



The 2010s – Reboot: A New Vision and Purpose

The world began this decade with a number of unusual events, some of which were natural occurrences, and some were caused by man: in 2010, the first synthetic living cell was created, Apple launched its iPad, an earthquake devastated Haiti, and the United States economy continued to struggle. In 2011, Representative Gabrielle Giffords and 18 others were shot near Tucson, 10 weather catastrophes occurred, Prince William married Kate Middleton, and terrorist Osama bin Laden was killed by Navy SEALs. Sixteen mass shootings happened in 2012 leaving at least 88 persons dead, Hurricane Sandy devastated the northeast coast, a derecho carved a wide swath of destruction from the Midwest to the east coast, and President Obama was reelected.

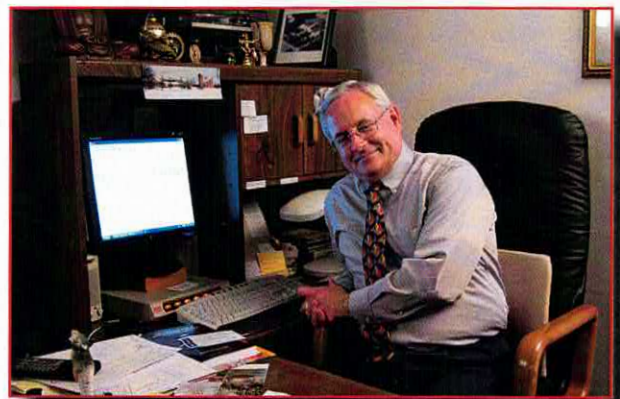


2010-2013

As St. Matthew's United Methodist Church, 2010 was the year for change—a year for new beginnings. As the year opened, the findings of the Strategic Planning Conference that was held in November 2009 were presented to the Administrative Board at a specially-called meeting that was open to the entire church congregation, as all Administrative Board meetings have been. Attended by many members who were not on the Administrative Board, changes planned for our church in the next three to five years were presented by Mary McClurg, Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee, and George Wood in a power point presentation. Rick Adams, in his tenth year as Chair of the Administrative Board, convened the meeting. The Conference produced six priority areas for immediate action with two major tasks to be addressed within the next year. A motion was passed to accept this report.

Revitalization of many committees was recommended: the Committee on Missions, Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development, the Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee and the Membership Committee all received special attention as these committees had been allowed to cease functioning or needed more members to be viable. Different task forces were set up and began to function immediately.

The vision statement developed by the Conference was: *“The vision of St. Matthew’s United Methodist Church is to be a vibrant congregation where anyone who enters feels the love of Christ and each other, and where YOU make a difference in the world.”* The mission statement developed was: *“Through the grace of God, St. Matthew’s United Methodist Church strives to emulate Christ’s love and forgiveness to its members, community, and the world through inclusiveness, worship, education, mission and service.”* The entire Strategic Planning Report can be found in the church Archives, in the Administrative Board binder.



Rev. Stetler

Also in January, the present pastor, Reverend Richard Stetler, announced his retirement after over 40 years of service as a minister and 15 years at St. Matthew's. The Staff Pastor Parish Committee immediately began to draft a request to the Conference for a replacement for this beloved pastor. A new pastor would have to be willing to implement the Strategic Planning Committee's recommendations for the future of our church. After a few months, Dick announced that the Conference and our Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee had selected Reverend Ginger Gaines-Cirelli as our new minister



to begin on July 1. Clare Carehart, our Youth Director, also announced her resignation as of June 30 to return to teaching full-time.

The United Methodist Women held their Epiphany Brunch on January 11 where Christin Vare was installed as President.

The Administrative Board at its regular January meeting approved the budget for 2010 of \$876,000. The Finance Committee reported that all bills were paid for last year despite church services being snowed out on several occasions. Irene Schneider, Chair of Missions, reported that the missions St. Matthew's was currently supporting were: Bowie Food Pantry, Chillum Youth Project, St. Matthew's Housing Corporation, Wesley Seminary Scholarships, Warm Nights, Christmas in April, Conference Hope Fund, One Great House of Sharing (UMCOR), World Communion Sunday, Nothing But Nets, Operation Classroom, and Volunteers In Mission support for Katrina in Mississippi and Juarez, Mexico. Sarah Fisher, Youth Representative, reported that pink "pigs" had been placed into the classrooms to collect paper to be recycled. Howard Waterworth, Chair of the Trustees, reported that the cameras installed around the church had proven to be invaluable to monitor the playground, activity in the parking lot and inside the building.

Also in January, a Winter Recital in the Sanctuary to benefit the Tavia Wyatt piano fund, and a Hastings-Skinner recital to benefit their fund for the children's travel with the Children's Choir of Washington to South Africa were held.

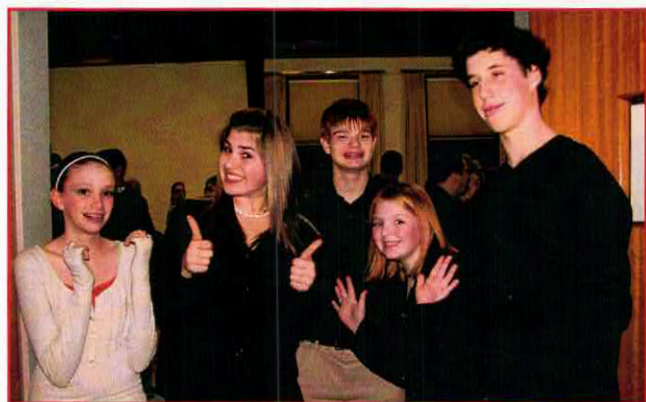
St. Matthew's experienced the Shrove Tuesday Pancake supper held by the youth, and a Mardi Gras gala in February.

