



“HE WILL BE GREAT
AND WILL BE CALLED
THE SON OF THE MOST
HIGH.” LUKE 1:32

December 2018

The Messenger

A PUBLICATION OF ST. MATTHIAS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The following is a reflection from St. Matthias' past that Brenda Wood found in her papers this week. She thinks that this came from Pastor Paula, but there is no byline. With only a few adjustments, it fits our situation today wonderfully. We hope you are blessed by this 'rerun' of hope.

Without you, who would
Teach our children the songs of Jesus,
Lift up their voice so that we would know the joy of praising God in song,
And carry in the light of Jesus during our worship service?

Without you, who would.....
Usher God's people to the table to commune with Him,
Greet newcomers at the door with a smile and make them feel welcome,
And provide care for the little ones so that their parents can hear the Word and be fed?

Without you, who would.....
Keep our building sparkling ("Cleanliness is next to Godliness!"),
Lead our leaders in planning God's work, And be a Christ-like support to the employees of the church?

Without you, who would.....
Deliver a Flower Fairy bouquet to lift someone's spirits,
Make sure that the "Doves" and "Angels" are remembered at Christmas,
And send greeting cards full of love and encouragement?

Without you, who would.....
Provide needed medical supplies to third-world countries,
Gather school supplies to send to the Appalachian Mountains,
Meet at the Salvation Army to assemble gift bags,
And furnish groceries so that food pantry shelves don't go empty?

Without you, who would.....
Lead our youth so that they can become the person God intends them to be,
Provide food for families in grief, And give of your time to show love and guidance to children learning to read?

Without you, who would.....
Remember that those in nursing homes still need hugs,
Work to make it possible for a child to have the best Christmas ever knowing that he/she is loved,
Give of yourself to repair homes destroyed by nature or simply worn by time or lack of finances,
And spend your weekend preparing and serving a meal for those down on their luck?

Without you, who would.....
Make the children feel like an important part of church with their very own Children's Church,
Help teach us that there is more than one way to worship God, And create visual displays that reminds us of God's bounty?

Without you, who would.....
Be a prayer warrior in times of need and times of joy,
Pledge to fund the ministries of this church, And hear the words God put on the heart of our pastor and share them during the week with co-workers, friends and complete strangers?

Paul tells us in I Corinthians that the body of Christ is made up of many parts and that no one part is more important than another. If just one of these parts mentioned went amiss, God would know. His heart would ache for you to return because He loves you that much. Stewardship is about using what God gave you. It's about taking God outside of the box we call a sanctuary and about taking ourselves outside the box of our comfort zone.

Moses stuttered, David was a shepherd boy, Mary was a poor peasant girl and He used them for greatness. Think what he can do with you.

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UPCOMING EVENTS



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM & BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR JESUS Sunday, Dec. 16 @ 5:00 p.m.

GOD'S PROMISE CAME TRUE ~ A children's Christmas program open for all ages. Please bring winter hats, gloves/mittens and scarves for our "Warm Tree". These will go to children in need. Let us give to others in honor of Jesus birthday!!

There will be two program practices: Please be present at both! Thurs., Dec. 6 @ 6:30 p.m. & Mon., Dec. 10 @ 6:30 p.m.
Sign up on the front bulletin board.

If you play a musical instrument and would like to play a song or two at the beginning of our program, I would LOVE to have you!

POC: Liz Morris, 540-226-5133 (text or call),
momx3gnmad@verizon.net

CHRISTMAS LABELS



The youth will be selling Christmas labels again this year. Labels can be purchased after worship. Cost: \$5.00/set

HEARTWOOD FOOD PACKING

Wednesday, December 19 @ 9:00 a.m. – St. Matthias UMC
Volunteers are welcome!

STAFF GIFTS

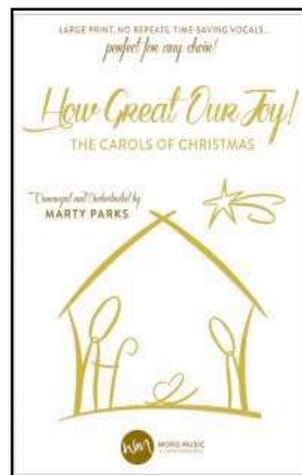
In keeping with St. Matthias Christmas tradition, the SPPRC would like to honor all outstanding staff members with a Christmas gift to show them our appreciation for all they do throughout the year to support our mission statement of *Reaching, Teaching, Loving and Serving*. Our lay staff members are Susan Courtney (Administrative Assistant), Carole Hall (Choir Director), Judy Puriton (Nursery), and Erin Wetzel (Youth Director). Pastor Bert has requested that the SPPRC share all gifts among the church's Lay staff, but he still appreciates Christmas greetings and seasonal encouragement. If you wish to honor our staff by blessing them with a Thank You gift, simply place your love offering in a separate envelope marked Staff Gift and put it in the offering plate by December 23. Your generosity is appreciated and your prayers for these awesome employees are appreciated even more!

