



The Circuit Rider

St. Matthew's United Methodist Church

ENOUGH: Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity



The Good Steward

ENOUGH: Discovering Joy Through Simplicity is a program in which we will explore what the Bible teaches us about financial management through corporate worship and group study. The group studies will be held *between services in Fellowship Hall over a five-week period beginning Sunday, October 9*. Each week's study will gradually take us closer to getting our personal financial houses in order.

The first session, on October 9, will help us seek Faith in the Midst of Financial Crisis. Increasing consumer debt, declines in savings, lower income growth, and a volatile stock market are all a part of our economic insecurity. According to studies, half of all Americans are worried about providing for their family's basic needs. The declining

(Continued on page 9)

Alternate Class Schedule

Make-up classes for teachers of Church School classes, EEC parents and those who cannot attend Sunday mornings will be offered on Monday evenings from 7:00-8:00 p.m. on October 3, 10, 17, 24 and November 7 in Room 126 at St. Matthew's. Rev. Kathy Wadsley, Director of Christian Formation and Family Ministries will facilitate the class and group discussion.

Please register for the class by September 28 to reserve your place by contacting Rev. Kathy at 301-262-1408 or kathy.stmatthews-bowie@verizon.net. Child care will be offered *only upon request (please request by September 26* and give the age and name of each child) so that child caregivers can be arranged. Suggested donation for study book is \$7 per family for those who are not in the St. Matthew's congregation.

Unified Budget Q&A Sessions



St. Matthew's has begun a three-to-five year program to implement a Unified Budget as the church's primary financial programming tool. This new budget format will allow us to fully fund and have visibility of the church's benevolent projects.

All members of the congregation are invited to attend a Question and Answer Briefing on the Unified Budget to be held on *Thursday, September 29*, and *Thursday, October 13*, at 7:00 p.m. in the Parlor. The briefing will begin with a short explanation of the Unified Budget concept followed by time for questions. The briefings will be presented by Gary Allen, Chair of the Administrative Board and Dick Baker, Church Bookkeeper.

For additional information contact Dick Baker at the church or via his email dbaker.stmatthews-bowie@verizon.net.

October 2011

Volume 48, Issue 8

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Rev. Ginger's Pastoral Ponderings

No matter how many times I encounter the "church bulletin bloopers," they never fail to make me laugh. Here are a few that a church member forwarded to me recently:

- ☺ Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.
- ☺ Don't let worry kill you off – let the Church help.
- ☺ Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.
- ☺ For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.
- ☺ Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.
- ☺ Potluck supper Sunday at 5:00 PM - prayer and medication to follow.
- ☺ The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.
- ☺ This evening at 7 PM there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.
- ☺ The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church basement Friday at 7 PM . The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.
- ☺ Weight Watchers will meet at 7 PM at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.

"...my hope is that we can always laugh and see the true intention of what is trying to be communicated when 'bloopers' occur."

As funny as these are, they also remind us that our words and how we use them may communicate something we didn't actually intend. In the church, a community of grace, my hope is that we can always laugh and see the true intention of what is trying to be communicated when "bloopers" occur. As we share ideas and participate in new ventures together, our communication with one another becomes even more important. Healthy communication requires several things: 1) a direct conversation with the person you need to talk to, 2) enough trust between parties that true thoughts and feelings are shared, 3) a commitment to listen for understanding, and 4) a willingness to risk speaking one's own truth in a loving way. In recent weeks, I have spoken about the fact that our participation in Christian community, the Church, provides us with an opportunity to practice living in Christ-like ways. This kind of direct, loving communication is one of the things we get to practice. And it is certainly something that, in my experience, I need to practice. I suspect I'm not alone. How often in your life has some miscommunication been responsible for all sorts of heartache that might have been avoided had a more intentional, careful conversation been engaged?

As we move forward with a full and exciting fall, I pray that we will continue to grow in our Christian practice, that we will be more intentional about caring for our relationships through healthy communication. The Holy Spirit is enlivening and empowering us to strengthen and expand our mission and ministry together. The variety of events and opportunities highlighted in this issue of the Circuit Rider are just one evidence of this. With so many things happening, make sure that whenever you have a question or concern or just want to know more – ASK! Have a conversation with someone who can listen and who can share with you so that all have a good understanding and can move forward together with peace, joy, mutual respect, and support.