March found St. Matthew's observing the World Day of Prayer in our Sanctuary, and the UMW holding its Lenten Brunch in Fellowship Hall. Family Ministry held an Easter egg hunt after the 11 a.m. Palm Sunday service which 20 children attended. The History Committee, sponsored by the UMW, held a used jewelry sale this month to help defray the costs of printing the 50th Anniversary History book. This sale was well received by the ladies of the congregation. The UMW also held a used book sale for missions and raised \$746. A Concert featuring students and faculty of the Peabody Conservatory was presented.

In April, a Medieval Feast was held in Fellowship Hall to benefit the youth that would attend ASP during the summer and it was reported by Missions that \$7,682 had been donated for Haiti relief. A Christmas in April event was held and the Finance Committee asked the congregation for some help with paying for the bills for the incredible snow removal of the



Megan Arnold and friend hunt eggs.



Some of our youth April 2010



Children's choir April 2010

past winter. And it was reported that an Archive had been established in the basement of the Wesley Wing to house important records of our church from the past and records of the future. All committee chairpersons were asked to send the minutes of their meetings to the Historian for proper storage. This was the first time that our church has had a permanent storage place for our records.

Acolyte Recognition Sunday took place this month also. Missions reported at the Administrative Board meeting that 4,000 health kits had been assembled by volunteers, 300 books and DVD's had been sent to Iraq, and Adult Ministries continued to make cards for mission work. It was also reported that a group of our men had begun meeting on Wednesday mornings at Rip's Restaurant on Route 301. All men of the church were welcomed to attend.



2010 Confirmation class

In May, the youth of our church presented a dinner theater in Fellowship Hall. Both UMYF groups participated in the play "The Devil You Say," either as actors or servers of the delicious dinner. The New Members' class, consisting of four persons, joined St. Matthew's. The newly reestablished Nominations and Leadership Development Committee invited the congregation to indicate their interest in serving on a committee or assuming a leadership role, stating that the terms of service would be limited to three years. On Confirmation Sunday, May 23, 15 youth were confirmed. The church family camping trip to Camp Harmison was held over the Memorial Day weekend.

June was a big month for our church. June 5 found "Spring into Service", a new event the members could participate in by choosing various projects including cleaning up the interior and exterior of our church. On June 6, we said good-bye to Clare Carhart, our Youth Director. There was a potluck luncheon after the church services and a farewell token of our appreciation was presented. June 20 found the new pictorial directories distributed. That day St. Matthew's was accepted to a seat on the board of Mission Central in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania. The main contact was Irene Schneider with Bob Fuller as backup.



Signing up for Mission Central

June also found our congregation saying "good-bye" to our beloved pastor of 15 years, Reverend Richard E. Stetler. A reception was held in Fellowship Hall featuring a catered luncheon. A gathering followed in the Sanctuary with many testimonials given and presents offered including a large scrapbook with pictures capturing memories of his time with us. A monetary token of the congregation's appreciation and a plaque dedicating the Wesley Wing in his honor were presented to him.



VBS with Rev. Gaines-Cirelli

July 1 our new pastor, Reverend Ginger Gaines-Cirelli, began her service with St. Matthew's. There were a number of open houses in members' homes to welcome her and her husband, Anthony. One of her first official duties was visiting the Vacation Bible School and greeting the children.



Communion given by Rev. Ginger

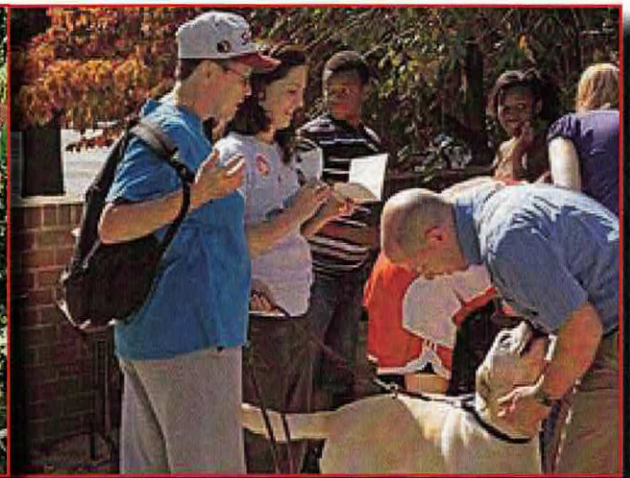




Blessing of the backpacks

The Appalachia Service Project (ASP) trip was to Boone County, West Virginia, on July 11. (See pictures at the end of this chapter). Family Ministry held a “Blessing of the Backpacks” on August 22 followed by a back-to-school party with lunch and arts and crafts for the children. The Environmental Group held a pot luck dinner and showed the film “Renewal,” on September 4, and on September 12, “Feast for the Soul” was held in Fellowship Hall to learn how one’s gifts can be dedicated to God and the church. September 18 saw a concert for building a kindergarten for the “Lost Boys and Girls” of Logan Town, Liberia. Performing were Walter Dewall and Roy Hakes. The concert raised \$13,000 for this effort.

