



# The Circuit Rider

St. Matthew's United Methodist Church



## Fall Schedule Begins Sunday, Sept. 11

Beginning Sunday, September 11, the following worship and church school schedule will resume.

### Worship at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

*Nursery* for infants/toddlers provided in Room 116 and *Nursery II* for preschool-Grade 1 in Room 106

*Children's Church* for ages 7 to 5<sup>th</sup> grade at 11:30 a.m. (late service only)

### Church School for all ages at 9:45 a.m.

#### *Children's classes:*

Nursery - Rm 116  
Two-Year-Old Class/Nursery II - Rm 106  
Ages 3 & 4 - Rm. 113  
Grades K & 1 - Rm. 23/25  
Grades 2 & 3 - Rm. 24/26  
Grades 4 & 5 - Rm. 223/225



#### *Youth Classes:*

Middle School (Grades 6-8)  
Rm. 222  
Senior High (Grades 9-12)  
Rm. 226

#### *Adult Classes* (See article on page 5 for more information):

My Journey Through Paul's Journey, Rm. 227  
Listening for God, Room 127  
Through the Writings of Bonhoeffer, Room 126  
Disciple I, Room 125  
Jesus in the Gospels, Room 27

#### United Methodist Youth Fellowship

UMYF will be held for youth in Middle and High School at 6:30 p.m.

## September 11 Observances

### **Special Music & Prayers at St. Matthew's:**

In the midst of our Fall Kick-Off Celebration at both the 8:30 and 11:00 am worship services, we will pause to remember the 9-11 tragedy and its victims through a special anthem and prayers.

**A Service of Interfaith Prayers for Peace on the 10th Anniversary of the Terrorist Attacks of 9-11-2001** will be held on Sunday, September 11, at 5:30 p.m. outside Bowie City Hall, 15901 Excalibur Road. The service is sponsored by the Bowie Interfaith Clergy and will feature prayers and scripture readings from our multiple faiths in multiple languages. The service will end with a candle lighting act of remembrance. Rep. Steny Hoyer is scheduled to participate.

## The Good Steward

It's September and it's time to return to normal – whatever you consider normal. It is also time to decide what is important to us and to the well being of ourselves, our families, and our community. Time is something we all seem to have in short supply. Though our lives are filled with activities, it is always important to remember God, to set aside some time for Him. During the next few weeks we will have ample opportunities to put our time, and perhaps talents, to work for God. Among the highlights of the month are:

**September 11** – We will kick-off the new program year with blessings of all ministries during worship followed by a “good ‘ole fashion” Methodist potluck.

*(Continued on page 11)*

September 2011  
Volume 48, Issue 7

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### Opportunities to Help:

- Little Nursery and Preschool Nursery (Every Sunday)
- Bowie Food Pantry Donations (Sept. 18)
- Shelter Meal (Sept. 18)



*"We are all different,  
each with our own  
unique perspective,  
history, and  
set of gifts."*

## Rev. Ginger's Pastoral Ponderings

*For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.*

– Romans 12:4-8

One of the great joys of my life is to participate in Christian community. There's a wonderful "found" quality to church life – because most of us aren't related by blood, but we have found one another, have thrown our lot in with one another, and have become one family in Christ. There are crazy aunties and uncles, wise elders and jokesters, children and teenagers (all "our" children!), and lots of other characters in this family we call our church. Some of our family members inspire us with their courage and creativity, others make us laugh; some push our buttons, and others know just what to say to help us get through difficult things. We are all different, each with our own unique perspective, history, and set of gifts. Life in community can be a challenge with all that diversity around. But when we come together with intention – choosing to live together in peace, to worship, to learn, to love, to serve – the result is pretty extraordinary.

Through the course of my life, I have been a part of 11 congregations – 10 of those as pastor or member of the staff. Over the years, I have seen the wonderful ways that the Holy Spirit works to knit the gifts and passions and personalities of local churches into one Body of Christ. It is such fun to see how human quirks and strengths, when offered to God and others honestly and in love, become a witness of peace, mercy, and self-giving; it is a wonder to behold how, when working together with unity, purpose, and joy, diverse members of a congregation become an instrument of God's transforming power.

