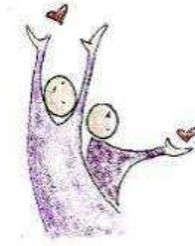
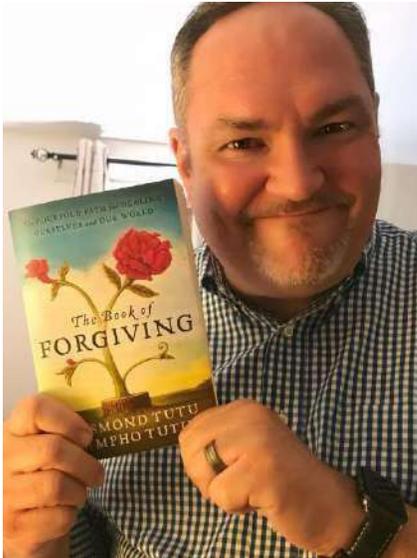


The



St. Matthias United Methodist Church

September 2018



Pastor Bert Recommends...

This month we kick off a series of Pastor Bert's recommendations of books, movies, etc. that he sees as helpful in living the abundant life Christ offers to us. To start, Pastor Bert recommends a book Archbishop Desmond Tutu called *The Book of Forgiving: The Fourfold Path for Healing Ourselves and Our World* (HarperCollins Publishers, 2014).

Each of us has a deep need to forgive and to be forgiven. After much reflection on the process of forgiveness, Tutu has seen that there are four important steps to healing: Admitting the wrong and acknowledging the harm; Telling one's story and witnessing the anguish; Asking for forgiveness and granting forgiveness; and renewing or releasing the relationship. Forgiveness is hard work. Sometimes it even feels like an impossible task. But it is only

through walking this fourfold path that Tutu says we can free ourselves of the endless and unyielding cycle of pain and retribution. *The Book of Forgiving* is both a touchstone and a tool, offering Tutu's wise advice and showing the way to experience forgiveness. Ultimately, forgiving is the only means we have to heal ourselves and our aching world.

Archbishop Tutu, a Nobel Peace Prize winner, Chair of South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, along with his daughter, the Reverend Mpho Tutu, offer a manual on the art of forgiveness—helping us to realize that we are all capable of healing and transformation. It is available in paper, electronic, and audiobook from your favorite bookseller. It is also available at the public library.

If you would like to contact Pastor Bert, please call or text 540-736-7007 or email pastorbert@stmatthiasumc.org about.me/bert.cloud

Church Email

If you are having trouble receiving email from the church, please be sure to check your spam or junk folders. If you need additional help, please contact the church office, 540-373-8759.

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MISSION TRIP PLANNING MEETING

We are called to be the hands and feet of Jesus and it's that time of the year again to go do that. Our opportunity to serve is 4-10 November in Fayetteville, NC. We will be having a planning meeting on 16 September right after the 11:00 service in Room 10 for anyone interested in going. We need all levels of skills--- none are too small or too big! If you like to "feed the hungry" we will need some help for our chief cook, Marian Lynch. For more information, please contact Peg Jones, 540-775-5729, pegjonesva@gmail.com.



"One man's (or woman's) trash is..." you know the rest! Time to dust off those old items you don't use any longer, and donate them to the big yard sale coming up on Saturday, October 6! UMW will be having its annual crafts/baked goods sale that day as well, so we'll have lots of shoppers here. An added bonus this year: the men will have a tools/sporting goods yard sale at the same time; double the bargains! Items can be brought to church for pricing starting Sunday, September 30 (please, NOT before). POC: Karen Breggenti, (814) 221-4507

HONDURAS MISSION TRIP 2019

SAVE THE DATE: Jesus commanded us to "go and make disciples of all nations." Our 2019 mission trip to Honduras is scheduled for 29 June to 6 July. For more information, please contact Peg Jones, 540-775-5729, pegjonesva@gmail.com.



