



The Circuit Rider

St. Matthew's United Methodist Church



February Fundraisers for Appalachia Service Project



Appalachia Service Project is a summer mission program where our youth travel along with adult leaders to a town in Appalachia and work on teams to repair homes for low-income families in the community. Not only do the families get much needed help, the youth gain maturity and understanding and learn that when you change the lives of others, it has a way of changing you. In the month of February, St. Matthew's will have two events which will raise funds for the 2011 ASP trip.

Sunday, February 6 – Sub Sale

Once again, the ASP team will be selling subs for Super Bowl Sunday. We will have Turkey and American, Ham and Swiss, or Italian Cold Cut subs available for \$6 each. Order forms will be available in the bulletin for one more week, so be sure to pre-order to guarantee you won't be cooking during the Super Bowl and missing all those great commercials!

Sunday, February 27 – Medieval Feast

Hear ye, hear ye! My lords and ladies, mark your calendars for a faire feast at the end of February! On Sunday, February 27, we will be hosting a Medieval Feast at 5:00 p.m. as an ASP fundraiser. Come enjoy a night of medieval fare as you listen to the Renaissance Revelers, a singing group, and Music Anon, a recorder group with our own Helen-Jean Talbott. Both these groups have been featured performers for several years at the Maryland Renaissance Festival. Tickets are \$20 each and will be on sale February 13, 20, and 27 after worship services or during the week from the main office. This is a night of revelry you won't want to miss!

Thank you in advance for your support of our ASP team!

February 2011
Volume 48, Issue 1

Inside this issue:

February 2	COM Meeting	5
February 6	UMYF Sub Sale	1
February 7	Food Pantry Fundraiser	8
February 25	Dinner/Dance Social	1
February 27	Medieval Feast	1

Dinner/Dance Social Goes Hollywood!

St. Matthew's Dinner/Dance Social returns on Friday, February 25, from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m. at Crofton Country Club. This year's theme will be "Hooray for Hollywood," complete with a walk down the red carpet and St. Matthew's own paparazzi! This fun evening is designed for *all* adults—singles, couples, and groups. Tickets will be \$45 per person and will be sold after services by Fellowship Hall beginning Sunday, January 30. Entrée selections will be available at that time. For additional information or to place music requests, please contact Karen Hastings.



Opportunities to Help:

- Little Nursery and Preschool Nursery (Every Sunday)
- Bowie Food Pantry Donations (Feb. 20)
- Shelter Meal (Feb. 20)



*"Come! Live in the light!
Shine with the joy and the love of
the Lord! We are called to be light
for the kingdom, to live in the
freedom of the city of God!
Come! Open your heart!
Show your mercy to all those in
fear! We are called to be hope for
the hopeless so all hatred and
blindness will be no more!
We are called to act with justice,
we are called to love tenderly,
we are called to serve one another,
to walk humbly with God!"*

*--We Are Called, written by
David Haas based on Micah 6:8,
from The Faith We Sing hymnal
supplement, #2172*

My Ministry Has Been a Great Adventure

As I read about the tragedy that occurred in Arizona and listen to words spoken in response, I am deeply moved and convicted. My heart breaks for those who lost their lives and for their families. My prayers surround Representative Giffords and all who are recovering from wounds inflicted by this senseless attack. But I'm also struck by the story of the young man who is allegedly responsible for all this suffering. In a Washington Post article that described Jared Loughner's life, one of his friends said that Loughner "focused all his energy into understanding the mystery of man's existence on Earth... He was desperately trying to escape from all the chaos and suffering in his world."

These words hit me between the eyes and remind me that who we are as the Church is needed in the world more than ever. The Incarnate Christ revealing the mystery and meaning of our human existence, the loving and healing presence of the Holy Spirit in the midst of human suffering, and a benevolent and creative Word breathed by our Creator into chaos to bring about new creation: this is what our faith is all about. Jared Loughner was lost and searching. I know he's not the only one. Our journey together as the Church is not for our own sake—though God's grace in Christ is certainly the gift that calls and sustains us as persons and as a community. Rather, our worship, our study, our fellowship form us more closely into a Christ-like shape so that we, like Jesus, will be for the world a concrete sign of love, hope, mercy, and justice. We, like Jesus, are called to offer ourselves to others, to proclaim the good news of the Reign of God in word and in deed, to be agents of healing and reconciliation in our relationships and the world.