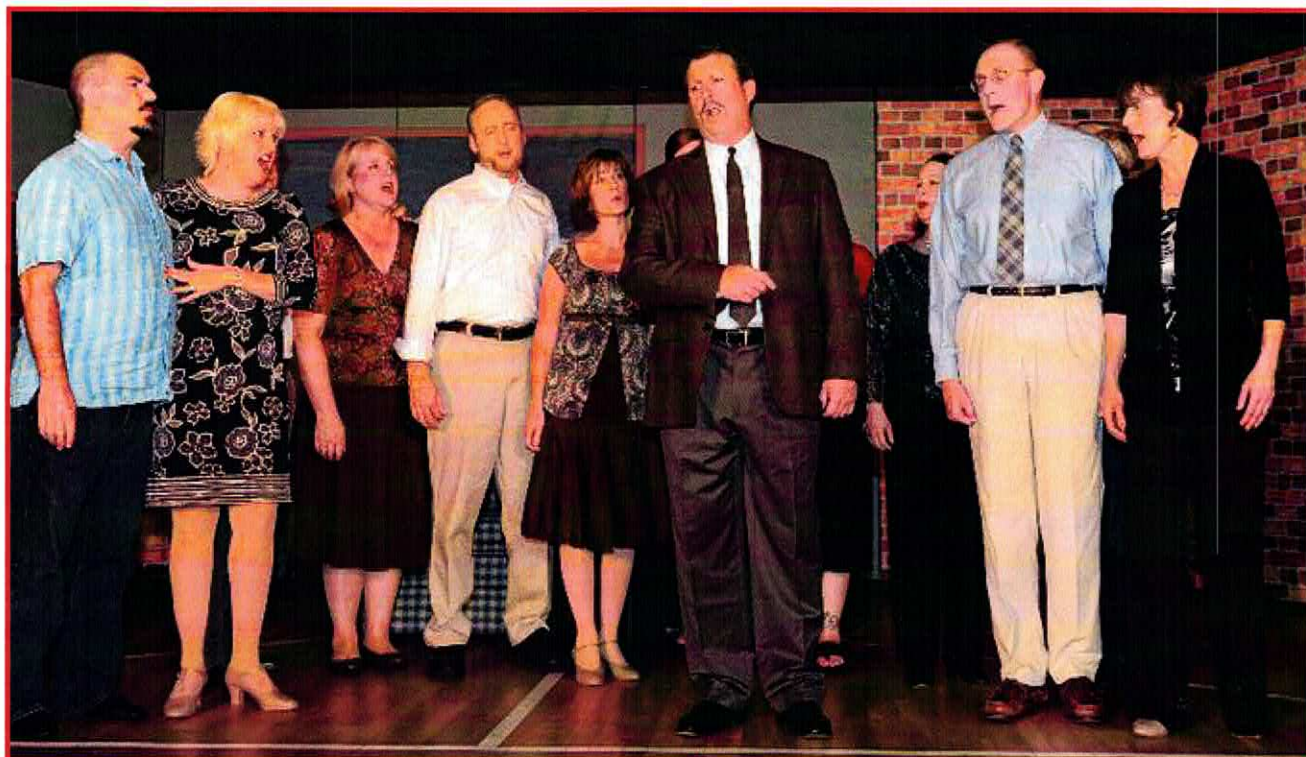
On September 19, the United Methodist Women (UMW) held a Welcome Tea in Fellowship Hall. Over 100 ladies were able to talk with Circle members and enjoy snacks. In October, the CROP Walk, led by Lori Robertson, resulted in 125 walkers from 15 places of worship and raised over \$12,000 for hunger.



Pictures from the CROP Walk 2010



On October 15, the Theatre Troupe presented “Company” to appreciative audiences.



Jen McClurg, Family Ministries, reported at the October Administrative Board meeting that a new group named “Second Sunday” had been formed consisting of young adults. It was hoped that this group would continue to grow. The Angel Gang, UMW Circles and the Youth Group have each picked a month to adopt our college students and will be sending them cards or possibly care packages to let them know that they were being thought about at St. Matthew’s. Dan



Scenes from “Company”

Blades, Chair of our Disaster Relief Team, reported to the Board that the program purchased and installed an evacuation slide on the second floor landing of the Wesley Wing for moving disabled persons to the first floor in case of emergency. Eileen McCall, Chair of the Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee, recommended that the pastor’s total salary including pension contributions, medical insurance and housing allowance be set for 2011 at \$110,336. The SPPRC motion was approved by the Administrative Board.

The church school presented the story of the Savior’s birth on December 12, and Warm Nights hosted approximately 30 persons from December 19 to 26. The value of the church and its furnishings was \$4,760,200.

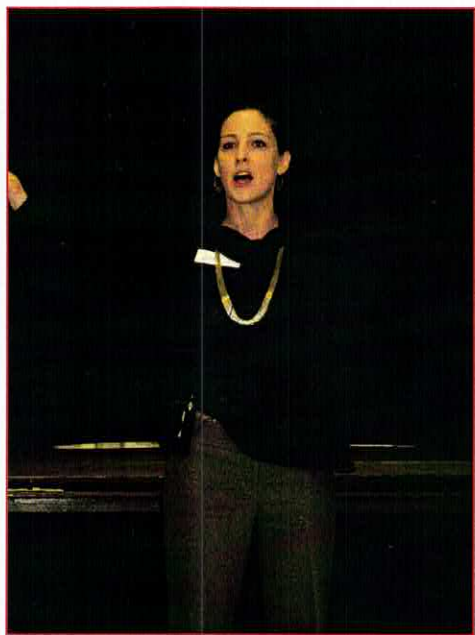
The year 2011 at St. Matthew’s opened with the UMW Epiphany Brunch featuring Rev. Ginger Gaines-Cirelli as the keynote speaker. At the Administrative Board meeting, a motion was carried to approve the year’s budget of \$872,005, led by the new chair, Gary Allen. Our apportionment to the Conference was \$95,138. Eileen McCall, Chair of Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee, provided information on two new full-time staff positions, Director of Youth and Congregational Life, and Director of Christian Formation and Family Ministries. These positions were to be filled by July 1. It was reported that St. Matthew’s gave food “baskets” to 18 families, which included 23 children and 17 teens at Christmas 2010. “A Recital for a Winter Afternoon” to benefit the Tavia Wyatt Piano Fund was held on January 20.