As we move into the fall, the summer Sabbath enjoyed by many members of the Body of Christ comes to an end with Christian Formation classes starting a new term, choirs back in rehearsal, theater troupe pounding the boards, youth groups starting up, and families gathering again for mutual support and fellowship. Our mission work never takes a break – but with the fall comes a renewed sense of focus and commitment to serving the least, the last, and the lost. On September 11<sup>th</sup>, our worship will be a time of celebration and blessing for the ministries of music, worship, and Christian Formation. Our teachers, youth sponsors, and music ministries will be lifted up and blessed. This "Fall Kick-Off Celebration" will culminate with the Feast for the Soul potluck following the 11:00 am service. The following Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, is our fall Mission Sunday when we lift up and give thanks to God for the many ways that St. Matthew's is making a difference in the world through life-changing mission. The mission witness of our United Methodist Women will be highlighted – and the annual UMW Tea will happen on that Sunday between services. I hope you'll join us for these special events – and invite a friend to join you!

Serving as a part of the Body of Christ that is St. Matthew's UMC is a profound privilege and being part of this diverse, gifted family is my life's joy. We are members one of another, growing stronger all the time through God's grace and Spirit. As we move into the fall, I invite each and every one of you to think about what gifts God has given you – and how you can offer those gifts to help us continue to build up the Body of Christ.

In Christ,  
Ginger+



## UMW Meetings and Upcoming Events

The UMW is kicking off a new program year! ALL women (current members as well as not-yet-members) are invited to attend our **Fellowship Tea** between services in Fellowship Hall on **Sunday, September 18**. (See related article on page 6.)

If you completed the **UMW Reading Program**, please contact Pattie Klein so you can receive the appropriate credit. Participants should have completed their books by **August 31** to receive credit for this year. You must read at least one book from each of the four categories. We need two members to complete the program to receive Mission Today Unit credit.

We are exploring the creation of a circle for our high school girls which will utilize online social networking tools. Stay tuned for more information on this exciting venture!

**An invitation to attend any of the circle meetings is extended to all women.** For specific information, please call the leader of the circle in which you are interested or Christin Vare.

EXECUTIVE Board: Sunday, August 28, at 7:00 p.m. at the church in the parlor.

AGAPE Circle: Thursday, September 8, at 9:30 a.m. (note the change from our usual date) at the church in the parlor. We will have a "welcome back" social meeting. (Jane Anderson is the circle leader.)

MARTHA Circle: Friday, September 9, at 9:30 a.m. at the church in the parlor. We will discuss Chapter 1 of our new study book, *Cultivating Contentment*. (Linda Harbaugh and Pam Waterworth are the circle leaders.) Please call or email Linda if you need a book or will need babysitting (by Sept. 1). **Babysitting is available during this circle. New members are always welcome!**

EVENING Circle: Monday, September 12, at 7:30 p.m. at the church in the parlor. We will discuss Chapter 3 of our book *Three Simple Rules* by Ruben Job. We will also decide on a new study to begin in October. (Jo Ellen Thompson is the circle leader.)

SUSANNA WESLEY Circle: Wednesday, September 21, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Pat Bond (circle leader).

KOINONIA Circle: Monday, September 19, at 7:00 p.m. in the church parlor (Room 102). (The circle leaders are Mary McClurg and Debbie Pierson.) **Babysitting is available during this circle.**



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

*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.*



## To the Saints of St. Matthew's

Thank you for your warm welcome. It is with great pleasure that I come among you as the Director of Christian Formation and Family Ministries. I truly feel that God has called me to St. Matthew's UMC and am excited to be working with you as we journey together in team ministry.

When Rev. Ginger introduced me at worship services on July 17 she said that I would be "hitting the ground running." Indeed, the race to put fall ministries together in four weeks has been a time of coming on board, prioritizing and discernment to meet the deadlines for the Circuit Rider and other communication media. Vacation Bible School during my second week, provided a

fun way to meet those who helped lead VBS and many who attended. I have met with the major committees, group and individuals with which I will be working and planning ministry. Together we have taken a few minutes to dream, "vision" the big picture and then focus on preparing for the beginning of Fall Church School Classes on September 11.

The backpacks and those who carry them were blessed, and the school supplies that were made at the Back to School Party on August 21 have already been in use. On August 28 at 9:45 a.m. children and their parent/guardian were invited to learn ways children can participate in worship and how parents can assist. We also talked about why different things happen in worship to help us understand worship. The curriculum has been ordered and prepared. Teacher workshops were held the last days of August.