There are folks all around us who may be in some crisis and are looking for answers or who are just looking for some positive connection in their lives. St. Matthew's is a beautiful resource to share with others. Don't hesitate to share the riches of our life together. Invite someone to join you for a class, for worship, for a mission project. Your connection in this faith community has been a blessing for you and helped you know God—share that gift with someone who seems to be struggling.

As we journey through the weeks of this season in which the Epiphany of Christ continues to unfold, I pray that we will take to heart our call to live our faith in ways that speak peace into lives that are suffering and in chaos, in ways that bring healing and hope to those who feel lost and confused, in ways that continue to make manifest the light of the Christ in a world where darkness always threatens to overwhelm. We cannot rid the world of violence, brokenness and suffering; but we can participate in God's work of redemption as instruments of God's peace, healing, and light. Thanks be to God that "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." (John 1:5)

Living in the Light,

Ginger+



UMW Events and Meetings

The UMW will meet during the Council on Ministries (COM) meeting on **Wednesday, February 2**. Come for the potluck dinner at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. After the joint devotions and planning meeting, women who are not attending other committee meetings are invited to create Valentines to send to missionaries listed in our Prayer Calendar. The meeting room will be announced at the COM meeting.

On **Monday, February 14**, the **Evening** and **Koinonia** Circles will have a joint meeting in Room 222 at 7:30 p.m. to view the movie "Pray the Devil Back to Hell." The film is the extraordinary story of a small band of Liberian women who came together in the midst of a bloody civil war, and won a long-awaited peace for their country in 2003. All are welcome to attend; babysitting is available upon request by contacting Mary McClurg.

Please mark your calendar for **Tuesday, March 15**, when the Evening Circle will be carpooling to DC to attend the annual "Empty Bowls" fundraiser for So Others Might Eat. A \$20 donation for your meal includes a handmade, original soup bowl. All are invited to join the carpool by calling JoEllen Thompson.

EXECUTIVE Board: Sunday, January 30 and February 27, at 7:00 p.m. in the Parlor.

AGAPE Circle: Thursday, February 3, at 9:30 a.m. at the home of Joanne Haworth. We will discuss Chapter 4 of our study book.

MARTHA Circle: Friday, February 11, at 9:30 a.m. in the Parlor. We will discuss Ch. 11 of our book. **Babysitting is available**—call Linda Harbaugh.

EVENING *and* KOINONIA Circles: Monday, February 14, at 7:30 p.m. in Room 222. (see details above)

SUSANNA WESLEY Circle: Wednesday, February 16, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Karen Cook.

Annual Book Sale – Recycle Your Books

On Sundays, April 3 and 10, the UMW will hold their annual used book sale in Fellowship Hall. Books will be sold both Sundays between services and after the second service. Please donate gently used, good readable books—no textbooks, yellowed paperbacks, or older cookbooks. Think about recycling those books you've had on the shelf or in boxes for years, or the books you purchased last year at the book sale, and let someone else enjoy a good book. Please leave your books in the coat room bins after March 6 or bring them to the sale by 8:30 a.m. on April 3.



"An invitation to attend any of the circle meetings is extended to all women."

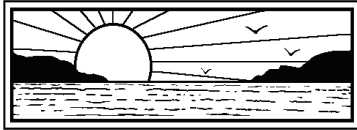


"The UMW will use the proceeds for various mission projects."

The Circuit Rider is published monthly by St. Matthew's United Methodist Church
Editor: Lorri Meadows **Editorial Staff:** Barbara Rooney, Sharon Heidenreich

To Contact Us: phone: 301-262-1408 fax: 301-262-2148
 e-mail: circuitrider@stmatthews-bowie.org

Articles are due by the 15th of each month. Please e-mail articles to the above address or submit to church office. *Please call to verify our receipt of any faxed or e-mailed articles.*



Shirley's Reflections

"We can initiate each day with renewed hope and vision because God is with us."

