

THE WINDOW

Matthews Presbyterian Church - Quarterly Newsletter Season of Pentecost 2018



Matthews Presbyterian Church

A community for you.

"Now I'm turning you over to God, our marvelous God, whose gracious Word can make you into what he wants you to be and give you everything you could possibly need in this community of holy friends."

~Acts 20:32 The Message

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The Pastor's Page

by Reverend Luke H. Maybry



Dear Members and Friends of MPC,

Welcome to the old dog days of summer. After a busy year at school and work, summer ushers in a badly-needed break. The kids are out of school, we go on vacation, we sleep in, we do NOT do homework, and we do NOT stress... over anything. That's the whole point. It is well and good that we have seasons that are intentionally slower.

As such, church life slows down, too. Bible studies meet monthly instead of weekly, Sunday school gets merged, the choir takes a break, and the staff go on vacation. I have several trips planned myself. It is important to realize, though, that while it may slow down, church never stops. Sunday is still the Lord's day and we still worship on it. We also go out as a church more in the summer than any other time. The youth go to Montreat, the children have VBS, and we all go on the Gary, WV mission trip.

You might consider summer to be the least important time of year for the church, but my experience suggests otherwise. As a child, I learned about God's love for me on summer mission trips and in VBS maybe more than any other time. I never went to Montreat as a youth, but I know kids that did and they still talk about it years later. Lasting relationships are formed and forged in summer activities. Summer is a "brain-drain" only if we sit in front of a TV all day, but this slower, more intentional, more restful, and hopefully more fun season should be a vital part of human thriving and faith development.

So, by all means, take a break this summer. You have earned it. Make the most of it. Go to the beach and take in the sun. Go to the mountains and cool off. Go on a hike. Eat supper on your porch. Drink some lemonade. Eat some peaches. Hang out at the pool. Cherish this time with your family... AND GO TO CHURCH. Enjoy God's good creation and enjoy being alive. I am blessed to be your pastor.

Yours in Christ,

WELCOME

Our Vision:

Motivated by the Grace of Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit, we strive to honor the Lord as we:

Welcome all to worship in God's name.

Share the love of Christ, through our lives, words, and deeds.

Serve our neighbors, in our community and beyond.

Encourage all children, youth and adults to grow and explore their faith.

Joining together, we celebrate our living traditions as a dynamic and caring congregation who seeks to glorify God in all we do.

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Meet our new members (pg. 3)
- Luke's installation celebration (pg. 4)
- VBS & Mission trip info (pg. 6-7)
- A lesson on Pentecost (pg. 8)

Save the date:

Don't miss the MPC Summer Calendar on the last page of this newsletter.



On April 8, we welcomed a new member to the Christian Family, Isaac Troyer! The Book of Order reminds us that it is the responsibility of the

whole congregation, particularly exercised through the session, to nurture those who are baptized as they grow in faith and seek to respond to Christ's call to discipleship. (W -4.02) Join us as we welcome Isaac to the church family!

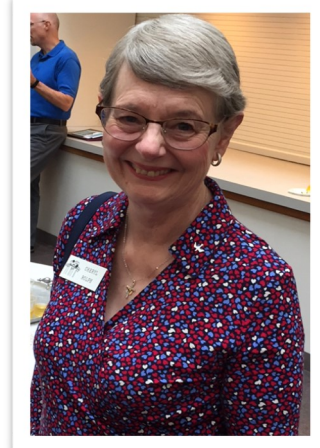


We Joyfully Welcome New Members to MPC



Patrick, Liz, and Ava Adkisson

Patrick and I chose MPC because we felt welcomed initially upon visiting the church and we also connected to Luke and his messages during worship. We want to raise Ava in the church so she knows Jesus and has a giving heart. As a former elementary education teacher, I hope to get involved with the children in the church or with event organization/baking, etc. Patrick is interested in working with Room In the Inn. I currently work at UNCC as an academic advisor in the College of Education and Patrick works for Bank of America. We live in Matthews with our daughter Ava and dog Scotty.



