



# The Circuit Rider

St. Matthew's United Methodist Church



## Spring Into Service Returns Sat., May 21

Where will you be and what will you be doing on Saturday, May 21? We hope you will be involved with one or more events going on at St. Matthew's that day.



No matter your age or health, there will be something for you to do. You might be putting together UMCOR kits, weeding the grounds, spreading mulch, learning about the Angel Gang, cleaning the nursery, knitting items with the Knit Wits, being with the Altar Guild to learn how they set up the altar, or making cards to send to the troops. This is just a smattering of things going on Saturday.

Watch the bulletins and listen to the announcements before services for more details.

This is your chance to check out various groups in our church and also to spruce up, make repairs, and enhance the beauty of our church building and grounds. All it takes is an interest and a little work. You will have a chance to work with and get to know members of our church you haven't had the pleasure to meet. See you on the 21<sup>st</sup>! Make it a family affair.

The schedule will be as follows:

9:00 – 4:45	Activities
5:00 – 5:30	Service (babysitting provided)
5:30 – 6:30	Potluck

## Annual Scout Yard Sale is May 7, 8-3



The Boy Scout's yard sale will be here at St. Matthew's on Saturday, May 7, from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Anybody interested in contributing items to the sale can bring them to the church beginning on Tuesday, May 3, and placing them in the back of Fellowship Hall. You can arrange for pickup of heavy items by calling Pete Saderholm.

Plan on coming out for the sale on May 7 and identifying a few of other people's treasures that you most certainly need to take home! At the end of the sale all items of value will be donated to Mission Central.

## Family Camping Returns May 27-30

The annual church family camping trip is planned for Memorial Day weekend, May 27-30, 2011 at Camp Harmison, WV. Hopefully the cold and snowy winter memories can be put to rest around the campfire with warm fellowship with your fellow campers.

For those who are not familiar with our camping trips to Camp Harmison, the camp can accommodate tents, pop-ups, and RVs as hookups are available for water and power, and there is a sewage dump station. We also have a fully equipped kitchen with stoves, ovens, and refrigerators. All members and friends of St. Matthew's are welcome.

May 2011

Volume 48, Issue 4

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### Opportunities to Help:

- Little Nursery and Preschool Nursery (Every Sunday)
- Bowie Food Pantry Donations (May 15)

(Continued on page 9)



*"Throughout this season, we'll be reflecting together on what the scriptures teach us about how to be a vibrant and vital Christian community – an 'Easter People!'"*

## Pastoral Ponderings

Spring has sprung and it's a beautiful thing! The pink canopy outside my study's French doors inspires my heart to be lifted and my soul to rejoice. The blossoms are a fitting complement to the new life and flourishing of the "Great Fifty Days of Easter," the church season between Easter and Pentecost. Throughout this season, we'll be reflecting together on what the scriptures teach us about how to be a vibrant and vital Christian community – an "Easter People!" We are living this call to vitality already: we are in the process of creating and hiring two new staff positions to increase ministries with our youth, young adults/professionals, children and families; we are experiencing an increase in average worship attendance; we are continuing to strengthen new ways of serving and leading together; we are providing many opportunities to gather in small groups to study and to serve in mission; and so much more! This month, on May 21, we will gather to "Spring into Service!" This opportunity is a fun way to get involved and to learn more about all the ways that we are sharing ministry together – both in our congregation and out in the community and world. Bring a friend and join in!

Even as I'm looking forward, I'm still reflecting on what has passed: our Lenten observances and Easter celebrations were wonderful – and many folks contributed to make them so. In the spirit of rejoicing, thanksgiving, and new life, I want to say a big "Thank You" to these folks and groups:

- Judy Shickel for coordinating all the special "props" and visuals for the season, and all the members of the Altar Guild for the beautiful altar arrangements;
- Gene Saderholm for serving as our worship greeter and "chief announcements officer" ☺;
- UMW Circles for the amazing and delicious soup and salad suppers each Wednesday during Lent;
- Jen McClurg for designing bulletin covers and providing the Holy Week Meditation Stations;
- Isaac Borocz for his creativity, collegiality, support, and talent, and all our choirs and musicians for the fantastic music;
- Carol and Denny Hulen for coordinating sound and other details for all the special services and activities throughout the season;
- Shirley Bickel for teaching a Lenten class for parents and grandparents and for all the special activities for Palm Sunday and Easter;
- Eleanor Judy, George Wood, and all the Church School teachers for all the special activities;
- Mary and Chuck McClurg for helping set-up and take-down the meditation stations and the Palm Sunday family ministries event;
- Sharon Heidenreich for keeping things on track and everything in order;
- Karen Hastings, Christin Vare, and Mary Jennings for the beautiful dance on Easter Sunday;
- Marty Bridgewater for coordinating the Easter Breakfast;
- Linda Cooper for planning the UMW Lenten Brunch program;
- Maria Carhart for providing child care for our Wednesday services;

