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AUGUST 2019

The Messenger

A PUBLICATION OF ST. MATTHIAS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Dear St. Matthias Family:

August is here, and I can hardly believe how quickly the summer has gone. Soon school will start, much earlier than before, and many students, school workers, and parents will be recalibrating their lives and hearts. Stafford and Fredericksburg will roll out earlier this year with the first day of school being August 12th.

I love a parent's prayer for the first day of kindergarten with the line: "Lord, as I walk out of the school without her/his hand in mine, fill me with the assurance that your hand holds hers firmly, and that you'll never let go." May we know that same assurance in our walk.

The start of an academic year also marks new beginnings at churches as well, and I want you to know about a few things coming up at St. Matthias. This fall, starting September 8th, we will begin a new message series on the Book of Acts. This book offers an essential understanding of what makes the church the church. We will be using a companion book; **We Are the Church . . . Let's Act Like It: A Study on the Book of Acts** by United Methodist Pastor Linda Tower Pevey. The book is available through Amazon and most booksellers, and we will be taking orders soon. I hope that you will find this series helpful in your Christian Journey and our collective work as the church of Jesus Christ.

Also, this fall, I want to invite you to consider being part of a weekly gathering I'm calling **PDQ and PDQ online**. The idea is that weekly, in an hour or less, you'll have an opportunity to join with me for a time studying and reflecting on the section of scripture we will be working with during the next Sunday service.

PDQ and PDQ online is a 'drop-in' time based on your availability starting August 21st. Each session will have time for discovery and dialogue with the scripture and work with questions that come up. That is the 'D and Q' part. We will also spend time learning about and practicing prayer. That would be the 'P' or PDQ. The goal is to do this in an hour or less for the in-person group, and 20-30 minutes for the online version.

To start, we will offer PDQ on Wednesday mornings at 9 am, beginning August 21st. We are working out the details for the start time for PDQ online; however, each session will be on-demand after the broadcast.

Also, this fall, I will continue the successful **Holy Conversation** series. We started this last year by having short information sessions about a particular topic followed by a forum for questions and Christian conversation. These will be scheduled monthly on the Third Sunday of the month at 7 pm, just after the end of the Sunday evening praise service.

Our next Holy Conversation will be September 15th, and we will discuss, "How can we make decisions about hard things?" With all that, we have in front of us as a denomination, as St. Matthias, and individually, I hope that this will be helpful.

To help get ready for all of this, I'm getting out of town. Gina and I will be traveling with our girls from August 4 – 10 in the last bit of summer break before school. We have a great guest preacher coming on the 4th, and there will be a report from our recent Honduras team.

Please take these blessing words to heart as we work through August together:

May the rains sweep gentle across your fields,
 May the sun warm the land, (but not too much)
 May every good seed you have planted bear fruit,
 And late summer find you standing in fields of plenty.

See you in church!

Pastor Bert

Visit us on our Facebook at facebook.com/St.MatthiasUMC to find pictures and stories from our recent Vacation Bible School, mission trips and more. While you are there, please be sure to like us and give us a good review. Five stars is the best rating. Currently we are at 4.7 out of 13 people. Help do better. While you are at it, share something cool you find on our page with your friends.

VISIT US ONLINE: WWW.STMATTHIASUMC.ORG

LADIES LUNCHEON



Ladies of St. Matthias, don't forget to sign up for the annual summer luncheon at Sherry King's Fawn Lake home, on Wednesday, August 14, leaving the church at 10:45. Sign up on the main bulletin board, indicating whether you can bring a salad or a dessert, and join other women of our church for a wonderful time of food, laughter, fellowship and fun, in the beautiful setting at Sherry's house.

LOVE & LAUNDRY



Our next Love and Laundry event will be on Friday, August 23, from 10 am to 2 pm (different day, different time), at the Laundry Basket in Chatham Square shopping center. We are changing the day and time again, to try to "catch" some new folks with the blessing of free laundry services.

If you want to be part of this blessings-filled ministry, please sign up for a time slot or two on the bulletin board. No need to stay all 4 hours; any help you can give is appreciated!

WOMEN'S EVENT

A wonderful evening of worship, song, inspiration and comedy awaits women on Friday, October 25, 7:00 p.m., presented by Aspire Womens Events at Salem Baptist Church. See the flyer on the bulletin board for details. We'll be getting a group together to take advantage of group rates (\$20) and some free tickets. Please sign up on the main bulletin board if interested; no monetary commitment at this time. **POC:** Mary Ella Fuquay

WEEDS, WEEDS, WEEDS!