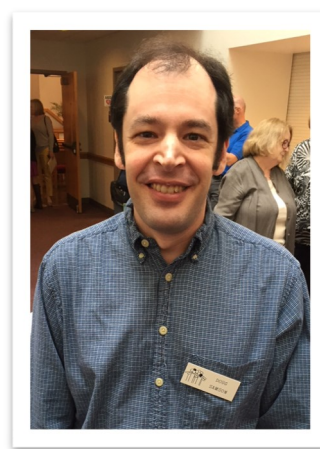
Cheryl Rolph

I'm a native of New Jersey who moved here from Delaware where I lived for the last 50 years. I now am near my daughter Ellen and her family. Ellen is a friend of Jenny Klotz whom she met while they were students at Davidson College. When my husband and I decided to move to NC, Ellen introduced me to Lynda Klotz, who kindly introduced us to Matthews Presbyterian Church, where I have felt welcomed since day one, Easter 2017. So far at church I have participated in the book club and joined a women's circle. Perhaps in the future I will join the Mission Committee as that was my primary activity in the church I belonged to in Delaware.



Jean Frodge

Years ago, I started working as a hairstylist. I was a hairstylist for 24 years. Since then, I have worked in the interior design industry, providing design services and selling custom drapes and pillows. When I'm not working, I enjoy bowling and cooking. One way I plan to get involved at Matthews Presbyterian Church is by helping to cook for church functions.



Doug Samson

I grew up in Pennsylvania, but I moved down south when I went to college. My wife, Jennifer and I moved to Charlotte last year when she got a job teaching at Queens, and we hope to stay for a long time. I recently started working at UNC Charlotte as a data coordinator. I love reading and learning about languages, and I fence in my spare time.

SHARE

The Installation Celebration of our new Pastor, Reverend Luke Maybry

The Presbytery of Charlotte installed Rev. Luke Maybry as the pastor of Matthews Presbyterian Church at a worship service here on Sunday afternoon, February 11. His long-time friend and associate pastor at First Presbyterian Church, Sumter, SC, Ashley Cheek, preached the sermon. Ashley's husband, Nick, who serves as senior pastor with Ashley, gave the charge to Luke. Rev Robert Austell, pastor of Good Shepherd Presbyterian, charged the congregation. Luke served as a parish assistant here in Matthews from 2005-2008 before he was called as the pastor of Central Steele Creek Presbyterian. We are glad to have him back and warmly welcome him and his family, wife (Leah) and children (Julia, Caroline & Jack) to Matthews Presbyterian.



REFLECTION ON LENT AND HOLY WEEK 2018

By Roland Spence, Worship Committee Chair

Lent and Holy Week at Matthews Presbyterian this year were filled with reflection, worship, and opportunities for members and visitors to explore the meaning of the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. The season began with an Ash Wednesday service. Those who attended entered Lent with ashes on their foreheads and reflection on sacrifice in their minds. The sanctuary cross and an outside cross draped in purple reminded us of the sacrificial meaning of Lent. When Palm Sunday arrived, we were reminded of the triumphant arrival of Jesus in Jerusalem, and we celebrated with procession, palms, and music. A Maundy Thursday service brought us together in communion to remember the Last Supper of Jesus and his apostles before the betrayal and crucifixion. On Good Friday, all church crosses were draped in black as we remembered the crucifixion of our Lord.

A service of Tenebrae held Friday night with scriptures, music and extinguishing of candles reminded us that the death of Jesus brought darkness to the earth. A cross carried through the congregation visibly reminded us of Jesus' suffering and death. On Easter Sunday, with crosses draped in white, we gathered to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus with worship, music, and celebration. Both a sunrise service and our regular hour of worship reflected the joy of Easter.

Capital Campaign Update:

In August 2016, Matthews Presbyterian Church kicked off a huge endeavor – a Capital Campaign. The objective of the campaign was to raise funds to reduce the mortgage debt and complete various capital improvement projects on church buildings and property. A total of \$531,859 was pledged to the Capital Campaign.

Through March 31, 2018, \$375,599.98 or 71% of the total amount pledged has been received. Thank you to everyone who has committed their time and financial resources to help the church reach this level of giving.

