

A Time of Transition

Dear Church Family,

Praise God for answered prayers! 1 John 5:14-15 says, "This is the confidence we have in approaching God; that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And we know that he hears us-whatever we ask-we know that we have what we asked him for." Thank you to everyone who has been praying for the person who would become the new youth leader. The Lord answered our prayers in a way that surprised us all, but what an incredible blessing!

I had the opportunity to sit and talk with Michelle before she applied for the position. She reached out to me with questions, and through our conversation I knew without a shadow of a doubt that she was the one God had called. She truly has a heart for teens!

Michelle and I will be transitioning over the next few months, so please keep us in your prayers. Please pray the change will be a seamless one for the youth. From the bottom of my heart, I want to thank each one of you for the love and support you have given me over the past four years. I know you will be faithful in lifting up Michelle, too, as she steps into the lives of these amazing teens.

Love,

Lee Anne Bray



December Updates

Sunday School will resume on December 6th. It is the expectation of the church that we will wear masks, especially when 6 feet of distance cannot be maintained. We are so excited to get back together again!

Prayer Requests

- Pray for the students as they ride this daily roller coaster of when face-to-face instruction will begin again. They are so hopeful to start back to school in January.
- Many students are battling very negative thoughts right now. Isolation from others is creating a feeling of helplessness for many. Please pray students would put their hope in the Lord, and not be so discouraged by the world around them.
- Pray students will be motivated to complete their school-work. Many students are struggling without constant interactions with teachers and classmates.

Mathews Baptist Church

Org. 1776
"The Lighthouse"



DECEMBER 2020

SPECIAL DATES

- ◆ 1st-6th Wk of Prayer—International Missions
- ◆ 5th Deck the Halls
- ◆ 6th 2nd Sun. of Advent
- ◆ 13th 3rd Sun. of Advent
- ◆ 20th 4th Sun. of Advent
- ◆ 24th Christmas Eve
- ◆ 25th Christmas Day
- ◆ 31st New Year's Eve



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

from the Mathews Baptist Church staff – Pastor Brian, Lee Anne Bray,
Michelle Denkinger, Janet Bowman, Cathy Rowe & Patricia Ambrose

Mathews Baptist Church
P.O. Box 8
Hudgins, VA 23076
Return Services Requested

Inside this issue...

Christmas Eve	p2
Christmas Cards	p2
New Staff member	p2
B'day/Anniver.	p2
Attendance	p2
Mission News	p3
Offering Envelopes	p3
Prayer List	p3
Scholarship appl.	p3
Deck the Halls	p3
Youth page	p4



"And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus."
~Philippians 4:19

Brian E. Kramer, Pastor ♦ P.O. Box 8, 8284 Buckley Hall Rd., Hudgins, VA
Email: mathewsbaptist@live.com ♦ Web: www.mathewsbaptistchurch.com ♦ Office: 804-725-3707



7:00 pm
Candlelight
Christmas Eve
Service in the
Sanctuary.



Christmas Card Exchange

Want a way to show love to your MBC family *and* to God's children throughout the world? Send your Christmas cards to your church family through our MBC Christmas mailbox and enhance your Lottie Moon Christmas Offering gift with the money you save in card postage. Mailboxes are located at entrance of sanctuary and multipurpose building.

Welcome to our new staff member!



Michelle & Mark with Jax, London & Hailey Denkinger.

On behalf of the personnel committee (Emily Betz, Frannie Hubbard & Chris Helbig) the following letter is being presented from Michelle Denkinger who was unanimously approved at a called business meeting held on Sun., Nov. 22 as our new youth coordinator beginning Feb. 2021. She will be training alongside Lee Anne Bray until then.

Hello Church Family!

My name is Michelle Denkinger and I was born and raised in Mathews County. Growing up, my youth was Christ centered through love, prayers, and attending church with my parents

and grandparents. Through them, I gained a love for Jesus and have held firm to my faith through every triumph and trial that came my way.

I am a Christopher Newport University Alum, which prepared me for a passion in working with troubled youth as a Juvenile Probation Officer through the Department of Juvenile Justice. I later attended E.C.P.I. Medical Careers Institute to further my love to help others through being an M.R.I. Technologist. I have been employed by Riverside Tappahannock Hospital for the last 13 years living out that dream.

Above all, I am a Jesus loving wife and Momma. My husband, Mark, and I lived in Deltaville for 11 years raising our three children Hailey (13), Jax(6) and London (3). As a family, we enjoy spending our time together working on projects, boating, and traveling. We are a LOUD family, and we love Jesus!

In 2018, we bought property here in Mathews, sold our home, and moved into a camper on our property for the year it took us to build our home. We have been attending Mathews Baptist since we moved and feel very welcome and at home here with the intention to become members! COVID-19 may have delayed those plans, but we look forward to that soon!

I absolutely adore my family and work hard with Mark to provide our children with the Christ-centered childhood I was so graciously given. It is my heart to extend that love and my passion to help others to the youth of our church and community!



