

ABOUND

IN

HOPE



February 2019

The Messenger

A PUBLICATION OF **ST. MATTHIAS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

Dear St. Matthias Family:

In January, part of our work includes the preparation of our annual statistical tables for the church. These tables are often filed under the 'Boring but Important' heading, but there are some exciting facts discovered. This year, we reported over \$65,000 in missional giving which was up more than 400% than the previous year. That does not count the many, many hours of service through the hands of St. Matthias disciples of Jesus, like the folks that served at the Micah Homeless Shelter during this recent cold snap. God is at work among us, and it is exciting to see how we are making a difference.

As you probably know, the specially called General Conference of the United Methodist Church happens February 23-26, 2019 in St. Louis. The purpose will be to receive and act on a report from the Commission on a Way Forward based on the recommendations of the Council of Bishops. The 32-member Commission was appointed to examine paragraphs in The Book of Discipline concerning human sexuality and exploring options to strengthen the unity of the church. You can learn more about this at a special briefing and conversation I am offering on February 10th at 6:30 pm in the Social Hall. I hope to see you there. You can also learn more at umc.org.

I also have invited the church to join many other United Methodist and me in praying for the General Conference every day at 2:23 pm. The number represents the start date of the conference. This prayer practice has helped me think a lot about our life together, about the people impacted by the decisions and issues of this conference, and about the power of God to be at work in such a large and sweeping scale. I hope you are participating in this, and I would love to hear your experience.

I want to thank you for the great love and support you offered to me during my recent illness. Food poisoning is never fun, but this one was particularly difficult, and my family and I sincerely appreciated your prayers and care. Love makes a difference.

May God bless us with the eyes of love throughout this month.

Pastor Bert

pastorbert@stmatthiasumc.org

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VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.STMATTHIASUMC.ORG

CONGREGATIONAL CARE TEAM



A Congregational Care Team is now being formed, to make visits to church members at home or in the hospital or nursing homes; to take communion to members unable to get to church; to provide prayers and friendship to member of our church family needing those simple acts of love and caring. This group will augment the work of our wonderful card ministry ladies and our Flower Fairy bouquet deliverer. Want to be part of the team? Contact Mary Ella Fuquay or the church office to let us know of your interest! We'll be meeting in the near future to map out a plan of action for the team!

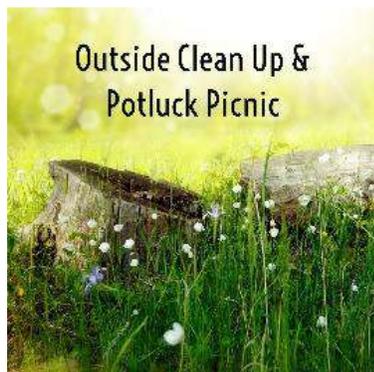
SOUPER BOWL



"Souper Bowl" Sunday
(30 Hour Famine Fundraiser)

Join us in the Fellowship Hall **Sunday, Feb. 3** after second service for a bowl of delicious soup. Stay and eat or fill a container to take with you. There will be a variety of soups: creamy, noodle, chili, to name a few. Warm up with a hot bowl of goodness AND support the youth group in their 30 Hour Famine efforts!

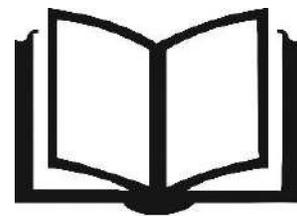
CLEAN UP DAY @ ST. MATTHIAS



SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, April 6 (rain date April 13): outdoor flowerbed and yard clean up at St. Matthias! 9 - noon, followed by a potluck picnic for all! Watch for sign-up sheet coming...

POC: Mary Ella Fuquay

READING BUDDIES



Reading Buddies

Reading Buddies is a group of adults and teens who meet one-on-one with primary (K-2) students at Grafton Village Elementary School, once a week for an hour after school (3:45 - 4:45) and read with or to the children. We share our love of books with little ones who might not get this at home; the kids love it and so do the Buddies! The program lasts 6 - 8 weeks, and will be starting soon. Interested? Contact Mary Ella Fuquay for more info or to join us!

MEET OUR NEW D.S.

Meet our new DS!

The Rev. Charles F. Bates, currently serving as lead pastor at Fishersville UMC on the Staunton District, will be the new district superintendent of the Rappahannock River District. He will replace the Rev. Dr. Ted Smith who has served as the Rappahannock River DS since 2011.

Also, The Rev. Dr. Sarah L.K. Calvert will be the new district superintendent of the Arlington District. The Rev. Denise P. Bates, will be appointed to serve as the new district superintendent for both the Danville and Farmville districts.

In this new model, Bishop Lewis will also appoint an assistant to the DS for each district. Those part-time positions will be announced at a later date. Please join Bishop Lewis in giving thanks for these servants and pray for all involved in these transitions.



UMCOR

Bishop Lewis issues appeal for flood recovery in Danville, VA.