Anywhere, Lord, Anytime

"I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!" Those were the words we were learning to sing in our church school worship last Sunday. Other verses of this African American spiritual continue with "I'm gonna work..." "I'm gonna pray..." "I'm gonna sing so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!" What a cheerful way to focus our living for each day. These words of promise can be sung with our kids when we're carpooling, at mealtime or bedtime, or on our drive to work as we're orienting ourselves to what we hope to accomplish this day. Let us offer to God ourselves for this day and each day as it begins. Because our loving Father wants to forgive us of our failures and omissions in thought, word and deed, if we confess where we've disappointed God and sinned, we can experience his fresh breath of forgiveness. We can initiate each day with renewed hope and vision because God is with us.

I was ill this week with a short-lived virus and didn't feel like doing anything except lie on the couch or on the lazy-boy chair. I had the TV playing most of the day and evening, and that sound was of little help in comforting me. I don't believe I saw one program that inspired me to be the person I intend to be. After the day of illness was over I began to think how sad it is if our lives are being influenced by the endless TV commercials that can cause us always to want more "stuff" or a more perfect body. We may think we're not being influenced by TV's ads or TV's secular values, but it's quite tempting to want to be in style or on the cutting edge of owning new gadgets, fashionable cars or clothing.

We need to have times when we turn off the TV and we fill our conscious thoughts and background sound with something that inspires us. If we begin and end the day with prayer and perhaps Bible reading also, we can offer to God our hopes, our joys, our frustrations and failures. In the upcoming months in our children's church school classes we're going to encourage children to memorize Bible verses appropriate for their age levels. Jesus said the first commandment is "you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength." He continued, "the second commandment is 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" If we write those two commandments on our hearts, our children and grandchildren's hearts, we can know direction, joy and satisfaction that only God can give to daily tasks.

While dressing for work this morning I was listening to WAVA's station on the radio. A man told how he was able to lead another person to trust in Christ as Savior when they were both trapped in darkness in a hotel (I believe) during one of the earthquakes in Haiti. These two stricken men found courage and hope because they were not alone. God's spirit sustained them and encouraged them. They could trust that they would be in God's care whether they lived or died.

Life has a way of bringing unexpected circumstances into our lives. The Tucson shooting spree, the Oklahoma bombing, earthquakes and floods are unplanned happenings. God wants to assure us He will be with us always and his desire is that we love him above all else. We can courageously encounter each day with an attitude of living so that God can use us anytime, anywhere.

– Shirley Klotz Bickel, © 2011



Youth News

– Jen McClurg, Youth Director

We have a busy February planned for our youth! Our Middle School church school class continues their study on "Pictures of God" and our high schoolers have begun a study on the book of Revelation.

Both UMYF groups will be playing in our annual Middle School vs. High School Superbowl game in the afternoon of February 6 and then will be playing

dodgeball against each other on February 13 in honor of Valentine's Day.

Our Middle Schoolers will practice our worship service on February 20 and then lead us on February 27. Our High Schoolers will continue with play practice on February 20 and then serve at our Medieval Feast on February 27.



All youth in 6th-12th grade are welcome

Life Changes

Deaths:

William (Bill) Morgan, husband of Irmgard;

Betty Galisin, sister of Ellie Miskovic;

Laurel Jean Unnewehr, mother of Dave Unnewehr;

Helen Price, mother of Thelma Harvey;

Patricia Priester, mother of Virginia Nunes;

Gene Miller, brother-in-law of Dan Blades

Weddings:

Elaine Huffman, daughter of Kim and George Huffman, to Brad Shapiro on December 31, 2010.

Births:

Brian Paul Hillsinger, Jr., son of Brian and Julia Hillsinger on December 21, 2010. The proud grandparents are Paul and Kathy Hillsinger and the proud great-grandparents are Jim and Betty Monroe.

Baptisms:

Tessa Olive Linton, daughter of Christian Linton and Julie Miller. The proud grandmother is Ruth Miller.

