



Mathews Baptist Church's

GOOD NEWS GAZETTE

VOL. 2 ISSUE 10 · OCTOBER 2026

HAPPY 250TH ANNIVERSARY

BY PASTOR BRIAN KRAMER

Well, our 250th church anniversary is almost here. We've been preparing for this for over a year. I've been told the Worship Center (I will use this for the new name of the Multi-Purpose Room) will be finished in time. I know it will. But even if it is not, I'm not worried. Because we are not celebrating the building. As beautiful as our sanctuary is (and I've enjoyed all of us worshiping in there these past Sundays), as beautiful as our new Worship Center will be, and with all the work being done to beautify all of the buildings on our property, we will not be celebrating the buildings. This is the 250th anniversary of the church and the congregation. The church is not the building but the people. The word church is from the Greek word "Ekklesia," which means "called-out ones." The church is the people who are called out of the world to worship the Savior. The church is the body of Christ. Paul writes, "And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all." (Ephesians 1:22-23 NKJV) Even if something happened to our buildings, we would still be the Church. Jesus told Peter even "the gates of hell shall not prevail" again at the Church. I believe Mathews Baptist Church will continue until Christ's return. So, this month we celebrate the 250 years our church has been serving Christ, the congregation and community here in Hudgins Virginia. Happy 250th anniversary to you!

In Christ,

Pastor Brian Kramer

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WOMEN'S MISSIONARY UNION SEPTEMBER UPDATE

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

WMU held our Wrap Party on Saturday the 26th. We were able to deliver 29 wrapped shoeboxes to Amy's Shoebox bus. We hope to attend one of her shoebox filling events soon to fill them up and get them ready to be delivered to Samaritan's Purse. Those helping were Christy Brown, Ritamary Bruce, Donna Frantz, Polly Hayes, Bonnie Kramer, Judy Lowe, and Sharon Morgan.



Judy Lowe and Bonnie Kramer wrapping boxes



Rita Bruce and Polly Hayes



Christy Brown and Judy Lowe



29 wrapped shoeboxes delivered

We are 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 have OCC brochures available with complete listing of gift ideas. **We have shoeboxes available for you to take one and fill it yourself.** 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 Overflowing with Hope. Check it out!

ALMA HUNT OFFERING FOR VA MISSIONS: Sept. is the month for emphasis on VA Missions. Offering envelopes are available or just not on your regular envelope. Our goal is \$1,500.

Watch for information about our December project – Christmas Store at the Nursing Home.



Our next WMU meeting will be held on October 13th at 1 pm in the Welcome Center. We are always looking for new members. Women at any age are invited to participate. Our Rhythm Band leads singing at the Nursing home on the first, second and third, Tuesday mornings 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 our 200th Anniversary in 1976

In 1976, special services were held in observance of our 200th anniversary. The following article from the Gazette Journal gives details for the day. As we anticipate celebrating our 250th anniversary on Sun., Oct. 25, 2026, we also look forward to messages from our five “daughter” churches (which we are happy to say are still active today) as well as other speakers mentioned in this month’s newsletter.

(reprinted from the Gazette Journal, 1976):

“Offspring Day” will be observed at Mathews Baptist Church on Sunday with two special services featuring representatives of the five “daughter” churches of MBC.

The Rev. Kenneth Russell, pastor, said the programs are being held as a part of the church’s 200th anniversary celebration. Mathews Baptist was founded in 1776, with other churches organized from its membership as follows: First Baptist, 1865; Gwynn’s Island, Springhill and Westville, 1874; and Macedonia, 1886.

At the 11 a.m. service, speakers and the daughter churches represented will include: the Rev. Alvin B. James, First Church; Mrs. Katherine Ware, Westville; Miss Robbie Blackwell, Gwynn’s Island; Roy Foster, Springhill; and Mrs. Donald Eriksen, Macedonia.

The 7:30 p.m. service will be a “sermon in song” featuring choirs from the five daughter churches, plus the adult and youth choirs of MBC.

Then & Now

1976 - 2026

1976 — 200th Anniversary
Mathews Baptist Church celebrated 200 years with an “Offspring Day,” featuring representatives and choirs from its five daughter churches.

2026 — 250th Anniversary
Fifty years later, we will once again gather with representatives from our daughter churches as we celebrate 250 years of God’s faithfulness.

