



Mathews Baptist Church's

GOOD NEWS GAZETTE

VOL. 2 ISSUE 9 · SEPTEMBER 2026

HUMBLED BY THE CALLING

BY PASTOR BRIAN KRAMER

Recently I was having a rough week. I went to see one of our homebound members and as I left, he told me. “Not only are you my preacher and pastor, but you are my friend.” That made my day. Sometimes I forget how important the role of pastor is. Look at the qualifications: ¹ This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work. ² A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach; ³ not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous; ⁴ one who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence ⁵ (for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?); ⁶ not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the same condemnation as the devil. ⁷ Moreover he must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil. (1 Timothy 3:1-7) (see also Titus 1:5-9) Mathews Baptist Church has had 37 pastors in our 250 years. David Tinsley, John Gayle. Jacob Creath, John Daingerfield, L.W. Allen, William S. Hawkins. M. W. Towill, James G. Council, I. T. Wallace, Charles A. Raymond, R. B. Collier. Frank B. Raymond, J. H. Barnes, W. L. Maget L. C. Brickhouse, J. A. Thompson, W. A. Snyder, H. B. Jordan. J. T. Betts, J. R. Stodghill, John W. Simmons. C. L. Caldwell, C. William Deibert, Austin G. Arthur, G. Roy Tureman, R. G. Kendrick, Junius E. Foster, Sr., John H. Allen, Lawrence W. Gill, Charles H. Jones, Chester L. Phelps, T. Winston Parker, William L. Gregory, M. Kenneth Russell, Edward A. Inabinet, and Tag Kilgore. These faithful men were called by the church, not as employees, but as God’s chosen servants to pastor, shepherd and lead His people here at MBC. As I look at this list, I am humbled and honored to be among them. Thank you for calling me as your pastor almost 14 years ago. Thank you also for your encouragement, prayers and friendship throughout the years.

In Christ,

Pastor Brian Kramer

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WOMEN'S MISSIONARY UNION AUGUST UPDATE

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

making disciples of Jesus who live on mission.

Our collection of school supplies for Wings of Mathews will be ending Sunday August 6th. Thank you for all of your generous donations.

Amy Ashberry held her new Operation Christmas Child shoebox building dedication on Saturday the 29th. The program is a year-round commitment for her. We will begin our concentration on this program in September. We will be collecting empty shoeboxes, wrapping paper, scotch tape, small toys, toothbrushes, socks, combs, pencils, pens, sharpeners erasers, crayons, notebooks, markers, scissors, rulers, glue sticks, puzzles, jump rope, eating utensils, clothing, hats, etc. We will have OCC brochures available with complete listing of gift ideas. We may host some workdays to wrap boxes, make jump ropes and fill boxes. Keep an eye out for notices with a date and time.



Our bulletin board queen Rita has updated our bulletin board with a message about the Power of Prayer. Check it out!



Our next WMU meeting will be held on September 8th at 1 pm in the Welcome Center. We are always looking for new members. Women at any age are invited to participate.

Accompanist needed

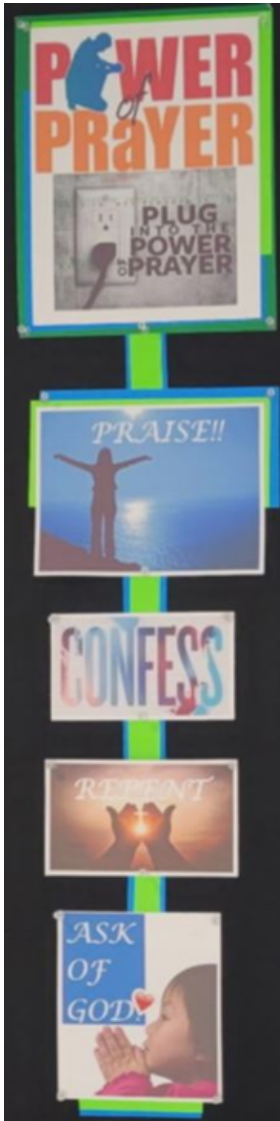
Our Rhythm Band that leads singing at the Nursing home on Tuesday mornings is searching for a pianist and or a guitarist to accompany us. We have had to cancel several Tuesday's because our current accompanist has been ill. If you are available please contact me, Donna Frantz at 804-384-2309. The dates needed are 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. If you have any questions, you may contact Donna Frantz or Judy Lowe, or any other member of our WMU.

