideas he suggested were a moon bounce, fire trucks brought in from the fire department, a smokehouse (run by the fire department), facepainting, pumpkin decorating, food sales (hotdogs, funnel cakes), popcorn sales (fundraiser for the youth), pony rides, etc. More information to follow. Ya'll come, ya hear!!

Finance Report: In spite of the heat, July was a good month financially, revenues exceeded expenses! The revised budget figure (after deleting the Youth Director salary/expenses and reducing the UMYF line to \$500) was \$260,208. Roof replacement funds are over \$13,000, which exceed the goal.

Pastor Report: The Ice Cream/Karaoke Social on 13 August went well. Over 50 people attended and plenty of home-made ice cream and desserts were available. Walt will be leading a Bible Study beginning 12 September and running through October (see Calendaring) on "Who Stole my Church? What do you do When the Church you Love Tries to Enter the 21st Century" by Gordon MacDonald. In addition, his Sunday School class will be studying "What's the Least I can Believe and Still be a Christian? A Guide to What Matters Most," by Martin Thielen beginning 18 September, everyone is invited to attend.

Trustees: Doug reported the Trustees continue to be busy as usual.

- a. The sanctuary roof shingles should be replaced by the time you read this.
- b. The cracked sanctuary window is scheduled to be repaired upon completion of the sanctuary roof replacement.

Charge Conference: The District Charge Conference will be held on 7 November, 7:00pm at Hillcrest UMC. The new District Superintendent, Dr. Ted Smith, stated the focus will be on "Reaching our Neighbors." We are to share answers to two questions: "(1) How do you go out into your community and world to reach neighbors, (2) How do you help neighbors connect to become disciples when they have found and connected with you?" All are invited to attend.

Evangelism: Debbie Whittington and the Evangelism Committee will be putting together a "Neighbors Newsletter" to send out to the community within a mile radius telling a little bit about St. Matthias and what we have to offer and inviting them to come be a part of our "family".

Blessings to you all as you continue to be God's servants,

Peg Jones



FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

The annual Fredericksburg area School Dressing Days event was held last month at the Bragg Hill Family Life Center. This event is sponsored by the Interfaith Community Council which St. Matthias UMC has been a member of for a number of years. Our Church's active participation really started a couple of years ago when a plea went out to local churches for additional volunteers to staff the event. We sent three or four volunteers that year, several last year, and this year we had at least eight of our members who helped with collecting items to be distributed, sorting through the donations and arranging them for the distribution, assisting families who attended with obtaining the items they needed, and then packing up at the conclusion of this three day event.

Besides volunteering their time, members of St. Matthias also supported School Dressing Days financially. Designated amounts started coming in not long after last year's event and by the end of July, we had collected \$865. Some of this money was used to purchase new items to be given out to participants; the remainder was donated to the organizing committee for their use in purchasing the needed items and supplies.

Organizers estimated that about 1,500 students were helped this year by receiving new pairs of jeans, socks and underwear, used clothing, and toiletries, as well as basic school supplies.

In addition to the St. Matthias members who gave their time and financial assistance, our Church also provided five cases of hand sanitizer and additional donations of clothing and school supplies.

Because of St. Matthias UMC, along with many other local churches that participated in the School Dressing Days, getting their children outfitted to return to school was a little easier this year for hundreds of local area families.

Kathleen Smith
Finance Committee



Trustees' Report

Your Board Of Trustees continue efforts to maintain St. Matthias. Recent efforts include:

1. The replacing of the Sanctuary Roof shingles will begin August 23rd and should be completed by the time you are reading this article.
2. The cracked Sanctuary Window is scheduled to be repaired upon completion of the Sanctuary Roof replacement. The repair cost for the vandalism to our window was covered by our insurance.
3. We passed our 2011 Fire Inspection after a repair to the alarm system; suggested improvements to our system (not required, yet) were placed on hold pending a more favorable financial time.
4. A new compressor was installed in the Social Hall's Air Conditioner (\$2,575).
5. The Programmable Thermostat controls continue to be a problem; therefore, BOT will update signage and provide temperature setting training. Recently, a church member reported a thermostat was not in the required "Program ON" mode. This condition results in high electric cost for the church and unpleasant temperatures for the future users of the room. By checking and reporting this problem, he was able to, in 2-button pushes (5 seconds), restart the thermostat's program.
6. Recent church Door Lock problems required 3 calls for locksmith; the problem has been isolated and will be fixed. The persistent problem of the outside-set Social Hall double doors not being closed has been resolved; leaving one of the inside-set of social hall doors open allows the lockable outside doors to latch properly.
7. SMUMC members may borrow Church Property, specifically, folding tables and metal social hall chairs from the church. These items must be checked-out and checked-in with the SMUMC secretary; this ensures there are no conflicts with other scheduled events. All borrowed items must be returned in as-good or better condition.
8. Gordon Payne reported the church's Commercial Dishwasher was not working properly and (get this) he offered to help fix it!!! Gordon Payne & Rodney Hubbard, aided by a downloaded service manual, repaired the dishwasher at no cost to the church. It is truly a blessing for church members to help maintain our church property.
9. The church office door was painted where damaged by Goldilocks. Also, The window partitions around the heat pumps were painted.

Doug Reading

INFORMATION ON ENDOWMENT PROGRAM FOR LOCAL CHURCHES

What is Endowment?

Endowment means to provide an income to make an investment in the future - to leave a legacy - to perpetuate in the future some interest which you now have. It means to provide for some special need or opportunity within the ministry of the church which might not otherwise be met (scholarship fund, music fund, mission fund). The goal is to have the endowment fund grow, with appropriate investment, while providing an annual income for some ministry of the church. Endowment income should not be designated for items in the regular operating budget.

An endowment fund is established for the purpose of providing members and friends the opportunity to make charitable gifts to the church that will become a permanent endowment of financial support and a living memorial.

There are two types of endowment funds:

A church-wide endowment fund that receives unrestricted gifts of any size, at any time. At the end of each year, the Endowment Committee, or some other group if there is no Endowment Committee, decides on the use of the "income" for that year.

A Named Endowment Fund is established usually with a specific purpose in mind. There should be a minimum amount required for a named endowment fund.

Following are the steps to establishing an Endowment Program:

Agreement and commitment among the leadership - pastor and laity

Establish an Endowment Committee through a resolution for a Charge Conference

Committee establishes guidelines

Committee determines investment strategy

Committee promotes the program

Committee encourages gifts to endowment

For additional information, please contact Pastor Walt, Doug Reading, or Derrick Hoiska.

Also you may contact
Virginia United Methodist Foundation @ 1-800-768-6040, Ext 120



Back to College time,
Parents please send me your student's college address or if they are staying home and going to school. Halloween is just around the corner. If your students have any suggestions about their packages let me know. Please contact Mary Lou Pitzer for this information

The Senior FUN Group is planning a trip to Graves Mountain Lodge for a pot luck lunch on Tuesday, October 11, 2011. The cost is \$14.00 per person which includes tax and gratuity. We will leave the church at 10:15 a.m. to carpool to the lodge. After lunch we will have time to visit the gift shop at the lodge and stop by Apple Packing Place which is nearby. If anyone is interested, we can also stop by Yoder's on the way home. Please join us for a delicious meal and fellowship. Deadline to sign up and pay for this trip is Sunday, October 2. Sign up sheet is on the bulletin board. If any questions, please call the Courtneys and if you can drive, please let us know.

When GOD solves your problems,
you have faith in HIS abilities;
when GOD doesn't solve your problems,
HE has faith in your abilities.

Kudos

Kudos to **Mike Murray and Susan Miller**
for keeping our church beautiful.

Kudos to the following teens who made our VBS a great success.

**Brandi Wick, Kyra and Bryce Hogue, Robbie Anderson,
Savannah Ratcliffe, MacKenzie Symm, Savannah Ellis,
Ryan Richardson, J.J. Reichard, Matthew Rivera,
Christina and Charlotte Potts,
Kayla Follin, and Gabrielle Whittingham.**



United Methodist Men

The UMM are working on a fall festival for Oct. 8th, to go with the UMW craft and bake sale.