***Serving the Savior
Yesterday, Today & Forever***

Our Daughter Churches

From the ministry of Mathews Baptist Church came five churches that continue to serve their communities today:

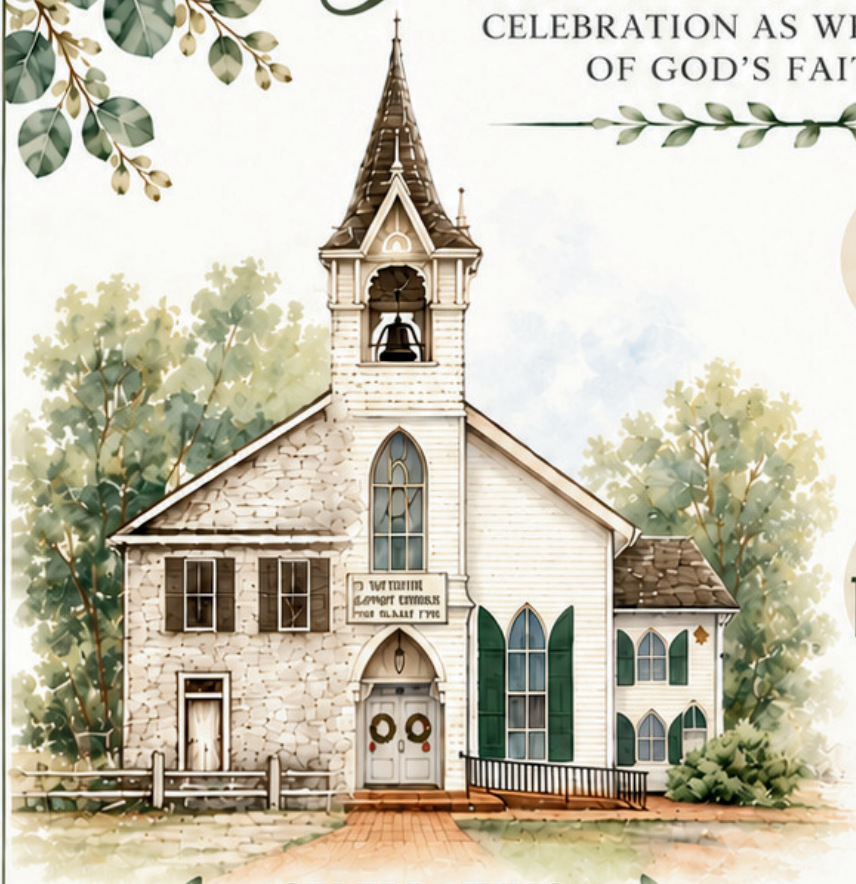
First Baptist Church — 1865
Gwynn’s Island Baptist Church — 1874
Springhill Baptist Church — 1874
Westville Baptist Church — 1874
Macedonia Church — 1886

*Five churches. One heritage.
One faithful God.*



You're Invited!

FOR A DAY OF WORSHIP, FELLOWSHIP, AND
CELEBRATION AS WE HONOR 250 YEARS
OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS!



CELEBRATING

250
YEARS

OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

10.25.26

MATHEWS BAPTIST CHURCH

SERVING THE SAVIOR YESTERDAY, TODAY AND FOREVER



9:30 AM PRAISING THE LORD IN THE PAST

SANCTUARY SERVICE

Pastor Brian Kramer will share about the church's history and God's faithfulness through 250 years at Mathews Baptist Church.



10:45 AM PRAISING THE LORD AT PRESENT

MULTI-PURPOSE BUILDING

Eddie Heath, Director of Missions for the MTBA, will share a message along with Dr. Taylor of the VBHS, and former Pastor of Mathews Baptist Church, Ed Inabinet.



12:00 PM LUNCH

FELLOWSHIP HALL

Enjoy a time of fellowship and a delicious meal!

BBQ Pork, Fried Chicken,
Assorted Sides & Desserts



2:00 PM PRAISING THE LORD FOREVER

MULTI-PURPOSE BUILDING

A musical celebration along with messages from our five daughter churches as we celebrate God's everlasting faithfulness and the hope we have for the future.

R.S.V.P. Appreciated

Open your phone's camera app,
point and then click the link
that appears!



All are welcome!

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CHURCH NEWS

Always ready to lend a helping hand



Ramp build that took place in September. Seen here are (from left): Pastor Brian Kramer, Steve Taylor, Mickey Ramer, Austin Kemp, Jerry Ligon, Richard Morgan (homeowner, the ramp was built for his wife Pat) and Jim Burns.