With God's help the table has been set. This is your invitation. We are ready for you, the other part of the team, the learners to come...for together with God we are all learners. You are invited to come and grow in your discipleship, to know God and Jesus and learn how you can be a disciple of Jesus Christ in the world today. See articles in this newsletter and other church communication media for specific information. Give prayerful thought in how you can grow in your discipleship this year.

## Church Nursery

Our aim for both the infant-toddler nursery and the preschool-Grade 1 nursery is to have two adults in each room all morning. We are asking volunteers to help for a little over one hour at 8:30, 9:45 and 11:00 in each of these two rooms. Consider working the same hour and Sunday of the month. The adult in charge will be there weekly throughout the morning. This is a great way to support our families with younger children. To express interest in this vital ministry, please give your name and contact information to Rev. Kathy Wadsley at 301-262-1408 or [kathy.stmatthews-bowie@verizon.net](mailto:kathy.stmatthews-bowie@verizon.net).



## Get Connected

Each year we ask families to complete a registration form for each of their students, infants through Grade 12. Registration forms are available in the Narthex or in children's classrooms. Please complete and return to the church office on or before September 11, if possible. This will help us prepare for your child/ren and communicate with you.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 301-262-1408 or [kathy.stmatthews-bowie@verizon.net](mailto:kathy.stmatthews-bowie@verizon.net). My position is full-time. I am usually at church Sunday mornings, Monday - Thursday, and at activities and meetings as scheduled. Friday is my day of Sabbath rest. Making appointments for longer conversations helps both of us use our time wisely. Thank you.

Grace and Peace,  
Rev. Kathy Wadsley



## Abundance of Fall Adult Class Offerings

### Sunday Morning Adult Classes:

These classes begin *September 11* at 9:45 a.m.

#### **“My Journey Through Paul's Journey”**

This year we are continuing our study of the works of Paul. We will resume our study of 1st Corinthians. Our class has reflected on Paul's journeys as we have spent the last two years traveling his routes, learning about the cultures, religions, values, and customs of his times. Our understanding of his world has helped us to understand his teachings, and has led to a deeper understanding of our own journey with Christ as our guide.

LEADER: Jeanné McWilliamson

RESOURCE: The Bible

LOCATION: Room 227

#### **“Listening for God”**

This spirituality class for adults who want to explore and discuss how their Spirit mingles with others' and the daily events they encounter in the world will be using the "Listening for God" series this fall. The short stories and accompanying video about the authors will challenge us to pay attention everywhere. Begins with an introduction to volume I and continues for eight weeks.

LEADER: Beth Obear

REASOURCE: *Listening for God* (vol. 1)

LOCATION: Room 127

#### **“Through the Writings of Bonhoeffer”**

This class will continue discussing Bonhoeffer's book that was started last spring. The first class will review highlights of chapters covered, and set the stage for discussing a chapter each week.

LEADER: Jim Wiedman

RESOURCE: TBA

LOCATION: Room 126

### *Disciple Classes:*

**“Disciple I: Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study”** is a 34-week study of the Bible divided between Old and New Testaments. The class helps you become biblically nourished and committed to live as a disciple of Christ. Disciple I is the foundation and prerequisite for the other in-depth Disciple Classes. Participants are asked to commit to daily study and to attend class each Sunday. Interested but not sure? Attend the introduction, then decide.  
LEADERS: Bill Schneider, Les Thompson  
RESOURCES: Course manual, good study Bible  
LOCATION: Room 125

**“Jesus in the Gospels”** invites participants to look at Jesus in each of the four Gospels and asks the question, "Who is the Jesus that you see?" This class is for all adults who want to explore a personal understanding of Jesus. Participants will be asked to commit to daily study and to attend class each Sunday for the full 30 weeks.

LEADERS: Ray Denmark, Irene Schneider

RESOURCES: Course manuals, study Bible

LOCATION: Room 27

### Weekday Offerings for Adults

**“A Course on Miracles”** This class meets on *Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. beginning September 1* at the church. LEADER: Irene Schneider

**Pastor's Bible Study** Using *The New Interpreter's Bible Commentary* as a guide, the conversational style discussion allows participants to "drop in" when you can come. Class meets on *Tuesdays, 9:45-10:45 a.m.* in Room 126. Bring your Bible.

