

# Mathews Baptist Church's GOOD NEWS GAZETTE

VOL. 2 ISSUE 5 · MAY 2026

## DON'T BE A "MARY WASHINGTON"

BY PASTOR BRIAN KRAMER

George Washington was the Father of Our Country, but he had a miserable mother. While George Washington was leading the soldiers in the Revolutionary War, rumor has it that his mother, Mary Ball Washington, was criticizing the American cause and her son to everyone around. Some claimed she was Loyalist and a supporter of England and King George III. George Washington did all that he could for his mother including buying a big home for her in Fredericksburg. But Mary constantly complained about being poor and destitute, even to the Virginia House of Delegates. Many claim that Mary was an embarrassment to George as he became the first president of the United States.

Mothers, don't be a "Mary Washington" to your children; constantly criticizing and complaining. Paul said this to fathers, but I think it is a message for mothers also, "Do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged." (Colossians 3:21 NIV) If George Washington rose to such heights despite a very contentious mother, imagine all that your children can do with your encouragement and support. Mothers, thank you for all you do. Happy Mother's Day!

In Christ,

Pastor Brian Kramer



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# WOMEN'S MISSIONARY UNION APRIL UPDATE



Amanda Franks from Care Net was our main speaker



Joe Hayes, Arnie Gustafson and Eric Fritzius, supporting our Shower by serving the food.



Thanks to David Condon for taking care of the little ones

Table full of baby & mother donations



What we aim to do: WMU's unwavering focus is

*making disciples of Jesus who live on mission.*

This month we held our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual April Shower for Care Net. We had a great turn out and a wonderful table full of donations. We want to thank our speakers, Amanda Franks and Nikki Pollard and our manly servers Eric Fritzius, Joe Hayes and Arnie Gustafson. Thanks goes out to David Condon for setting up our sound system and taking care of the little ones, Ritamary Bruce for planning our decorations and games and our wonderful WMU ladies provided a wonderful brunch and worked tirelessly setting up and decorating for our event.

There is still time to drop off donations for Care Net until May 14<sup>th</sup>. We will be delivering our abundance of donations to Care Net on Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup>. We will be leaving the church at about 11:30 in order to stop for lunch on our way. Hoping to arrive at Care Net at about 1:30 to unload the bus and get a tour of the facilities. At this point we have room on the bus for a few more people. If you would like to join us please contact Donna Frantz at 804-384-2309.

Our next WMU meeting will be held on May 10th at 1 pm in the Welcome Center. We will be planning to visit local home bound this month and we will also be planning for our Christmas in July potluck to be held on July 19<sup>th</sup> after church. WMU will be supplying fried chicken, and we will be asking the church to supply side dishes and dessert.

We continue to sing at the Nursing Home the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 10:30 am. It is a blessing to us who sing as much as it is for the residents of the home. We would love to have you join us! Please let us know if you plan to join us, as occasionally, we are unable to visit for various reasons.

We have been collecting donations for Annie Armstrong so far \$3,244.30 has been received.

Be sure and check out our bulletin board across the hall from the kitchen for more information.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me, Donna Frantz or our director, Judy Lowe.

# LOOKING BACK...



## to a Newsletter article from 1992

"Being a Godly Mother in this stressed-filled, crime-plagued, anything-goes society today is about the hardest thing a person can attempt. Mothers see their homes and families under attack by immoral and Godless forces. At the same time, society seems to have superhuman expectations of who and what mothers must be. It is easy under these circumstances to feel that the fight is unwinnable, especially if you want to have normal children who'll grow up with respect for and commitment to eternal values and a victorious faith that will see them through.

Below is a prayer by Jeanie Gibson which captures what I believe many mothers feel today. May it be a blessing to you and here is the prayer...

Help me, Lord, to accept the limitations that plague us  
human beings.

I can't foresee the future

I can't totally remedy the past.

Grant that I may do my best in the present and not expect  
total recognition of my effort.

Guide my children, O Lord;

let them see beyond the shortcomings to the love that I have  
for each of them.

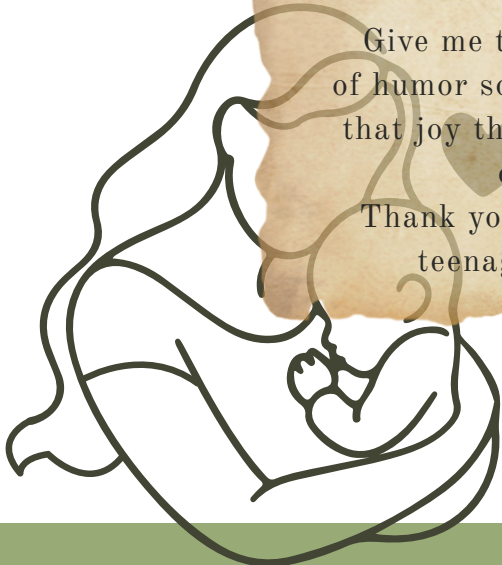
Give me a healthy respect for their independence and for this  
precarious stage of their growth and development.