Completed Projects:

Re-roofed the Christian Worship Center (CWC)	\$36,918.97
Repaired and resurfaced church parking lots	\$33,200.00
Repaired church bus	\$ 2,951.48
Installed energy efficient lights	\$14,240.50

Ongoing Projects:

BB&T Loan Principal (Church Mortgage)	\$125,000.00
A \$25,000 payment is made every quarter through June 2019	

**Planned Projects:

Remove carpet and refinish the hardwood floor in the chapel building

** Please note that the list of planned projects will be contingent on having sufficient funds and Session approval.

Carpeting CWC downstairs

Painting CWC downstairs (excluding sanctuary)

Remove & replace oil furnace in the chapel building

Paint/wrap church bus

Repair termite and water damage in the chapel building

Let the Good Times Roll

Having fun at the Presbyterian Potpourri, PW Luncheon and Bluegrass Sunday . . .



SERVE

It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year

Vacation Bible School 2018
July 22-26

It's the most wonderful time of the year -
to learn all about church holidays!

This Vacation Bible School offers three separate tracks for Preschool, Elementary Age, and Middle School people as they learn about the rhythms of the church year, including why we lift up special days or seasons in the church year. All age groups will join together for an opening celebration and closing worship. In between, Preschoolers, three years or older, will learn together by using crafts, games, and music to learn about the day's theme, while our elementary age participants will rotate into different rooms for each activity. The Middle School participants will engage in a Bible study around the day's topic then plan and lead the closing worship service for each day.

Daily Themes:

Sunday Night - A Holiday Party

5pm - 7pm

Monday - Christmas in July!

Luke 2:1-20 9am - 12pm

Tuesday - The Incredible Journey (Epiphany)

Matthew 2:1-12 9am - 12pm

Wednesday - It's a Miracle! (Lent/Easter)

John 20:1-18 9am - 12pm

Thursday - It's the Church's Birthday!

(Pentecost) Acts 2:1-12 9am - 12pm



Summer Arts Camp

July 23-26 from 12-4pm and
July 27 from 9am-2pm

We are exploring our God-given artistic talents through music, drama, and more. Bring a lunch and stay after VBS for lots more fun! On

Friday, we will travel to Blessed Assurance Adult Day Care to share what we learned. The cost is \$50 per child which includes lunch on Thursday & Friday, a t-shirt, and gelato! Come join in the fun!



Join us for the 14th Annual Mission Trip to Gary, WV

American author, chef, and TV personality Anthony Bourdain recently visited McDowell county for an episode of his critically acclaimed CNN show "Parts Unknown". Bourdain told viewers that what he found in McDowell County was heartbreaking and beautiful, everything wrong and everything wonderful about America.

As Matthews Presbyterian Church prepares for our 14th mission trip to McDowell county, this struck me as the perfect description and speaks to why we continue to serve in the amazing and tragic community.

There is extreme poverty —
but there is abundant hope and joy.

There are people in need —
but those people are some of the most
giving and selfless you'll meet.

The communities need help —
but the people in those communities
always help their neighbor.

There are significant addiction issues —
but these issues have come to light
and are raising awareness in much
broader national spotlight.

The economics are that of a forgotten
land — but God has not forgotten,
and many of us see him clearer there
than in our day to day lives.



Bourdain watching the homecoming game at Mount View High School in McDowell County, where he noted, "there's an easy familiarity between people."

- submitted by Chip Meyers

Stay after church on June 10th to learn more about this area
and the annual trip on July 26th - 29th.

***"One of the most important things you can do on this earth
is to let people know they are not alone."***

- Shannon L. Alder

GROW IN FAITH

A Lesson on Pentecost:

On the Day of Pentecost, we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit who, according to Acts 2, came down upon the congregation who had gathered 50 days after Easter. Pentecost is patterned after the ancient Jewish festival of seven weeks that extended from the beginning of the barley harvest (on the second day after the beginning of Passover) to the end of the wheat harvest at the Festival of Weeks or Shavuot (see Deuteronomy 16:9-12). The Festival of Weeks later came to be called Pentecost ("50th day") by Greek speaking Jews. It is often celebrated as the birthday of the Christian Church.