The men will sell hot dogs and sponsor a moon bounce. Other games and attractions also planned for that date are;

fire trucks, rescue squad, smokehouse, face painting, popcorn sale.

Scouts will also be present.

If anyone would like to plan an attraction, please let Derrick or Gordon know.

Also the UMM will continue their Micah breakfast for 2012.

Calendar of events:

Sept 18th UMM meeting 7:30 a.m.

Oct 8th, fall festival,

Oct 15th, Micah breakfast 7 a.m.

Oct 16th UMM meeting 7:30 a.m.

Nov 4-6 UMM spiritual retreat at VUMAC - cost 170.00.

For more info on any events contact Derrick @ dhoiska@cox.net or call 540 907 5693

Reflect upon your present blessings, not on your past misfortunes.



SAVE THE DATE!

On Saturday, October 8, from 8 am to 3 pm,

St. Matthias UMW will hold their annual arts and crafts festival. Along with the women's wonderful crafts, there will be baked goods, white elephant items, and mums and pumpkins for sale. There will be outside vendors' goods for sale as well.

The kids will enjoy a moon bounce and a real fire truck, provided by UMM, and lunch will be available to purchase, also provided by the men.

Start setting aside your white elephant items now; they can be brought to the church (Room 10) starting on Sunday, October 2. And get out your favorite baked goods recipes for donating to the baked goods table. Your donations will be greatly appreciated, and all proceeds go to missions.

If you want to help with this fun event, call Ruth Payne (540) 373-8825.

Do you enjoy canning? We would like to sell some canned goods at our Fall Craft Bazaar in October. We're looking for jars of jam, jellies, pickles or anything else that you would like to donate to the bake sale. If you have anything that you've canned to donate, please call Becky Hubbard at 371-8355 or email at hubba-co33@verizon.net and let her know.

A player who makes the team great is better than a great player.

UMYF Kick-Off!!

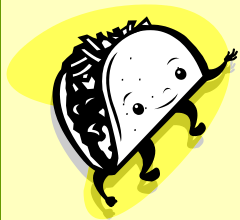
If you think the Earthquake of 2011 was exciting ...

Join us on Sunday, September 18, 2011, for the UMYF Kick-Off !
Come by the church for fun, food and fellowship. There will be a Taco Bar, Slip-n-Slide, and a Bonfire (with S'mores) to finish the day.
So bring a friend and a dry change of clothes (cause you WILL get WET).
Come by the church and let's start of the UMYF year with a great time.