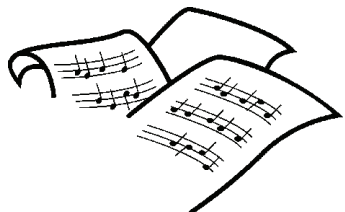
LEADER: Rev. Ginger Gaines-Cirelli

**The Angel Gang** This group's mission is to draw on their common experiences as they assist others who are faced with challenges to their wellness. The group's focus is laughter, fellowship and storytelling. Everyone is welcome. Meets *Tuesdays, from 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.* in room 126.

LEADER: Rev. Ginger Gaines-Cirelli



*Sunday Morning Adult  
Enrichment Classes all  
begin on Sunday,  
September 11 at 9:45 a.m.*



We encourage all who are interested in making a joyful noise to the Lord to join us.

## Music News and Notes

– Isaac Borocz, Music Director

The psalmist says in Psalm 27:9 "I will sing and make music for the Lord."

Why not make this verse part of your life and be part of the music program at St. Matthew's?

### Chancel Choir:

THURSDAY evening 7:00-8:30 p.m.  
(beginning September 8)

### Children's Choir:

SUNDAY during 11:00 a.m. worship  
(beginning September 18)

### Gloria Ringers:

MONDAY evening 6:45-8:00 p.m.  
(beginning September 12)

### SpiritMove:

THURSDAY evening 8:30-9:30 p.m.  
(beginning September 8)

For those who would like to learn how to ring handbells, a new handbell choir, for new and less experienced ringers is in the works. If you would like to be part of such a group, please contact me about an organizational meeting to be held in late September.

All rehearsals are in the Music Room in the Wesley Wing. Rehearsals begin right after Labor Day, so come join us!

## Did You Know???

The English handbells add a beautiful element to our church services. *Do you know how St. Matthew's obtained the bells?*

*Answer:* The original set of English handbells were given as a memorial gift by Miss Eunice Burdette in 1974. Two handbell choirs were organized at that time - the Caroleers, a youth choir and the Campanile Choir, a women's group. Over the years, more bells were added to the set. In addition, a set of chimes was donated by Renee & Kirk Doan.

– Kay League, Church Historian

## Women's Meet & Greet Tea, Sept 18

The United Methodist Women invite all women of St. Matthew's to attend a "Meet and Greet Tea" in Fellowship Hall on September 18 between worship services (9:30 to 10:45). Come and be part of the fun as we greet each other; discuss the programs, activities, and missions of the UMW; and enjoy fellowship with other women in the church.

This year's tea is aimed at welcoming new women *as well as* nurturing our existing membership—all will receive a special gift. We would also love to hear your ideas for new events.

Our girls in High School are also invited to attend—we are working to establish a special circle just for them!

## Leadership Retreat: Save the Date!

A **Leadership Retreat** for all Chairs, Lay Leaders and Officers of St. Matthew's will be held the weekend of **January 13-15, 2012** at Mar-Lu-Ridge Conference and Educational Center located at 3200 Mar-Lu-Ridge Road, Jefferson, MD. The event is being coordinated by the Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development.



For further information, contact Christin Vare or Pattie Klein.



## Overview of Energy Questionnaire Results

Detailed results of the questionnaire on Energy Stewardship are posted on the Environment Bulletin Board in the hallway. Many thanks to the Environment Stewardship Committee for creating the questionnaire and to Carole Vogel for compiling the results.

98 people filled out the questionnaire.

HOME HEATING and COOLING requires most of our energy use. 83 people adjust blinds & curtains to the weather. 69 people added more insulation to their attics. 63 had efficient doors & windows.

ELECTRONICS: 59 turn off their computers when not in use.

TRANSPORTATION: 17 maintain their vehicle regularly. 80 people combine errands/trips to save gas. 62 people plan

trips before leaving. 30 people drive a fuel-efficient car. Ten plan to get one.

LIGHTING: 83 of us turn off lights when leaving a room. 35 have LED Christmas lights.

COOKING: 58 people put lids on pans. 37 people use less meat (raising animals requires much energy, cooking them also uses more energy).

APPLIANCES: 16 people clean refrigerator coils regularly. 39 people do not iron. 17 use a push mower.

RECYCLING: 80 of us recycle paper, & plastic. 78 recycle metal and glass. 73 donate used items. 26 people compost.

Your feedback is welcome!