On February 11, the Early Education Center held the first annual EEC Community

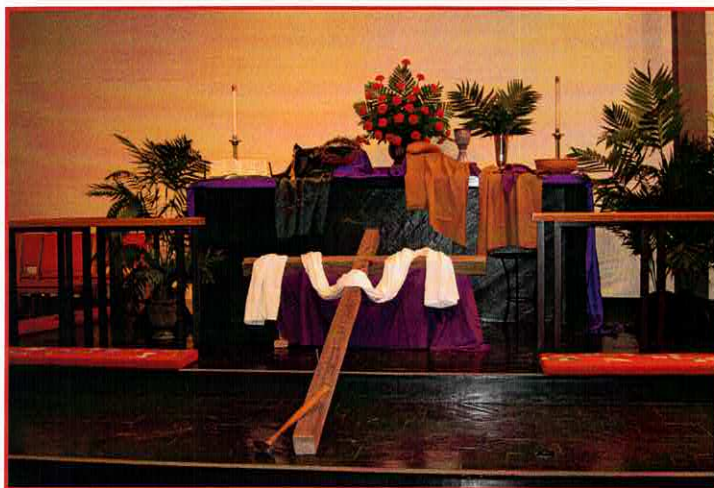


family-style spaghetti dinner and silent auction. February 25 found a gala event at the Crofton Country Club, sponsored by the United Methodist Women. It was a dinner/dance social entitled “Hooray for Hollywood – Red Carpet Dance.” (See pictures in United Methodist Women section.) Also this month, the church school children made Valentines to deliver to residents living in Heartfields assisted living facility on Route 197.

The Theatre Troupe presented “Annie Get Your Gun” in March. April 3 found the UMW offering used books for sale for mission projects and the 3rd Used Jewelry Sale to help defray printing costs for the soon-to-be published History book. April 9, the UMW held its Lenten Brunch.



Rev. Gaines-Cirelli



Palm Sunday altar



Beth Cammie, Virginia Shifflet, Sharon Heidenreich, Lorri Meadows enjoys the coffee.



Jody Kelley & Ursula Unnewehr sample the food.

April featured a unique group beginning to form called “The Steel Magnolias.” This group would march in the Susan B. Koman Walk for the Cure in September. Thirteen persons joined our church.

In May, "Spring into Service" was held for the second year.



Jessie Smith leads the gardening crew.



Barry Schuliger & Gail Seekins clean up



Steve Smith



Marty Bridgewater, Jean Baker, Thelma Harvey & friend work the kitchen detail



Donna Lane, Pattie Cone, & Sue Sweet greet visitors to the Angel Gang room.

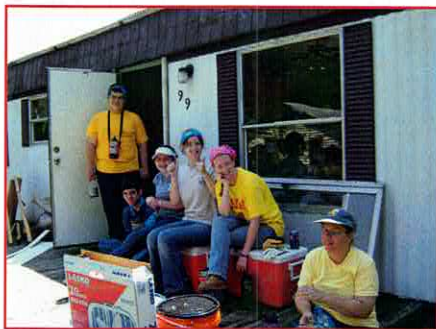




Middle school students 2011

June featured mission and the retirement of Shirley Bickel. On June 19, Cliff Knoll was commissioned to Christ's servant ministry. He joined a Volunteer in Mission team which departed for Miracia Hospital in Haiti with 12 team members led by Reverend David Graves of Bowie United Methodist Church. (See pictures of Cliff's trip in the Mission section.) June 30 Shirley Bickel, our Director of Christian Education, retired after 17 years of service with us. She was recognized by Rev. Ginger during the Sunday service and a reception followed in Fellowship Hall. Testimonials were given by staff and children who had been fortunate to have learned Christian teachings under her guidance. Her family was able to join her as well as the "donkey" played by George Wood that Shirley so often utilized in her work.

The ASP trip this year was to Logan County, West Virginia on July 1. Fifteen youth and seven adults traveled to Mann, West Virginia, to help the disadvantaged persons selected to receive repair on their homes.



Enjoying some rest time



The ASP team



ASP staff

We welcomed a new staff member, Reverend Kathy Wadsley, as Director of Christian Formation and Family Ministries. Rev. Kathy was assigned to us from Ohio where she performed similar duties for a Methodist church. Jen McClurg became our Director of Youth Ministries and Congregational Life on July 1. Her wedding to George Telis on July 23 brought many St. Matthew's folks together for the celebration.



The young people attending the wedding were joyous

Vacation Bible School had the theme “Operation Overboard: Dare to Go Deeper With God,” that began July 23-27. Sixty-nine children attended this annual event in the evening. (See pictures at end of chapter.)

