

Mathews Baptist Church's

GOOD NEWS GAZETTE

VOL. 1 ISSUE 10 · NOVEMBER 2025

THANKFUL FOR EVERYTHING, EVEN THE FLEAS!

BY PASTOR BRIAN KRAMER

We have seen signs of a critter sneaking into the sanctuary. Over the summer there were a couple of times we found fleas and had to have professionals come in and spray. I hate fleas. I get itchy just thinking about them. But it reminds me of a story I read of a couple of ladies that thanked God for fleas. The Hiding Place tells the story of Corrie tin Boom and her Betsie who were placed in a concentration camp during World War II for hiding Jews in their house. Their barracks were dark, overcrowded, smelled of rotting straw, and infested with fleas. As Betsie prayer to the Lord about their conditions, He reminded her of a verse they read together that very morning. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." Betsie said to Corrie, "Give thanks in all circumstances!" That's what we can do. We can start right now to thank God for every single thing about these new barracks." So, they started thanking God that they were housed together, that they had a Bible they could share with those around, for the overcrowding so that many would hear the word of God, and Betsie thanked God for the fleas. Corrie was on board right up until the fleas. She responded, "Betsie, there's no way even God can make me grateful for a flea." Later they would learn that their barrack Bible studies were not disturbed by the guards because guards refused to go in the flea infested barrack. See God can even use fleas. What are the fleas in your life? Do you think God can use them? Remember, "Give thanks in all circumstances!"

In Christ Love,

Pastor Brian

*IN ALL
Things
GIVE
Thanks*

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WOMEN'S MISSIONARY UNION OCTOBER UPDATE

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

making disciples of Jesus who live on mission.

November is here! Thank you to all who contributed to the Alma Hunt Offering in September. We met our goal and a bit over \$1,558.25 was collected.

Operation Christmas Child is in full swing. There is a table in the Fellowship Hall loaded with shoeboxes for you to take home and buy gifts to fill them before returning them to the table. They are due back the week of November 17 thru the 24th. There also are some items that you can use to fill your shoeboxes. Feel free to pick up some pencils, notebooks and any other items on our table to completely fill your shoeboxes.

Amy has requested help with preparing shoeboxes to be delivered to Samaritans Purse. If you can help on any of the listed activities, be sure to sign-up on one of her sheets to be found on the Welcome Counter in the Fellowship Hall.

Thanks also go out to those who signed up to help our local home bound citizens by supplying rides. We currently have enough people who have agreed to help.

We are preparing for a Christmas gift program to be held at the Nursing Home on Saturday, December 20th. We will be collecting items for the residents to select as gifts for their family members. If you have any new, or homemade gift items, as well as gift wrapping essentials you would like to contribute, we will have a table in the Fellowship Hall where you can leave them. If you'd prefer to donate a money for us to use to shop for them that's great too.

We will also need volunteers to set up our Christmas gifts on that Saturday, help residents with selecting items, and wrapping gifts. If you are available to volunteer on that Saturday, we would greatly appreciate your help.



shoebox packaging & delivery schedule

Wed, 11/12 10 volunteers needed to move multi-purpose room chairs after MBC Wed night dinner and Bible study.

Thurs, 11/13 20 volunteers needed to pack shoeboxes from Amy's house into Penske truck and school bus during the day. 20+ volunteers needed to unload at MBC at 5pm.

Fri, 11/14 Need 10+ volunteers to fold approximately 400 large Samaritan's Purse boxes and seal the bottoms with packing tape during the day/evening.

Sat, 11/15 8:00am: 40 volunteers needed to pack shoeboxes into large shipping boxes. Several heavy lifters also needed for loading Penske truck and bus. 10 people needed to move chairs after clean-up.

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, November 11th at 1 pm in the Welcome Center. We welcome all ages. We will be planning future projects. One of our upcoming projects will be to host a Christmas gift store for the residents of our local nursing home. Join us to find out more!

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

LOOKING BACK...

To the start of the Mathews Baptist Church Newsletter

The Mathews Baptist Church newsletter was started by Ann Downs (Raymond Downs' wife) and was called "The Lighthouse" until renamed "Good News Gazette" and given new life by our current secretary Megan."

We're not certain when the first issue was printed, but the earliest one we've located is January 1987.