Council on Ministries Meets February 2

St. Matthew's new and renewed Council on Ministries will meet on **Wednesday, February 2**, at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. The evening will begin with a light supper followed by small group and large group meetings, concluding by 9:00 p.m.

All members and leaders of church committees are encouraged to attend.



Come and learn what's going on at St. Matthew's!

Did You Know???

Why is the ceiling of the wall behind our altar in the Sanctuary sloped?

Find the answer elsewhere in this newsletter.

Valentines of Cheer

Church school children will brighten the day of some Heartfields residents by making valentines for the persons living there.





The Environment Group meets the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Recent Environment Group Events

Brad Heavener is the Maryland state environment person who sends me suggestions for contributing to efforts of stewardship needed by the state. This fall he proposed a focus on solar energy and our group responded with a 4-part series that included the Sierra Club speaking in November on "Energy in the State of Maryland." Alana Wase, our knowledgeable speaker, presented information on off-shore wind which would replace dirty coal which harms our health, pollutes streams and rivers, land and atmosphere but it's *cheap*. Obstacles to wind power: up front costs of building turbines and hurdling laws that favor coal. Advantages: free wind, more jobs, birds safe in area proposed. Alana informed us of the convention in Annapolis on December 4th about Off-Shore Wind.

What an exhilarating experience! Talk about wind power! The line-up of inspiring speakers included Mr. Heavener, steelworkers' union leader Jim Strong, Senators Paul Pinsky and Rob Garagiola, Dave Blazer from Blue Water Wind, Mike Tidwell, the director of this event, Robert Mitchell, investment partner with Google, and Lester Brown, writer of many environment books and founder of Earth Policy Institute. (For a complete list of speakers stop by the environment table by Fellowship Hall between services.)

Thank You!

Thanks to the St. Matthew's family for the prayers, phone calls and cards that I received shortly before and after my mother's death. The love and support I felt was very helpful and meant a lot to me during this difficult time. I feel blessed to be a part of this church.

– *Thelma Harvey*

We were all encouraged to promote off-shore wind. We were given a workshop about grass roots activists training, learned about jobs connected to wind power and discussed overcoming the coal log jam. Cards were available to send to our representatives expressing our wishes about this energy use. We hope you will sign them. We're trying to get 10,000 cards signed. I sent 50 to Sierra Club, have 30 in my purse and ordered 50 more. Wish me luck. This is our opportunity to demonstrate government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

I thank God for this inspiring event and pray that Maryland makes swift and true progress.

– *Elizabeth Buckner*

Did You Know???

Answer to question on page 5:

The architect of our Sanctuary, Benjamin P. Elliott, Associates, envisioned the following: "The back chancel wall and the sloping chancel ceiling are visualized as a stucco-type of plaster which would make an excellent surface for projections. The broadening of the Sanctuary and the sloping roof will create an illusion of closeness to the chancel. Symbolic expression would start on the left side aisle (continuing forward)...and thus the chancel wall could then be treated to grow out of the previous symbolism to emulate the infinite power of God through Christ." Definition of the Total Architectural Expression, Benjamin P. Elliott, June 30, 1969. Not all of Mr. Elliott's plans became reality, due to budget constraints.

– *Kay League, Historian*





Future of Communications at St. M's

One body one church—all supporting our common efforts, vision, and mission. Ours is a ministry that shares the church's story in ways that move people toward becoming disciples for Christ.

We have many ways to tell the story of the church, creating readiness and nudging the church community toward receptive insight. We have the greatest story of all to tell, and in this digital, multimedia world we have more options than ever before—and more challenges as a church to be relevant in telling our story in a way people are willing to hear and interact with it.

One of the tasks of the Communications Committee is to work with all of you to develop and implement specific plans for communicating the vision and mission of the congregation to the outside world. In order to do that, we need to establish some procedures for getting the plans through the system, having the tools to implement them and the training to use the tools successfully.

This is what the Communications Committee will focus on for the first half of this year:

- New tools and training will be provided to you to help all of us communicate better—with each other and to the outside world;
- To help you tell your story, we now have a Flip video camera to use for recording church events and activities—more cameras are on the way;
- Social networking, web site training, and media production seminars will begin in February 2011;
- New communications assistance forms and a revised building use form will be available from our website and in the Church office;

- A new website design will premiere in March.