August found St. Matthew’s getting ready for the fall activities. Blessing of the Backpacks was held on August 21 with a party after the services with crafts for the children. September began with “Feast for the Soul” in Fellowship Hall with lunch for the children. They were to bring their favorite stuffed animal to “feast” and hear a story read by Rev. Kathy.



Rev. Kathy reads a story



Furry beasts

Sunday, September 18, was a day that combined many different activities. It was Mission Sunday at our church, which meant that Mission activities supported at St. Matthew’s were highlighted during the service.



The United Methodist Women held their Meet and Greet Tea. All women of the church were welcomed to attend this event and to discover what the UMW is all about.



Ladies enjoying the Welcome Tea

The Steel Magnolias were a group of women who raised funds for breast cancer by participating in the Susan G. Komen "Walk for the Cure." On September 18, at the end of the 11 a.m. service, Rev. Ginger called the group of ladies to the front of the Sanctuary where she blessed them. It was reported that they had raised approximately \$25,000 to participate in the walk.



Front row: Amanda Hastings, Kristin Vare, Geetika Reichman, Barbara Lambert Back row: Karen Hastings, Becky Unkenhotz, Jena Cochrane, Sandy Adorney, Mary Jennings, Virginia Dahl, Cyndy Gann

Becky Unkenhotz, Christin Vare, Cyndy Gann, Amanda Hastings, Virginia Dahl, Rev. Ginger, Barbara Lambert, Mary Jennings, Karen Hastings, and Sandy Adorney

Pete Saderholm and Billy Haddock display awards given to St. Matthew's for their efforts in Disaster Reponse by the Prince George's County Citizens Council.

In October, it was announced that the following missions had been included into what was now the "Unified Budget:" Bowie Food Pantry, Operation Classroom, St. Matthew's Mission Central Hub, Nothing but Nets, ASP, and the Shelter program. Our expenditures were exceeding our income, necessitating withdrawal from our investment funds, according to the Finance Committee. The "Midweek Messenger," an e-newsletter, had been set up by the Communications Committee in order to keep the congregation informed of events that were happening on a weekly basis. The Theatre Troupe presented "Nunsensations."



Pete Saderholm and Billy Haddock



2011 Theatre Troupe



On November 5, the UMW held its Craft Show. It was the 20th year since Lorri Meadows had first organized the show featuring vendors and she decided to retire! On November 13, the Dedication Service was held for the Steinway piano. (See separate article on this event.)

In December, Family Ministries presented the children in a play entitled "Christmas Around the World," which featured ways Christians celebrate Christmas in different countries. The Trustees reported continuing problems with the different roofs: the slate roof, the flat roof and the bell tower roof badly needed repairing or replacing. They purchased eight new lightweight tables for use to replace the heavy metal tables. The congregation filled 363 Christmas sacks for the children of incarcerated adults in the Prince George's County jail. It was the 14th year for this event. For the first time, St. Matthew's observed "Blue Christmas", which was held on the longest night of the year. The Youth, led by Jen McClurg, visited home-bound members bringing cheer and seasonal songs. Warm Nights was held December 24-January 2, 2012. The value of the church and its furnishings was \$4,772,400.

The year 2012 was stressful in many ways. The natural disasters that occurred nationwide and the mass shootings caused great concern and changed the way our church operates. The natural disasters brought our Disaster Relief Team into the spotlight and emphasized that preparedness was a necessity. The mass shootings caused St. Matthew's to tighten security even more, not only for the benefit of the children housed within our walls, but for the safety of our staff.

January began as usual with the UMW Epiphany Brunch. This meeting is always a highlight of the year for the members of the UMW because it is a general meeting of all Circles, the beginning of another year, the induction of UMW officers, as well as the celebration of the Magi arriving to see the Christ child.

At the Administrative Board meeting, Mary McClurg stated that a Luke 8 ministry led by Chris Burkes was being developed to assist the pastor in home visitations. Bob Lesche, Finance Chair, stated that the 2012 budget was \$897,275, which was a \$25,270 increase over 2011. Pete Saderholm gave a slide show presentation regarding the proposed mission trip to Liberia to assist in building a clinic.

A 50th Anniversary Committee was formed to plan for the 50th Anniversary of our church, which will take place in July 2013. Notifying members, past and present, of the upcoming events as well as raising money to support these events were key objectives of this group. On January 8, the History Committee held a gathering of the older folks of our church in the Parlor. Members who were present during the 60s and 70s were asked to bring their memories to the meeting. About 25 persons attended this event. The Youth Choir was reestablished with Amanda Hastings as the leader.



left to right: Nicole Hait, Sarah Behringer, Rebecca Hastings, Emily Freeman, Amanda Hastings, Colin Vare, Andrew Skinner, Ben Skinner

Also in January, a Blessing of the Administrative Board occurred. This new event honored Administrative Board members who were retiring from service as well as greeting new members of the Administrative Board.



The UMW held a “Seaside Retreat” at West River, Maryland. Well planned events held everyone’s attention as they experienced a cold, rainy day in a warm building. Lunch was provided and the experience left everyone who attended wishing for more retreats like this one. (See “Seaside Retreat” photos at the end of this chapter.)



In February, the following events occurred: The annual used book sale and used jewelry sale, a gathering for persons from the 1980s, the Family Valentine party to make valentine cards to share with family and friends, and the Black & White Ball Dinner/Dance at the Crofton Country Club sponsored by the UMW.

