



# THE MESSENGER

OCTOBER 2018

## **SAILING THROUGH A HURRICANE**

*For several years, Gina and I enjoyed a great coaching relationship with Rev. Paul Nixon of the Epicenter Group (epicentergroup.org) who works with pastors across the country and across denominations, although he is a United Methodist through and through. He has been a great guide and friend through my pastoral ministry. St. Matthias has books by him in our Room 10 library, and it always makes me smile when I glance over to see them in meetings. He has been a great guide and friend through my pastoral ministry. Monthly, he offers insight for ministry in a helpful email, and the one he offered just after Hurricane Florence was very helpful for me and I wanted to share it with you. - Pastor Bert*

Years ago, a couple in my church retired and embarked on a trip of a lifetime. They cruised around the world. They came back with great stories - but the one I most remember is the night that they met a Category 1 typhoon in the Indian Ocean. Apparently it popped up suddenly, and the captain decided it would be best just to plow through. Everyone on board received Dramamine, delivered to their staterooms before bedtime. All ship activity was curtailed for an evening and they put folks to bed. By morning the sun was out, and they had passed through the storm.

Three years ago this Fall my co-author from Weird Church and I traveled with our spouses to Venice for a late fall cruise celebrating the end of the work on our book. Really good deals on November cruises in the Mediterranean and Adriatic Seas. There is a reason for those really good prices. About the same week of the year and at about the same GPS where the Apostle Paul's ship got into trouble (and shipwrecked on Crete), we hit sustained winds in excess of 70 knots two nights in a row. The swimming pool water actually would splash up into the air on one side revealing the bottom of the pool, then fall back and splash up the other way revealing the bottom of the pool again.

But we were a big ship. The captain sailed us with purpose. We were unable to land in port in Dubrovnik. But we were fine. Granted, the people at either end of the ship had clothes flying out of their closets, and the breakfast buffet had lots of available seating those two days!

But we sailed through!

I have been thinking of hurricanes lately as three named storms were recently lined up in the Atlantic headed west. I have used this image as a metaphor for UMC General Conferences 2019, 2020 and 2024. Stormy times.

But I fully expect to be here in 2024, traveling each week to work with local churches - many of them in the Methodist tradition. Some of them will be a bit battered from the storm, but come Sunday, there will be church! Some of those 2024 churches don't even exist yet. They will soon be planted. And their people will care little about UMC General Conference meetings.

My strong word to churches who want to postpone capital campaigns or bold mission until after the storm - it's better to sail on through with purpose, vision, and an exciting local narrative than to be caught without direction, doomed to years of just bobbing around and reading church newsfeeds on our phones.

People. Pray for General Conference but don't get too distracted! We have places to go, mission to attend and communities to bless. The best "way forward" for any local church is a sense of God's call and faithful action to be busy bringing God's dreams to life **LOCALLY**.

The storm will pass. The Church of Jesus Christ will sail through.

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**Ride Share Program Re-started!**

Don't miss church because you don't have a ride! We have drivers ready and willing to pick you up and return you home after church on Sunday or church events! This can be on a one-time schedule, or on a consistent basis if that fits your needs. If you need a ride, please contact Cathy Bray or Mary Ella Fuquay **by 6 pm the evening before**, and we'll arrange for your transportation.

And if you're willing to be a driver, also let Cathy or Mary Ella know, and we'll put you the driver list. We don't want anyone to miss church for lack of transportation!

**POC:** Cathy Bray, 540-371-1380 or Mary Ella, 540-479-8265.

 **Fall Festival** 

UMW will be having its annual crafts/baked goods sale. 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



**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.

**Man Stuff Yard Sale ~ Sat., Oct. 6**

**8:00 – 12:00 p.m.**

You may bring donated items to the church starting Sun., Sept. 30 (please, not before).



**Warm Winter Mission**

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 7<sup>th</sup>**. 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.