In Christ's Love,

Donna Frantz & Judy Lowe



LOOKING BACK...



to Hurricane Isabel

Hurricane Isabel was not simply a passing storm for the residents of Mathews County. When Isabel came ashore on September 18, 2003, it had already weakened from the powerful Category 5 hurricane it had been only days earlier. Nevertheless, its enormous wind field brought hurricane-force conditions to portions of eastern Virginia and pushed a tremendous amount of water into the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. The National Weather Service described Isabel as the worst hurricane to affect the Chesapeake Bay region since the Chesapeake-Potomac Hurricane of 1933.

Virginia was particularly hard hit. More than two million Dominion Virginia Power customers lost electricity, thousands of trees were uprooted, roads were blocked, homes were damaged, and power and telephone lines were brought down across the region. Storm surge reached several feet above normal levels throughout the Chesapeake Bay and its rivers.

In Mathews County, the effects of the storm were felt not only in the damage left behind but in the days that followed. For many families, the loss of electricity meant losing refrigeration, dealing with difficult living conditions, and waiting days for normal life to return.

Fortunately, our church did not sustain any damage other than losing power for a short time. Due to our location, Mathews Baptist actually regained power earlier than most residents and was able to minister to some of the needs of our community. Camp Piankatank, however, did not regain power right away and had a large quantity of food in their freezer. Rather than letting the food perish, they gave the food to us and we were able to store it and use it to prepare several meals which we offered to anyone in the community who needed and wanted a free meal. It was a great time of fellowship for both our church family and the residents of Mathews County.



Mathews Main St. after Hurricane Isabel
photo courtesy of the Gazette Journal

Hurricane Isabel by the Numbers

- **September 18, 2003** — Isabel made landfall near Drum Inlet, North Carolina.
- **Category 5** — Isabel reached Category 5 strength earlier in its life cycle before weakening as it approached the East Coast.
- **2+ million** — Dominion Virginia Power customers lost electricity.
- **5–9 feet** — Storm surge above normal tides was observed in portions of Virginia's coastal and tidal river areas.
- **\$1.6 billion** — Estimated damage in Virginia alone.
- **1933** — Isabel produced some of the most significant Chesapeake Bay storm impacts since the historic Chesapeake-Potomac Hurricane of 1933.

*Where were you
when Hurricane
Isabel hit?*

CHURCH NEWS

Wednesday Night Bible Study Options for Adults

A Study through the book of James with Brett Pollard



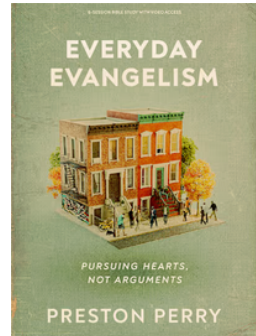
A study through the book of James offers practical wisdom for living out your faith each day. You can expect to explore topics such as:

perseverance through trials, wisdom, prayer, faith and works, controlling the tongue, avoiding favoritism, humility, and trusting God in every area of life. James challenges believers to move beyond simply hearing God's Word and encourages them to put their faith into action.

Everyday Evangelism with Pastor Brian

Sharing your faith is not about winning arguments; it's about winning hearts. And the way to do that is by engaging others with love, respect, and truth.

In this six-session study, you'll be equipped with practical, effective ways to share the truth of the gospel with your friends, neighbors, and coworkers. You'll be inspired by the author's own story of how he came to know Jesus through a friend who reached out to him in love, invited him into his life, and showed him what it truly means to be a Christian. You'll also be challenged to respond to God's call to be bold—because eternity is at stake.



Renovation Update

For those who have not yet had the opportunity to see the progress being made in our Multi-Purpose Room renovation, things are moving right along! The framing has been completed, and the electrical work has been roughed in. The drywall crew is expected to begin work any day now, marking another exciting milestone in the project. While there is still much work to be done, it is encouraging to see the renovation beginning to take shape and to imagine the many

ways this updated space will be used for ministry, fellowship, and service in the years ahead. We are thankful for the progress that has been made thus far and for everyone who has contributed their time, talents, resources, and prayers toward this project. Please continue to pray for the safety of those working on the renovation and for the successful completion of the work ahead!

Note that these do not show the most recent progress, just some photos taken to document the process!

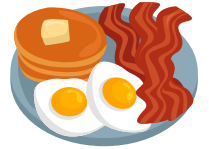


REMINDERS...

Don't Forget...

- The Grace Marriage group will resume meetings on the first Saturday of each month. September's meeting will be on the 5th!
- Our Men's group will also resume their monthly breakfasts on the 2nd Saturday of each month. September's breakfast will be the 19th at 8am.
- Our Trail Life Troop is holding a gear grab - they are asking for new or gently used camping and/or outdoor gear to ensure all Trailmen are equipped. There is a black tote where donations can be placed in the Fellowship hall on the Trail Life table.

grace marriage



Pray for...

