

THE WINDOW

MPC Quarterly Newsletter

Season of Pentecost 2019



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,

I heard once that the second-best day in a person's life is when he buys a boat. The very best day, though, is when he sells the boat. I've never had a boat, so I can neither confirm nor deny that. I do, though, find that true for summer. I love to see it come. I like the slower pace, going on vacation, hanging out with friends at the pool, and getting a break from the grind of school and general busyness. I also like getting a small break from church. Wednesday nights, youth groups, children's ministries, and the holy seasons of Advent, Lent, and Easter have all been fantastic. They have also been draining. It will be nice to take a break and get a breather. I welcome that.

None of that is to say that we do nothing at church in the summer. We have VBS, and mission trips, and camps at Montreat. I encourage you take advantage of these things that we don't get to do during the school year. I also encourage you to come to worship on Sunday mornings and maintain your giving. Contrary to what Tim Russert used to say, "If it's Sunday morning, it is NOT Meet the Press. It's church." It might be more relaxed, but Sundays in the summer are just as much the Lord's day as any other Sunday.

So, go on vacation, take a breather, enjoy the pool, stay cool, and catch a lightning bug or two. While you're at it, go to Gary. That trip has proven to be life-changing for so many people. Help out at VBS. We will have a Director of Children & Youth Ministries, Sarah Evans Shetley, by then (more on that later) and she'll need all the help she can get. And come to worship. Sarah Allred will be on sabbatical (more on that later, too), but she has some good music lined up. I'll be preaching out of Luke's Gospel.

(continued on pg. 2)

WELCOME

(continued from pg. 1)

And then... before you know it, about the time that we need some more discipline and structure, when we get so sick of the heat and humidity and sunburns... fall will be approaching and the Summer of 2019 will be a thing of the past. God has given us a great season both inside and outside these walls. I will see you then and there.

Yours in Christ,



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

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Save the date:

For a detailed list of summer events at MPC, please see the calendar on the last page of this newsletter.



"GOD IS DAY AND NIGHT,
WINTER AND SUMMER, WAR
AND PEACE, SURFEIT AND
HUNGER."

HERACLITUS

We Celebrate New Members



Joanne Vanderbosh by Transfer of Letter
from Myers Park Presbyterian Church,
Charlotte, NC



Nick and Sarah Wagner by Reaffirmation
of Faith (Nick) and Profession of Faith
and Baptism (Sarah)



Barry and Pat Thomas by Transfer of Letter
from Woodstock Presbyterian Church,
Woodstock, Virginia



With joy and thanksgiving, we welcomed Adam, Josephine, and their mom, Sarah Wagner into the Christian Family, through baptism. 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. Join us as we welcome them to the church family!

Welcome our new DCYE, Sarah Evans Shetley

At its stated meeting last February, the Session approved a job description and created a search committee to find a Director of Christian Education. The title was changed slightly to Director of Children & Youth Ministries since we wanted the position to focus on children and youth. Martin Best chaired the committee and served with Carrie Thompson, Andrew Perry, Daniel Pleasants, Liz Adkisson, Darren Busbee, and Beth Pirie. Luke Maybry served as an ex-officio member.

After reviewing numerous resumes, the committee interviewed three different candidates. They voted unanimously to recommend to Session that Sarah Evans Shetley be offered the position. The Session agreed, extended the offer, and Sarah Evans accepted. She starts on June 3rd.

Sarah Evans grew up in Union, SC, and is a recent graduate of Presbyterian College in Clinton. She was highly recommended by both her professors and the pastors with whom she interned over the summer. The committee was especially impressed with her organizational/planning skills, people skills, and the maturity of her faith.

Sarah Evans (we're calling her by her double name so we won't confuse her with our music director, Sarah Allred) will be a great addition to our staff and to our church. We look forward to having her on board and giving her a warm welcome on June 3rd.



A message from Sarah Evans . . .

As a recent graduate of Presbyterian College I am excited that God's call on my life has led me to serve alongside you all at MPC. In my time working on staff at MPC, I will also be attending Union Presbyterian Seminary in Charlotte, NC part time to obtain both a M. of Divinity along with a M. of Christian Education. While growing up, I was lucky enough to enjoy the pleasures of Union, SC where there is always a familiar face and I look forward to having a similar experience in Matthews as well. I am excited for the new adventures to come as we walk alongside one another in our community of faith. You will come to know that my ears and my office door alike are always open. Come sit a spell.