Always ready to have a cat – er – chat with you!!
ginger+



UMW Meetings and Upcoming Events

Please contact Lorri Meadows *no later than October 10* if you plan on attending the Washington East **District Annual Meeting** at Grace UMC in Ft. Washington on Saturday, October 15. Cost is \$5 and carpools can be organized from the church, leaving at 7:45 a.m. Those who would like to attend the **Conference Annual Meeting** at First UMC in Hyattsville on Saturday, October 22, should contact Lorri Meadows or Pattie Klein for information. Registration is not required to attend, but lunch orders are due October 15. A workshop on Haiti will be offered in the afternoon.

Please bring your **World Thank Offering** to your October or November circle meeting (just bring the money, keep your box). **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, October 2, at 7:00 p.m. at the church in the parlor.

AGAPE Circle: Thursday, October 6, at 9:30 a.m. at the church in the parlor. We will discuss chapter 8 of our study book.

MARTHA Circle: Friday, October 14, at 9:30 a.m. at the church in the parlor. We will discuss Chapter 2 of our study book, *Cultivating Contentment*. **Babysitting is available during this circle**—Please call Linda Harbaugh by October 7 if you will need babysitting.

EVENING Circle: Monday, October 10, at 7:30 p.m. at the church in the parlor. We will start our new study book—Listening for God, Volume 2. If you need a book, please contact JoEllen Thompson or Mary Lou Billings.

KOINONIA Circle: Monday, October 17, at 7:00 p.m. in the church parlor (Room 102). **Babysitting is available during this circle.**

SUSANNA WESLEY Circle: Wednesday, October 19, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Cyndy Gann.

20th Annual Craft Show is November 5

The 20th Annual UMW Craft Show is scheduled for Saturday, November 5, from 10:00 to 3:00. In addition to 35 crafters, there will be a *huge* bake sale, free children's craft activities on the stage, and a food concession.

Homemade baked goods are requested from the congregation at large. Watch the bulletins and November Circuit Rider for drop-off times and locations.



"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 working together as the vital congregation that you are to help launch our ministries that began this fall. I deeply appreciate your support for our ministries and celebrate the vision and mission of St. Matthew's UMC.

I am living into my new position as Director of Christian Formation and Family Ministries and we are all adjusting to new ways of doing ministries and to new leadership in various areas. I am responsible for three major areas of ministry:

1) Children's Christian Formation, 2) Adult Christian Formation and 3) Young Family Ministry. I serve on the Christian Formation Committee and the Children and Families Council working closely with their chairs in leading and developing goals and ministries for these areas.

The Christian Formation Committee will be developing an integrated program of Christian Formation and a comprehensive discipleship plan for children through adults. This includes Church School, Vacation Bible School, Disciple Bible Studies, mid-week small groups and classes, etc. As a part of this, a new class was started for two-year-olds that meets at 9:45 in Room

Third Graders to Receive Bibles

On October 16, the Third Graders will receive their Bibles at the 11:00 a.m. service.

On Sunday, November 13, Rev. Kathy will lead the Third Graders in a Bible orientation during the 9:45 Church School hour. Parents are invited to attend.

If your child is in the third grade and you have not received the letter with the return Bible form asking how you want your child's name in the Bible, please contact the church office at 301-262-1408 today.

110 and the new Children in Worship event was launched.

The following publications were created and, except for the teachers' handbook, are available in the narthex, highlighting our theme for this year, "Christian Formation is About Real Life!":

- Christian Formation Leadership Handbook for Teachers
- Christian Formation Opportunities for Children and Youth
- Christian Formation Opportunities for Adults
- The A, B, C's of Children in Worship

The Children and Families Council is co-sponsoring the "Read to Feed" program for Project Heifer that ends on October 30 with a potluck celebration at 12:30. In addition, one half of the Sunday School offering from September through November will go to Project HEIFER. The Children and Families Council invites you to be a part of "Trunk or Treat" on October 29 (see separate article). The Young Children's Nursery I and Nursery II and Children's Church and the Two-Year-Old Class are also a part of the Children and Families Council ministry.

As staff, I am also on the Council of Ministries and Administrative Board. This helps to connect ministries areas with the ministries of the whole church. See additional articles in this newsletter and other church communication media for specific information and watch for new opportunities that invite you to grow in your discipleship.

I invite you to give prayerful thought in how you can grow in your discipleship this year by participating and serving. If you have any questions, suggestions, or would like to be a part of these ministries, please contact me at 301-262-1408 or kathy.stmatthews-bowie@verizon.net.