Connect to the present:
Raymond Downs was Debbie Harris' uncle, Jennifer Morgan's great uncle and Jaelynn Morgan's great-great uncle!

Article from "The Lighthouse", September 1987

A Word from our GA Director:

On Friday morning, August 21 at 10 AM, 8 GA girls, Judy Lowe and I left church for Miss Golden's cottage at Hallieford for a Prayer Retreat. Sandra Crow was our cook for the group and the food was delicious. I asked each girl to tell me what impressed them most in our two day stay...



Helen Powell

"I liked writing a message on Bible verses, putting them in a bottle and sending it out in the water. Having Mary Jane come calling Friday night...Who was Mary Jane as a GA girl?" - Joy Lowe

"I like the beauty when I watched the sun rise on the water, sending the Bible messages out to sea, also being together with all the girls." Lisa Owens

"The beach, sending the bottle out, Bible story, our prayer time and nice food." Jennifer Bodurtha

"Miss Helen, I just want to tell you it was the best time I have ever had in my life." Valerie Howlett

I want to thank all the mothers for letting me have their daughters for those days. It was a blessing to me.

Helen Powell, GA Director

Pulled from an old yearbook is a photo of Ms. Helen Powell. Cathy Rowe remembers her as a, "very sweet lady who loved working with the girls."

Jesus replied, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."

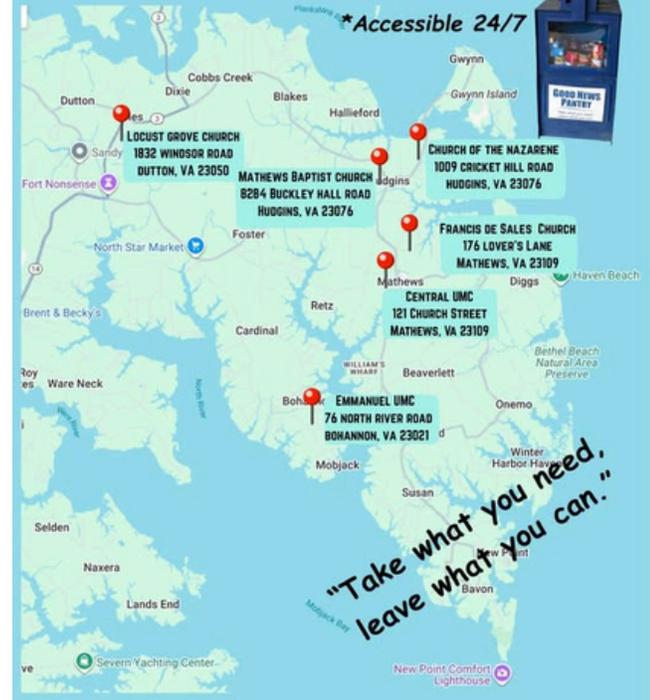
CHURCH NEWS

MBC Good News Food Pantry

Our Good News Food Pantry has been added to a map that was shared locally for those that may be in need of food in the coming days and weeks. We have one person that is currently purchasing items for it once a week but think it may be a good idea to open it up to others who want to contribute. If you would like to contribute you can place items directly into the pantry located at the front door or if it's full there will be a bin near the office, where you can put overflow in.

Some things to stock are canned soups, beans, sauces, veggies, meats, and fruits, packaged cereal, granola bars, apple sauce, instant oatmeal, rice, pasta, and potatoes, dried milk, crackers, general hygiene products, etc. On your next trip to the grocery store please consider picking up a few of these items for the food pantry. Please do not stock glass or perishables.

GOOD NEWS FREE FOOD PANTRIES MATHEWS, VA



CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS

If you know of a local Mathews family that could use help this Christmas season please let the church office know. There is a Sunday school class that would like to bless a family or two this holiday season. The help could be with gifts for children, a holiday meal, warm clothes, etc.

Cathie Wahlers will also be continuing her ministry to the local homeless population and is asking for donations of hygiene products, and warm clothes. Donations can be given directly to Cathie or placed in the plastic tote under the pew in the office hallway.

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for your wonderful financial gift for pastor appreciation. You are such a generous congregation. Thank you, children, for the beautiful blanket with all your drawings and special messages to me. I absolutely love it. Thank you also for your friendship, support, and constant prayers. This is an amazing body of believers, and I am humbled to be a part of it and excited about what the Lord is doing in our midst. As Paul commented to one of his churches, "I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy." (Philippians 1:3-4 NIV) Thanks again for being my wonderful church family.