**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 or email [pegjonesva@gmail.com](mailto:pegjonesva@gmail.com).

## DEVOTIONAL

We are not here by accident; not on this planet, nor in this church, nor at this table. Created by a God who treasures our uniqueness, we are each called to live into that uniqueness fully and with all of our beings, that we might bring to fruition the plan God has for our individual lives and our collective life as a church, a family, a community.

1 Peter 4:10 tells us “And serve each other according to the gift each person has received, as good managers of God's diverse gifts.” God does not call any one of us to do everything; He calls every one of us to do something, out of the love He has for each of us, to serve one another as His children.

In the community where I live, houses are still being constructed, and I watch everyday as teams of workers cooperate and work together as a team, to get the homes constructed as quickly and efficiently as possible. Not all are plumbers, not all are roofers, not all are dry wall installers or framers or painters. Each worker brings his or her unique talent to create a home from what appears to my eye to be just a pile of raw materials. It's a joyful thing to watch those raw materials being transformed into lovely homes by workers with unique skills and abilities.

I imagine that's how God intends for his world to work. Having given different talents and skills to each of us, He merely asks that we use them to the best of our ability. And when we bring those talents and gifts to our church setting, we do so prayerfully, asking God to guide us and help us discern how and where we should use our gifts. He WANTS us to seek his guidance and direction; He loves it when we come to Him in humble prayer, asking that we might be what He intended. He hears our prayers, He answers our prayers, but He doesn't want us to stop there. He wants us to step out in faith, putting our gifts and talents to work as He leads us; reminding us in James 2: 26 “....faith without deeds is dead.”

Sir Thomas More, who lived from 1478 to 1535, prayed, “The things, good Lord, that we pray for, give us the grace to labor for.”

In this time of restoration and renewal here at St. Matthias, we are doing a lot of praying, a lot of seeking the Lord's healing and guidance and wisdom. As we move forward prayerfully, let us also move forward actively, using the gifts and talents and abilities God has blessed us with, to DO the tasks He has called us together to do.

## FINANCE

Eight months into the year (66.7%), we have spent less than our budget projection (60%) in the operating account. Revenues totaled \$189,454.65 in unrestricted weekly and online giving; expenses totaled \$187,110.77 leaving a net profit of \$2,343.88.

The August bank statement had a beginning balance of \$89,077.56 and an ending balance of \$86,343.62. This included \$23,452.07 in deposits and \$26,186.01 in cleared checks. With \$15,849.77 in uncleared checks, the QuickBooks register balance was \$70,493.85. Of that amount, \$31,477.30 are monies earmarked for various Special Designated Accounts leaving \$39,016.55 in the general operating account.

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

Coming Soon! In order to give our church members as many options as possible for giving, the Finance Committee is looking into various ways to donate money to the church. Along with our current giving options via Vanco, we are looking at Give+Text and Give+Mobile – which are also provided through Vanco. Look for more information and details to come in the near future.

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

## Mission Committee

Being a disciple of Christ means sharing your faith and service to others, especially those in need. The needs are great in our community, country and the world. How has the Holy Spirit called you to serve? How have you answered that call? There are an abundance of mission opportunities at St. Matthias and we pray that you will be called to assist those in need through one of these mission opportunities.

**Food Pantry** – The food pantry is going strong under the leadership of Karen Bregenti and Dottie Prater. A “shopping list” is posted on the white board in the Mission hallway with the weekly needs of the pantry. Please consider picking up a couple of items that will benefit the food pantry while you are doing your weekly grocery shopping. Cleaning products (laundry detergent, dish soap), paper products (toilet paper, paper towels) and personal hygiene items are especially needed because our friends who use the food pantry cannot use their SNAP benefits (food assistance) to purchase these items.

**Mission Trips** – Peg Jones and her team will head to Fayetteville, NC in November. Please keep the people of North and South Carolina and your mission team in prayer as they prepare for their trip. Peg will also lead a team to Honduras in July 2019.