Carry one another's burdens; in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

– Galatians 6:2 (CSB)

Pray for...

Praise God...

- For the cooler temperatures of Autumn that are arriving and a reminder that change can be beautiful.

Our love and sympathy...

- Go out to the family & friends of Stephanie Anthony, who passed away after a long battle with cancer, on September 6th, 2026.
- Go out to the family and friends of Kenny Ewell, who went to be with his Lord and Savior on October 1st, 2026.

Please be in prayer...

- Curtis Smith (Tee Mallon's brother) who was in the hospital with heart issues this past month.
- For Leah Wright (Steve & Cher Gingues' daughter) who is having a complicated pregnancy.
- For Mike & Brenda Hanhart's daughter Kimberly who has come home with them on hospice.
- For Delores Sanger, who is recovering from surgery.

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



Have NOVEMBER

Coming up...

- 3 - Election Day
- 11 - Veteran's Day
- 15 - Autumn Afternoon
- 23 - OCC Shoebox Deadline for our church!
- 26 - Thanksgiving Day

CHURCH ATTENDANCE SEPTEMBER 2026

Date	9:00	10:00	11:00
09/06/2026	164	115	20
09/13/2026	151	118	20
09/20/2026	145	132	30
09/27/2026	146	123	22

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
8284 Buckley Hall Rd
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October 2026



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Counting Committee for October: Mickey & Glenda Ramer Counting Committee for November: Judy, Joy & Stephanie Lowe				1 6PM - Exercise Class	2	3 9am Grace Marriage Meeting
4	5 6PM - Exercise Class 6:30PM - Trail Life/ AHG Meeting	6 7PM MTBA Prayer Gathering	7 6PM Wednesday Dinner & Activities	8 6PM - Exercise Class	9	10 7PM SSSS Group
11	12 Columbus Day 6PM - Exercise Class 6:30PM - Trail Life/ AHG Meeting	13 1PM WMU Meeting	14 6PM Wednesday Dinner & Activities	15 6PM - Exercise Class	16	17 8AM - Men's Breakfast
18	19 6PM - Exercise Class 6:30PM - Trail Life/ AHG Meeting	20	21 Quarterly Business Meeting - No Dinner or Activities	22 6PM - Exercise Class	23 KAIROS Fall Gathering - Young Adult Retreat	24
25  250th Anniversary Homecoming	26 6PM - Exercise Class 6:30PM - Trail Life/ AHG Meeting	27	28 6PM Wednesday Dinner & Activities	29 6PM - Exercise Class	30	31  3-5pm Trunk or Treat

Birthdays

1 Frannie Hubbard
2 Carson Brown, Bobby Callis, Jennifer Morgan, Christy Poteet
3 Barbara Crockett, Casey Elliott
5 Whitney Stewart
8 Tammy Johnson
9 Chris Miller, Debra White, Cathy Williams
10 Erika Brown, Josh Velez
11 Cole DeLucas
12 Bruce Owens
13 Taylor Netherland
15 Linden Barrick, Sherri Sparks
16 David Crittenden
17 John Green, Tyler Moore, Brooke Collins
18 Ellie Condon
19 Colten Sadler
20 Tony Deagle, Judi Gayle
21 Clay Harrington
22 Makayla Calloway, Jade Monastriyly & Sierra Davis
23 Joseph Rowe
25 Angela Blake, Tod Doane
29 Dianne Hudgins, Lori Shull, Robin Thompson
30 Jody Forrest
31 Alice Stewart

Anniversaries

4 Joey & Heather Calloway, Tommy & Megan Waddell
6 Tod & Leandra Doane
8 Taylor & Michael Netherland
15 Austin & Amanda Kemp
18 Ed & Lori Shull
19 Larry & Alice Stewart
25 Michael & Lisa Brown

9:00 Nursery Schedule (babies):

(10/4) Delena Nelson, Megan Waddell, Kathy Merithew
(10/11) Cathy Rowe, Hannah Yarkey, Korinda Bott
(10/18) Melanie Miles, Teeny Hughes, Robby Miles
(10/25) Katie Givens, Fallon Diggs, Elizabeth Moore

9:00 Nursery Schedule (toddlers):

(10/4) Nikki Pollard, Katie Haywood
(10/11) Bonnie Kramer, Steve Taylor
(10/18) Karen Hudgins, Alice Stewart
(10/25) Mickey Ramer, Becky Ethington

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