A passage from the book of Joel is often read on Pentecost which tells of the spirit's ability to create a new future; People young and old will dream and will have visions of hope; they will be able to loose themselves from the way things are now, because God is establishing a whole new type of creation.

At the outset, the newborn church immediately tumbled out into the streets to witness to God's mighty works in the languages of people all over the world. By the end of the story, a tiny, Spirit-filled community of faith that broke from its present order has spread across the continents with incredible power to bring new things into being.

* (pictured: a 15th century German depiction of the Pentecost)



Summer Sunday School

This summer will look a little different here at MPC. The children's wing is transforming into countries from around the world. Our young people will make passports and earn stamps as they learn about Christianity around the globe, engaging in spiritual practices as well as stories and traditions. Classes will be self-directed, though adult and high school volunteers will be available to help guide children as needed.

The Intergenerational Sunday School invites youth (12 and older) and adults to engage in a rich discussion around Christianity and its relationship to other world religions. We will look primarily at our relationship with Islam and Judaism, but will also touch briefly on other non-Abrahamic faiths, including Buddhism and Hinduism.

Liz will be our main teacher, but will be joined by friends along the way.



The children of MPC did a wonderful job leading us in worship on Children's Sunday, April 22nd. Their musical performance of "Acorns to Oaks" was a lively telling of the parable of the seed and the sower. We are so proud of our children and enjoyed watching them share their talents with us during worship.

*Acting on
even a twig of
faith allows
God
to grow it.*



Matthews Presbyterian Church

Child Development Center



We can't believe that our school year is almost over. It seems like yesterday that classes began and that we started to get to know the children and their families. Our 4's class will be "graduating" on Thursday, May 24 and our whole preschool family will enjoy a picnic lunch by the playground afterward. This tradition is a nice way for families to celebrate another fun year at MPC CDC.

May 2, the threes and fours went on a walking fieldtrip to The Matthews HELP Center. The children were able to see the pantry and visualize how their small donations throughout the year were able to help so many local families. A special thank you goes to The HELP Center volunteers and to all of our preschool families and church members who donated throughout the school year.

We have seen so many developmental changes this year! The infants are now crawling and trying to express their needs. The toddlers are running and we understand their words more clearly. The 2's play more cooperatively and are almost all potty-trained now! The 3's have progressed in their art abilities and their confidence. The 4's are writing more efficiently and recognizing patterns. They are ready to go off to Kindergarten! May is a busy month as we finish year-end projects and the children's individual Memory Books. We are looking forward to summer, but we are sad when we have to say goodbye, especially to our graduating 4's.

We still have some openings for the 2018-2019 school year. We are happy that we are small enough to get to know our families. Our teachers love seeing the children progress year-to-year. If you would like more information on our preschool, check out the website at www.matthewsprespreschool.com

We are glad to set up summer tours and share information.

We can be contacted via email at cdcdirector@matthewspresbyterian.org or 704-847-5564.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer!

Matthews Presbyterian Summer Calendar

JUNE

June 4-8 ~ CDC Summer Camp: All About Sports
June 10~ Summer Sunday School Begins
June 24-30 ~ Worship and Music Conference at Montreat
June 25-29 ~ CDC Summer Camp: America/4th of July

JULY

July 8-14 ~ High School Youth Conference at Montreat
July 16-20 ~ CDC Summer Camp: Water, Water Everywhere
July 22-26 ~ Vacation Bible School at MPC
July 23-27 ~ Summer Arts Camp
July 26-29 ~ Gary, WV Mission Trip

AUGUST

August 13-17 ~ CDC Summer Camp: Chicka Chicka Boom Boom
August 26 ~ Blessing of the Backpacks and Back to School Ice Cream Social

Matthews Presbyterian Church

A community for you.



Reverend Luke H. Maybry - Pastor
Liz Troyer - Director of Christian Education
Sarah Allred - Director of Music Ministries
Tom Kiff - Organist
Carolyn Coutu - Office Administrator
April Taylor - Financial Secretary

Worship Schedule

Sunday School: 9:15 am

Worship 10:30 am

*** Transportation available upon request**

Please contact us for more
information about our worship
schedule and programs.

Matthews Presbyterian Church

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