*(Continued on page 3)*



## United Methodist Women Meetings

**An invitation to attend any of the circle meetings is extended to all women.** For specific information, please contact Christin Vare . Join us on May 21 for Spring Into Service as we make cards for the missionaries in our prayer calendar. Watch the Parish Notes for the schedule and sign-up information.

**EXECUTIVE Board:** Sunday, May 1, following the 11:00 service in Fellowship Hall –bring your own lunch. *(Please note change in time due to the Dinner Theater event.)*

**AGAPE Circle:** Thursday, May 5, at 9:30 a.m. at the home of Pat Cone. Please read the next chapter in our book.

**EVENING Circle:** Monday, May 9, at 7:30 p.m. in the church parlor. Mabel McGann and Dare Draughn will be our hostesses. We will continue with Chapter 2 of our study book, *Three Simple Rules*.

**MARTHA Circle:** Friday, May 13. We will meet at the church at 9:30 a.m. to carpool to the Patuxent Research Refuge Visitor Center for a talk and tour. Please let Linda or Pam know if you will meet to carpool and if you're interested in going to lunch.

**KOINONIA Circle:** Monday, May 16, at 7:00 p.m. in the church parlor (Room 102). **Babysitting is available during this circle.**

**SUSANNA WESLEY Circle:** Wednesday, May 18, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Debbie Gammill. We will discuss Chapters 10 and 11 of *What's So Amazing About Grace*.

## Pastoral Ponderings, continued

*(Continued from page 2)*

- Chuck Hastings, Jordan Huften, Bill Greaves, Bob Lesche, Kathleen Walton, Irene Schneider, John Jennings, Liam Greaves, Chuck McClurg, Mary Jennings, Karen Hastings, Anne Therese Greaves, Derek Wallbank, and Jacob Hastings for their service in bringing the story of Christ's Passion to life on Palm and Passion Sunday;
- Clyde Draughn for crafting the cross used on Palm and Passion Sunday;
- All who helped read on Wednesday nights and to Cliff Knoll who filled in for Isaac one Wednesday in a pinch;
- All our acolytes, crucifers, communion stewards and servers, ushers, and greeters.

Whew! We are in shared ministry! What a blessing!

As we move through the Great Fifty Days of Easter, let's celebrate the spirit of the risen Christ's love in our midst, a spirit that enlivens us to keep serving, laughing, supporting one another, learning, praising, sharing, and growing. These are great days, indeed. Thanks be to God!

In peace and gratitude,  
Ginger+



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





*Shirley's Reflections*

## Next of Kin for Three Persons

I  
His skin balloon smooth  
punctured by needles and  
vital hookups that  
imprison the grown man on the gurney  
headed for the operating room.  
Sodium Pentothal deadened his will.  
Legal documents signed away  
his rights.  
"No admittance" signs will isolate me.  
Yet I cling to the moving doctor's arm,  
"But he's my son."

II  
The Romans throw dice  
for the garments I wove  
not so long ago. I know  
the mantle means nothing to them,  
a moment's sport at the most.  
If only I could have his mantle,  
I'd wrap myself at night  
and remember his growing-up days  
before the miracles and crowds.  
Still as a stone I am.  
The soldiers ignore me,  
this crazy woman  
heaped on the ground  
as if beseeching the "gods."  
On my knees pleading, pleading.  
Only God must hear my pleas,  
"But he's my son."

III  
Without food for forty days,  
tempted by Satan. Rejected  
by religious authorities,  
yet he never strayed from prophesy  
he came to fulfill.  
Now betrayed and forsaken  
by those who knew him best.  
He never harmed another being.  
How could they condemn him to death?  
Drop your whips, you  
puppets of power.  
You've no right to tear his head  
With thorns. Stop pounding nails  
into his flesh. Give him a drink.  
Don't leave him there  
for vultures to feast.