Women of St. Matthias, mark your calendars for Sunday, September 9, 12:30 pm. We will gather in Social Hall right after second worship

service, for a time of food, fellowship, and merriment: an old-fashioned tea party! We will enjoy tea (of course!), sandwiches and sweets, and then spend a bit of time making fun and funny hats to model POC: Mary Ella Fuquay (540) 479-8265 or Dottie Prater (540) 940-2611.

Beef Stew & Biscuits

Sun., Oct. 14 ~ 12:15 p.m.

Donations to benefit Rise Against Hunger.

Food packing will take place Sun., Nov. 4 ~2-4:00 p.m.



United Methodist Men's Night Out

Shannon Air Museum Tour

Shannon Airport – Fredericksburg, VA

Friday, Sept., 14 – 6-9:00 p.m.

\$7.00 (cash only please)

Invite a friend! Contact Butch Cover for more information, (540) 429-3331

THURMAN BRISBEN CENTER

We will be preparing and serving a meal at TBC on Sunday, September 23rd. If you are interested in volunteering, please see the sign-up sheet on the front bulletin board or contact Brenda Wood, (540)809-4616 or bwood@fredericksburgva.gov.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Ladies of St. Matthias, don't forget to sign up for the Glad Hatters' Tea Party on Sunday, September 9! Bring your female friends and relatives for a fun afternoon of food, fellowship, and fun, all in the spirit of a tea party with hat-making! We'll start right after 11:00 worship, in Social Hall, and YOU will make it a special kick-off for a new year of UMW.

Fall is coming, and with it comes the annual UMW craft sale and fall festival. Put Friday evening, October 5, and Saturday, October 7 on your calendars, and get your baked goods, your yard sale items, and your love of holiday crafts ready! Let's make this the best Fall Fest ever!

VITAL CHURCH TEAM

The St. Matthias Vital Church Team will start off the fall with a meeting on Tuesday, September 18, at 5:30 p.m., Garaffa's Pizza (Route 1 at Truslow Road). We're well-rested and ready to start exploring ways to reach out and connect with the community, to welcome guests to worship, and to be the "church alive that's worth the drive!" We'd love to have YOU join us for good food, fellowship, and sharing ideas.

Some of the programs that fall under the umbrella of the Vital Church Team are Love and Laundry; Reading Buddies at Grafton Village Elementary School; dinners twice a semester for the Campus Christian Community at the University of Mary Washington; connection with Vision CC for prayer and Thanksgiving celebration; gift bags to visitors to St. Matthias; and prayer walking. Our goal as a team is two-fold: to reach the community near and far, serving our Lord Jesus Christ as He calls us to reach out, to help our current members and potential members to find new paths leading from membership to discipleship. "Wider and deeper" is our motto.

Love and Laundry is, of course, an ongoing, monthly event. With the beginning of the new school year, we have gotten Reading Buddies going again, by taking breakfast to the teachers on August 28; we will be serving dinner to the Campus Christian Community students on September 27. We will be reaching out to friends at Vision CC next door, to get our shared events started. Gift bag ideas are being explored.

The more folks we have on the team, the more outreach and "deep-reach" we can accomplish. If any of these programs sound interesting to you, come and join us on September 18. You'll have a chance to eat some great pizza and to share some fun with a good group of people. POC: Mary Ella Fuquay, (540) 479-8265 or mefuquay@gmail.com.

FINANCE

July 2018 Status of Funds

Seven months into the year (58.3%), we have spent less than our budget projection (54.6%) in the operating account. Although our expenses are slightly higher than our revenue (about \$4,500), we have sufficient funding to cover our operating costs. During the summer months, it's typical to see a slump in giving as many are away on vacation. We are very thankful to the congregation for their generous giving!

The operating account has a balance of \$89,077.56 in the checking account and the

Board of Trustees has a total of \$123,313.95 in several accounts, including a capital equipment replacement fund, a memorial fund, several CDs and money market accounts.