What: UMYF Kick-Off

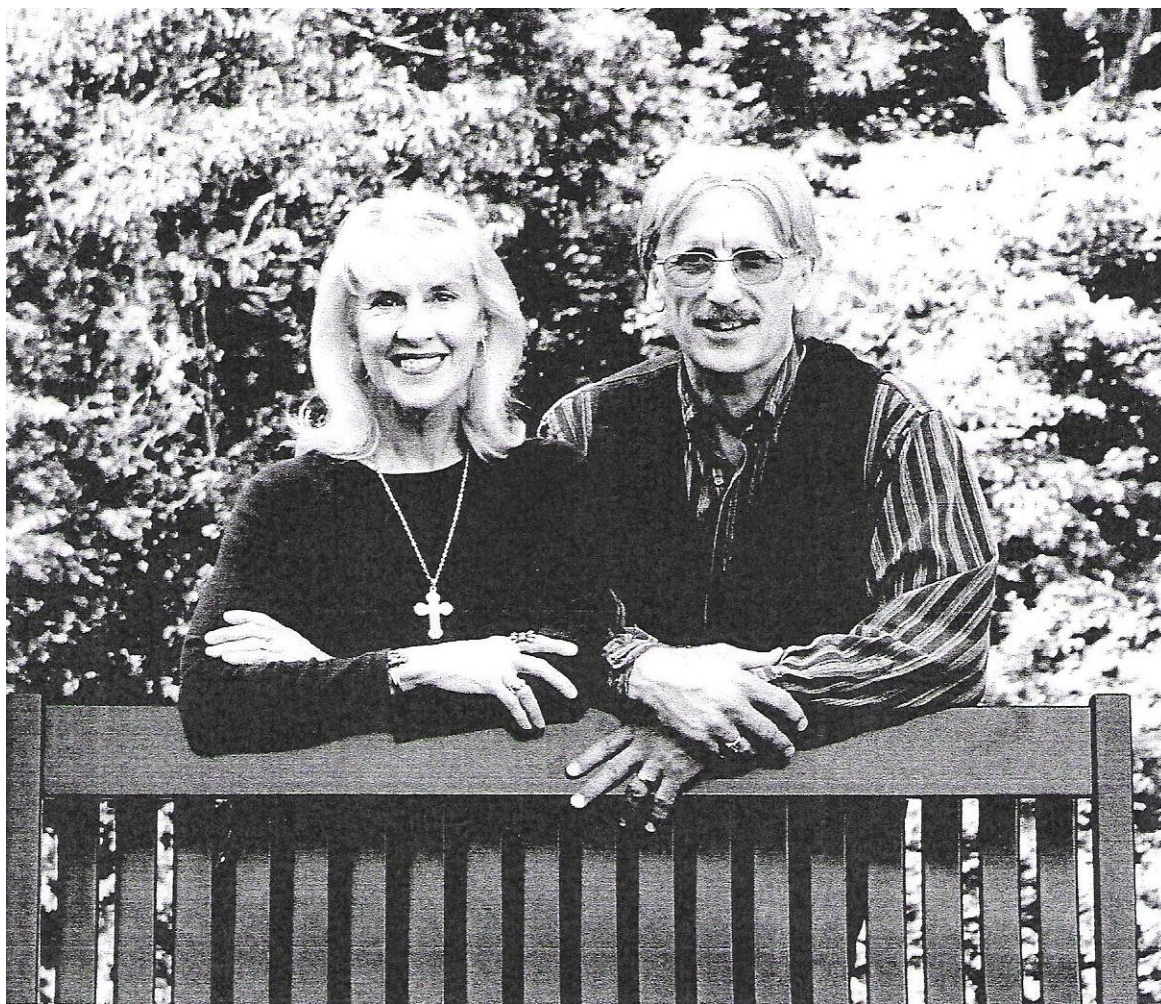
When: September 18, 2011 from 4:30 - 7:30

Where: St. Matthias UMC



Things you cannot get back after the fact:

The stone after the throw.
The word after it's said.
The occasion after it's missed.
The time after it's gone



Dust and Ashes

Dust & Ashes will be coming to St. Matthias UMC on Sunday, September 11, 2011, during our worship services.

Tom Page and Mary Lou Trout, who are husband and wife, travel full-time nationwide, using their music to reveal glimpses of God's will for all God's people. Drawing on a wide range of music (folk, country, and other popular styles), Dust & Ashes continue to write much of their own music: songs based on scripture and personal experience, songs that paint pictures of how God created our world to be, and sing about Christian faith - both the importance of a life of personal devotion to God and of a life committed to helping bring justice and peace to the earth.

We will be accepting a love offering during the final hymn. Also, CD's will be available after the service.

Spirited



Spirited

September 20, 2011

7:00 pm

We will be hosting daily columnist / humorist, Jonathan Richard Cring and artist / musician Janet Clazzy, a time of music and monologue, including comedic and inspirational essays from Mr. Cring's national daily column with original musical tunes played by Ms. Clazzy on the oboe and WX-5 Wind Machine.

Mr. Cring is the author of eleven titles, including *I'M... the legend of the son of man*, *20 Other Reasons to Kiss a Frog*, *Jesonian*, and *The Gospel According to Common Sense*. He is the recipient of the Best Screenplay Award at the **Top Ten films in America**, and his daily insights can be read at www.jonathots.com.