Grace and Peace, Rev. Kathy Wadsley



Youth News

– Jen McClurg, Youth Director

Youth Ministry is in full swing and October is a month of service for us! Both UMYF groups will be walking in the CROP Walk on October 2 from 12:30-2:30pm.

The Middle Schoolers will have Pizza and Pictionary on October 9 and will be set "On the Right Track" on October 16. They are then back to service on October 23 and 30 as they prepare Reverse Trick-or-Treat bags and then deliver them.

High Schoolers will have a Step in the Right Direction on October 9 and Sunday Sundaes (Movie and Ice Cream) on October 23. They will do Church Love and Inreach/Outreach service projects on October 16 and 30.

All youth in middle school and high school are invited to join us on Sunday evenings from 6:30-8:15 for UMYF. We hope to see you there!



Family Matters

Family Matters a weekly devotional written by a United Methodist Elder (pastor) who is serving as an Army National Guard Chaplain. Rev. Jim lives with his wife and two children in Ohio and started writing *Family Matters* when he was deployed as a way to keep connected to his church and help families everywhere. His devotionals focus on family and connect faith and scripture with real life. Rev. Kathy will add St. Matthew's announcements for children and families and send to all who sign-up to receive this weekly devotional.

If you would like to receive *Family Matters*, please send an e-mail to kathy.stmatthews-bowie@verizon.net with Family Matters in the title and your name and e-mail address in the body. Thank you.

Did You Know???

St. Matthew's UMC has always been involved in mission work. What were the very first mission projects in our church?

Find the answer elsewhere in this newsletter.

"Children in Worship" Repeat

Children in grades K-5 and their parent(s) or guardian are invited to attend this new event on **Sunday, October 9**, from 12:10-1:00 p.m. Rev. Kathy Wadsley will give children an orientation for participation in worship services and give parents ways to guide and assist them. Come learn the "why" behind what we do in worship, good times to wiggle and snuggle, and age appropriate ways to be involved. To get the most out of this event, a parent or other adult needs to attend this event with the child. Whole families are welcome. *This event was held August 28 as originally scheduled, but is being offered again by request.*



Come learn age appropriate ways to be involved in worship

"Trunk or Treat" on October 29

If you want a tasty sweet, be sure to holler "Trick or Treat"! Join us for our 3rd Annual Trunk or Treat Spooktacular on **Saturday, October 29** from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

There is fun for all ages at the Trunk or Treat Spooktacular. For the youngest among us, there will be games, prizes, and trick or treating from car to car. For the young at heart, decorate your car and compete for the Ghouldest Haunted Auto in the lot!





Fall Camping Trip is October 7-10



The last days of summer are approaching, the temperatures will start their downward trend, and thoughts of camping are here! Fall camping at Camp Harmison will be on Columbus Day weekend, October 7–10.

Camp Harmison is near Berkeley Springs, WV, and it takes about 2.5 hours to get there from Bowie. The Apple Butter festival also happens the same weekend in Berkeley Springs, and going to the festival, seeing the morning parade, and sampling the food is a highlight of the weekend.

We have mountain pie irons and marshmallow sticks for everyone to use. Bring your own fixings, probably to share with your fellow campers; the campfire will be ready! For those of you not familiar with mountain pies, they are made with 2 slices of bread, buttered so they don't stick to the irons, filled with your favorite fillings (apple pie, cherry pie, pizza sauce and cheese, or whatever else you can think of). Don't forget the s'mores!

The weekend is mostly unstructured so that you can be free to do whatever comes to mind. We have a pot luck supper on Saturday night, and it's amazing how much food can be consumed by campers exposed to fresh mountain air.

The camp can accommodate tents and RVs; hookups are available and a dump tank is located on the site. Mark your calendars and we hope to see you. For more info, call Bill Haddock.

Calling Long-Time Church Members



Church ANNIVERSARY

Please help us piece together the history of St. Matthew's

The History Committee is looking for stories from our past for inclusion in the soon-to-be published History of St. Matthew's UMC. Do you remember how it used to be 30, 40 or 50 years ago? Do you remember what it was like to be a member of the Youth Group or Youth Choir 30 years ago? Please call me with any memories that you may have. Thanks!

I am also looking for any old Circuit Riders, pamphlets, minutes, pictures, etc. from the past that you can contribute. Thank you!

– Kay League

Thank You

We thank the congregation for their kind words, prayers, thoughts, and cards. They are a comfort and appreciated. It is truly a blessing to be a part of St. Matthew's, a loving caring congregation.

– Lew and Jane Dodd

Nursery Volunteers Needed!