You know not what you do.  
I'll hide the sun and shake the earth,  
rip apart the temple veil.  
I'll open the tombs, and make  
the dead  
to walk.  
Clothed in darkness, perhaps  
you'll see,  
"He's my son."  
But he's my son."

—*Shirley Klotz Bickel*  
*Voice of Many Waters,*

Kay Snodgrass, ed.; Geneva Press, 2000

*The Circuit Rider is published monthly by St. Matthew's United Methodist Church*

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*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.*



## Youth News

May 1 is our annual Youth Dinner Theater. Our high schoolers will be performing and our middle schoolers will be serving. On May 15, our ASP team will have a Mountain Facts Session to prepare for our trip this summer. Please note, this is a required meeting for all ASP team participants! Our middle schoolers will experience what happens when "The Devil Made Me Do It." On

– *Jen McClurg, Youth Director*

May 22, both UMYF groups will meet at Allen Pond at 6:30 for our second annual soccer game.

Please note that there will be no UMYF on Mother's Day or Memorial Day weekend, nor will there be Church School on Memorial Day Weekend. (Church School will still meet on Mother's Day.)

## Thank You from Martha Circle

Martha Circle wishes to thank the congregation for its generous support of the Used Jewelry Sale in April. The proceeds will go to defray the cost of publishing the St. Matthew's 50th Memorial History Book in 2013.

Also, thanks to the members of Martha Circle who gave generously of their time to man the tables and clean up the jewelry. It was much appreciated.

– *Kay League and Linda Harbaugh*

## Mark June 12 on Your Calendar!

Everyone is invited to Allen Pond on Sunday, June 12, for our church picnic. (If it rains we will meet in Fellowship Hall.) The church will provide hotdogs, drinks, and paper products – please bring a dish to share. This is a great opportunity to spend time with those you see every Sunday and those who are in the "other" congregation! We will also have children's games, arts & crafts, and prizes. *Note: No child care is provided – please stay and enjoy the day with your child!*

## Family Ministry News for May

Thanks to all who came out for our Easter Egg Hunt. We had a fabulous time!

Family Ministry would like to encourage all families of all ages to join us on **Saturday, May 21**, for our Spring Into Service event. We will have several activities that are family-friendly and this will be a great opportunity to teach even our youngest church members that when we serve others in love, we are serving God.

## Did You Know????

You have heard of Alpha House. Just what is it?

*Find the answer elsewhere in this newsletter.*

## Life Changes

### Deaths:

*Delores Costa*, sister of Barbara Layton;

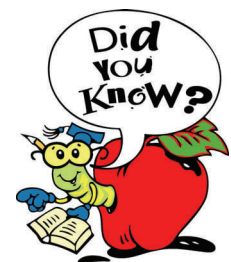
*Esther Overgaard*, mother of Lois Stetler

### Births:

*Madeline Elise*, 71bs. 1 oz., on March 3 to Ryan and Kemper Thrun



*All youth in 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome*





Join us at our next meeting on  
Wednesday, May 18,  
at 7:00 p.m.

## Activism is Key to Protect Resources

Spring is so welcoming with its beauty popping up everywhere. God has blessed us mightily with the feast of our surroundings. I'm also reminded that many of those surroundings are at risk because what most of us do depletes the earth's resources. We poison and reduce the richness of the land, shrink the aquifers that provide water for growing food, and release toxins that pollute the air and promote changes in our climate. Many of these changes are gradual and we barely notice their impacts.

Some changes are not easy to make. However, God has charged us to care for the earth (requiring self discipline) and, as citizens of a free country, we need to exercise that freedom with the gift of activism. Otherwise our resources will fall into the hands of those who wish to be richer and more powerful and our freedom will be squandered.

If you wish to learn effective activism skills, I will elicit the talent of experts to teach us the subject.

*Blessings, Elizabeth Buckner*

## Flower Orders for New Births

The Altar Guild is reinstating the practice of ordering a carnation to be placed on the altar for the birth of a new baby in our congregation. All you need to do is give the church office a call by the Thursday prior to the Sunday you would like the flower to be displayed and it will be delivered Friday with our regular Sunday altar flowers. Let us know if it is a girl or boy so we can order pink or blue.

The flower comes with a vase, greens and baby's breath, with an appropriate colored ribbon. The flower can be taken home after the Sunday Service. If a grandparent would like to acknowledge the birth of a new grandchild, the same procedure applies.

There is no fee to the church member in either instance.