Work on revising and improving our financial policies and procedures continues, and we hope to have a final product available soon.

Our meetings are open to all on the second Wednesday of each month at 7 pm in room 10, and detailed financial reports are available for review in the church office. For information, please contact Sandy Rawlins (540) 840-3776.

WORSHIP & PRAYER

September is a time of new beginnings and spiritual renewal; new Bible Studies and new Sunday School (Discipleship) Classes. Now is a great time for us to ask God what He wants us to do. Does He want us to volunteer to be an Usher or learn the Sound or Visual for Worship? The Nursery is in need of more volunteers, and the Choir needs more voices. "Lord, what would you have me to do?"



RAPPAHANNOCK RIVER DISTRICT LAY SERVANT MINISTRIES

October 5—6, 2018

Register Chapel UMC, 85 Bells Hill Rd, Stafford, VA.

540-659-2642 for Directions

SCHEDULE

Registration Check in: Friday, Oct 5, 6:00 pm

Class: Friday 6:30pm-10:00pm, mSaturday: 8:00am-4:30pm

Lay Servant Training can help anyone who is interested in learning more in their pursuit of being a better leader and servant for Christ's church. These classes can be used as tools in discerning God's call for your personal walk and ministry.

If you are a Lay Servant, you must attend the **ENTIRE** course to receive credit for certification or recertification. Recertification is required every three years for both Certified Lay Servants and Certified Lay Speakers.

Basic Course Offered

The Basic Course – This course is the foundation for all other Learning and Leading courses. In this course, you are encouraged to discover and employ personal spiritual gifts as God intended. Participants are invited to consider the importance of exercising servant leadership, developing future leaders, remaining rooted in consistent spiritual practices, and being part of a group that holds members accountable in their discipleship. This course offers guidelines for best practices as a church leader and in mission and ministry in the community and in daily life. *Leader—TBD. Book: Lay Servant Ministries Basic Course. Books will be provided for this class by a Rappahannock River District Grant.*

Advanced Courses Offered

Advanced Class: Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts

Discover Your Spiritual Gifts – This course helps you understand spiritual gifts and how you and your church can use them to fulfill your mission and ministry. You will also learn what it means to be a spiritual leader and you will be equipped to lead others in exploring and using their spiritual gifts. *Leader—Rev Sung Yoo*

Book: Rediscovering Our Spiritual Gifts, by Charles V Bryant, ISBN 978-0-8358-0633-6 and Your Spiritual Gifts Inventory, ISBN 0-8358-0819-X Please purchase your own book for this class.

Advanced Courses Offered

Advanced Class: Intentional Discipleship Making—You will be invited to become more intentional about making disciples in your ministry setting. We will cover investing in making and growing disciples; creating an intentional discipleship system; learning that discipleship begins with relationships; and developing tools for seeing all the people and engaging your community. *Leader—Rev. Jeff Campbell Books will be provided for this class.*

Advanced Courses Offered

Advanced Class: Leading Worship

Leading Worship – This course will focus on basic worship leadership skills for lay persons who assist the pastor in leading Christian worship. Particular emphasis is given to basic skills: understanding your leadership role in relation to other leaders and the congregation, reading scripture, leading prayer, distributing the elements at the Lord's Supper, and basic do's and don'ts of effective worship. *Leader - Rev Emily Moore-Diamond*

Book: Worshipping with United Methodists by Hoyt Hickman. ISBN-9780687335268 Please purchase your own book for this class.

Commission on a Way Forward: 5 things you need to know

As a United Methodist, you may have heard about some of the things happening in our church today around the issues of human sexuality, and the work being done by a group called the Commission on a Way Forward. Their important work will help shape the future of The United Methodist Church.