Our aim for both the Nursery I (infant-toddler nursery) and Nursery II (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 8:30, 9:45 and 11:00 in each of these two rooms. Consider working the same hour and Sunday each 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.



Environmental Stewardship News

Some of you were surprised at the many ways we can reduce our energy use and contribute to the reduction of climate change. The extent of the impacts we each have visited on the environment is difficult to calculate. The opportunities we have for positive outcomes are not always apparent either.

The "Web of Life" barely touched on the many opportunities for stewardship. For example: As part of a free nation we can communicate to our representatives that which we believe is valuable. If we are informed and see the connection between just laws and a healthy environment, we will be standing up for those in need. God, give us the fortitude to be strong and effective in our endeavors.

The Environment Stewardship Committee meets the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in Room 226. Our discussion topic through December is "Health and the Environment". All are invited to attend.

Did You Know???

Answer to Question on Page 4:
According to historian Louise Haiflich, in 1963 more than 20 members of the Methodist Youth Fellowship, comprised of junior and senior high students, participated in the community UNICEF drive. These students had chosen as a service project the Junior Village in Washington, D.C. where they regularly visited, taking gifts and entertainment to the less fortunate.

As soon as the nursery-kindergarten opened in the newly-built building in 1965, the United Methodist Women began awarding scholarships to needy children from Old Bowie. Women of the UMW provided rides for the children to and from the classes.

– Kay League, Historian

The Environment Table (set up by Fellowship Hall each Sunday between services) offers information to take and read as well as books to borrow.

– Elizabeth Buckner

With Appreciation

I want to thank all of the St. Matthew's Church Family for their support. My mother, Lois Oglesby, passed away on August 24. She was a life long member of the United Methodist Church at various locations in Indiana.

I was very touched with the UMW's gift in memory of my mother. She loved the UMW and was a very active member. I also am very appreciative of all my friends in the Susanna Wesley Circle.

– Carolyn Phillips

Nunsensations Opens Friday, October 14!

The Little Sisters of Hoboken have done some strange things before, but now they are in Las Vegas!!! Make sure you get your ticket and come see the sisters do their thing in Sin City. For some folks, "what happens in Vegas stays in Vegas", but not with these nuns, unless it's Sister Mary Amnesia who has already forgotten what she did! Come and see what this is all about.

Show dates are: **Friday, Saturday and Sunday - October 14, 15, and 16 and Friday and Sunday - October 21 and 23.** Friday and Saturday performances are at 7:30 p.m. and the Sunday performances are at 3:00 p.m. Ticket prices are still \$5 a person ahead of time and \$7 at the door. Tickets will be on sale starting Sunday, September 25, after each service.



Come and find out what happens when the sisters take on Las Vegas!



The reading program will end with a potluck celebration on Sunday, October 30

Read to Feed – Our 2nd Year at SMUMC

Read to Feed is a reading incentive service-learning program that offers global education opportunities and will foster in your children a love for reading, a passion to help others and a way to help create a better world.

Children get sponsors for each book they read in a program that began Sunday, September 18, and ends on Sunday, October 30. At the end of the program, the group pools its funds and donates them to Heifer International to help Heifer assist millions of families around the world feed their families and reach self-reliance through the gifts of livestock and training.

Readers and their families are invited to a Celebration Dinner on Sunday, October 30, at 12:30 p.m. in our Fellowship Hall. That is when we count up our money raised and choose what gifts we will be sending.

We need:

- Elementary children to enroll in this fun mission activity,
- Parents, grandparents, neighbors, adults in the church family to be sponsors,
- And the whole church family to cheer our readers on and say how proud we are that they are helping others in our Savior's name.

Last year, we raised \$1250.00 for Heifer International and we had just 10 kids reading. Pick up an enrollment book in the narthex. Signup to be a sponsor.

For further information, see Galen or Carolyn Menne, call or email them. You need not attend St. Matthew's to participate.

Many, Many Thanks

Many, many thanks to all those who came to our aid when I decided to spice up a quiet summer by breaking my leg! Rick and I received medical equipment, food, cards, phone calls, and prayers from many in the congregation.

Since we are new to the area, it certainly was good to feel the presence of a caring faith community!

Thank you also to Pastor Ginger for her visit to the hospital and for her many calls and offers of help.

We have been thoroughly enjoying St Matthew's; it just gets better and better. Thank you again,

– Carol Miller

August Report from Food Pantry

The following report from the Bowie Interfaith Pantry lists the numbers for August 2011 in bold. To show the large increase in providing services, the same information from August 2010 is shown in parentheses.