In March, the Theatre Troupe presented "Curtains" and Nan McCurdy and husband Miguel Mairena, our United Methodist Missionaries assigned in Nicaragua, visited St. Matthew's.



Miguel Mairena & Nan McCurdy



Fourteen persons joined St. Matthew's in May and the high school youth group presented a play entitled "Just Another High School Play," to raise funds for the ASP Team.

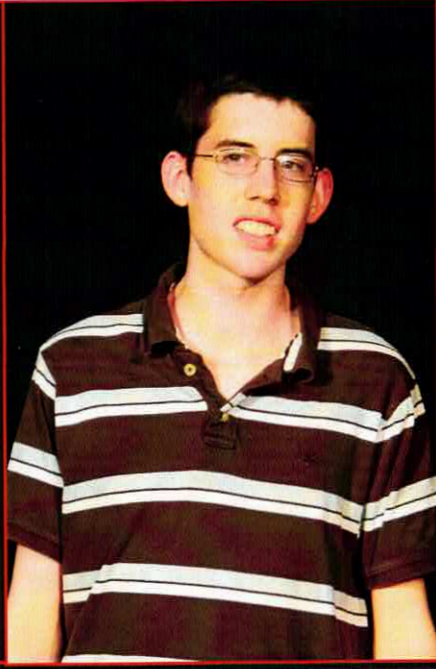


Shown are the new members with their sponsors

Scenes from "Just Another High School Play".



Rebecca Hastings



Alex Meadows



Amanda Hastings



Miranda Birkhead



Jordan Huften



Some of the Cast

This month the youth went on a retreat.



Also in May, DRT held an Open House and Tour to explain emergency preparedness with regard to shelter, food, debris removal, house repair, transportation, health concerns, first aid, communication, emergency power and neighbors checking on neighbors. This came in handy the month of June when a derecho blew through our area disrupting our electrical power. It was very hot, causing people to suffer. Everyone came out of the experience grateful for the blessings we regularly take for granted, like cell phones, computers, air conditioning, and the ability to cook a meal. Because we have an emergency generator, St. Matthew's was eventually opened as a cooling center during the day until the service was restored to our area.

Our Disaster Relief Team learned many lessons that would be valuable in the future.

Our 2012 Confirmation Class was confirmed on June 3 after enjoying a potluck dinner the night before.

On June 17, the Men's Breakfast Group held a Father's Day Ice Cream Social to promote opportunities for us to visit and get acquainted. Ice cream was enjoyed by all. In July, the 50th Anniversary Committee decided to sponsor a new church cookbook. Lorri Meadows spearheaded this effort and began to collect recipes from the congregation. The cookbook was completed and available for sale by the November Craft Show.



Rochelle & Philana Fraser,
Liam Greaves, Jordan
Bailey, Gabby Grant, Sarah
Behringer

August 19 featured the Blessing of the Backpacks with a back-to-school party followed by lunch sponsored by Family Ministries. Harold Patterson took five middle school students on a mission trip to the District of Columbia. August 26 found the Meet and Greet Tea sponsored by the UMW.



Pat Clunies, Linda Harbaugh & Mary Ann
Anzallo



Reverend Ginger



Gerri Dayes and Melissa Arnold

An entirely new event took place on September 9 – The Community Festival.. Held outside in the parking lot, it featured many booths with good food, a treasure map, live events on a stage, a moon bounce, face painting and other inside activities. Organized by Barbara Lambert with help from Christin Vare and Karen Hastings, this event drew participants from the surrounding area as well as our members’ families. A fabulous success, it was hoped that St. Matthew’s would be seen as a welcoming face in our area. (See pictures at the end of this chapter.)

On September 22, the 50th Anniversary Committee held a car wash to raise funds for the upcoming anniversary, and in November, a Christmas ornament was offered for sale with a picture of St. Matthew’s on it. On October 7, St. Matthew’s led the way with the annual Community Responding to Overcome Poverty (CROP) walk to fight hunger. This year, the Walk topped \$14,000 in proceeds. The Theatre Troupe presented “Into the Woods,” a spoof on the Little Red Riding Hood story. (See pictures at end of chapter.)



Thanksgiving altar

on November 3. Help from the effects of Superstorm Sandy were undertaken by St. Matthew’s



Jesse Lopez, Joshua Behringer, Ben Skinner, Rebecca Hastings, Nicole Hait

A musical prelude preceded the play and a Christmas potluck in Fellowship Hall followed it.

As usual for St. Matthew’s, we ended the year welcoming homeless individuals into our church over the Christmas holiday. The people came this year on December 23 and stayed a week with us, enjoying delicious homemade dinners furnished by caring members willing to share their bounty with those less fortunate. It exemplifies what St. Matthew’s has been and still is all about – caring for others less fortunate than we are.

In November, the Music Director, Isaac Bocorz, assumed an additional role by adding Pastoral Care to his title. Isaac assumed home visitation duties as well as monitoring the health and needs of our congregation. The UMW Craft Fair was held on November 13-17, led by Dan Blades, with equipment and flood buckets. On November 30, the team returned to Crisfield with more flood buckets and boxes of coats.

On December 2, an emergency response team of seven members from St. Matthew’s traveled to Staten Island, New York, to assist with the damage also inflicted by Superstorm Sandy. The team worked on water-logged houses. Advent began with the usual lighting of the Advent wreath.

On December 9, a special family-centered Christmas presentation by the children was presented entitled “A Little Child Will Lead Them.”