In His Love,
Pastor Brian

Come and Join us for

An Autumn Afternoon

November

Sunday **9** 12:00 PM

Chili/Soup Cook-Off Contest
Bring your favorite Autumn Desserts
Caramel Apple Bar
Games & Fellowship to follow

Riverside Convalescent Center Christmas Store



Help us revive this program that provides the residents an opportunity to give their family a gift this Christmas (at no cost to the residents).

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20TH @ 10AM

Ways you may help:

- Shop for small gifts suitable for family (drop off at the church at the WMU table).
- Monetary donations and we will shop for you.
- Donate gift bags, wrapping paper, tape, bows, gift tags, etc.
- Join us on Dec. 20TH to help the residents choose gifts for their loved ones, wrap, etc.

WMU

Our Women's Missionary Union Group will meet on Tuesday, November 11th, at 1PM. All ages are welcome!

Bless the LORD,
O my soul,
and forget not
all his benefits.

Psalm 103:2 KJV



Mathews Men will meet for breakfast again on Saturday, November 15th at 8am, come join them if you can!

HELLO
december

Coming up...

- 1 Scholarship Applications Due
- 7 Christmas Play
- 21 Caroling to Shut-Ins
- 24 Christmas Eve Service
- 25 Christmas Day

Pray for...

Please be in prayer...

- For Wade & Tiffany Jones' 18 month old nephew Liam, who was diagnosed with cancer and is undergoing chemo.

Praise God...

- For a successful first year of Eat & Treat!
- For the season of Fall and God's continual reminders that we should give thanks for everything.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE - OCTOBER 2025

Date	9:00	10:00	11:00
10/05/2025	172	139	22
10/12/2025	143	111	14
10/19/2025	166	130	28
10/26/2025	139	124	45

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
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 Hudgins, VA 23076

804-725-3707
 mathews baptist@live.com

November 2025

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Counting Committee for November: Judy, Joy & Stephanie Lowe Counting Committee for December: Alice & Larry Stewart						
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
 Daylight Savings Time	6PM - Exercise Class 6:30PM - Trail Life Meeting		6PM Wednesday Dinner & Activities	6PM - Exercise Class		9am Grace Marriage Meeting
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
 12 PM Autumn Afternoon/Croc Roast	6PM - Exercise Class 6:30PM - Trail Life Meeting	1PM WMU Meeting	6PM Wednesday Dinner & Activities	6PM - Exercise Class		 8AM - Men's Breakfast
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	6PM - Exercise Class 6:30PM - Trail Life Meeting		6PM Wednesday Dinner & Activities	6PM - Exercise Class		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	6PM - Exercise Class 6:30PM - Trail Life Meeting			 Thanksgiving Office Closed		
30	9:00 Nursery Schedule (toddlers): (11/2) Hannah Yarkey, Becky Ethington (11/9) Melanie Miles, Teeny Hughes, Austin Sadler (11/16) Nancy Palt, Glenda Ramer (11/23) NIKKI Pollard, Katie Givens, Fallon Diggs (11/30) Katie Haywood, Beverly Barefoot, Elizabeth Moore			9:00 Nursery Schedule (babies): (11/2) Bri Sadler, Cathy Rowe (11/9) Nikki Spiers, Pat Taylor (11/16) Mint Man Ramer, Amanda Kemp (11/23) James Moore, LuAnn Smith (11/30) Tommy Waddell, Pam Harrington		

Birthdays

- 1 Kathy Harris, Stephanie Lowe
- 2 Iris Hubbard
- 3 Lauren Perreault
- 11 Chelsea Faith Sears
- 13 Teresa Childress
- 17 Caroline Bray
- 18 Ava Pollard
- 20 Judy Lowe
- 21 Betty Spears
- 23 Ellie Condon, James Cuciniello, Terry Johnson
- 24 Timmy German
- 26 Cathy Adams, Mike Adams
- 27 Seth Elias, Chelsea Jarvis, Howard Winder, Jr.
- 28 Caleb Cuciniello
- 29 Mike & Brenda Hanhart, Delores Sanger
- 30 James Givens

Anniversaries

- 29 Mike & Brenda Hanhart
- 30 Tommy & Lorna Erksen

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

First Sunday of Advent