These five things offer an overview of the Commission on a Way Forward. A fuller version of this article with links to more information is available at umc.org/wayforward

1. Formation

At General Conference 2016 in Portland, there were an overwhelming number of proposals dealing with issues surrounding same-sex marriage, the ordination of LGBTQ clergy, and related topics. During a discussion about how to proceed, a clergy delegate addressed the bishops. “We are asking for your leadership.” Another added, “We are in a stuck place... I’m pleading with you. Please help us.”

The bishops returned later in the General Conference with a plan. They would create a group to research and advise them of ways to help us get unstuck, to move us forward. The group they later brought together is the Commission on a Way Forward.

2. Task

The bishops carefully formed the Commission on a Way Forward, inviting 32 people who identified on all sides of the issues to be part of this special group. Eight bishops, 13 other clergy members, and 11 lay members constitute the commission.

The work of the Commission on a Way Forward is “to inform deliberation across the whole church and to help the Council of Bishops in their service to the next General Conference in finding a way forward.”

The commission regularly reported to the bishops during their work. Their final report will be presented to a special session of General Conference, February 23-26, 2019, in St. Louis, Missouri.

3. Issues

As the Commission on a Way Forward was beginning their work, the United Methodist General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM) invited scholars to a gathering called “Unity of the Church and Human Sexuality: Toward a Faithful United Methodist Witness.” Twenty-eight academics from three countries gathered for three days in March 2017, at Candler School of Theology in Atlanta, Georgia, to present papers and discuss the issues. Eight members of the Commission on a Way Forward attended the event.

4. Recommendations

On July 31, 2018, the final report of the Commission on a Way Forward was released in the four official languages of The United Methodist Church. There are three possible plans offered as our possible future. These are briefly described here, but you can find the report at umc.org. A print copy is also available in the church office.

The **One Church Model** would allow for local understanding in different parts of the world (adapting some non-essential practices to different mission fields to maximize our witness and success in each place). It is based on the belief that we can be a church with a large enough tent for people to disagree about homosexuality and yet remain together as The United Methodist Church. It allows us to affirm that our unity and mission are more important than our disagreements. The One Church Plan. This is the plan recommended by the council of bishops.

The **Connectional Conferences Model** is grounded in a unified core that includes shared doctrine and services, and one Council of Bishops, while creating different branches that would have clearly defined values such as accountability, contextualization, and justice. In the U.S., the five geographically distinct jurisdictional conferences would be replaced by three overlapping conferences: one traditional, one progressive, and one

centrist or “uniting” conference. Each annual conference would choose to be a member of one of the three connectional conferences based on their affinity to the conference’s theological stance on homosexuality. Any local church that disagrees with the annual conference decision could vote to join a different branch conference.

The **Traditionalist Model** would keep the current Discipline statement that the practice of homosexuality is “incompatible with Christian teaching.” Boards of Ordained Ministry would still be prohibited from recommending LGBTQ candidates for ordination. Officiating same-sex marriages would still be a chargeable offense, and being a self-avowed and practicing gay clergy would continue to be a chargeable offense. The Traditionalist Model would demand increased accountability to the Book of Discipline—not only for individual pastors but also for churches, bishops, and even annual conferences, all of which could face punishment.

5. Who decides?

The report of the Commission on a Way Forward will be received and acted upon by a special session of General Conference to be held in St. Louis, Missouri, February 23-26, 2019. This worldwide gathering of United Methodists will only act on items around our deep divide over homosexuality.

Originally, the Commission on a Way Forward understood their role as advisory to the Council of Bishops, who would then report to the special General Conference session. A ruling of the Judicial Council on May 25, 2018, clarified that the Commission on a Way Forward is to report directly to the General Conference.

At the request of the Council of Bishops, the Judicial Council will review proposed legislation for the One Church, Connectional Conference, and Traditional plans to determine their constitutionality. Oral hearings will be held October 23-26, 2018, in Zurich, Switzerland.

Most of the delegates for the 2019 General Conference will be those who attended the 2016 General Conference, though The Book of Discipline allows annual conferences to elect new delegates if they so choose. As with every General Conference, the number of clergy and lay (non-clergy) delegates will be equal. Bishops preside but do not vote.

