



Mathews Baptist Church's

GOOD NEWS GAZETTE

VOL. 2 ISSUE 8 · AUGUST 2026

CRICKET-PIE

BY PASTOR BRIAN KRAMER

Last night I was kept awake by the chirping of a cricket. It was so annoying. We have crickets in the house all the time, both regular crickets and spider (or jumping) crickets. I guess we should expect that. We do live on Cricket Hill Road. Trying to catch those hopping things is frustrating. And then I realized John the Baptist would catch and eat these pests with wild honey, well actually it was “locust and wild honey.” (Matthew 4:3) Although to me it seems gross, they were clean to eat according to the Old Testament. (Leviticus 11:20-21) The reason John the Baptist’s clothing and eating habit are mentioned in the gospels is to show his humility (and also a connection to OT prophets like Elijah). Doing a little research, I read that locusts were commonly eaten by the poor back then and are even eaten today. In some places locusts are considered a delicacy. John certainly was humble. He commented that he was not worthy to stoop down and tie the straps of Jesus’ sandals. (Mark 1:7) The scripture says of the Lord, “You save the humble but bring low those whose eyes are haughty.” (Psalm 18:27) When people look at us do they see us as haughty or humble? Paul wrote to Christians, “Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.” (Ephesians 4:2) Thank goodness we don’t have to eat locust (or crickets) to exhibit humbleness!

In Christ,
Pastor Brian Kramer

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WOMEN'S MISSIONARY UNION JULY UPDATE

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

making disciples of Jesus who live on mission.

For Christmas in August our emphasis is on North American Missionaries. Ritamary has created a brochure telling about these North American missionaries:

- Monty Baity · Buffalo, Texas, Chaplain, Truckstop Ministries
- Pastor Sanghun Lee · Buford, Georgia Everlove Church
- Emanuel Carvalho · Deerfield Beach, Florida, New Hope Brazilian Baptist Church
- Sung "Jonathan" Lee · Federal Way, Washington, Connections Church
- Kim McGibbon Hamilton, Ontario, Canada Send Relief Hamilton
- Oscar Ortiz · Carolina, Puerto Rico
- Chaplain Joshua Payne · Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio
- Chaplain Jenny Schindler · Waxahachie, TX
- Nathan Wood · Lansing, North Carolina Appalachian Church Northwest
- Jeremy Stewart, San Diego, California Breakthrough Church of San Diego



Jesus is the heart of CHRISTmas in August!
Pray for these missionaries preaching Christ
and providing so many needs.
Thank you from the MBC Womens' Missionary Union

Mark 16:15 – "He said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.'"

Please pick up one of these brochures, read about the amazing missions these people are supporting and select some or all of these missionaries to pray for, send letters of encouragement or even donations. These things may be done individually or by a Sunday School Class or other group

We continue to collect school supplies for our Homeschool Group "Wings of Mathews". Items that they are in need of are:

#2 pencils, scissors (full size for older kids preferred), glue sticks, paint brushes, construction paper (all colors), pads of mixed media paper, watercolor paints, colored air-dry modeling clay, paper towels, Clorox wipes, and scotch tape.

Our next WMU meeting will be held on August 11 at 1 pm in the Welcome Center.

If you have an items for donation to Operation Christmas Child, please drop them off. We are collecting empty shoeboxes, wrapping paper, small toys, toothbrushes, combs, pencils, erasers, crayons, notebooks, markers, scissors, rulers, glue sticks, puzzles, jump rope, playdough, eating utensils, clothing, hats, etc.

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.

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 old newsletters...

The June 2006 issue of our newsletter featured the following article on The Silvertones, a senior adult choral group from Mathews Baptist Church, who were ending their 15 year ministry that began here but spread well beyond the boundaries of Mathews Baptist Church as they shared the Good News of Jesus' love wherever they went.

In January 1991, Mabe Lamb [music director] and Mildred Lockwood got a group of seniors together to perform a musical, "We're Having the Time of Our Lives." Soon afterwards, Mabe moved away. The group heard and decided to learn, "The Appointment," a musical cantata for senior adults. We so much enjoyed the fellowship and singing that we continued to do musicals and programs as a ministry to others.

The Silvertones performed at the opening session of a statewide music weekend at Eagle Eyrie, presenting a musical, "The Amen Corner," written and composed by Barbara Walters who was the group's accompanist.