## Did You Know?

*Answer to question on page 5:*

Alpha House is a large 4-bedroom house located in old Bowie. Purchased in 1991 by the St. Matthew's Housing Corporation, it serves the working poor. The church does not own Alpha House. It is an independent organization that must rely on funds it raises and income from the rooms it rents. The occupants of Alpha House must be working and homeless. They are able to stay up to 2 years to enable them to get back onto their feet financially while paying a modest rent. Always in need of funds, donations from members of our church are gratefully accepted! For further information, please call Linda Cooper.

*— Kay League, Historian*

## Blessed with Bequest

St. Matthew's United Methodist Church gratefully received a bequest from the estate of Carson Piercy who passed into the next life on September 15, 2010. The gift has been placed into SMUMC's investment account to support mission and ministry into the future.



Alpha House provides  
affordable housing for the  
working poor.



## Staff/Pastor-Parish Relations Comm.

From the guidelines booklet, "The Staff/Pastor-Parish Relations Committee is the administrative unit in a local church where staff and congregational interests come together to focus on the mission of the church." It has both leadership and management functions in bringing together staff/pastor, and congregational (parish) interests.

St. Matthew's S/PPRC invites the congregation to share needs, interests and concerns. Expressing your thoughts relative to the mutual benefit of the life of the church to any member of the committee is welcomed and encouraged. Each committee member is in the church directory and welcomes connection with members of the congregation and community. Because the committee is required to operate in confidentiality, it is the only committee whose meetings are not open to church members to attend. Concerns which are put forth in writing will be brought to the attention of the full SPRC. The SPRC chair has a link on the church web page should you wish to make use of that opportunity to communicate.

Current members of this committee include:

Pastor: Rev. Ginger Gaines-Cirelli (the Pastor always sits on this committee)

Lay Leader: Linda Cooper (the Lay Leader always sits on this committee)

Eileen McCall, Chair  
 Alexandra Calloway  
 Ann Fauconnet  
 Jackie Gerard  
 Stephen Hill  
 Pattie Klein  
 Bob Matthews  
 Steven Smith  
 Mary Lou Walden

Currently, the committee is working on updating the Staff Handbook and interviewing applicants for two positions. One position is for the Director of Youth Ministries and Congregational Life which will be responsible for Middle and Senior High youth ministries, young adult ministries, and congregational life ministries. The other position is for the Director of Christian Formation and Family Ministries which will be responsible for Christian formation for children and adults, and for young family ministries.

Both are full-time positions requiring a 40-hour week that will include the individual's presence through the entire Sunday morning services and activities, set office hours to be established, and active presence at such other times as will be needed to meet their responsibilities. All programmatic staff have a weekday Sabbath [day off from employment responsibilities] for personal growth and development, and individual religious nurture.

These positions were advertised and applications closed on March 31.

— Linda Cooper

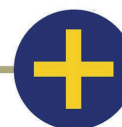
## Thank You, St. Matthew's

Thank you so much for your kind and beautiful expressions of sympathy on the death of my mother. Your thoughts and prayers surrounded us as we made a quick trip back to the States. The service was held in her Mennonite church in Pennsylvania.

— Lois Stetler



**Staff/Pastor**



**Parish Relations**





*A portion of each purchase of coffee, tea, or chocolate goes to UMCOR*

## St. Matthew's Coffee & Tea Buying Club

The St. Matthew's Coffee and Tea Buying Club has gotten off to a great start! We have received very positive feedback from those who have purchased the products and the program has very encouraging growth potential.

If you are a coffee, tea, cocoa or chocolate lover, please consider participating in this exceptional program. Through Equal Exchange or "fair trade," our congregation can purchase the finest quality coffee available at a great price while supporting small-scale family farmers in coffee growing regions. Another benefit is that we pay no sales tax or shipping charges. All of the products sold through the program are certified organic.

Orders are placed on the first Sunday of the month and arrive within two weeks. You may sign up for a free online account at [coffeeeandtea@stmatthews-bowie.com](mailto:coffeeeandtea@stmatthews-bowie.com)

and place your orders, or fill out an order form and drop it off to Patti Klein. There is no minimum purchase when you sign up for the club.

Rick Vare, Patti Klein, and Irene Schneider will have a table set up every communion Sunday, in between and after services, to take and deliver orders. Cash or checks are accepted. For more information on the Equal Exchange Coffee and Tea Program, visit [www.equalexchange.coop/index.php](http://www.equalexchange.coop/index.php), or call Patti Klein or Rick Vare.