**Rise Against Hunger – 20,000 meals!** That is our goal at the Rise Against Hunger Packing Event on Sunday, November 4<sup>th</sup>. **SAVE THE DATE!!!** You can make a huge difference in the lives of thousands of hungry men, women and children by helping to pack 20,000 meals. Invite your friends, neighbors, fellow Scouts, anyone, to help us pack these healthy, nutrition-filled, life-sustaining meals. Carole Hall is the mission event leader and will post a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for helpers.

**Thurman Brisben Shelter** – Brenda Wood and her team of chefs prepared a yummy meal at the homeless shelter on Sunday, Sept. 23. If you haven’t helped with this mission, please give it a try! It is an experience you will not forget. You don’t have to be a good cook to help. Brenda is the BOSS in the kitchen and will make sure you are kept busy!

**Micah Ministries** – Marian Lynch is a dedicated servant to the homeless in our community and you, our church family, are helping purchase shoes, and boots to keep feet warm and dry this winter. Micah also prepares a monthly breakfast for the homeless and can always use an extra pair of willing and loving hands to help.

**Flower Fairy** – If you didn’t know, Margaret Ann Holt is our Flower Fairy! With the blessing of the family who purchases the weekly altar flowers, Margaret Ann will create small flower arrangements and share them with those who are struggling in life, suffering grief (loss of loved one, loss of job, moving, transition, in crisis), illness/health issues, or those who are celebrating life! Since January, Margaret Ann has delivered 150 bouquets of flowers. Small things can be a huge blessing when they are made and delivered with the love of Jesus Christ!

**Missionary Support** – Our own, dear Betsy Giannuzzi has heard the call and jumped out of the boat to serve the people of Honduras. She will be a Nurse for World Gospel Outreach (WGO) in Tegucigalpa, Honduras beginning in April. You will be hearing more about Betsy’s journey and how you can support her through your prayers and gifts in the upcoming weeks. You can follow Betsy’s journey on Facebook at **Betsy G in Honduras** or email Betsy at [betsy.giannuzzi@wgomission.org](mailto:betsy.giannuzzi@wgomission.org). Donations can be made on-line through [www.wgoreach.org](http://www.wgoreach.org), choose **Donate** then **Support a Missionary** and pick Betsy from the drop down list. Please continue to pray for Betsy as she prepares for this life-changing mission.

Please take a look at the Mission Booklet and the UMC Mission Opportunities Magazine (available on the table in the foyer), pray, and listen to see where and whom God is calling you to serve. Thank you, St. Matthias, for your generosity, love and faithfulness to all of God’s people.

## W O R S H I P

We are in need of more singers in our choir this Fall as we prepare for each Sunday and our Christmas Cantata. Please pray and see if this is where the Lord wants you to serve.

The Sound and Visual areas of worship is in need of more volunteers.

### Upcoming Worship Events

10/07/18 - World Communion Sunday when we can smell the aroma of bread in the Sanctuary!

10/14/18 – Beef Stew & Biscuits @ 12:15 to help raise funds for Rise Against Hunger.

10/21/18 - Awaken the Dawn Praise Band will play at 11 am.

10/28/18 - Bells will play at both services.

If you would like to receive our weekly prayer list or volunteer to pray with others during Communion, please call or email Judy Cover. Prayer is a great way to support your church family.

“Greening” of the church (decorating for Christmas) will take place Saturday, Dec. 1 at 10:00 a.m. Please let Erica Murray know if you are interested. Snacks will be provided! **POC:** Erica Murray, (540) 907-3263.



We can make a difference in the lives of our neighbors. Our Rise Against Hunger meal packaging will provide more than 18,000 meals for people in need around the world. Meal packing will take place in the Fellowship Hall of St. Matthias Sunday, November 4 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. You will find a sign-up sheet on the front bulletin board and more information on the St. Matthias UMC Fredericksburg Facebook page.

