

Give  
Thanks to  
the Lord  
for he is  
good.



November 2018

# The Messenger

A PUBLICATION OF ST. MATTHIAS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



*Recently, I was reminded of this fantastic poem by Ann Weems and it reminded me of who we are and who we can be at our best. For this month, I wanted to offer this as a bit of a love letter to you.*  
Pastor Bert.

## I Celebrate the Church of Jesus Christ

by Ann Weems

I celebrate the church of Jesus Christ, where two or three or thousands can gather together in the Lord's name and touch this world with the amazing good news that somebody cares, that God joins us in community so that someday this world will be loved to wholeness.

I celebrate this community, where the people say Yes in the face of No, where they light candles in the darkest night, where healing and compassion leave no time for self-righteousness, and the life sustaining love of Christ is evident in the life of the believers.

I celebrate this church, where we dare to stand up, where risk runs rampant, and you and I and all Christ's disciples are called upon to follow even when it costs us something, something precious like our friends, like our respectability, like our future with the company.

I celebrate the church, where we are called from half-heartedness to commitment: commitment to a God who call us to change, to change our direction, to be reborn to a way of life where others are significant.

I celebrate the church, where every child of God is hailed as unique and valuable, where arms are opened to the world's outcasts, where the tired, beaten, disillusioned world is invited in and surprised by the life-giving word that Christ accepts the children, all the children of the world.

I celebrate the injustices righted, the protests made on behalf of the battered. I celebrate the awareness and awakening to humanity's suffering, the pain alleviated, the scars erased.

I celebrate the mercy and forgiveness, the tears wiped away, the hands held, the gifts given, the children treasured and nurtured, the races won, the failures met. Let's celebrate the church of Jesus Christ where the wonderful wildness of God breaks through common clay pots and fills us with a holy spirit that overflows and we see rainbows, many-splendored colors, light in pitch darkness—and every day is a festival of faith!

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Rise Against Hunger

**SUN. November 4**  
**A Hands-On Impact on**  
**World Hunger**

**THIS SUNDAY, November 4**  
**2:00 – 4:00 p.m. ~ More volunteers needed!**

Please consider volunteering to help pack meals for children and families starving around the world.

**POC:** Carole Hall, (540) 786-3194

## ADVENT STUDY



### CHRISTMAS

It brings sleigh bells ringing and carolers singing. And sometimes it brings heartache and hurt feelings. If you could use some true Christmas this Christmas, join Max Lucado as he unpacks the enduring promises of Christmas and discovers a lifetime of hope because of one baby born in Bethlehem.

Sign-up on the front bulletin board. Books are \$10 and will be ordered Nov. 12.

## TRUTH PROJECT



This study is the starting point for looking at life from a biblical perspective. Each lesson discusses in detail the relevance and importance of living the Christian worldview in daily life.

Begins Tues., Nov. 13 – Nov. 27 @ 11:00 a.m.  
**POC:** Debbie Whittington, 540-372-7521  
[www.thetruthproject.org](http://www.thetruthproject.org)

## COLD WEATHER SHELTER



St. Matthias, along with other 6 area churches, is helping to support Micah Ministries' Cold Weather Shelter. The Cold Weather Shelter offers a warm and safe place for homeless individuals or families to come and stay the night. St. Matthias will provide volunteers to work with Micah staff the third and fourth Mondays of each month. Volunteers will report at 5:45 p.m. and usually be finished about 7:30 p.m. We are also asking for donated tube socks, t-shirts, non-white briefs and thermals.

If you are interested in volunteering or have questions, please contact Trudy Monroe. Contact information: 313-550-3979 or [daveortrudy@yahoo.com](mailto:daveortrudy@yahoo.com)

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION SESSION

If you have ever wondered about how the money flows through the church accounts or how the annual budget is formulated and approved? Here's your chance to find out. On Sunday, November 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m., your friendly, informative key leaders will be available in the Fellowship Hall to answer your questions and address your concerns.

We'll cover the flow of funds through the various accounts, show you how the funds are dispersed, talk about the various types of accounts that we are currently using, provide samples of budget reports so you can see the funds coming in and going out, and anything else that you would like to know.

If needed, we will hold the event again for those who are unable to make it on the 18<sup>th</sup>. Please attend if you are able as we want the church's finances to be as transparent as possible for you.

If you have specific questions that you would like answered, please call or text Sandy Rawlins before the event. **POC:** 540-752-8034 or 540-840-3776 (cell)

## HEALING LOVE RETREAT @ CAMP OVERLOOK

### Wounded Hearts, Healing Love Retreat at Camp Overlook

**SEPARATED, DIVORCED, WIDOWED?** Stressing about the holidays? Need spiritual renewal, some joy? Then join us for our annual **WOUNDED HEARTS, HEALING LOVE Retreat**. Realize this is not a matchmaking event, but rather a time to gain a Christ centered perspective on your future. Have a friend or family member who would benefit? Consider sponsoring a male or female who is struggling with this life changing loss.