## Many Thanks

My sincere thanks to the congregation for all of the cards and kind expressions of sympathy since my sister Delores passed away.

*– Barbara Layton*

## Farewell from the Cammies

As many of you know, we are in the process of relocating to North Carolina. We have been so blessed to have been a part of such a wonderful and loving fellowship. We will miss you. Thank you for showing us the true meaning of Christ's love through the difficult times as well as the good ones. May God bless all of you!

*Fondly,  
Ken and Beth Cammie*

P.S. Stop by and see us if you're in the area. We love having visitors.

## Supplies for Church Events

Our church is always holding events; each group/committee/guild goes out and buys food and/or beverages. The Disaster Response Team has a stockpile of food and beverage items available for use. If an event host would like to use our supplies that have been on our shelves for a few months and then replace them with newer expiration dated items, we would be thrilled.

So, if you are going to hold an event, please contact Pat Clunies to make arrangements.





## CERT Training Class Offered

*Dan Blades has announced that the following Emergency Response Training is available to members of St. Matthew's and you do not have to reside in Laurel. To register, call the number in the announcement below.*

A Community Emergency Response class will be offered by the City of Laurel in the month of May. Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is a volunteer training program for residents that help them prepare to assist Emergency First Responders in cases of natural or man-made disasters.

The class will be held on Thursdays from 7:00-10:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 8:00 am.-4:00 p.m. beginning May 5 through Saturday, May 28. This class will cover Disaster Preparedness, Disaster Medical Operations, Fire Safety/Light Search and Rescue, Disaster Psychology, Terrorism and CERT and a course overview. The class will conclude with a hands on Disaster Simulation.

There is no fee, but you are asked to check and make sure you are able to attend all the classes. Seating is limited, so if you are interested, please call Carreen Koubek of the City of Laurel at 301-725-5300 ext. 2109.

## Family Camping, continued

*(Continued from page 1)*

The weekend is unstructured for the most part so that you can choose to sleep, walk, read, visit with other campers, and of course snack when you feel the urge. We have a pot luck supper on Saturday night so bring or prepare your favorite dish to share with the other hungry campers who have been enjoying the great outdoors and fresh air all day. Be sure to bring fixings for s'mores and mountain pies for the campfire.

Check in time is 3:00 on Friday, and check out time is 2:00 on Monday. Feel free to spend as much time as you want; some campers come for the day and then go back home. The camp is about 2.5 hours from Bowie, near Berkeley Springs, WV. Directions to the camp will be in the Narthex, or call Bill Haddock.

## UMVIM Status in Japan Disaster

As the crisis in Japan continues with daily reports of aftershocks and radiation concerns, we continue to pray for all who have lost loved ones, homes, and jobs, or been exposed to radiation in Japan. At this time, we are honoring the request of the Japanese government, who has asked that outside groups not come to Japan.

While our hearts may feel that we must do something besides praying and "just" writing a check, please keep in mind John Wesley's appeal to do no harm. The situation in Japan is not conducive to sending volunteers at this time. Should this situation change, we will mobilize United Methodist Volunteers in Mission to prepare volunteer teams.

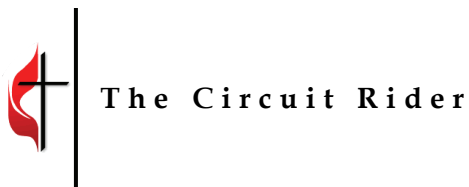
*– from Global Board of General Ministries and United Methodist Committee on Relief*

## To My Church Family

Thank you for the meals, cards, letters and prayers during the past few months. I didn't know there was so much love at St. Matthew's—but there is! Thank you!

*– Louise Mott*





St. Matthew's United  
Methodist Church

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

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**Time Dated Material**  
**Please Deliver Promptly**

**Mother's Day**

**Sunday, May 8**



**Saturday, May 21**

## Lectionary Readings for May

*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.*

### **May 1 - 2nd Sunday of Easter**

Acts 2:14a, 22-32; Psalm 16; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31

### **May 8 - 3rd Sunday of Easter**

Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; 1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35

### **May 15 - 4th Sunday of Easter**

Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23; 1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10

### **May 22 - 5th Sunday of Easter**

Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14

### **May 29 - 6th Sunday of Easter**

Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20; 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21