The Food Pantry was open **14** (13) days in August. An average of **28** (14) clients was assisted at each regular opening. We served **46** (12) new client families. Volunteers reported working **466 ¾** (268 ½) hours.

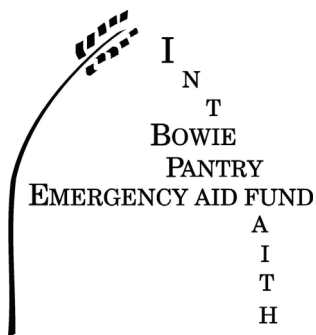
Number of Client visits: **415** (191)

Number of Clients (families) served: **220** (105) (This includes a total of **333** (180) children under the age of 18.)

Value of Food Distributed: \$43,618 (\$20,995)

Food Purchased **\$20,469** (n/a) (includes large purchase to restock shed)

The Pantry is grateful for the support that is faithfully provided by St. Matthew's!



DRT Provides Post-Event Report ENOUGH, continued

St. Matthew's Disaster Response Team (DRT) has compiled a detailed report to inform our church family about the work of DRT and others at St. Matthew's as a result of Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee.

This report is to remind you about the work of the church when emergencies arise. Call 911 to seek help for a life-threatening, health-related, or fire emergency. When other non-life threatening emergencies occur, you need only contact the church, your Neighbor-to-Neighbor contact, or a DRT leader to seek help. This is still hurricane season. Please develop an emergency plan for you and your family.

The entire report can be found on the church website by clicking on **Disaster Response Program**, then selecting **DRT Circuit Rider Articles**. Finally, select the **Post-Event Report for September 2011** from the list. You may also use the following link: <http://stmatthews-bowie.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/DRTHurricanesPostEventReportSep2011.pdf>.

Life Changes

Deaths:

Gasceile Mead, mother of Skip Mead;
Dee Sand, daughter of Lew Dodd;
Lois Oglesby, mother of Carolyn Phillips;
Howard Skidmore, father of Jeanne Frey and Janet Alessandro.

Births:

Franklin James Brockett-Thompson, son of Anne Brockett and Peter Thompson on September 6, 2011. Proud grandparents are JoEllen and Les Thompson.

(Continued from page 1)

state of the nation's economy is taking a physical and emotional toll on people nationwide.

Our nation is experiencing what many call the "American Nightmare." We live in a fast paced society that tells us "you deserve it now," whether or not we can afford it or really even need it.

Subsequent sessions will help us explore how the American Dream contrasts with God's vision, and how God's vision brings joy that the American Dream never can:

- Clarify our relationship with money and possessions;
- Deal with the Restless Heart Syndrome;
- Cultivate our contentment;
- Discover that God created us with the willingness to give – to God and to others.

This design is part of our makeup; we actually have the need to be generous. Yet there are two voices that "war" against our God-given impulse toward generosity, tempting us to keep or hoard what we have.

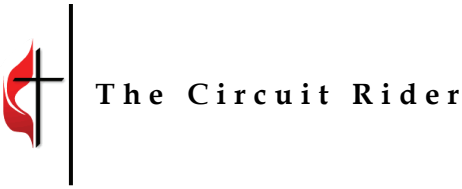
The last session will study how those two voices influence our decision making and how we can overcome them.

Plan to join us beginning October 9. Child care services will be provided during the study sessions. To ensure we have enough helpers, please sign up for childcare on the list in the Narthex alcove.

Make-Up Classes

If you know that you will miss a Sunday, you may make-up the class the Monday *before* (for classes 1-4) and the Monday *after* (for class 5) the Sunday that they will miss. Please let Rev. Kathy know so that a place can be reserved for you.





St. Matthew's United
Methodist Church

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

**Time Dated Material
Please Deliver Promptly**



Sunday, October 2



Administrative Board
Wednesday, October 19
7:00 p.m.



Charge Conference
Thursday, October 27
7:00 p.m.

Lectionary Readings for October

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.

October 2 – 16th Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20; Psalm 19; Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46

October 9 – 17th Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 32:1-14; Psalm 106:1-16, 19-23; Philippians 4:1-9; Matthew 22:1-14

October 16 – 18th Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 33:12-23; Psalm 99; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22

October 23 – 19th Sunday after Pentecost

Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17; 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Matthew 22:34-46

October 30 – 20th Sunday after Pentecost

Joshua 3:7-17; Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37; 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13; Matthew 23:1-12