Greetings in Christ's name in these opening days of 2019! I need to bring to you an urgent need that I hope you will prayerfully consider. From the middle of September through the middle of October 2018 our sisters and brothers in the city and county of Danville, Virginia experienced historic flooding of the Dan River and other waterways as a result of hurricane Florence and tropical storm Michael. Over 40 homes were damaged, most of which are homes of persons and families that were struggling with economic challenges prior to the flooding. The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) stands ready to assist with disaster recovery funds. Please consider making a contribution to the Virginia Conference Disaster Response Fund which will direct contributions to the crisis in Danville. All contributions can be sent to the Conference Treasurer's office with the reference "Conference Disaster Response Fund #5037".



It is with great pleasure that we announce the destination of the Rise Against Hunger meals you helped package on 11/4/2018. A shipping container, holding 285,120 meals, has been sent to Madagascar for our partner Adventist Development and Relief Agency. If you happen to receive more than one of these announcements, your meals have gone to impact multiple partners.

Adventist Development and Relief Agency is an organization that nourishes lives through food assistance and other services in Madagascar. To learn more, please visit our partner/country spotlight on the Impact Stories tab and click and drag on our World Aid Map at <https://www.riseagainsthunger.org/world-aid/>.

Ending hunger is only possible if we continue to grow the movement. We encourage you to share the news about this shipment. Since 2005, volunteers like you have helped us distribute over 310 million meals worldwide. **We can end hunger by 2030**, but we can't do it without you.

Please visit our website www.riseagainsthunger.org and continue your involvement. Consider making a donation, planning another meal packaging event (at your place of worship, school, company, civic club, etc), joining our advocacy efforts, or even inviting us to speak to a group.

Rise Against Hunger

SUN. November 3
A Hands-On Impact on World Hunger

Sunday, Nov. 3
2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

The next meal packing date. Volunteers are welcome! Contact Carole Hall for more information, 540-786-3194.

HEART HAVENS

What makes your life full and rich? Is it your involvement in church? Your job? Is it the friends you go to the movies with, or the buddies who come over to watch the football game? Could it even be the small choices you make every day, such as what to have for breakfast or what to watch on TV in the evening? All of these things together are what fill our lives with joy and keep us engaged in our communities.

Adults with a developmental disability want a life just like yours: a life where they are part of a community, get to experience the many joys the world has to offer, and make their own choices. That's where Heart Havens comes in.

Heart Havens is a Virginia Conference Advance Special mission that provides residential support to adults with a developmental disability, but it's so much more than just providing a house. Heart Havens empowers people to discover what it is they love and then pursue it. No matter what the goal is, Heart Havens is all about helping the people they support find a way to make their dreams a reality.

Soon, our congregation will lift up Heart Havens Month, a time to both support the Heart Havens mission with our gifts and celebrate the gifts that people with a developmental disability bring to the church. Gifts we collect for Heart Havens allow them to continue providing a vibrant lifestyle for the people they support. To learn more about Heart Havens and the Heart Havens homes around the Conference, please visit www.hearthavens.org.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

FINANCE COMMITTEE

At the end of 2018, we spent 89.14% of our operating budget of \$333,901.70.

Revenues totaled \$282,966.95 in unrestricted weekly and online giving; expenses totaled \$303,699.16, leaving a net loss of \$20,732.21. There were several increases in expenses from 2017 to 2018: \$6,200 in Virginia and District apportionments, approximately \$9,400 for the new janitorial cleaning service, \$2,600 in moving expenses for the Pastor, \$1,000 for the removal of the tree on the front lawn, and several unexpected maintenance and repair costs for the church property.

The December bank statement had a beginning balance of \$68,141.58 and an ending balance of \$66,590.93. This included \$30,582.37 in deposits and \$32,133.02 in cleared checks. With \$16,795.86 in uncleared checks, the QuickBooks register balance was \$49,795.07. Of that amount, \$23,073.78 are monies earmarked for various Special Designated Accounts, leaving \$26,721.29 in the general operating account.

The Board of Trustees had a total of \$118,296.92 in several accounts, including a capital equipment replacement fund, several CDs and money market accounts.

Our next financial information session will be held on March 10 at 6pm in the social hall.

Our meetings are open to all on the second Wednesday of each month at 7pm in room 10.

We hope to see you at the financial information session and the monthly committee meeting! If you have any questions or concerns, please call or text Sandy Rawlins at 540 840-3776.