– Blessings, Elizabeth Buckner



On Wednesday,  
September 21, at 7:00 p.m.,  
we'll begin a series on  
Health and the  
Environment. Join us!

## Thank You from Shelter Resident

My name is Dina and I have been living in the church apartment for over one year. Many members have helped me. I would like to thank you for working with my son and myself. Thank you for understanding and helping me with so many of my problems. Thank you for your encouragement. You have made me a stronger person.

In the middle of September, I will be renting my own place and moving. My son is entering first grade this fall and in addition to working, I will be continuing to take classes at Prince Georges Community College. I would like to thank all the members of St. Matthew's UMC for your support and the care you gave me.

– Dina M.

## iGive.com Raises Funds for Mission

We are pleased to report we are close to the \$1000 figure of raising Mission funds through iGive.com. We are at \$925.68 to date. The funds we raise through this effort support our emergency response to the local community or unusual needs not covered in our budget. It is easy to help this cause since there are no out of pocket funds necessary. The contributions come to us automatically when you shop through the iGive web site. Please consider this as a means of contributing to our church mission efforts as you shop for school supplies, Advent projects and personal gifts this coming holiday season. You can receive great discounts and free shipping through the site. **Note:** you can also use this site for shopping at Home Depot and Lowe's for in store pick up or home delivery of items. With iGive, you are making a tax deductible contribution as you shop!



Visit

[www.cropwalkonline.org](http://www.cropwalkonline.org)

for more CROP Hunger

Walk information or to  
make a donation.

## CROP Hunger Walk is Sunday, October 2

Did you know that "CROP" stands for "Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty"? Our emphasis this year will be on "Community". CROP Walk 2010 hosted 125 walkers from 9 places of worship resulting in over \$12,000 raised to fight hunger in our community and all over the world! Our goal this year is 150 walkers from 15 places of worship to raise \$15,000.

St. Matthew's UMC will host the 2011 CROP Hunger Walk on Sunday, October 2. *The Bowie Food Pantry will receive 25% of the donation total as well as any canned goods that are collected on Walk Day.* Of course we need plenty of walkers, but if you would like to help make the Walk a success, there are many other ways to participate. Please consider sponsoring a walker, donating refreshments, volunteering on Walk Day to register the walkers or man the water stations or even become a "Virtual" walker and raise money through the Church World Services website.

Please e-mail Lori Robertson at [BowieCROPWalk@gmail.com](mailto:BowieCROPWalk@gmail.com) to volunteer or register for the walk. Also watch for sign up opportunities following Sunday worship services in September.

## "Read To Feed" is Back for Children!

While we are encouraging our children up to grade six to read this fall at St. Matthew's UMC, we can help poor families all over the world! "Read to Feed" is a reading motivation/service learning program from Heifer International. Children are inspired to read more books for pleasure, while raising money through sponsored reading to help end world hunger and improve the environment.



Enrollment for "Read to Feed" begins Sunday, September 18

**What is Heifer International?** Heifer International works to end world hunger and save the earth. For close to 60 years, Heifer has helped more than four million impoverished families in 128 countries lift themselves out of poverty and achieve self-reliance.

This program will begin on Mission Sunday, September 18. Enrollment sheets will be in the narthex. The program will end with a Celebration Dinner (covered-dish) on Sunday, October 30. For further information, see **Galen or Carolyn Menne.**

## Food Pantry Reports Increases in Need

2011 has been a very busy year at the pantry. Without your continued support, we would not have been able to help the increasing number of people coming to us for food. *Thank you for the contributions of food and money that helps us continue to serve our clients.*

Please note the following statistics for the time period of January - June 2010 compared to January-June 2011:

|                            | 2010  | 2011  |
|----------------------------|-------|-------|
| New Clients                | 81    | 147   |
| <b>Average # per month</b> |       |       |
| Client Visits              | 194.2 | 242.8 |
| Families Served            | 120.5 | 145.5 |
| Children Served            | 174.5 | 211   |
| Visits per opening         | 15.8  | 20    |

Summer 2011 is ending with nearly bare shelves in the pantry. This may result in reducing the amount of food clients may receive each month. Items that the pantry *always* needs include: canned vegetables, peanut butter, jelly, cereal, tuna fish, canned fruit, and canned soup. As always, monetary donations are also welcome!