**WHEN:** November 30-December 2, 2018 (Friday evening to Sunday afternoon).

**WHERE:** Overlook Retreat and Camp Ministries, 3014 Camp Overlook Lane, Keezletown, VA 22832. Comfortable accommodations at *Blessings Lodge*, 5 meals and snacks provided.

**COST:** \$105.00/some financial aid may be available.

**REGISTER:** Call or fax (540) 269-2267 or email [campoverlook@gmail.com](mailto:campoverlook@gmail.com)

**WEBSITE:** Brochures can be seen and downloaded at [www.campoverlook.org](http://www.campoverlook.org)

## IMAGINE... PRAYING

Imagine, if you can, a church, say, St. Matthias, where **every single day, every single member** of the congregation **prayed** for the Pastor! There are so many ways to pray for one's pastor (and for all the other pastors out there): first, for thankfulness that he was chosen by God and sent to lead us, to shepherd us, to care for and love us, to help us worship and to give us some tough love when we need it. Then, we can be praying for his well-being: for his health and strength and stamina; for his wisdom in taking sabbath time, resting time, family time, fun time, quiet time, prayer time, Bible immersion time. We can pray for our Pastor's putting God first and foremost in his life; for his checking in with the Lord before making decisions or preaching or teaching or counseling. We can pray for our Pastor's protection: that the enemy will not use church members with a chip on their shoulder to attack or be cruel or criticize or gossip or tell lies against our Pastor. We can pray for our Pastor's choice of leaders and helpers; that he chooses folks who are willing and able to help shoulder the burden and the load of pastoring a church and helping it grow and moving it in God-directed ways. We can pray that our Pastor's efforts to lead us from membership to discipleship for Christ will be welcomed and sought after. We can pray that our Pastor's new ideas are welcomed and prayed and thought about, not just rejected because "we've never done that before..." We can pray for our Pastor's family and his marriage; that they will not suffer because of the demands of his church family; that he will keep his commitments to his family first and foremost, as the sacred covenants they are. We can pray for our Pastor's use of technology; that it remains a blessing for communication in his life, but never replaces the one-on-one, face-to-face or voice-to-voice communication that human souls are hungry for.

Want more information about how to pray for our Pastor? Go to [www.umc.org/what-we-believe/15-ways-to-pray-for-your-pastor](http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/15-ways-to-pray-for-your-pastor). There are some great ideas there.

In the meantime, let's all try to imagine what will happen at St. Matthias if we start to pray every day for our Pastor. And as we imagine it, let's pray for it! We can start TODAY!

Mary Ella Fuquay

## SO, WHAT'S SO GREAT ABOUT LOVE & LAUNDRY?

Indeed, what IS so great about lugging tons of rolled quarters, buckets of detergent and fabric softener, bundles of brochures and information about St. Matthias UMC, and doing non-stop moving about the Laundry Basket laundromat for four hours on the third Friday of the month? What IS so great about pushing endless quarters (1,301 of them at our last event, which equalled \$325.25 for 20 patrons) into slots to get the washers and dryers going? What IS so great about greeting a weary, hamper-laden person as he or she enters the laundromat, telling them that we are paying for their laundry that day? What is so great about all of that? EVERYTHING, that's what!

On October 19, at our last Love and Laundry event, we took 10 Bibles to hand out to patrons. (A recent cleaning-out of Room 10 at church revealed a whole bunch of paperback Bibles which we had obtained months ago, for the purpose of giving them away. Whoo hoo! We had Bibles to give out!) We soon ran out of those Bibles, and one fellow was so disappointed about not getting one that we made a trip back to church to get more! 16 Bibles were given out that afternoon, and people could be seen reading them as they waited for their laundry to finish. One very special woman we have come to know at the laundromat had so many questions about God and Jesus and the Bible that Debbie Whittington sat outside with her for a while and did Bible study! Our "special friend" had tears streaming down her face as Debbie gave her scriptural evidence of how much God loves her.

At one point on the 19<sup>th</sup>, Maria, the manager of the laundromat, pulled me aside and urged me to look at the patrons who had filled the place that afternoon. She said, "Do you see that? Do you see how folks are talking and laughing together, helping one another, really being friends with one another? They're not on their phones, or avoiding contact with one another, but they're really enjoying being here together!"

Maria went on to say, with tears in her eyes, "This laundromat is different when you're here from the church. It's a happier place, and people are really having a bit of fun because you're here." I assured her that it had nothing to do with US, and everything to do with the Holy Spirit and with God's presence as we were just helping out His children. She asked if she, too, could have one of the Bibles, and I was happy to give her one.