To learn more be sure to visit umc.org/wayforward.

This article was adapted from A UMC.org Feature by Joe Iovino and a Minnesota Annual Conference article by Christa Meland.

Virginia will offer a Q&A event about the Commission on a Way Forward, live and online. If you have questions about the Commission on a Way Forward, the Commission’s reports going before General Conference (GC) 2019 or GC 2019 itself then save the date for “A Way Forward: a Q&A event with Bishop Sharma D. Lewis, the Rev. Tom Berlin, and Ms. Martha Stokes.” The 90-minute event will be held on Wednesday, September 26 at 7 p.m. at Reveille UMC, 4200 Cary Street Rd, Richmond, VA 23221-2526. Bishop Lewis, the Rev. Berlin, and Ms. Stokes will share their thoughts as well as moderate questions on these topics.

The event will be live-streamed and archived at <https://livestream.com/VAUMC/COWFQA> so you can watch it on your computer or device. Questions for the event will be taken via email. You can start to submit your questions now and during the event to wayforward@vaumc.org.

September 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 7:00 PLAM 8:00 Men's Bible Study
2 12:15 Emmaus Reunion 5:00 Praise Practice 5:45 Evening Worship 6:30 UMYF	3 LABOR DAY OFFICE CLOSED	4 7:45 a.m. Exercise 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts 7:00 WBB	5 5:30 p.m. Bell Choir 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts 7:00 Choir	6 6:30 a.m. Micah Breakfast 6:00 p.m. UR 6:29 Prayer 7:00 Al Anon 7:00 Trustees	7	8 7:00 am Pray Like a Man 8:00 Men's Bible Study
9 12:30 Glad Hatter Tea Party 5:00 Praise Practice 6:30 UMYF	10 9-11 Food Pantry 10:00 am Prayer 6:30 p.m. Cub Scout	11 7:45 a.m. Exercise 11:30 Disc. 4 6:00 p.m. G.S. Recruitment 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts 7:00 WBB	12 10:00 am UMW Meeting 5:30 p.m. Bell Choir 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts 7:00 Choir 7:00 Finance	13 6:00 p.m. UR 6:29 Prayer 7:00 Al Anon 7:00 Worship	14	15 7:00 Pray Like a Man 8:00 Men's Bible Study
16 7:30 a.m. UMM Breakfast 9:45 a.m. 2nd Sunday Fellowship 12:15 p.m. Mission Mtg. 5:00 Praise Practice 5:45 Evening Worship 6:30 UMYF	17 9-11 Food Pantry 10:00 am Prayer 5:30 Upper Room 6:30 p.m. Cub Scout	18 7:45 a.m. Exercise 11:30 Disc. 4 1:00 God's Celebrators 5:30 p.m. Vital Church Team Mtg. @ Garaffa's Pizza 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts 7:00 WBB 7:00 p.m. GS Service Mtg.	19 10:00 am UMW Crafts 5:30 p.m. Bell Choir 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts 7:00 Choir	20 11:00 a.m. Retired Teacher's Luncheon 6:00 Upper Room 6:29 Prayer 6:30 p.m. Cub Scout Comm. Mtg. 7:00 Al Anon 7:00 Ad. Council	21 1-5 p.m. Love & Laundry	22 7:00 Pray Like a Man 8:00 Men's Bible Study
23 3:30-7 p.m. Thurman Brisben 5:00 Praise Practice 6:30 UMYF	24 9-11 Food Pantry 10:00 am Prayer 5:30 Upper Room 6:30 p.m. Cub Scout	25 7:45 a.m. Exercise 11:30 Disc. 4 1:00 God's Celebrators 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts 7:00 WBB	26 10:00 am UMW Crafts 5:30 p.m. Bell Choir 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts 7:00 Choir	27 5:00 p.m. CCC Meal @ UMW 6:00 Upper Room 6:29 Prayer 7:00 Al Anon	28	29 7:00 Pray Like a Man 8:00 Men's Bible Study 9-2:00 p.m. Car, Truck & Cycle Show
30 5:00 Praise Practice 6:30 UMYF						