FEBRUARY 2018

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|--|--|--|---|---|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 7:00 PLAM 7:00 a.m. Emmaus Training 8:00 Men's Bible Study 9:30 Prayer |
| 3 12:30 p.m. Souper Bowl | 4 9-11 Food Pantry 10:00 am Prayer 11:30 a.m. Truth Project Study 5:30 p.m. Upper Room | 5 7:45 a.m. Exercise 1:00 p.m. God Celebrators 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts 7:00 WBB | 6 10:00 a.m. Business, Brown Bags & Bunco 5:30 p.m. Bell Choir 6:30 p.m. G.S. 7:00 Choir | 7 6:30 a.m. Micah Breakfast 6:00 p.m. UR 7:00 Al Anon 7:00 Trustees | 8 | 9 7:00 PLAM 8:00 Men's Bible Study |
| 10 2:00 p.m. Off-Site Honduras Meeting 5:00 p.m. Praise Band Practice 6:00 p.m. Girl Scout Comm. Mtg. 6:30 p.m. Holy Conversation about Human Sexuality | 11 9-11 Food Pantry 10:00 am Prayer 11:30 a.m. Truth Project Study 5:30 p.m. Upper Room | 12 7:45 a.m. Exercise 1:00 p.m. God Celebrators 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts 7:00 WBB | 13 10:00 a.m. UMW Crafts 5:30 p.m. Bell Choir 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts 7:00 Choir 7:00 p.m. Finance | 14 6:00 p.m. UR 7:00 Al Anon 7:00 p.m. Worship | 15 Love & Laundry 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. | 16 7:00 Pray Like a Man 8:00 Men's Bible Study 9:30 Prayer |
| 17 7:30 a.m. UMM Breakfast 9:45 a.m. 3rd Sunday Fellowship 5:00 p.m. Praise Band Practice 5:45 p.m. Evening Worship | 18 9-11 Food Pantry 10:00 am Prayer 11:30 a.m. Truth Project Study 5:30 p.m. Upper Room | 19 7:45 a.m. Exercise 1:00 God's Celebrators 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts 7:00 WBB | 20 10:00 a.m. UMW Crafts 5:30 p.m. Bell Choir 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts 7:00 Choir | 21 6:00 p.m. UR 6:45 p.m. Cub Scout Comm. Mtg. 7:00 Al Anon 7:00 p.m. Admin Council | 22 1:00-5:00 p.m. Love & Laundry 6:00 p.m. 30 Hour Famine Begins | 23 7:00 PLAM 7:00 a.m. Emmaus Training 8:00 Men's Bible Study 9:30 Prayer Special Session of the General Conference Opens |
| 24 5:00 p.m. Praise Band Practice | 25 9-11 Food Pantry 10:00 am Prayer 11:30 a.m. Truth Project Study 5:30 p.m. Upper Room 7:00 Pack 213 Mtg. | 26 7:45 a.m. Exercise 1:00 God's Celebrators 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts 7:00 WBB Special Session of the General Conference Closes | 27 10:00 a.m. UMW Crafts 5:30 p.m. Bell Choir 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts 7:00 Choir | 28 6:00 p.m. UR 6:45 p.m. Girl Scout Svc. Mtg. 7:00 Al Anon | | |

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 1 Zephyr Stephens
- 4 Lynette Ware
- 8 Garrett Powers
- 11 Ross Potts
- 12 Roger Morgan
- 12 Tyler Morgan
- 12 Barbara Brown
- 13 Sean Belako
- 13 Jane Studley
- 14 Linda Bailey
- 15 Catherine Powers
- 16 Carolyn Sprinkle
- 17 Sawyer Morris
- 19 Betsy Mosley
- 20 Paul Morris
- 22 Dick Moore
- 24 Tricia Boring
- 24 Meghan Smith
- 25 Tyler Harris
- 25 Ryan Smith
- 27 Earline Haney
- 27 Kathy Smith

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- 17 David & Janet Kinneer
- 21 Marvin & Dottie Prater
- 25 James & Linda Pettit
- 27 Greg & Betsy Anderson



BEEF STEW & BISCUITS

Our next Beef Stew & Biscuits meal will be
March 31 @ 12:15 p.m. Donations will
benefit Rise Against Hunger.

POC: Carole Hall

Briefing and Conversation about Called General Conference

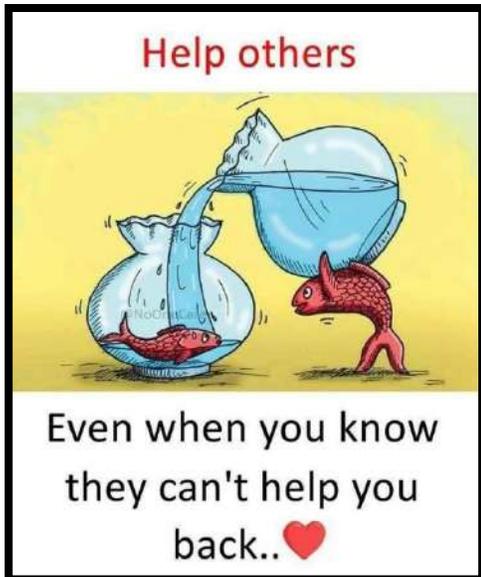
Sunday, Feb. 10 at 6:30 p.m., Pastor Bert will offer an open briefing about the special conference called by the bishops to address our denomination's response to human sexuality, particularly homosexuality. This international gathering of UM leaders is scheduled for February 23-26, 2019 in St. Louis, Missouri. Along with an introduction to the conference, there will be an opportunity to ask questions and have respectful conversation as well.



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.

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 stmatthiasumc.org and on facebook

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