Join us on Sunday, October 14 at 12:15 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of St. Matthias for a Beef Stew & Biscuits meal. Donations will benefit Rise Against Hunger.

Please contact Carole Hall for more information, (540) 786-3194.

**OCTOBER**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> 9-11 Food Pantry 10:00 am Prayer 5:30 p.m. Upper Room	<b>2</b> 7:45 a.m. Exercise 11:00 Disc. Class 1:00 p.m. God Celebrators 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts 7:00 WBB	<b>3</b> 5:30 p.m. Bell Choir 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts 7:00 Choir	<b>4</b> Festival Set-Up 6:30 a.m. Micah Breakfast 10:00 a.m. Disciple 4 6:00 p.m. UR 7:00 Al Anon 7:00 Trustees	<b>5</b> Festival Set-Up	<b>6</b> 7:00 PLAM 8:00 MBS 8:00 a.m. Fall Festival 8:00 Yard Sale 9:30 Prayer 11:00 Out of the Darkness Walk
<b>7</b> 12:15 Emmaus Reunion 5:00 Praise Practice 5:45 Evening Worship 6:30 UMYF	<b>8</b> 9-11 Food Pantry 10:00 am Prayer 5:30 p.m. Upper Room	<b>9</b> 7:45 a.m. Exercise 11:00 Disc. Class 1:00 p.m. God Celebrators 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts 7:00 WBB	<b>10</b> 10:00 a.m. UMW Crafts 5:30 p.m. Bell Choir 6:30 p.m. G.S. 7:00 Choir 7:00 Finance	<b>11</b> 10:00 a.m. Disciple 4 6:00 p.m. UR 7:00 Al Anon 7:00 Worship	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 7:00 am Pray Like a Man 8:00 Men's Bible Study 9:30 Prayer
<b>14</b> 5:00 Praise Practice 6:30 UMYF	<b>15</b> 9-11 Food Pantry 10:00 am Prayer 5:30 p.m. Upper Room	<b>16</b> 7:45 a.m. Exercise 11:00 Disc. Class 1:00 p.m. God Celebrators 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts 7:00 WBB	<b>17</b> 10:00 a.m. UMW Crafts 5:30 p.m. Bell Choir 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts 7:00 Choir	<b>18</b> 10:00 a.m. Disciple 4 6:00 p.m. UR 7:00 Al Anon 7:00 Admin Council	<b>19</b> 1-5 p.m. Love & Laundry	<b>20</b> 7:00 Pray Like a Man 8:00 Men's Bible Study 9:30 Prayer
<b>21</b> 7:30 a.m. UMM Breakfast 9:45 a.m. 3rd Sunday Fellowship 2:30 <u>Charge Conference</u> 5:00 Praise Practice 5:45 Evening Worship 6:30 UMYF	<b>22</b> 9-11 Food Pantry 10:00 am Prayer 5:30 Upper Room 7:00 p.m. Pack 213 Meeting	<b>23</b> 7:45 a.m. Exercise 11:00 Disc. Class 1:00 God's Celebrators 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts 7:00 WBB	<b>24</b> 10:00 am UMW Crafts 5:30 p.m. Bell Choir 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts 7:00 Choir	<b>25</b> 10:00 a.m. Disciple 4 5:00 p.m. CCC 6:00 Upper Room 6:45 p.m. G.S. Service Mtg. 7:00 Al Anon	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 7:00 Pray Like a Man 8:00 Men's Bible Study 9:30 Prayer
<b>28</b> 5:00 p.m. Trunk or Treat	<b>29</b> 9-11 a.m. Food Pantry 10:00 am Prayer 5:30 p.m. Upper Room	<b>30</b> 7:45 a.m. Exercise 11:00 Disc. Class 1:00 God's Celebrators 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts 7:00 WBB	<b>31</b> 10:00 am UMW Crafts 5:30 p.m. Bell Choir 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts 7:00 Choir			

## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

4	Donna Jenkins	20	Linda Pettit
5	Lauren Strausbaugh	22	Jacob Berry
6	Bob Powers	23	Brian Harkless
6	Darlene Shelton	23	Rodney Hubbard
7	Clara Ortiz	24	Margaret Morgan
8	Ben Wood	27	Deborah Whittington
8	Erica Murray	28	Michaela Moore
8	Kurt McBride	29	Linda Donalson
9	Eric Hartman	29	Ashton Toombs
9	Linda Monaghan	29	Haleigh Roland
9	Mike Murray	30	J.R. Dusenberry
10	Robert Anderson		
13	Matthew Lonergan		
14	Caleb Rippey		
17	Tyler Ellis		
19	Logan Ellis		
20	Cynthia Gallant		

## OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

3	Ross & Cheryl Potts
5	Walt & Kathy Smith
9	Teresa & Gregg Orto
10	Jason & Angelique Toombs
14	Brad & Jolene Rippey
14	David & Rosa Hogue
18	John & Lois Nedza
19	Sean & Jennifer Belako
21	Bob & Susan Gmitter
24	David & Christie Conrad
25	Geoffrey & Brittany Morris
26	Derrick & Sue Hoiska

## IN REMEMBRANCE

Brian Otto Embrey received his promotion to heaven at age 29 on July 28, 2018. He loved music and playing his guitar. He was nicknamed "Bubbles" by friends because he was a Christian encourager: always emphasized the positive. He was the younger son of Chris and Warren Embrey. Chris served as the Administrative Assistant for St. Matthias UMC from January 2010 to November 2014 (working with Pastor Paula Werner, Pastor Walt Westbrook, and Pastor Pat Tony). Chris and Warren's older son, Eric, received his promotion to heaven at age 27 in 2012. The family are members of Wilderness Community Church in Spotsylvania. Both Eric and Brian grew up in the church there.

Rev. Keith Boyette led the Celebration of Life service. He told us that Brian was an organ donor: 70 (yes 70!) persons benefitted by his gift of life. Rev. Boyette told us that Brian just stepped into a new possibility and a new future. Brian's story is not finished because he is alive and present with God.

Every morning and every evening Brian recited the following. He had it posted on the wall in his room:

I am blessed with God's supernatural wisdom, and I have clear direction for my life.

I am blessed with creativity, ability, and abundance.

I am blessed with a strong will, self-control, and self-discipline.

I am blessed with great family, good friends, and good health.

I am blessed with faith, favor, and fulfillment.

I am blessed with success, supernatural strength, promotion, and divine protection.

I am blessed with an obedient heart and with a positive outlook on life.

I declare that any curse that has ever been spoken over me, any negative evil word that has ever come against me, is broken right now in Jesus' name.

I am blessed wherever I go.

Everything I put my hands to is going to prosper and succeed.

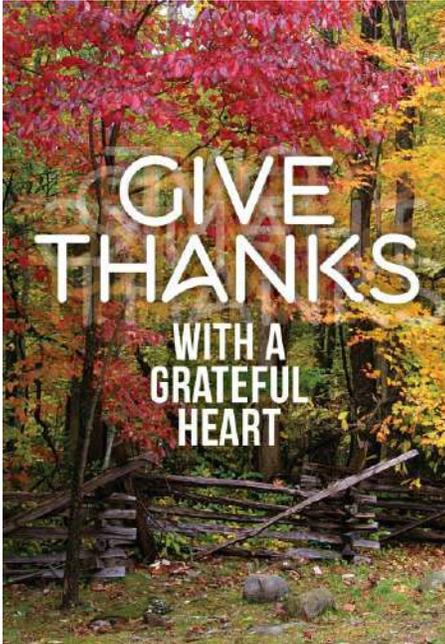
I am blessed!



**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