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Justin McClelland
- 3 John Rippey
- 4 Cody White
- 9 Alison Hunter
- 9 Jack Morris
- 9 Jim Hardwick
- 11 Betty Gardner
- 12 Judy Cover
- 15 Debra Wilson
- 15 Sam Dixon
- 16 Marian Lynch
- 16 Samantha Gmitter
- 17 Martha Haselbush
- 18 Judy Huallpa
- 18 Nancy Foster
- 19 Susan Wiegand
- 19 Teresa Orto
- 20 Lucy Dixon
- 20 Megan Anderson
- 22 David Hawkins
- 22 Watson Gordon
- 26 Martin Guillette
- 26 Ruth Payne
- 27 Nancy Dent
- 28 Vanessa Guillette

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 6 Kenny & Larea Hopkins
- 18 Andrew & Christine Holt
- 20 Sam & Carrie Zollman
- 28 Thomas & Michaela Moore



Warm Winter Mission Part 2

As you do your fall cleaning, if you have any winter wear you would be willing to donate, please bring your items to St. Matthias on or before Sunday, October 7th. Gail Day is making another Maine run and will gladly see that Shorey Chapel receives our blessings. I wish there was a way you could see firsthand and experience the love you are sharing. I will add pictures to our slide show later in the fall. Thank you, all, for your love and generosity towards this winter mission.

CHURCH ENDOWMENTS

Last fall we invited Gaby Coronado of the Coronado Law Firm to speak to us about Estate Planning including Trusts, Living Wills, Power of Attorney, etc. Approximately 25 members attended this presentation and some took advantage of the opportunity to update their wills and other important documents. As the fall church financial planning takes effect, we will be asked to make a pledge or an estimate of support to the church budget for 2019. This maybe a good opportunity to also think again about your legacy and the many ways you can continue to support worthwhile ministries after you die that you now support with your time and finances. I would suggest that you consider a bequest in your will to your church or establishing an Endowment through your church or a community ministry that will continue long after you have departed this life that would benefit those in need or a church ministry for years to come. Many of you have worked hard to establish a comfortable, financially secure life in your retirement years and have a rather large estate that will be left to your heirs. The hope is that they will honor you and your life in the way they use the precious gifts they receive. Contact a member of the Endowment committee for guidance in this matter.

Gordon Payne
Chairman

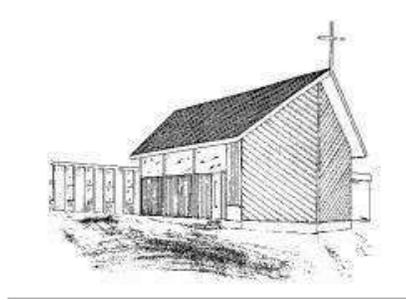


Thank you so very much for your thoughts, calls, prayers, cards, donations and love with the passing of our daughter, Elaine Shanks.

We appreciate each of you and cherish our church family!

Love and Many Blessings,
A.C., Shirley and Family

St. Matthias UMC
426 Deacon Road
Fredericksburg, VA 22405



St. Matthias United Methodist Church

Called to Make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World

Worship:

Sundays: 8:45 & 11:00 | Nursery for infants to 5 yrs
Kids Own Worship (pre -5th grade): 11 a.m.

Sunday Evening Worship: 1st & 3rd Sundays @ 5:45 p.m.

Pastor:

Rev. Bert Cloud
540-736-7007 (voice & text) | pastorbert@stmatthiasumc.org

Office:

Ms. Susan Courtney
(540) 373-8759 | office@stmatthiasumc.org
Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Find us:

Visit us online at www.stmatthiasumc.org and on [Facebook](#)
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