Mildred and Barbara put together approximately 17 different programs of secular and sacred music which we presented to various retirement, nursing homes, churches, senior clubs, etc. At Liberty Baptist in Hampton during a music weekend we received accolades for being the only group to sing without music. We made numerous trips to Richmond, Newport News, Saluda, etc. We had, at their peak, 27 members. Along the way, we sponsored several bus trips to Pigeon Forge, TN and Atlanta, GA to attend senior functions.

After an outing in Alexandria to sing at a nursing home where Melvin Landis, a former member, was a resident, we went on to Washington, D.C. where the group were guests of Senator Jessie Helms. We sang in the Capitol Building before being treated to a guided tour of the building and ice cream sundaes with Senator Helms.

It has been an exciting 15 years, but now we must end a ministry of the church. Many of our members have moved away or moved on and the remainder are moving at a much slower tempo. Without replacements, we have dwindled to a precious few.

Thank you, our church family, for your encouragement and support over the years.
The Silvertones

Rev. Ed Inabinet was quoted in that same issue as saying, "Some things keep on bearing fruit after the circumstances or needs that they originally addressed have ended. The Silvertones' ministry is in that category. For 15 years their music and humor have lifted hearts and brought people closer to God. Hope was reborn for their hearers. Courage to keep on keeping on came to others. And their love for Christ and people was evident and ministered to thousands of people."



Silvertone Members Pictured
First row from left: Frances Heath, Ruth Abrams, Martha Winder, Minnie Taylor, Kathy Liggins, Doris Whittacar, Dorothy Foster, Ruth Downs and Joyce Callis. Second row: Eloise Davidson, Barbara Walters, Frances Dickert, Mildred Tucker, Inez Adams, Eumice Johnson, Mary Callis, Louis Hudgins, Gloria Travenski and Mildred Lockwood. Third row: Rev. Ed. Inabinet, C.E. Kline, C.W. Lockwood, Sid Johnson, Melvin Landesm Charlie Davidson and Don Johnstone.

VBS RECAP

First off, I want to thank everyone for trusting me for the second year in a row. I came into this project last year with absolutely no clue how to direct a Vacation Bible School. I'll probably say this every year: I may have had the idea, but it only became a reality because of everyone who stepped forward to lead a station, guide a small group, prepare meals, decorate, clean up, pray, and serve wherever they were needed. This program was successful because of YOU.

It has been one of the greatest blessings and privileges to watch this ministry grow, and I'm so thankful to be a small part of what God is doing through our church.

The growth from last year to this year has been incredible and is such an encouragement. We made a few changes, had a total of 81 registered children (up from 49 last summer), and watched God work in ways that reminded us why we do this in the first place.

Vacation Bible School has since come to an end, and the church has been transformed back from our adventure to discover God's Kingdom. What an incredible week it was! Throughout Kingdom Quest, our kids learned that Jesus is the Light of the World. They discovered that He is always with us, that He is alive, that He makes us new, and that the Holy Spirit helps us every day.

If you hear kids saying, "Jesus spoke to the people again. He said, 'I am the light of the world. Anyone who follows me will never walk in darkness. They will have that light. They will have life.'" (John 8:12), then that means it's working!

There were lots of laughs, plenty of energy, and more than a few unforgettable moments (some of which may or may not have involved an inflatable boat). We watched friendships grow, heard children ask thoughtful questions about their faith, and planted seeds that we pray will continue to grow long after VBS has ended.

Thanks to the generosity of our children and their families, we were able to pack 100 snack bags for Hands Across Mathews, as well as donate 100 toiletries. A few of the kids even had the opportunity to personally deliver the donations and tour Hands Across Mathews, allowing them to see firsthand how their generosity can make a difference in our community.

To the parents: Thank you for trusting us with your children. To my amazing volunteers: Thank you for giving your time, your talents, and your hearts to serve. To everyone who prayed, donated, and supported this ministry in countless ways: Thank you. VBS simply would not be possible without each of you.

Thank you all for making Kingdom Quest such a wonderful week. I am so grateful for the opportunity to share the love of Christ with these children, and I can't wait to see what God has in store for next year!

- Carmen Cuciniello, VBS Director



REMINDERS...



Trail Life + **AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRLS™**
Adventure • Character • Leadership FAITH | SERVICE | FUN

Stronger TOGETHER.

RAISING UP THE NEXT GENERATION OF GODLY LEADERS.

Trail Life and American Heritage Girls are joining together to build character, strengthen faith, and create a lasting legacy in your community!



OPEN HOUSE
★
AUGUST 3RD, 2026
6:30-8PM
Come learn more and see what adventure awaits!



FIRST MEETING
★
SEPTEMBER 14TH, 2026
6:30-8PM
Join us as we kick off an incredible journey together!