Chrismon tree beautifies our Sanctuary



January 2013 began with the usual Epiphany Brunch presented by the United Methodist Women. This year, approximately 70 women attended the Brunch, a testimony to the expanding presence of this group in the lives of the women at St. Matthew's. Christin Vare, in her third year as President, opened the meeting. The installation of the Executive Board was featured as well as the keynote speaker, Reverend Ingrid Wang, who spoke of her journey to become a United Methodist pastor.

The officers of the 2013 Executive Board of the UMW.



Christin Vare, President



Rev. Ingrid Wang

At the Administrative Board meeting on January 16, 2013, the budget for the year 2013 of \$955,455 was approved. Our Conference apportionment (the amount paid to the Conference for their Benevolences/World Service and other expenses) was \$84,595. Our total personnel support was \$366,297. St. Matthew's missions included in the unified budget were: FISH, Help by Phone, Bowie Food Pantry, Church Truck, Warm Nights, Christmas in April, Wesley Scholarship, Prince George's House Men's Shelter Meals, St. Matthew's Housing Corporation, UMCOR Emergency Relief, Operation Classroom, Volunteers in Mission, St. Matthew's Mission Central Hub, Hope Fund, Nothing But Nets/Health Ministry, Advent Projects, and (added this year) UMCOR Kits Shipping, UMCOR Disaster Kits, and Mission Central Hub. Total membership was listed as 695 members. Our fixed assets were listed as \$4,879,034 (church buildings, Marne Lane rental property, land, organ, and church sign).



Camelot

This year (2013) is the celebration of 50th Anniversary since our church was begun. A grand celebration is planned by the 50th Anniversary Committee with many activities. On Friday, July 19th, a gala dinner will be held at Camelot in Upper Marlboro.

On Saturday, a “Messy Party” will be held for the families with children in the church. Saturday evening, a concert will be held featuring Mark Clinton, a former member. On Sunday, the Anniversary Worship Service with special guests, including former pastors and District/Conference officials, will be held at 10 a.m. The church services, including a Garden Service at 7:30 a.m., will be followed by a catered luncheon. Many of our past ministers and their wives are expected to attend.



Review/Overview

In closing this history of the first 50 years of St. Matthew’s United Methodist Church, a picture of a caring, inclusive, vibrant church emerges from the pages of this book. Each year the familiar events are held, cementing us together with the ritual of the past and showing us the way to the future. New events are added and some old ones are dropped each decade to update the church’s appeal to the newer generations and the needs of the community. As we move into the next 50 years, the caring, loving and welcoming atmosphere found at St. Matthew’s will continue to shine the light forward to those seeking a place to worship God.



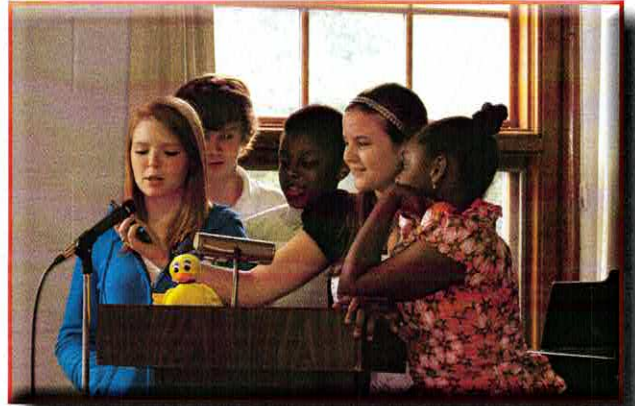


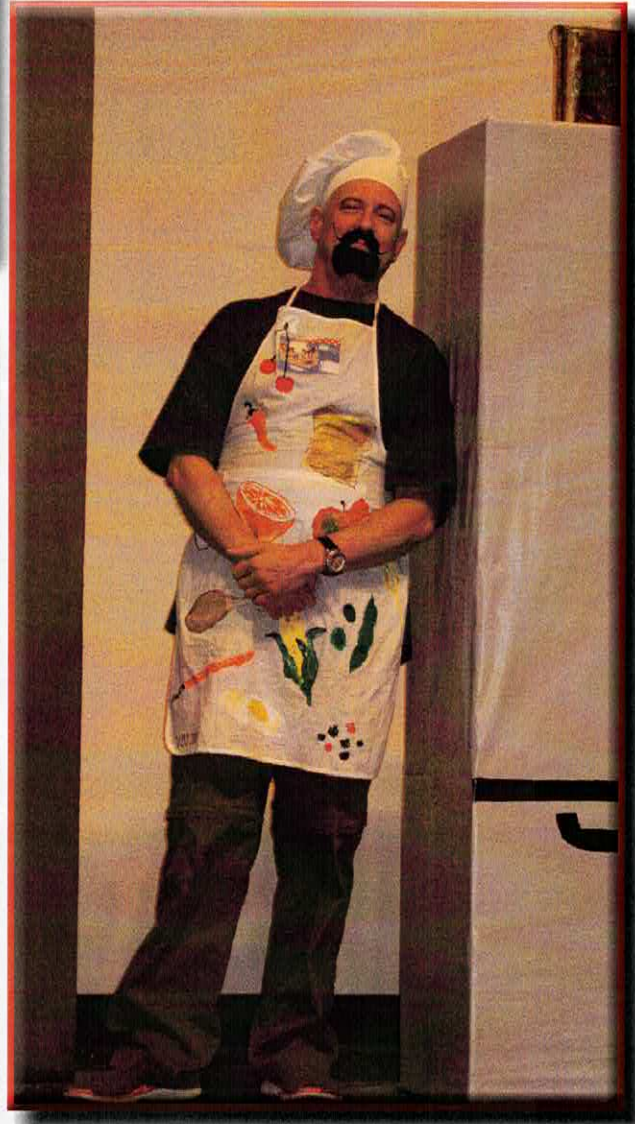
ASP Mission Trip to Boone County, W. VA. 2010