ANGELS & DOVES

DUE THIS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2

Thank you to all who chose an Angel & Dove to support this Christmas. Please return your wrapped gift, with tag attached, to St. Matthias by this Sunday, December 2. Please contact the church office for more information, 540-373-8759.

CANTATA



Come join the choir's presentation of this year's cantata "How Great Our Joy!" The cantata begins at 11:00 a.m. but please join us for a time of fellowship in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00 a.m. Plan to be a part of our celebration of the birth of Christ in prayer, song, and fellowship with our family of God. See you there!

BLUE CHRISTMAS



Blue Christmas: A Service of Reflection for those dealing with loss and grief. Saturday, December 22th at 2pm in the Sanctuary.

Blue? Yes, blue as in the blues. As in "I am feeling blue." Not everyone is up and cheery for the Christmas holidays. Dealing with the death of a loved one, facing life after divorce or separation, coping with the loss of a job, living with cancer or some other disease that puts a question mark over the future, and a number of other human situations make parties and joviality painful for many people in our congregation and community. Join us in taking all of this to God while seeking healing and hope. The Sanctuary will be open for prayer following the service

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Thank you to all who attended the first financial information event on November 18th! We had a lot of interest and a lot of questions, which is exactly what we wanted. Another session may be planned for January 2019 when it will be time to review next year's budget. Look for more details to come soon.

As of the end of October, we are ten months into the year (83%) but we have spent less than our budget projection (74.8%) in the operating account. Revenues totaled \$234,427.15 in unrestricted weekly and online giving; expenses totaled \$246,585.67, leaving a net loss of \$12,158.52. In prior reports, revenue from the sale of scrip had been recorded (\$10,920.00) but the cost of scrip (\$10,808.40) had not recorded correctly in QuickBooks as an expense even though cleared checks had been written to Giant and Walmart. Unsold cards were recorded as inventory but had not been recorded as an expense once they were sold. The QuickBooks administrator noticed the error and corrected it by a journal entry.

The October bank statement had a beginning balance of \$79,317.70 and an ending balance of \$74,596.25. This included \$30,472.00 in deposits and \$35,193.45 in cleared checks. With \$19,821.37 in uncleared checks, the QuickBooks register balance was \$54,774.88. Of that amount, \$23,736.96 are monies earmarked for various Special Designated Accounts leaving \$31,037.92 in the general operating account.

The Board of Trustees had a total of \$134,324.60 in several accounts, including a capital equipment replacement fund and several CDs and money market accounts.

Our meetings are open to all on the second Wednesday of each month at 7pm in room 10. If requested, detailed financial reports are available for review in the church office. We hope you will join us at our next committee meeting!

LOVE & LAUNDRY



Love and Laundry on Friday, November 16 was a record-breaker! We helped 26 patrons/families and spent \$485.25 to do it! Thank you, everyone, for your donations, which makes this ministry happen. And a special thanks to Madelyn Wetzell, who brought her own bag of quarters, a bag full of treats for the kids who were there, and who charmed everyone in the laundromat with her loving conversation, the beautiful pictures that she drew for folks, and her amazing smile for everyone! The Lord was at work BIG TIME at the Laundry Basket on the 16th!

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Thanks, St. Matthias family, for your wonderful support of our craft sales and Fall Fest! Because of your generosity, we were able to make the following donations to various missions:

UMW District Dues	\$500
Staff Gifts	\$300
Angel and Dove gifts	Up to \$100 for one of each
Marian Lynch for her work with the homeless:	\$250 for the breakfasts she prepares; \$500 for the shoes she purchases for the homeless folks
Salvation Army Toyland	\$200
Heartwood Food Ministry	\$300
UMCOR (for cleaning buckets)	\$750
World Thank Offering to District	\$92

Our annual Christmas party will be Tuesday, December 11, at the restaurant at Fawn Lake. There is a menu and sign-up sheet on the main bulletin board, and **all women of St. Matthias are invited to join us**. We will gather after lunch at Sherry King's home and will exchange small (\$5.00 or less) gifts with a snowflake theme and enjoy dessert and fellowship.

SHOREY CHAPEL COAT DRIVE



Coats St. Matthias members and friends sent to Shorey Chapel in Industry, Maine. There are 621 winter wear items in these pictures. Anything classified as a "hoodie" was taken to the high school by one of the teachers. Bringing the total donated by St. Matthias to over 700. This is so incredibly awesome. Truly the hands and feet of our Lord. I would like to personally thank everyone who donated anything to the mission. So many were touched and lives were changed because of your generosity.