Praise God...

- Former members Mike & Debbie Meyers have found a new church after moving away some years ago!

Our love and sympathy...

- To Jim Bradley and family at the passing of Jim's father in August.
- To the family and friends of Nancy Higginbotham, who passed away on August 31st, 2026.
- To Teddy Pait and his family following the tragic passing of his nephew, Brandon, who passed away from injuries sustained after being hit by a car while cutting grass.
- To Mike & Brenda Hanhart, whose daughter Kim has made the difficult decision to transition to palliative care.

Please be in prayer...

- For Julie Harvell, who took a bad fall and is now in need of surgery on her knee.
- Pastor Michael of Zion Baptist Church (Pastor Brian's former church), Michael has been diagnosed with cancer.
- Jennifer Morgan's husband, Greg, who had a fall in August and is still recovering.

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



hello October

Coming up...

- 3 - AHG Daughters & Donuts Drive-Thru
- 12 - Columbus Day
- 21 - Quarterly Business Meeting
- 25 - 250th Homecoming
- 31 - Eat & Treat

CHURCH ATTENDANCE AUGUST 2026

Date	9:00	10:00	11:00
08/02/2026	135	96	22
08/09/2026	132	109	19
08/16/2026	154	117	22
08/23/2026	173	132	26
08/30/2026	163	120	30

Sunday Service Schedule

9:00 AM Contemporary Service (sanctuary while renovations are completed) also available on Youtube via our FB 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 804-725-3707
Hudgins, VA 23076 mathewsbaptist@live.com

September 2026



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Counting Committee for Sept: Pat & Pam Harrington Counting Committee for Oct: Mickey & Glenda Ramer		1 7PM MTBA Prayer Gathering	2	3 6PM - Exercise Class	4	5 9am Grace Marriage Meeting
6 Sunday School Promotions	7 HAPPY LABOR DAY 6PM - Exercise Class	8 1PM WMU Meeting	9	10 6PM - Exercise Class	11	12 Second Saturday Senior Social 7-9pm
13	14 6:30PM Trail Life & AHG Meeting 6PM - Exercise Class	15	16 Family Dinners & Activities Resume 6-7:30pm	17 6PM - Exercise Class	18	19 8am Men's Breakfast AHG Service Saturday
20	21 6:30PM Trail Life & AHG Meeting 6PM - Exercise Class	22 hello AUTUMN	23 Family Dinner & Activities 6-7:30pm	24 6PM - Exercise Class	25	26
27	28 6:30PM Trail Life & AHG Meeting 6PM - Exercise Class	29	30 Family Dinner & Activities 6-7:30pm	9:00 Nursery Schedule (babies): (9/6) Katie Givens, Fallon Diggs, Elizabeth Moore (9/13) Amanda Kemp, Glenda Ramer, Patti McDonald (9/20) Pam Harrington, Bev Barefoot, Sherin Stewart (9/27) Joy & Stephanie Lowe, Austin Sadler 9:00 Nursery Schedule (toddlers): (9/6) Karen Hudgins, Alice Stewart (9/13) Mickey Ramer, Becky Ethington (9/20) Nancy Pait, Luanne Smith (9/27) Tommy Waddell, Pat Taylor		

Alma Hunt Mission Offering
Goal: \$1,500

Birthdays BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

1 Patsy Brooks
2 Kevin Hall, Channing Schurlknight, Gene Sears
3 Eric Fritzius
4 Tee Mallon, David Rowe
5 Mervin Goodrich, Jean Owens
6 Ziryah Davis
7 Bonnie Hodges
9 Elisa Goodwin
11 Heather Calloway
12 Cassie Fritzius
14 Lynn Hall, Francis Morris
15 Brandon Goodrich
16 Caroline Emerson
17 Sharon Frye
18 Tim Inabinet, Grayson Pemberton
19 Addison L. DeLucas
21 Abby Givens
22 Kim Clark, Taylor Gall, Patrick Harrington, Amber Zwiers, Brenda Hanhart
25 Charlie Crittenden
26 Derek Zwiers, Karen Pittman
27 Christy Brown
28 Brandon Hubbard, Delena Nelson
30 Austin Sadler

Anniversaries

4 Kevin & Susan Harris Hall
14 Bobby & Dee Diggs
15 Austin & Amanda Kemp
22 Wayne & Stacy Turner
23 Marion & Naomi Sutton
27 Bunny & Peggy Foster
28 Nick & Hannah Yarkey

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