## Greeting Card Pgm. Needs New Leader

## New Offering from Coffee & Tea Club

St. Matthew's supports **Operation Welcome Home Maryland** by making greeting cards between services once a month. This outreach program needs a new leader. If you enjoy working with people and appreciate the men and women in uniform who protect our freedoms, this is a perfect match for your talents. Actually, it doesn't require any talent on the part of the chairperson, the talent is solely the property of the maker of the cards.

If you are interested in leading or co-leading this program, please contact Carol Walton. Please leave your name, phone number and the reason for your call and she will get back to you to explain the criteria for the cards.

Thanks for your very generous support of this project over the past year and, please, continue to support it in the future.

— Beverly Landymore

## Thank You to My Church Family

I am happy to report that I am making good progress from my knee replacement surgery and have been thrilled to recently return to Sunday worship services! I want to thank the congregation for the wonderful (and effective) prayers, calls, and cards with notes of encouragement! The love that poured forth was very healing and has been uplifting during my recovery. I am blessed to have a church family like St. Matthew's!

— Lorri Meadows

In addition to fair trade coffee, tea, and chocolate, St. Matthew's Coffee & Tea Buying Club is now offering fair trade olive oil!

Our extra virgin organic oil is robust and peppery with a strong fruit finish. It comes from two farmer co-ops which are part of the Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committees, a non-profit, non-governmental organization in the West Bank which is a member of the World Fair Trade Organization. The rich green oil is made from Nabali olives, an indigenous Palestinian variety that grows in the western region and is considered by experts to produce one of the highest quality olive oils in the world. Extra virgin signifies that the olives are cold pressed without any refining.

Equal Exchange pursued this relationship in this part of the world to help farmers with few other options to stay on the land and earn an independent living for themselves and their communities. We believe this is a positive step in a part of the world that faces a multitude of seemingly intractable challenges.

Olive oil contains polyphenols which are antioxidants in plants that many believe have a substantial amount of health benefits. To say which variety in particular is best, is often a matter of taste, since, like fine wines, the flavors, colors, and aromas of olive oils vary according to the type of olive grown, as well as climate and soil conditions, and so forth.

Find us in Fellowship Hall after services on the first Sunday of each month where we are already selling the olive oil, in addition to coffee, tea, chocolate, and cocoa mix. In October, we plan to have an olive oil tasting so please come by on October 2 for a free sample!



## Communication News

Communications has many faces—it's how we tell our individual story, our spiritual story and our church story to each other and to the rest of the world. Do the things we do move us closer to our church's vision to bring ourselves and others closer to God in this place and time?



*"We need your ideas,  
methods, skills, and  
energy."*

Ours is a ministry that shares the church's story in ways that move people toward becoming disciples for Christ—one body, one church, all supporting our common efforts, vision, and mission. We serve the church and its people by providing various levels of planning, development and implementation of its communications to each other and to the world.

We are working closely with the Stewardship Committee on the materials that are being used for our "ENOUGH – Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity" program which will begin soon.

Our web site is constantly improving—we have upgraded all our media players for the sermons and podcasts, rearranged some of the content for easier use, and, thanks to Faith Leahy-Thielke, we have some awesome original artwork as icons.

Our Google Apps Cloud is being used very effectively by the EEC and a few other committees. Coaching for Google Apps Cloud, media processing, and/or web site contributors can be arranged by contacting George Wood.

Communication is an ongoing process. It is not just "tech stuff". It is every way we communicate with each other. We need your ideas, methods, skills, and energy. We need *you!* For more information on how your gifts can be used to communicate, please contact George Wood.

## Updates on Mailed Circuit Riders, Alert Emails, and E-News

Many of you received this newsletter via email and that has created considerable savings to St. Matthew's in copying and postage costs. If you received this issue via the US Postal Service, please consider signing up for an emailed version. Paper copies of the newsletter are in the narthex. You can do this by contacting the church office with an email address(es) to use for sending out the newsletters as well as to receive other communications from the church.

One of the communications is the alert emails which are sent out periodically with urgent news of our church family (e.g., a death of a member or their family, last minute news of cancellations due to weather

or other issues). The subject line of an alert always starts with [STM] to help identify it.