Thank you so very much
Love and blessings,
Dianne



An excerpt from a thank you card from Shorey Chapel:

"A man came from the homeless shelter in a light jacket and went home with a heavy one & also a dress jacket 'for wearing to church on Sunday'. I tell folks who and where the coats and jackets come from. Thank you again on behalf of so many people who went home warm."



DECEMBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 7:00 PLAM 8:00 MBS 9:30 Prayer 10:00 Hanging of the Greens
2 5:00 Praise Band Practice 5:45 p.m. Evening Worship	3 9-11 Food Pantry 10:00 am Prayer 5:30 p.m. Upper Room	4 7:45 a.m. Exercise 1:00 p.m. God Celebrators 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts 7:00 WBB	5 5:30 p.m. Bell Choir 6:30 p.m. G.S. 7:00 Choir	6 6:30 a.m. Micah Breakfast 6:00 p.m. UR 6:30 Children's Program Practice 7:00 Al Anon 7:00 Trustees	7	8 7:00 am Pray Like a Man 8:00 Men's Bible Study 9:30 Prayer
9	10 9-11 Food Pantry 10:00 am Prayer 5:30 p.m. Upper Room 6:30 p.m. Children's Program Practice	11 7:45 a.m. Exercise 11:00 Truth Project 12:00 UMW Luncheon 1:00 p.m. God Celebrators 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts 7:00 WBB	12 10:00 a.m. UMW Meeting 5:30 p.m. Bell Choir 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts 7:00 Choir 7:00 p.m. Finance	13 11:00 a.m. Retired Teacher's Luncheon 6:00 p.m. UR 7:00 Al Anon 7:00 Worship	14 Troop 199 Lock In	15 7:00 Pray Like a Man 8:00 Men's Bible Study 9:30 Prayer
16 7:30 a.m. UMM Breakfast 9:45 a.m. 3rd Sunday Fellowship 11:00 Cantata 3:30 p.m. Thurman Brisben 5:00 p.m. Children's Program & birthday party for Jesus	17 9-11 Food Pantry 10:00 am Prayer 5:30 p.m. Upper Room	18 7:45 a.m. Exercise 1:00 God's Celebrators 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts 7:00 WBB	19 9:00 a.m. Heartwood Food Packing 5:30 p.m. Bell Choir 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts 7:00 Choir	20 6:00 p.m. UR 6:30 p.m. Cub Scout Comm. Meeting 7:00 Al Anon	21 1-5 p.m. Love & Laundry	22 7:00 Pray Like a Man 8:00 Men's Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Prayer 2:00 p.m. Blue Christmas
23 5:00 Praise Band Practice 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service with Awaken the Dawn	24 9-11 a.m. Food Pantry 10:00 am Prayer 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service with the choir	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS OFFICE CLOSED	26	27 6:00 p.m. UR 7:00 Al Anon	28	29 7:00 Pray Like a Man 8:00 Men's Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Prayer
30 5:00 Praise Band Practice	31 9-11 a.m. Food Pantry 10:00 am Prayer	Jan 1 HAPPY NEW YEAR OFFICE CLOSED				

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

1	Mike Trant
4	Rosemary Balgavy
7	Jacob Morgan
10	Dave Monroe
13	Barbara Kendall
17	Kathryn Leffler
17	Jolene Rippey
19	Brenda Trant
19	Mike Miller
21	Butch Cover
21	Sally King
21	Gladys Russell
22	Nicholas Belako
22	Hank Middleton
24	Madison Main
25	Nancy Noel
26	Emma Rose Hutchinson
31	Brenda Wood

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

7	Russell & Bonnie Gardner
10	Pete & Evette Russett
17	Spencer & Ruby Courtney
21	Jesse & Peggy Stone
29	Terry & Lura Hill



There will not be a Red Cross Blood Drive in December due to scheduling conflicts. We will be planning our next "drive" in early spring. Stay tuned for more details.

Be thankful that you don't already have everything you desire,
If you did, what would there be to look forward to?

Be thankful when you don't know something
For it gives you the opportunity to learn.

Be thankful for the difficult times.
During those times you grow.

Be thankful for your limitations
Because they give you opportunities for improvement.

Be thankful for each new challenge
Because it will build your strength and character.

Be thankful for your mistakes
They will teach you valuable lessons.

Be thankful when you're tired and weary
Because it means you've made a difference.

It is easy to be thankful for the good things.
A life of rich fulfillment comes to those who are
also thankful for the setbacks.

GRATITUDE can turn a negative into a positive.
Find a way to be thankful for your troubles
and they can become your blessings.

~ Author Unknown



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

Physical & Mailing: 426 Deacon Road, Fredericksburg, VA 22405