"We take an hour to bring you music, humor, and some fresh topical ideas about life in these United States and the ways of being human," Mr. Cring shares. "The program is a non-stop, inter-generational explosion of music, spirit and humor, helping us to remember who we are and why we would like to do that better. You end up with that wonderful by-product of good cheer."

Even though Ms. Clazzy has played oboe in orchestras for thirty years from coast to coast, including San Jose, Chicago and Houston, she is a musical original, drawing from all the great American musical styles and often proclaimed to be "the female Kenny G."

"I have this fabulous instrument called the WX-5 Wind Machine which gives me 250 sounds at my fingertips," she says. "We call the music clazzy music - the spirit of classical with the soul of jazz-pop minded. But it's like all great music. If Mr. Cring plays gospel, I pull out the harmonica. If he sings a ballad, I may slide in a little cello."

Ms. Clazzy was also the founder of a pops orchestra and the first female conductor in the state of Tennessee.

A free will offering will be taken and copies of books, CDs and DVDs of the movies will be available for purchase.



September

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				01 *6pm Brownies *7pm Trustees *7pm Al Anon	02 *11:30am Bridge	03
04	05 Labor Day Offices Closed!	06 *11:30am Bridge	07 *9:30am UMW Craft Workshop *7pm Choir	08 *7pm Worship Mtg. *7pm Al-Anon	09 *11:30am Bridge	10 *3pm FUN Group Crab Feast
11 S.S. Kick-off *Dust & Ashes *12pm Katrina Mtg. *6pm UMYF Wild & Wacky Back to School & Youth Party	12 *10am "Who Stole My Church" Study *11am Prayer *7pm Facebook Group "Who Stole My Church"	13 *11:30am Bridge *7pm "Who Stole My Church" Study	14 *9:30am UMW Craft Workshop *7pm Finance Mtg. *7pm Choir	15 *6pm Brownies *7pm Admin. Council Mtg. *7pm Al-Anon	16 *11:30am Bridge	17
18 *7:30am UMM breakfast *12pm SPRC Mtg.	19 *10am "Who Stole My Church" Study *11am Prayer *7pm Facebook Group "Who Stole My Church"	20 *11:30am Bridge *7pm "Who Stole My Church" Study *7pm SpiriTed 7pm Eta Beta	21 *9:30am UMW Craft Workshop *7pm Choir	22 *12pm Teacher's Luncheon *7pm Girl Scouts *7pm Al-Anon	23 *11:30am Bridge	24
25 Newsletter Deadline	26 *10am "Who Stole My Church" Study *11am Prayer *7pm Facebook Group "Who Stole My Church"	27 *11:30am Bridge 7pm "Who Stole My Church" Study	28 *9:30am UMW Craft Workshop *7pm Choir	29 *7pm Al-Anon	30 *11:30am Bridge	

September Birthdays & Anniversaries

1	Preston Ganger
3	Sharon Duling
3	Joni Lewis Haney
4	Jesse Garland
6	John Hull
6	Hollee Morgan
6	Taylor Thompson
9	Jim Hardwick
9	Alison Hunter
11	Betty Gardner
13	Philip Nichols
15	Sam Dixon
16	Samantha Gmitter
16	Marian Lynch
17	Martha Haselbush
18	Nancy Foster
18	Todd Gardner
19	Alexandra Payne
19	Susan Wiegand
20	Megan Anderson
20	Lucy Dixon
22	David Hawkins
22	Watson Hill Gordon
22	Gregory McBride
23	Dotty Mason
26	Ruth Payne
27	Nancy Dent
27	Alyssa Kniffin
28	Jennifer Sprow
29	Valerie Wick
30	Sarah Kniffin



2	Thomas & Nancy Ann Morgan
10	Warren & Chris Embrey
18	Andrew & Christine Holt

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

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

Newsletter Deadline
September 25th

St. Matthias United Methodist Church
426 Deacon Road
Fredericksburg, Virginia 22405
Phone: (540) 373-8759
Email: 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!!!!