FAITH. CHARACTER. ADVENTURE. SERVICE. Fun. | EQUIPPING KIDS TODAY TO CHANGE TOMORROW. ➤

Don't Forget...

- Sunday, August 9th - Commemorative Ornament Pre-orders are due! Please let Megan or Cathy know if you have not signed up to purchase one (at cost) already.
- Sunday, August 16th - Church Picnic taking place at Camp Piankatank from 3-7pm. Please bring a side dish and swimsuit/towel if you wish to swim. Lifeguards will be on duty.
- Sunday, August 23rd - is elder appreciation Sunday.



Pray for...

Praise God...

- For the birth of John William Condon on July 11th 2026, to parents David and Heather Condon.
- For the baptism of Karen Wiant on July 7th, 2026.
- For the birth of Oliver Kellar on July 26th 2026, to parents Dylan & Shelby Kellar.

Our love and sympathy...

- To the family and friends of William Callis, who passed away on July 10th, 2026.
- To Mike & Debbie Meyers; Mike's sister Liz passed away on July 4th, 2026
- To the family & friends of Suzie Kellar (Shelby's MIL) who passed away on July 28th.

Please be in prayer...

- For former Associate Pastor, Randy Cooksey, who experienced some health complications in July.
- For Rob Thompson, who had a heart attack in July.

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



hello September

Coming up...

- 1 - MTBA Prayer Gathering
- 6 - Sunday School Promotions
- 7 - Labor Day
- 8 - WMU Meeting
- 14 - 1st Trail Life & AHG Meeting of the year
- 22 - First Day of Autumn

CHURCH ATTENDANCE JULY 2026

Date	9:00	10:00	11:00
07/05/2026	121	100	29
07/12/2026	141	115	27
07/19/2026	148	101	31
07/26/2026	137	98	20

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)

August 2026



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

1 Amy Bohannon-Stewart, Kyle Diggs
 2 Tyler Lane Kemp
 3 Keely Crittenden, Janet Greene
 4 Thomas Hubbard, Jennifer Smith
 5 Ronnie Callis
 6 Luann Smith
 7 Timmy Barrick, Cooper Wornom
 8 Annalise Morse
 9 Charlotte Hughes, Aaron White, Sean Rhodes
 10 Jennifer Ledford
 11 Jenny Martin, Bob Sherrill
 12 Ashley Bower
 14 Logan Byrns
 15 David Downs, Joise Kemp
 16 Richard Downs, Les Hall, Judah Pollard,
 Robert Thompson
 17 Carmen Cuciniello, Bobby Diggs, Douglas Miles
 18 Joe Hayes
 19 Jenny Goodrich, Cooper Mitchem
 20 Brady & Beau Thomas
 25 Amanda Kemp
 29 Jax Denkinger, Mike Sheilds, Kanaan Diggs
 30 Cheryl Adams, Stacy Turner

Anniversaries

7 Clay & Claire Harrington
 8 Rylan & Rachel S. Prieb
 12 James & Carmen Cuciniello

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

Counting Committee for August:

Mark & Linden Barrick

Counting Committee for September:

Pat & Pam Harrington

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
Scholarship 2 Applications & Budget Request Forms Due	3 6:30PM Trail Life & AHG Open House	4 7PM MTBA Prayer Gathering	5 6PM - Exercise Class	6 6PM - Exercise Class	7	8
9  Ornament Pre- Orders Due	10 6PM - Exercise Class	11 1PM WMU Meeting	12 6PM - Exercise Class	13	14	15
16  Church Picnic 3- 7PM	17 6PM - Exercise Class	18	19 6PM - Exercise Class	20	21	22
23 Elder Appreciation Sunday	24 6PM - Exercise Class	25	26 6PM - Exercise Class	27	28	29
30	31	9:00 Nursery Schedule (babies): (8/2) Pam Harrington, Bev Barefoot, Sherin Stewart (8/9) Joy Lowe, Stephanie Lowe, Austin Sadler (8/16) Delena Nelson, Teeny Hughes, Kathy Merithew (8/23) Cathy Rowe, Hannah Yarkey, Korinda Bott (8/30) Melanie Miles, Robby Miles, Megan Waddell 9:00 Nursery Schedule (toddlers): (8/2) Mickey Ramer, Becky Ethington (8/9) Nancy Pait, Luanne Smith (8/16) Tommy Waddell, Pat Taylor (8/23) Nikki Pollard, Katie Haywood (8/30) Bonnie Kramer, Steve Taylor				

MATHEWS BAPTIST CHURCH

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