We need your help—we need photographers, photos, stories, and all sorts of content to help us tell our story the best way we can. This opportunity is open to all. For more information, contact George Wood.

Just as Mary was instructed to “Go, tell” when the tomb was empty, I invite you to Come, “tell us your story and let's find out how your gifts can help us communicate better to one and all.”

—George Wood, Communications Chair



Webmaster Change

As of January 1, Steve Smith is the new webmaster for the St. Matthew's web site. Please contact Steve at webmaster@stmatthews-bowie.org for help with the web site. Previous webmaster, Dick Kaiser, will assist Steve during the initial months of transition.

With Heartfelt Gratitude

The Thompson family extends our heartfelt gratitude for all the cards, phone calls, flowers, thoughts and especially prayers following Roy's passing. We also are appreciative of all the work and effort put forth to provide a wonderful lunch following the memorial service. We were overwhelmed by the generosity of our St. Matthews' family. May God bless each and every one.

—The Thompson Family





A percentage of sales will go to
the Bowie Food Pantry

Feb 7: Food Pantry Night at Noodles

On Monday, February 7, take a night off from cooking and enjoy a dinner at Noodles & Company at Bowie Town Center (next to Starbucks). A percentage of the sales from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. will benefit the Bowie Interfaith Pantry and Emergency Aid. **Please tell the cashier you are there to support the Food Pantry.**

A Pilgrimage to Rome with Isaac

Having lived in Rome for 5 years, I consider myself something of an expert. And I love the city and its people, and love sharing it with others. So, at the risk of being too forward, I am offering the opportunity to all and every, to travel with me and Jeff to Rome later this year.

We will depart from Dulles on a non-stop flight on Monday evening, October 24, and arrive at Rome's Leonardo da Vinci airport (Fiumicino) the next morning. Accommodations will be at La Casa di Maryelen, a very fun B&B owned by our friends Loredana and Ciro and operated by them and their 2 daughters and other family members. Rooms have private bath, air conditioning, and buffet breakfast is included. We return to Dulles, again on a non-stop flight, on Friday, November 4. Two bus tours, one called "Rome by Night" and the other to Subiaco, a mountain town 40 miles east of Rome, are included in the price of the trip.

If you interested in joining me for this great time, please get in touch. The price of the trip, based on double occupancy, will be \$2,350. A non-refundable deposit of \$100 per person is needed by 15 March.

If you have questions or would like more information, please do not hesitate to get in touch. You can call me or send me an email. There is also further information on the Facebook page called "Isaac's Rome".

Update on Semper Fi Fund Cookbook

Who would have thought a tiny seed planted, "let's make a cookbook and do a fundraiser for the Injured Marines Semper Fi Fund," would grow into a fabulous tree with so many branches. The Marines, Families and Friends Cookbook has yielded \$31,000 in contributions as of December 31 to the Injured Marines Semper Fi Fund for 2010 and is still going strong. St. Matthew's was one of the first places to begin selling the cookbook through our "Support for our Troops" program. As a result of this initial effort, St. Matthew's web site address is and always will be listed in the Acknowledgements section of the cookbook.

Over 5,000 books have been sold! The cookbook is sold in the US Marine Corps Museum in Quantico, Virginia. Homestead Gardens sold 849 cookbooks in 2010 and is still selling them. We have obtained an ISBN number to begin selling the cookbook at Borders Book Store and we plan to contact other bookstores to carry the book as well. We are continuing our sales of the book at local Giant Food Stores fundraisers and the book will soon be available for purchase on line.

All proceeds go to the Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund. You have our gratitude for your continued support for "Support for our Troops Program" at St. Matthew's.

— Irene Schneider



Join Isaac Borocz on a tour of
one of his favorite cities!



UMCOR: Be There. Be Hope.

UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) mission is to alleviate **human** suffering – whether caused by war, conflict, or natural disaster – with open minds and hearts to all **people**.