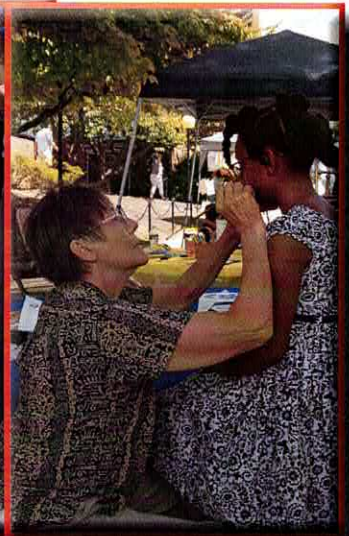
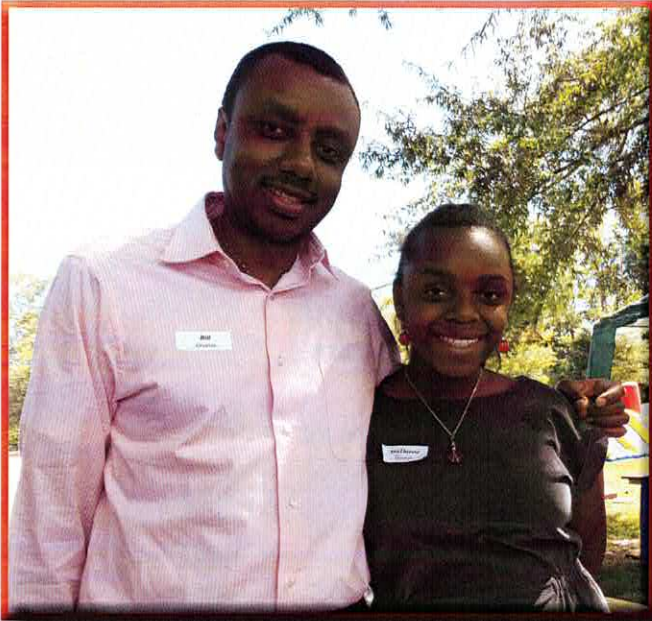
Shirley Bickel's Retirement Party June 2011





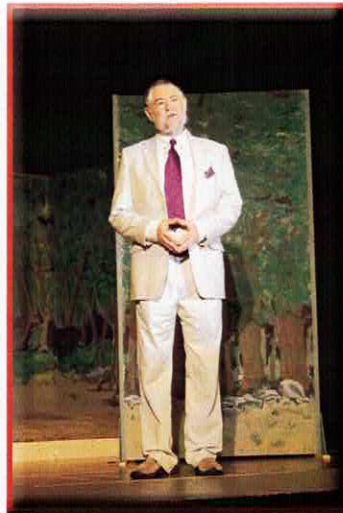
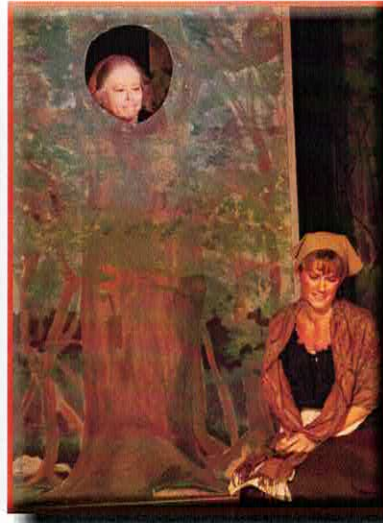


Community Fest 2012





Into the Woods 2012



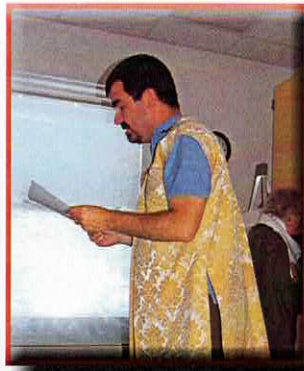


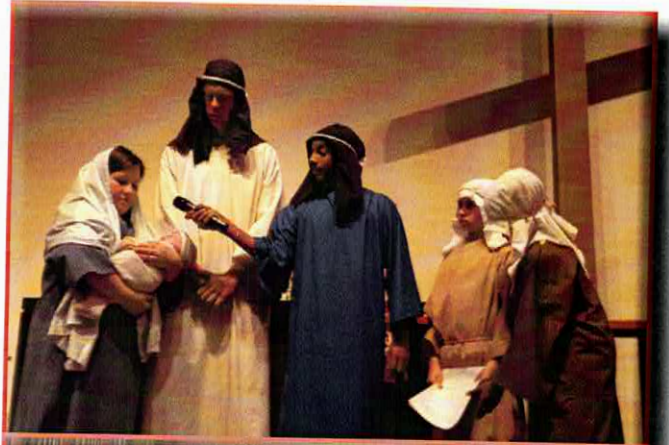
Seaside Retreat





VBS 2012







Matthew 25:40

*The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth,
Whatever you did for the least of these brothers of mine,
you did for me.'*