The newest communication tool is a weekly/bi-weekly e-newsletter called the "Midweek Messenger" which is emailed to anyone on the alert list. In addition, paper copies are available in the narthex. These emails have [STMENews] on the subject line and contain non-urgent news about the church family, our programs, and help wanted/offered notices. Submissions for the Midweek Messenger should be emailed to [enews@stmatthews-bowie.org](mailto:enews@stmatthews-bowie.org) or call the church office.

For further information, please contact Lorri Meadows.





## SMUMC Really Cooked VBS Week!

The evenings of the week of July 25-29, St. Matthew's UMC hosted 69 children, from Pre-K through 6<sup>th</sup> grade for its annual Vacation Bible School. This year's curriculum, "Shake It Up Cafe: Where Kids Carry Out God's Recipe," was well-received and wildly successful. In addition to songs taught by Christin Vare, the children got enthused by the Assembly Time, under Karen Hastings' passionate direction, and the skits, so ably executed by members of our own St. Matthew's Troupe Players. The children were most generous in the Missions portion of the week. They brought over 300 canned or boxed items and challenged the congregation to match their offering. (Read the entire summary in the *Midweek Messenger*) — Beth Obear

## Life Changes

### Deaths:

**Louise Mott**, wife of Jim Mott;  
**Tim Van Meter**, husband of Angie;  
**Marian Wilson**, sister of Bill Landymore;  
**Richard Theuret**, son of Alice Theuret.

### Weddings:

**Jen McClurg**, daughter of Chuck and Mary McClurg, to George Tellis on July 23.

### Baptisms:

**Amber Gayle Spierenburg**, daughter of Ronald and Shannon Spierenburg.

**Lauren Avery Flammang**, daughter of Harry and Kathi Flammang;  
 granddaughter of Mabel McGann.

**Lucy Isabelle Doan**, daughter of Brian and Jennifer Doan, granddaughter of Renee and Kirk Doan, and great-granddaughter of Mike and Kay League.

## The Good Steward, continued

(Continued from page 1)

For this *Feast for the Soul*, bring your favorite dish to share with others and learn what exciting programs the church will present over the next year. There may also be some surprises. *Church School* will also kick off on this date. You're never too old to learn something new.

**September 18** is *Mission Sunday* and the *UMW Tea*. Did you know that St. Matthew's has over 60 different missions going on at any given time? Our mission outreach encompasses local, state, national, and international arenas. Also, all ladies are invited to the UMW Tea in the Fellowship Hall (see article on page 6).

Check out the full calendar on our website at [www.stmatthews-bowie.org](http://www.stmatthews-bowie.org).

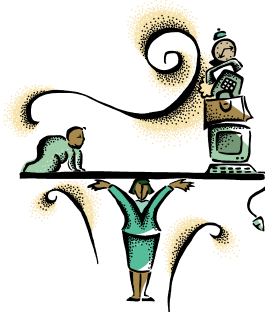
## Thank You from Shirley Bickel

Dear St. Matthew's Friends,

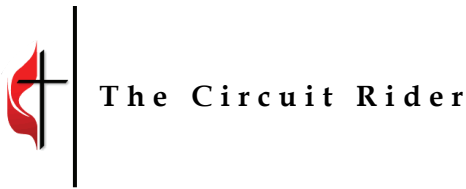
At our staff meeting on June 28, I was presented a gift from you, the church family, and I was astonished when I opened the check. You were so generous, and I am extremely grateful for your wonderful surprise. Thank you! Thank you!

I appreciate the various expressions of appreciation and the faithfulness of so many, many people who graciously served with me through these years. The parting messages for me on the hall board were heart-warming. May God's transforming Spirit continue with you, infusing you and me with power and excitement as we share Christ's life-changing love with others. I will miss you.

— With prayers and affection, Shirley Bickel



*Though our lives are filled with activities, it is always important to remember God, to set aside some time for Him.*



The Circuit Rider

St. Matthew's United  
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WE'RE ON THE WEB!  
STMATTHEWS-BOWIE.ORG

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**Time Dated Material  
Please Deliver Promptly**



Our regular Worship  
Schedule resumes on  
Sunday, September 4

Worship Services at  
8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

Church School begins on  
September 11  
at 9:45 a.m.

## Lectionary Readings for September

*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.*

### **September 4 - 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 149 or Psalm 148; Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20

### **September 11 - 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

Exodus 14:19-31; Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21; Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35

### **September 18 - 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

Exodus 16:2-15; Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45 or Psalm 78  
Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16

### **September 25 - 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16; Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32