How can you and I at St. Matthew's UMC participate in this denominational mission?

Here are a few suggestions:

- Help assemble health kits, school kits, buckets, etc. to answer needs both in disaster areas and poverty areas in the US and around the world (check the bulletin and newsletter as to when assembling will take place during 2011).
- Send an offering to UMCOR through St. Matthew's indicating which project you desire the funds to serve or donate on line at <http://new.gbgm-umc.org/advance/> (click on "How to Give" to see your options). Our church can track all donations made on line.
- Keep informed by subscribing to the UMCOR hotline at <http://new.gbgm-umc.org/umcor/> (click on "Get Connected" and select "Receive Hotline Updates"). You will receive an email once a week.
- Pray for those who represent us!

Missions 2010 Annual Report

Please note that the Missions Committee's 2010 Annual Report will soon be posted on the church web site. The Parish Notes will announce when the report is available to be reviewed and a link to the report will be provided.

Haiti: Progressing with Hope

January 12th marked one year since the devastating earthquake shook the impoverished nation of Haiti. While progress has been painstakingly slow, signs of hope are springing up for those affected by the earthquake. Through school construction, health, livelihood, and water and sanitation support, UMCOR is pressing forward in partnership with the people of Haiti to keep hope alive as the recovery work continues. (Advance #418325)

UMCOR at Work Around the World

Haiti: UMCOR responds to earthquake survivors

US: Floods soak Tennessee

Zimbabwe: Putting Food on the Table

Democratic Republic of Congo: Beating Malaria

Philippines: Providing Clean Water

Mozambique: Building Health Care Independence

Global: A New Year Means New Challenges.

– Submitted by Galen R. Menne

Upcoming Events in March

Fri, March 4	World Day of Prayer
Tues, March 8	Pancake Supper
Weds, March 9	Ash Wednesday
March 16, 23, 30	Lenten Services
March 18-20, 25, 27	Musical Troupe Performances



UMCOR is the not-for-profit global humanitarian aid organization of the United Methodist Church.





Advent Projects Faithfully Supported

Christmas Stocking Project

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! The congregation of St. Matthew's is truly AWESOME! We filled 350 Christmas sacks for the children whose parents are incarcerated in the Prince George's County Correctional Facility in Upper Marlboro. Whether you were involved in cutting and sewing sacks, cutting out the stocking tags, putting the labels on the stocking tags, tying ribbons on the family and individual cards, writing names on the sacks, buying and wrapping gifts, setting up Fellowship Hall, stuffing wrapped gifts or making and sharing a special dish on wrap day, or helping to deliver the bags, you are GREATLY APPRECIATED. You are truly special angels for these children. See you next year!

– Sharon Heidenreich, Coordinator

UMW Holiday Families

St. Matthew's provided food and gifts for 18 families including 23 children and 17 teens. Thank you to our church family for the generous Advent communion offering as well as donations of dry goods, turkeys, and toys. Thanks also to the workers that shopped for the gifts, helped to make up the food baskets, and wrap the gifts. All leftover dry good foods were sent to the Bowie Food Pantry.

– Margie Dague, Coordinator

Sweatshirts

WE DID IT AGAIN!!! Many thanks to everyone who participated in our sweatshirt project this year. Tags were made, sweatshirts purchased and wrapped, packages sorted, missing sweatshirts purchased, monetary contributions made and all 252 brightly wrapped sweatshirts delivered to the twelve elementary schools in Bowie. It's

wonderful when so many come together to make Christmas a little brighter and warmer for children.

– Barbara Haddock, Coordinator

Warm Nights

Last year we had heavy snowfall; this year we had very cold temperatures. Everyone was grateful for a warm place to spend the night and good home cooked meals.

We were able to house more people this year (a high of 33) including 3 families for a total of 6 children. Some of the Warm Nights guests attended our first Blue Christmas service and were very impressed and related how being at St. Matthew's made it easier to get through the holidays. They also were in attendance at the 8:30 Christmas Eve service.

All your help with cooking meals, serving meals, spending the night, sorting through the donated clothing, and setting up and breaking down the cots is what makes Warm Nights a success. Thank you!