DECEMBER

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 2 Debbie Lunsford
- 3 Rick Andrews
- 4 Christopher Henry
- 5 Mark Barrick, Kati Hancock
- 6 Nancy Higginbotham
- 7 Susan Mangerchine, Jaelynn Morgan
- 8 Lisa Brown
- 9 Sharon Springer
- 10 Gregory Morgan
- 11 Kimberly Clark, Whitney Eriksen, Linda German
- 12 Kandace Curko, Rosemary Gayle
- 13 Lorna Eriksen, Will Harrington, Jeanette Immel, Dawn Miller
- 14 Alene Cofer, Naomi Sutton
- 15 Mikel Garrett, Dale Mitchem, Hannah Yarkey
- 16 Jeff Immel
- 18 Alan McBurney
- 19 Shania Deagle, Bunny Foster
- 21 Kaitlin Eriksen
- 22 Brian Kramer
- 24 Jathan Doane
- 25 JESUS, Raymond Harris, Janah Stewart
- 26 Franklin Morse, James Pine
- 27 Michael McBurney
- 28 David Nelson, Rosa Milby
- 31 Gerry Clark, Ginger Inabinet

Anniversaries

23 Robbie & Tracy Whitehurst

*If your name is not listed above and you had a b'day or anniversary, please call the church office (725-3707). Thanks!

Church Attendance-Nov. 2020

Date	9:00	10:00	11:00
11/01/20	52	n/a	9
11/08/20	47	n/a	11
11/15/20	58	n/a	13
11/22/20	68	n/a	15
11/29/20	72	n/a	17

Mission News

Merry Christmas and best wishes for the New Year from the WMU of Mathews Baptist Church!

It's hard to believe that Thanksgiving has already come and gone. Some of our group, Joyce Downs, Linda German, Virginia Lewis and Janet Bowman, were busy last month putting together 100 fruit bags which were delivered with Meals on Wheels to shut-ins for Thanksgiving. Janet Bowman also prepared homemade pumpkin pies and delivered them to the Salvation Army and Hands Across Mathews along with pumpkin tarts for the Senior Center.

Thank you to all who donated yarn (thanks, Janet Bowman

for your contribution too!) for our ongoing project of making lap robes for children undergoing cancer therapy at King's Daughter. Mildred Lockwood and Louise Diggs, along with people from other area churches, are making the robes.

We also appreciate everyone who put together a shoebox for our annual Operation Christmas Child. We delivered 52 shoeboxes for distribution to children around the world.

The WMU Group will meet on Tues., Dec. 8, at 1PM, at Mathews Baptist Church.

Don't forget to give to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering! Our goal is \$7,500 and every dollar given goes to help support our missionaries in other countries.

Tee Mallon, WMU Director



Please pray for...

†Judy Lowe at home recovering from Covid & doing good.
†Nancy Higginbotham recovering from cataract surgery.

†Cora Lewis who is in Sanders for rehab.

Long term care...

†Martha Hall (Mathews Conv)

Homebound: Barbara Buchanan, Ed Haufler, Julie Harvell, Louise Diggs, Estelle Tankard

Long Term Illness/condition...

†Derek Zwiers †Gloria Travenski
†Jim Travenski †Sam & Mary Vogel
†Raymond Harris †Leonard Downs, Jr.

†Stephanie Anthony & her son Chri

†Carol Buckley (Delena Nelson's mom)

†Don & Christy Talbott †Kathy Diggs

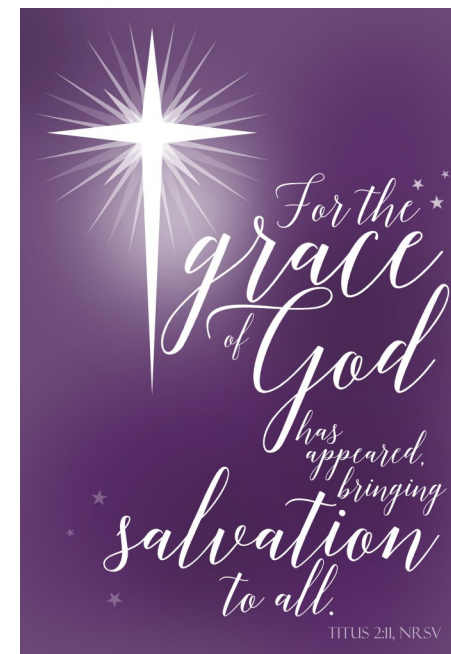
Our Church Families' Missionaries...

†Mike & Susan Mangerchine (Navigators)

Our love any sympathy go out to the family and friends of...

† Bert Miller who passed away on Wed., Nov. 25.

† Edward Diggs who passed away on Thurs., Nov. 26.



Anyone who wants to help "Deck the Halls" is invited to come out on Sat., Dec. 5, at 2:00 p.m. for an afternoon of fellowship & Christmas decorating at Mathews Baptist.



Remember to pick up your 2021 offering envelopes in your classroom or entryway to worship. If there aren't envelopes for you & you would like a box, please call the church office.



Vaden Wise scholarship applications are available on the counter in the welcome area. Completed applications for the spring semester are due back to the trustee mail slot no later than Mon., Jan. 4, 2021.

If you have any questions, please contact Phil Putnam at 804-815-3564.