"We only get one chance to make a first impression..." And once again, the weeds along the flower beds in front of the church are giving a less-than-awesome first impression of our great church. It's a BIG job for one or two people to tackle; a much smaller job for a few of us, on a regular basis, to pull the weeds and keep the beds looking clean and neat.

We should be getting a break from the heat and humidity before long, and if we make up a schedule for some weed-pulling, we can share the job and make it fun (okay, "fun" might be too strong a word...!!).

Would someone be willing to take the lead on this, by putting up a sign-up sheet and getting a schedule in place to take us through fall? Once we've established a routine, it should be a pretty smooth-running program. And "many hands will make light the work!" If you're willing to get this ministry going, contact Mary Ella Fuquay to make her day!!

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

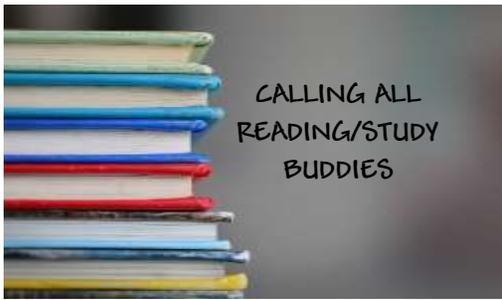
Friday, August 9 @ 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Donations can be scheduled online at

www.redcross.org



Don't forget to order a delicious sub sandwich! Donations to benefit Rise Against Hunger. Sign-up at the Welcome Center on the front bulletin board. Pick-up will be Friday, August 9.



School is starting in a couple of weeks, and St. Matthias is ready to partner once again with Grafton Village Elementary School, just down the road! There are so many ways we can make a good difference in the lives of the Grafton Grizzlies, or their teachers, and it doesn't mean a big time commitment or the need for an education degree! All that's needed is an enthusiasm for kids and helping them learn!

The school welcomes all sorts of helpers: library help for the littlest ones; one-on-one helping students for make-up work or enrichment; help with reading, handwriting and math skills; helping with field trips and field days; even just being a pal to a student with extra needs. Sometimes we even just make copies for the teachers or assist with bulletin boards!

Again this year, we'll be treating the teachers to a continental breakfast on Tuesday, August 6, to ease their return to the routine of the school year. Want to be part of this great partnership? We'd love to have you join us! The rewards are many: smiles, hugs, and many appreciative teachers and kids! **POC:** Mary Ella Fuquay



Mark your calendars for Saturday Evening, Sept 21. The United Methodist Men will host a Chili Cook-off fundraiser at the Church to support the facility needs at St. Matthias. The format will be a little different from long ago. You will be able to imagine yourself in the role of George Steinbrenner, infamous owner of the New York Yankees, who was once said to have bought a championship with his lavish spending on his team. The chili that receives the largest total contribution toward the needs of the Church will be declared the champion and awarded an appropriate trophy. All are invited to attend. Bring a friend, lots of them. Pray for good weather and an overflow crowd



Just as a family pitches in and cares for one another in time of need, so a church family does the same. So many of our dear St. Matthias family members are in need of visits at home or in the hospital, companionship, phone calls, transportation, meals, Holy Communion brought to them, a friend to talk or weep or pray with; and those folks are not able to get to church or out and about to handle these things on their own. Many of our hearts have heard the call to provide those needed visits, errands and companionship, and a Care Team is being formed to answer that call.

We are in the process of determining the best ways to meet the care needs and to form teams of two or three to go together to help where and when needed. We need several more church members to join the team, in order to be able to effective without exhausting ourselves and our energies. Can we count on YOU to be part of this blessings-filled ministry of caring?

There will be training and materials to help us be truly effective and to assist us in those areas where we feel less than adequate. An application will need to be completed, so that we can match peoples' gifts and graces with folks' needs. And we will always go out in pairs, at least, as we answer God's call to minister to our church family members.

Will you say "YES" to this opportunity? If you're willing to apply to be part of the care team, please see Mary Ella Fuquay or Pastor Bert. We'd LOVE to hear from you!