– Pat Clunies, Coordinator

EEC Students Give of Themselves

As in previous years, the students at St. Matthew's contributed to our Advent projects by doing extra chores at home to earn money to help buy sweatshirts and to fill over 20 stockings! They dusted, mopped, recycled, set tables, made beds, fed pets, folded laundry, helped cook, and picked up toys to be able to purchase gifts for other children. What a wonderful lesson in "giving from the heart!"



Special Family Update

As a result of an application being filed with Christmas in April and an inspector visiting the property for evaluation, a family of 11 people in desperate need of assistance and intervention touched our hearts and we could not walk away. Many times in situations like this you stop and ask yourself; why this family? Why us? Then you realize it's because they needed us, we are capable, and we are called by God to be there. So many times we have heard of stories like this.

To date, we have made great strides in assisting this family in need, yet we have a long way to go. We are so grateful for the response to our pleas for assistance thus far and want to assure the congregation of the gratitude and love this family has for your gifts and hospitality.

To keep you up to speed with our progress, we have listed our Goal and Objectives and have organized a Task Group to implement the objectives into action. If anyone is interested in joining this group, please contact Dan Blades.

Goal: To get this family in a position to survive in standard living conditions with the ability to sustain on their own without our support.

Current Objectives: *(Will change with action steps identified and progress made)*

- To make sure that these folks are not living in conditions that cause adverse health effects.
- To make the house safe and sanitary. This includes sewer system hookup to WSSC, installing smoke detectors, installing flood lights outside, getting rid of mold, rebuilding steps, etc.
- To obtain access to all public assistance programs that they may

qualify for and reduce costs for such things as medicine, transportation, food, heating fuel, Social Services, etc.

- To work with the family on budgeting and financial planning.
- To upgrade the house, appliances and furniture so that it is more livable at less cost and meets City of Bowie code requirements.
- To repay the tax loan to St. Matthew's ASAP.

--Irene Schneider, Mission Chair

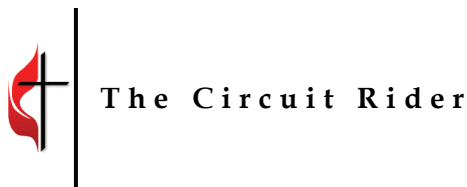
Leadership Training is March 5

Leadership Day is a training event for clergy, church leaders, laity and others who want to make an impact in their local congregations and communities. Participants will receive training in several areas that will help each leader gain vital information and deeper insights into their own life, the life of their congregations and the communities in which they serve.

On Saturday, March 5, St. Matthew's will participate in the Leadership Day for the Annapolis Southern Region which will be held at Good Shepherd UMC in Waldorf from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

There is a great variety of sessions to attend – you can see the session topics as well as register online at www.bwcumc.org. (Click on Leadership Days, then click on Annapolis Southern Region.) If you're interested in carpooling, please contact Linda Cooper.





St. Matthew's United
Methodist Church

14900 Annapolis Road
Bowie, Maryland 20715-1898
Phone: 301-262-1408
E-mail: churchoffice@stmatthews-bowie.org

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
STMATTHEWS-BOWIE.ORG

**Time Dated Material
Please Deliver Promptly**



**Council on Ministries
Meeting**

Wednesday, February 2
6:30 p.m.



President's Day

Monday, February 21
Church Office and Building
Closed

Lectionary Readings for February

These are the Scripture Readings, one or more of which is read each Sunday. The sermon will be based on one of the readings. Reading ahead of time will help you prepare for worship.

February 6 - 5th Sunday after the Epiphany

Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12); Psalm 112:1-10; 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16); Matthew 5:13-20

February 13 - 6th Sunday after the Epiphany

Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 119:1-8; 1 Corinthians 3:1-9; Matthew 5:21-37

February 20 - 7th Sunday after the Epiphany

Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18; Psalm 119:33-40; 1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23;
Matthew 5:38-48

February 27 - 8th Sunday after the Epiphany

Isaiah 49:8-16a; Psalm 131 or Psalm 62:5-12; 1 Corinthians 4:1-5; Matthew 6:24-34