STEWARDSHIP

Managing God's Gifts To Us

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 April 30, 2019, \$437,603.79 or 82.3% 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 resurface church parking lots	\$ 33,200.00
Repaired church bus	\$ 2,951.48
Installed energy efficient lights	\$ 14,240.50
Carpeted CWC downstairs	\$ 15,971.00
Installed woodwork in CWC Friendship Court	\$ 3,960.00
Painted CWC downstairs (excluding sanctuary)	\$ 4,900.00

Ongoing Projects:

BB&T Loan Principal (Church Mortgage)	\$225,000.00
A \$25,000 payment is made every quarter through June 2019	

**Planned Projects:

- Remove & replace oil furnace in the chapel building
- Paint/wrap church bus
- Repair termite and water damage in the chapel building
- 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.

The Melodies & Memories of Bluegrass Sunday

On May 5th with glad and generous hearts, we praised God together with Good Shepherd and MorningStar Presbyterian churches for our annual Bluegrass Service. It was a joy to worship with our brothers and sisters in Christ. The sanctuary was full. The singing was robust. The smiles were infectious. And lunch was delicious! Rev. Robert Austell from GSPC gave the message sharing stories from his time at Camp Bluegrass. He noted how welcoming, friendly, and supportive the participants of the camp were and asked us to consider how we, as the church, can reflect those principles in what we do.

Although Bluegrass Sunday is a time of joy and fellowship, this year it was a little bittersweet. The incredibly sweet and talented Dickie Forbis was not with us this year. We missed him and his virtuosic mandolin playing. Dickie passed away this winter. We celebrated his memory by giving the band the title, The Dickie Forbis Bluegrass Band, and recognizing his dear wife, Linda.

We are sure Dickie was looking down on us and picking along.

Special thanks to the Fellowship and Member Care Committee, Worship Committee, instrumentalists, singers, and choirs for all their hard work putting this service together!



* Pictured (right)
Chip Meyers extending
a hand of thanks to
Dickie Forbis at last
year's Bluegrass
service. We are
grateful to have
known Dickie, to have
worshipped beside
him, and to have been
blessed with his
musical talents.



Sarah Allred's Six-Week Summer Sabbatical

Through the generosity of the Personnel Committee and the session of Matthews Presbyterian Church, I will be taking a six-week sabbatical starting July 1st and ending August 11th. Although I will miss my MPC family during this time away, I am so grateful for an opportunity to reflect, explore, and rest. I plan to reflect on my almost ten years in ministry at MPC surveying the good and the not so good to help inform new or established facets of my work. Through spiritual counseling, reflection, visiting other churches, and volunteering with a Girls Rock Camp, I plan to explore areas for growth personally, professionally, spiritually, musically, and organizationally. Finally, I hope to rest by connecting with family and friends, visiting the beach (hopefully), and playing, via games and hobbies I rarely have time to enjoy. I am so thankful to be the Director of Music Ministries at MPC. I knew this was a special place 10 years ago as I got deeper and deeper into the interview process. I am so glad to still be here, but I am also thankful to be able to step away for this sabbatical to get a better perspective on my work here. I love this church and look forward to being back with you August 12th.

* Summer music note: While I am away this summer, music will still happen in worship. Tom Kiff, our FANTASTIC organist, will be here to provide service music for the summer. Along with that, there will be a variety of special music offerings. Our church is full of talented musicians. You will hear from many of them this summer!

EMPYs = Extraordinary Matthews Presbyterian Youth

At the end of each school year, the Christian Education Committee along with the parents and youth advisors plan a special event to recognize our wonderful youth. Although we had gotten away from it for a few years, we were excited to bring back the EMPYs this year. This event has a special place in many hearts. We gather together for food and fellowship to recognize all our extraordinary youth. A few youth are highlighted with awards for silly, sweet, or funny things that happened throughout the year. There are always a few fun surprises during the night. Then, we recognize our seniors with a special roast by roast master extraordinaire, Scott Novak. He does a wonderful job at just slightly embarrassing our seniors while celebrating their journey to the wonderful young adults they have become. Our seniors this year are Josie Karrenstein, Stephanie (Stelli) Meyers, Kaitlin Novak, and Sallie Perry. With joy, we celebrate them and wish them all the best on the next part of journey.

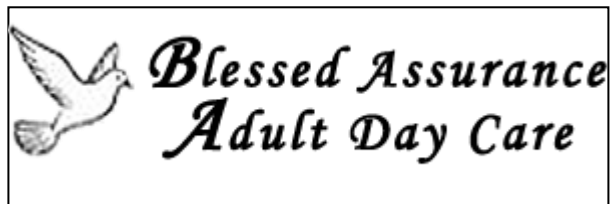


Above: The ladies of the hour, Kaitlin Novak, Stelli Meyers, and Josie Karrenstein. Andrew Perry attended and represented his sister, Sallie Perry, who was unable to attend. Entertainment was provided by members of Session and the "Old Dads on the Block" band, made up of MPC Youth dads.