Assist me as I try to keep in focus my mission as a very human  
and limited mother who can give only what first I possess.

Fill me with the humility I need to admit my mistakes and to  
learn from them.

Give me the strength I need to forgive, and grant me a sense  
of humor so that I can laugh at my blunders and share my life in  
that joy that comes from recognizing that only You are perfect,  
only You can fully satisfy my expectations.

Thank you, Lord, for making me a mother and for giving me  
teenagers to help me realize how I too need to grow."



Faithfully, Pastor Ed Inabinet



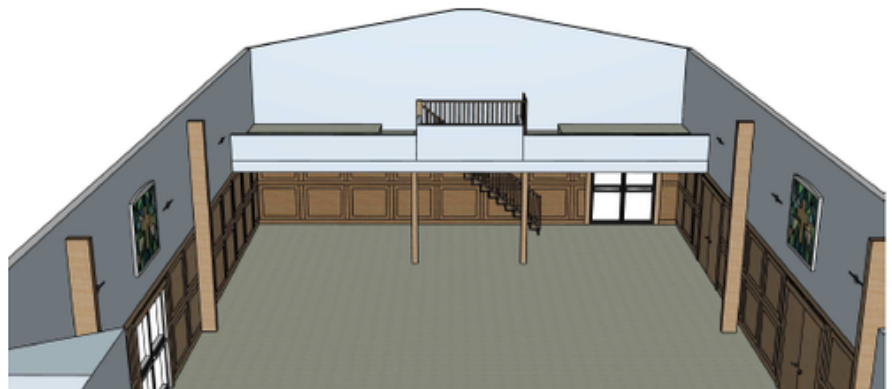
## Renovation Plans

With our 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration approaching in October, the Trustees have been hard at work for the last eight months to get our building and grounds in tip-top shape. Several smaller projects have already been completed including most recently the replacing of all the classroom doors upstairs in our education building (thank you trustees Austin Kemp & Tommy Waddell). In addition, both the sanctuary and education building as well as sidewalks have been pressure washed (a big thank you to trustee, Steve Miller for that). The landscaping in front of the education building and on the side of the multi-purpose building was cleaned up by the Trail Life troop as mentioned in last month's newsletter. The interior of the Sanctuary has also been repainted. There are several other projects on the trustees list to be completed before October!

Most notable though, will be the multi-purpose room renovation that was voted on at the April 15th quarterly business meeting. The room will be updated to give it a more church-like aesthetic as well as adding two storage closets on each side of the stage and a balcony across the back wall that will allow for the relocation of the audio-visual booth and an additional approximately 50 seats to accommodate our growing congregation. While this particular plan wasn't what some wanted I trust that God's will is going to be done in the affairs of our church and that we will all come together as a church family to celebrate 250 years of service to the Lord in October.



These renderings were shown at the business meeting to give members an idea of what the remodel will look like.



# REMINDERS...

*Mountain Movers*  
**SUMMIT SERVICE**  
 JOIN US:  
**SUNDAY, MAY 17TH**  
**5 P.M. @ M.B.C.**

Join us for a family night of worship presented by:  
 Mathews Baptist Mountain Movers Youth



We are in need of 3-4 volunteers to take over the Sunday snacks and coffee, set-up and clean-up! If you are interested in taking over this ministry or would like more information on what it entails, please contact one of the nominating committee members (Sharon Morgan 804-725-6990, Renee Neiman 804-774-9918, Cathy Rowe 804-725-6192) or call the church office (804-725-3707).

**SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2026**  
 @ NEWPORT NEWS PARK  
 13560 JEFFERSON AVE.  
 NEWPORT NEWS, VA 23603  
 SHELTERS 19 & 20

Join us for Walk4Life to support CareNet Peninsula!

**ITINERARY:**

**8:30 AM**  
 • JOIN US FOR PRE-EVENT ACTIVITIES & GAMES.  
 • IF YOU RAISED FUNDS, COME PICK UP YOUR INCENTIVES!

**9:30 AM**  
 SCVENT KICK-OFF!

**KINGDOM QUEST**  
 AN EPIC JOURNEY TO DISCOVER GOD'S KINGDOM

## Volunteers Needed

Next VBS planning meeting is set for May 17<sup>th</sup> at 12pm. Carmen is going to need lot's of support and volunteers, scan the QR code with your phone's camera to sign up OR talk to Carmen!



**AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRLS**  
 FAITH | SERVICE | FUN

Nikki Pollard announced in March that MBC will be starting an American Heritage Girls troop, which if everything goes to plan will start in September when Trail Life starts back up. TL & AHG meetings will be held the same night so families with boys and girls will have something for all their children to participate in. Please be in prayer that all the pieces will come together for this and all key leader positions will be filled. An opportunity meeting to fill key positions and share other opportunities to serve will be held on Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. Pizza will be served for dinner!

## Pray for...

### Praise God...

- For the gift of new life! Congratulations to Ryan & Brooke Collins at the birth of their fourth child, a baby boy, Shepherd Collins.

### Please be in prayer...

- For Stephanie Lowe, as she recovers from knee replacement surgery.
- Shaun Wiant, as he recovers from back surgery.
- Gerry Clark's sister who has received a cancer diagnosis.
- Mike Meyer's sister, Liz, who has cancer and is not doing well.

### Our love & sympathy go out to...

- The family and friends of Jimmy Hall, who passed away on Friday, April 24th, 2026
- The family & friends of Carl Thornton (Pastor Brian's friend) who passed away on April 30th, 2026

Scan with your phone's camera to join the FB Prayer Group!



Coming up...

12 - Q24 Women's Night of Worship

15-19 FUGE/CentriKid camps

21 - Father's Day/First Day of Summer

30 - Scholarship Applications Due

### CHURCH ATTENDANCE - APRIL 2026

Date	9:00	10:00	11:00
04/05/2026	227	125	32
04/12/2026	156	134	28
04/19/2026	178	129	29
04/26/2026	167	134	32

## Sunday Service Schedule

9:00 AM Contemporary Service (multipurpose building )  
 also available on Youtube via our Facebook page.  
 10:00 AM Sunday School (all ages)  
 11:00 AM Traditional Service (sanctuary)

MATHEWS BAPTIST CHURCH  
 P.O. BOX 8  
 8284 Buckley Hall Rd  
 Hudgins, VA 23076

804-725-3707  
 mathews baptist@live.com



## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

**Counting Committee for May:**  
 Judy, Joy & Stephanie Lowe  
**Counting Committee for June:**  
 Larry & Alice Stewart

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

**9:00 Nursery Schedule (babies):**  
 (5/3) Teeny Hughes, Kathy Merithew, Austin Sadler  
 (5/10) Delena Nelson, Megan Waddell, Amanda Kemp  
 (5/17) Cathy Rowe, Hannah Yarkey, Korinda Bott  
 (5/24) Melanie Miles, Teeny Hughes, Robbie Miles  
 (5/31) Katie Givens, Fallon Diggs, Elizabeth Moore

**9:00 Nursery Schedule (toddlers):**  
 (5/3) Karen Hudgins, Pat Taylor  
 (5/10) Mickey Ramer, Becky Ethington  
 (5/17) Nancy Pait, LuAnn Smith  
 (5/24) Tommy Waddell, Pat Taylor  
 (5/31) Nikki Pollard, Katie Haywood

**Birthdays**  
 1 Jason B. Miller, Caroline Spiers  
 3 David Lowe  
 5 Woods Diggs  
 6 Ali Haynes  
 7 Meg Royals  
 8 Colin Moore  
 11 Mike Hanhart  
 12 Dawn Bradbury, Mark Denkinger, Leandra Doane, Rebekah Bunn, Glenn Smith  
 13 Phyllis Eborn  
 14 Paul Collier, Pat McBurrey  
 17 Homer Smith  
 19 Sophie Beckley, Bonnie Kramer  
 20 Melanie Miles  
 21 Michelle Denkinger, Sue Garrett, Renee Neiman  
 22 Gloria Travenski, Dusty Moore  
 23 Wayne Blake  
 24 London Denkinger  
 26 Mary Beth Johnson, Nancy Paitt, Ed Shull  
 27 Katie Givens  
 28 Jessi Nelson  
 29 Nikki Pollard  
 30 Benjamin Condon

**Anniversaries**  
 3 Aaron & Nikki Spiers  
 8 Karl & Lynn Braun  
 14 David & Cathy Rowe  
 20 Dan & Cathie Wahlers  
 28 Ron & Tee Malton

If your name is not listed above & you had a birthday or anniversary this month, please call the church office.