The message of Love and Laundry is so much more than free laundry one afternoon a month. It's a message of caring, of love for many of the folks that Jesus would call the "least," and a message of hope. For people who might have had to decide between clean clothes and food on the table, it's a bit of a break from the agonizing stress of that kind of decision. Love and Laundry has connected several people with our Food Pantry at St. Matthias, and with VBS, and even, occasionally, with worship. If this kind of ministry can let even one person know that they are valued, loved and cared about, it's worth it.

So, what's so great about Love and Laundry? As stated above, EVERYTHING!!

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

THANK YOU, St. Matthias family, for your wonderful support of our annual Fall Fest craft and yard sale! Your generosity in purchasing our crafts, baked goods, yard sale treasures and other items made it possible for us to add \$2,621.57 to our treasury, which in turn will make it possible for us to support many vital missions of women and children locally, nationally and globally.

We're not finished, though! We have a table in the missions hallway with crafts for you to purchase, and we have one more large bazaar in early November at Celebrate by Del Webb where we will have a craft table. Also, we sell crafts at the Retired Teachers' luncheons, and those teachers really enjoy seeing and purchasing our items.

At our meeting on November 14 we will be voting on the distribution of monies to various mission causes. Our meetings begin at 10 a.m. in Social Hall, and we welcome any and all women of St. Matthias to come and join us.

## FINANCE REPORT

### October 2018 Status

Nine months into the year (75%), we have spent less than our budget projection (66.5%) in the operating account. Revenues totaled \$208,967.65 in unrestricted weekly and online giving; expenses totaled \$204,237.29, leaving a net profit of \$4,730.36.

The September bank statement had a beginning balance of \$86,343.62 and an ending balance of \$79,317.70. This included \$21,262.25 in deposits and \$28,288.17 in cleared checks. With \$12,734.00 in uncleared checks, the QuickBooks register balance was \$66,583.70. Of that amount, \$28,893.32 are monies earmarked for various Special Designated Accounts leaving \$37,690.38 in the general operating account.

The Board of Trustees had a total of \$123,710.43 in several accounts, including a capital equipment replacement fund, a memorial fund, 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!

## YOUTH MINISTRY



### YOUTH MOVIE NIGHT

SUNDAY, NOV. 4

6:30-8:30 p.m.

Invite a friend!



### SATURDAY, NOV. 17

Contact Erin if you or someone you know needs help raking the leaves out of their yard.

Erin Wetzel, 540-809-8105



Shoebboxes are ready for you to pick up! Located outside the Sanctuary.

## SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE

The Council of Bishops has called a Special Session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church to be held February 23-26, 2019 in St. Louis, Missouri. The purpose will be to act on a report from the Council of Bishops based on the recommendations of the Commission on a Way Forward. 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. We encourage you to learn more by visiting: <https://www.vaumc.org/GC2019>

**NOVEMBER 2018**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b> 6:30 a.m. Micah <b>Breakfast</b> 6:00 p.m. UR <b>7:00 Al Anon</b> 7:00 Trustees	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 7:00 PLAM 8:00 MBS <b>9:30 Prayer</b> 10:00 Mission Meeting
<b>4</b> 6:30 UMYF Movie Night	<b>5</b> 9-11 Food Pantry 10:00 am Prayer <b>6:00 p.m. Women's                      Bible Study</b>	<b>6</b> 7:45 a.m. Exercise 11:00 Disciple 4 <b>1:00 p.m. God                      Celebrators</b> 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts <b>7:00 WBB</b>	<b>7</b> 10:00 a.m. UMW <b>Crafts</b> 5:30 p.m. Bell Choir <b>6:30 p.m. G.S.</b> 7:00 Choir	<b>8</b> 6:00 p.m. <b>Basecamp                      Training</b> 6:00 p.m. UR <b>7:00 Al Anon</b> 7:00 Worship	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 7:00 am Pray <b>Like a Man</b> 8:00 Men's Bible Study <b>9:30 Prayer</b> 1:00 p.m. B.S. Space Derby
<b>11</b> 3:30 p.m. Thurman Brisben	<b>12</b> 9-11 Food Pantry 10:00 am Prayer <b>6:00 p.m. Women's                      Bible Study</b>	<b>13</b> 7:45 a.m. Exercise 11:00 Truth Project <b>1:00 p.m. God                      Celebrators</b> 5:30 Vital Church Mtg. @ Garaffa's Pizza 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts <b>7:00 WBB</b>	<b>14</b> 10:00 a.m. UMW <b>Meeting</b> 5:30 p.m. Bell Choir <b>6:30 p.m. Girl                      Scouts</b> 7:00 Choir <b>7:00 p.m. Finance</b>	<b>15</b> 6:00 p.m. UR 7:00 Al Anon <b>7:00 Admin                      Council</b>	<b>16</b> 1-5 p.m. <b>Love &amp;                      Laundry</b>	<b>17</b> 7:00 Pray <b>Like a Man</b> 8:00 Men's Bible Study <b>9:00 a.m.                      Youth Leaf                      Raking</b> 9:30 Prayer
<b>18</b> 7:30 a.m. UMM <b>Breakfast</b> 9:45 a.m. 3rd Sunday Fellowship <b>6:00 p.m. Financial                      Information                      Session</b>	<b>19</b> 9-11 Food Pantry 10:00 am Prayer <b>6:00 p.m. Women's                      Bible Study</b>	<b>20</b> 7:45 a.m. Exercise 11:00 Truth Project <b>1:00 God's                      Celebrators</b> 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts <b>7:00 WBB</b>	<b>21</b> 10:00 am UMW <b>Crafts</b> 5:30 p.m. Bell Choir <b>7:00 Choir</b>	<b>22</b> THANKSGIVING OFFICE CLOSED	<b>23</b> OFFICE CLOSED	<b>24</b> 7:00 Pray <b>Like a Man</b> 8:00 Men's Bible Study
<b>25</b> 5:00 Praise Band <b>Practice</b>	<b>26</b> 9-11 a.m. Food Pantry 10:00 am Prayer <b>7:00 p.m. Pack 213                      Meeting</b>	<b>27</b> 7:45 a.m. Exercise 11:00 Truth Project <b>1:00 God's                      Celebrators</b> 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts <b>7:00 WBB</b>	<b>28</b> 10:00 am UMW <b>Crafts</b> 5:30 p.m. Bell Choir <b>6:30 p.m. Girl                      Scouts</b> 7:00 Choir	<b>29</b> 6:00 p.m. UR 7:00 Al Anon	<b>30</b>	