AUGUST 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 6:00 p.m. UR 7:00 Al Anon 7:00 p.m. Trustees	2	3 7:00 PLAM 9:30 Prayer
4	5 9-11 Food Pantry 10:00 am Prayer 5:30 p.m. Upper Room	6 7:45 a.m. Exercise 1:00 p.m. God Celebrators 7:00 WBB	7 10:00 a.m. UMW Crafts	8 6:00 p.m. UR 7:00 Al Anon 7:00 p.m. Worship	9 9:00 a.m. Red Cross Blood Drive	10 7:00 PLAM 9:30 Prayer
11	12 9-11 Food Pantry 10:00 am Prayer 5:30 p.m. Upper Room	13 7:45 a.m. Exercise 1:00 p.m. God Celebrators 6:30 p.m. SPPRC 7:00 WBB	14 10:00 a.m. UMW Annual Luncheon @ Fawn Lake 7:00 p.m. Finance	15 6:00 p.m. UR 7:00 Al Anon 7:00 p.m. Admin Council	16	17 7:00 a.m. PLAM 9:30 Prayer
18 7:30 a.m. UMM Breakfast 9:45 Third Sunday Fellowship 5:00 p.m. Praise Band 5:45 Evening Worship	19 9-11 Food Pantry 10:00 am Prayer 5:30 p.m. Upper Room	20 7:45 a.m. Exercise 1:00 p.m. God Celebrators 7:00 WBB	21 9:00 a.m. PDQ Weekly Gathering Begins 10:00 a.m. UMW Crafts 5:30 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts	22 6:00 p.m. UR 7:00 Al Anon	23 10:00 – 2:00 p.m. Love & Laundry	24 7:00 PLAM 9:30 Prayer
25	26 9-11 Food Pantry 10:00 am Prayer 5:30 p.m. Upper Room	27 7:45 a.m. Exercise 1:00 p.m. God Celebrators 7:00 WBB	28 9:00 a.m. PDQ Weekly Gathering 10:00 a.m. UMW Crafts 5:30 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts	29 6:00 p.m. UR 7:00 Al Anon	30	31 7:00 PLAM 9:30 Prayer

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

3	Patrick Lonergan
7	Willa Ferguson
7	Jim Haney
8	Dee Naifeh
10	Joyce Keene
10	Mary Lou Pitzer
11	Gabriel Gotthardt
11	Peggy Stone
12	Eric Hayes
14	Laraye Berry
14	Mary Eva Repass
15	Janet Kinneer
17	Brandon Ashby
20	John Reichard
22	Terry Hill
23	Rosa Hogue
25	Jeff Berry
25	Barbara Nash
29	Helen Powell
30	R. Allen King
31	Bobbie Dunkin

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

3	Dick & Dianne Moore
5	Darrell & Doreen Barnes
9	Ken & Charlotte Stockwell
10	Don & Judy Clark
12	Doug & Alison Rauh
18	Brandon & Nicole Ashby
23	Mike & Brenda Trant
30	Roger & Joyce Keene
30	Jeff & Paula McClure

SAVE THE DATE:

RISE AGAINST HUNGER FUNDRAISER

Sunday, November 3 @ 2:00 p.m.

SUMMER MEAL PROGRAMS FOR KIDS

A recent article in the Free Lance Star written by Hailey Bullis helps our community understand the need for summer lunch programs to bridge the gap for area youth who rely on school breakfast and lunch as their main food source. According to the article, a report released by The Office of School Nutrition states that "two-thirds of students in Fredericksburg are eligible for the free or reduced lunch program." Brian Kiernan, founding member of the Fredericksburg City Schools Summer Food Service Program, states that Fredericksburg schools alone serve about 2,800 lunches a day. Kiernan then asked the most poignant question, "What are the children eating over summer break?" The answer to this question led to the founding of the City Schools Food Program six years ago, which feeds about 500 kids a day, Monday through Friday. The surrounding counties of King George, Caroline, Stafford and Spotsylvania also have summer food programs serving hundreds of kids each week. Several programs operate a mobile food truck, stopping at various locations throughout the community. To find a food-distribution location nearby, **text the word "FOOD" or "COMIDA" to 877-877.**

List of Summer Food Programs:

Fredericksburg Regional Food Bank Kids on the Go program
King George Lunch Bunch
LCPS Summer Meals Program
The Heartwood Center
Stafford Food Security, Inc.
Stafford Junction
S.E.R.V.E.
Summer Food Service Program
Summer Meals at Central Rappahannock Regional Libraries

For more information, please follow this link:

www.fredericksburg.com/fredericksburg-area-summer-meal-programs-feed-local-kids-through-summer/article_76545418-b273-5115-812d-a0e7a4076c11.html

St. Matthias United Methodist Church

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.

(Not meeting this summer, but will resume in the Fall)

Pastor:

Rev. Bert Cloud

540-373-8759 (option 2) | 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 stmatthiasumc.org and on facebook

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