



# Mathews Baptist Church's GOOD NEWS GAZETTE

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## FOLLOW THE FATHER

BY PASTOR BRIAN KRAMER

We had no idea what the year 2025 would hold for our family. It was such an emotional year. Our oldest, Abbie, got married. My father unexpectedly passed away. Coming home from his funeral we were in an accident that totaled our vehicle (fortunately there were no major injuries). My mother had a fall that sent her to the hospital and eventually into assisted living. And Calvin was laid off from his job and moved back home. As I said we had no idea what would happen this year, but the Heavenly Father did. In Psalm 139:16, King David claims of God, "All my days were written in your book and planned before a single one of them began." (CSB) We don't have to worry about the upcoming year, because it's in the hands of the Father. Jesus said, "Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble." (Matthew 6:34 NKJV) Don't worry about 2026, just trust the Lord. King David also wrote, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths." (Proverbs 3:5-6 NKJV) Follow the Father, He will guide you through 2026.

Pray  
more  
worry less

In Christ,  
Pastor Brian Kramer

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# WOMEN'S MISSIONARY UNION DECEMBER UPDATE

What we aim to do: WMU's unwavering focus is *making disciples of Jesus who live on mission.*

Thank you to all of those who donated items for our Christmas Store at the Nursing Home on Saturday, December 20th. It was a wonderful event enjoyed by all. Volunteers from MBC included Christy Brown, Ritamary Bruce, Heather Condon, Donna Frantz, Linda German, Polly Hayes, Karen Hudgins, Beth Lewis, Judy Lowe, Tee Mallon, Patti McDonald, Melanie Miles, Charlene Moore, and Diana Swenson. Joining us from Salem Church were Violet Brownley, Carolyn Hudgins, Danna Ingram, and Teresa Stewart.

Last week we were able to take some generous donations over to Hands Across Mathews for their food pantry. Thanks to all of you who continue to contribute to this important program for our community. We will continue to collect grocery items for them. Be sure and keep them on your weekly grocery list.

Our next planned event will be our annual Women on a Mission brunch, which will be held on Saturday, January 24th at 10 am at the church. Abbie Kramer Hefner has been invited to speak about her Baptist Collegiate Mission. We are inviting you to join us to hear about her mission and to support her work.

We continue to sing at the Nursing Home the 1st, 2nd and 3rd 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.

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 13th at 1 pm in the Welcome Center. We welcome all ages. We will be planning future projects. 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.

In Christ,  
Donna Frantz

**JOIN US!**

Abbie Hefner, our  
upcoming Women on a  
Mission brunch speaker



Some of the volunteers from MBC WMU and Salem Church



Tables full of items for the residents to choose from.



Cookies and punch were served.



# LOOKING BACK...

## To New Years Past!

Article from January 1994 issue of "The Lighthouse"

It is never too late to begin a new habit—or to recovenant our side of the promise with God—or to name anew the responsibilities we have as faithful people. The following serves as a model for living our faith in the New Year 1994.

- mend a quarrel
- seek out a forgotten friend
- dismiss suspicion; replace it with trust
- give a soft answer
- encourage youth
- keep a promise
- find the time
- forego a grudge
- forgive an enemy
- listen
- apologize if you are wrong
- try to understand
- think first of someone else
- appreciate
- be kind; be gentle
- laugh a little
- laugh a little more
- welcome a stranger
- speak your love
- speak it again
- speak it still again

God's commandments for us as Christians will never change, so while this may have been written for the Christians of 32 years ago; we can still apply it to our lives today!

# CHURCH NEWS



Ava, Anastasia & Addison after the Christmas Play on December 5<sup>TH</sup>!



The Children's Choir singing during the 9am service on December 21st.



The Children's Ministry team took the children's choir caroling to our homebound members.

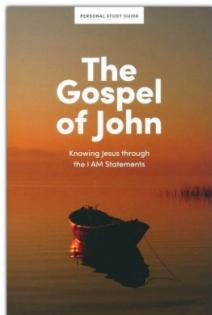


The children and the adults enjoyed spreading the Christmas cheer!

# REMINDERS...



Remember to pick up your 2026 offering envelopes in your classroom or entryway to worship. If there aren't envelopes for you & you would like a box OR if you would no longer like to receive envelopes, please call the church office. Using the envelopes helps our financial secretary to keep track of your offerings for when she prepares your statement for you to file with your tax return. Note: The first envelope says "initial offering" and is used to help cover the cost of the envelopes which is about \$5/box

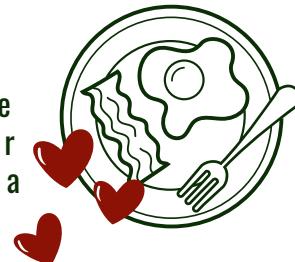


## January Bible Study

The Gospel of John: Knowing Jesus through the I AM statements.

Throughout John's Gospel, Jesus makes seven "I am" statements that provide insight into who He is and what He came to do. In each of them, He makes an implicit claim to be one in essence with the God of Israel. He shows us His character and teaches us something about His nature. He asks us to believe in Him and trust that He is who He said He is. Join us for this six-session Bible study and become better acquainted with the great I Am .

Mathews Men will meet for breakfast again on Saturday, January 31st at 8am, come join them if you can. Mr. Arnie Gustafson has a Valentine's Cooking workshop planned for after breakfast. Husbands, plan to stay and learn to cook a Valentine's meal for your wife!



We have another round of Baptisms taking place on Sunday, January 11<sup>th</sup> during the 9am service. We hope you'll join us to see this beautiful event!

Plenty of room in the water, if you are interested in joining the Baptism list please speak with Pastor Brian!



Pray for...

Praise God...

- For the gift of new life. Nick and Hannah Yarkey welcomed a baby girl, Isabella Grace, on December 9<sup>th</sup> at 8:20am, weighing 7lbs and 19.25 inches long.

Please be in prayer...

- For Stephanie Anthony, who is still recovering from surgery and will start chemo once recovered.
- For Wade & Tiffany Jones' nephew Liam who is battling cancer. Updates are being shared on the MBC Prayer Group Facebook page for those who would like to follow along for specific prayer requests.



## Reaching the Nations, Together.

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering Goal—\$5,000.

As of 01/01/2026 we have collected:  
\$4,566.97

HELLO February	
Coming up...	
7	- Grace Marriage
10	- WMU Meeting
14	- Valentine's Day
15	- Focus on WMU Sunday
16	- President's Day
21	- Men's Breakfast

## CHURCH ATTENDANCE - DECEMBER 2025

Date	9:00	10:00	11:00
12/07/2025	172	155	33
12/14/2025	184	118	20
12/21/2025	169	133	47
12/28/2025	89	74	32