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 1 Derrick, Ryder & Summer Grace Rucker
- 1 Amanda Murray
- 2 Cheryl Potts
- 2 Marvin Prater
- 8 Joan Polen
- 9 John Nedza
- 10 Cathy Bray
- 10 John Knutson
- 11 Jocelyn Hayes
- 12 Jim Powell
- 13 Jerry Hardison
- 14 Homar Rivera
- 14 Mike Moore
- 15 Brandon Keene
- 16 Allen Gardner
- 16 Sara Rucker
- 17 Jessica Gmitter
- 23 Elizabeth Murray
- 25 Larry Mosley
- 26 Rich Kaufmann
- 27 David Hogue
- 30 Jeff McClure
- 30 Liliana Leffler
- 30 Trudy Monroe

### Contentment by Dorothy Johnson

Contentment is the quiet, gentle sister of happiness. She's the one who fades into the background when her rollicking sisters— Joy, Pleasure and Amusement— are in the room. Her rivals— Ambition, Pride, and Envy— underestimate her strength and worth. Neither showy nor loud, she waits quietly for those who will notice the treasure of peace and fulfillment she offers.

from *Alive Now*  
July/August 2015

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- 9 Mike & Susan Miller
- 15 Bob & Julie Dixon
- 20 Bob & Cathy Powers
- 23 Joe & Linda Reichard
- 26 Peter & Nancy Vernimb
- 26 Doug & Trish Boring

EXPERIENCING THE LIFE THAT IS TRULY LIFE



# LIVING GENEROUSLY



A 5 WEEK CINEMATIC JOURNEY OF BIBLICAL LIVING FROM **RE**IMAGINE

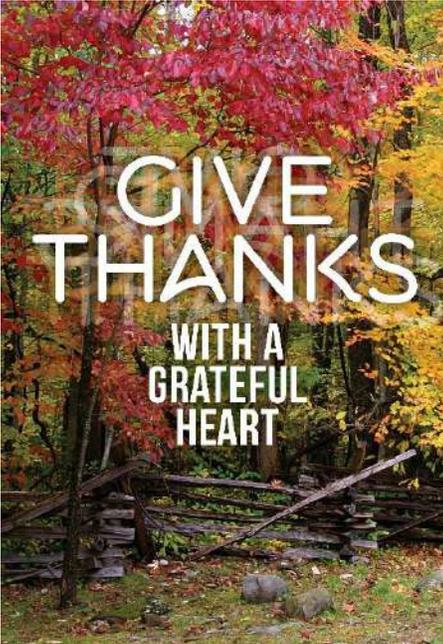
**A Cinematic Journey in Biblical Living  
at Each Service in November and on our  
SMUMC Facebook Group.**



**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](mailto:pastorbert@stmatthiasumc.org)

### **Office:**

Ms. Susan Courtney

(540) 373-8759 | [office@stmatthiasumc.org](mailto:office@stmatthiasumc.org)

Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

### **Find us:**

Visit us online at [stmatthiasumc.org](http://stmatthiasumc.org) and on facebook

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