* Pictured (left)
Session preforms a hilarious America's Got Talent music skit and "Old Dad's on the Block" sing a medley of "boy band" pop songs for the crowd.

SERVE



Blessed Assurance Adult Day & Health Care Services, Inc. gives families peace of mind by taking care of loved one with kindness, warmth and encouragement. Their goal is to preserve the dignity and enhance the quality of life for those they serve through a caring, stimulating, therapeutic and enjoyable environment.

Go to their website to learn more
www.blessedadultcare.org

Our goal is to support the staff at Blessed Assurance in their mission. Each Friday on the first month of the quarter, a group of people from MPC visit with the neighbors at the daycare. Sometimes we sing songs, do a devotional, or bring cards or gifts, but we always pray for and with the neighbors. We also serve communion one Thursday during the first month of each quarter. If you would like to participate in this important ministry, contact the church office for more information.



Upcoming Organ Recital at MPC

You are invited to an Organ Recital in our Sanctuary, June 2nd at 7pm. David Brinson will offer a variety of organ music in his program sponsored by the Charlotte Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. David served as our Director of Music Ministries from 2007-2008. He now serves Davidson College Presbyterian Church as their Associate Director of Music.

* Bring a friend - all are welcome!

Become a Volunteer at Matthews HELP Center



Helping Ease Local Poverty

Since 1979

Free time this summer? Volunteer in our local community! Matthews Presbyterian Church has always been a strong supporter of the Matthews HELP Center and now is a great time to get involved. Here are ways you can help:

- Thrift Boutique Worker
- Thrift Boutique Cashier
- Perishable Food Pick-Up
- Maintenance Volunteer
- Internship

Matthews HELP Center offers a variety of volunteer opportunities to match the interest of anyone 14 years of age or older. Volunteers normally work one four-hour shift per week.

For more information about the volunteer program at Matthews HELP Center, contact Sandra Conway, Human Resource Manager, at sandra@matthewshelpcenter.org or 704-847-8383 ext. 300.

* Fill out a volunteer application online at <http://matthewshelpcenter.org/volunteer.html>

Worship and Music Conference at Montreat

From June 23-29, 15 youth and 4 adults will be traveling to the NC mountains for the annual Worship and Music Conference. We look forward to this week each and every year. This year, we are excited to be together, but also to explore the subject of God's peace in the midst of chaos.

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid." -John 14:27

With worship, music, art, drama, conversation, and more, we will explore our faith through this topic and bring back new ideas for MPC.

Keep us in your thoughts and prayers.

Sarah Allred, Janet and Jeff Cline, Emilie DeVantier, Josie and Mallory Karrenstein, Brooke Libbey, Julia Maybry, Stelli Meyers, Charlotte and Katie Peele, Andrew Perry, Caroline and Sarah Purdie, Kaitlin and Carly Novak, Miller Webb, Hannah Williams, and William Turk.

Youth Summer Mission Trip

This summer our youth are taking a trip to Swansboro, NC to do hurricane relief work. They leave on June 17th and return June 21st. The work they will do will be similar to the work we do in Gary, WV, such as minor repairs, painting, cleaning, light carpentry, etc. During their trip, they will stay at a local camp with lots of opportunities for fun. They also will take a trip to the beach, which isn't far away. This will also be Sarah Evans' first trip with our youth. Keep these youth and adults in your prayers.

Stacy Caldwell, Sarah Evans Shetley, Howie Webb, James Gatlin, Miller Webb, Brooke Libbey, Emilie DeVantier, and Caroline Purdie

Why should our youth go on mission trips? Mission trips broaden perspectives.

"Beyond broadening perspectives, mission trips demand that teenagers participate. Painting a house, playing with kids, serving a meal, sleeping on an air mattress, experiencing a new culture – these are a few examples of ways comfort zones are crossed. But when coupled with intentional processing and worship, mission trips have the unique ability to challenge students' comfortable perceptions of God and the world. Faith steps beyond the doors of the church and demands to be applied to real-world living."

- quoted from <https://youthworks.com/blog/5-reasons-every-teenager-should-go-on-a-mission-trip/>

GROW IN FAITH

Digging Deeper

by Pastor Luke

The Charlotte/Matthews community has now experienced two school shootings in six months. School shootings are a uniquely American phenomenon. Since 1970, we have seen 111 cases of it that fit the FBI's definition of an active-shooter scenario, in which an assailant is actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people on school property or inside school buildings. A total of 202 people have been killed in these cases and 454 injured. None of this includes other episodes of gun violence that happen at schools like gang related shootings, drive by shootings, or suicide. When taking those into account, the total number of recorded cases involving gunfire at K-12 schools since 1970 is over 1300. And... none of that includes college campuses. To put this in perspective, that's 57 times as many school shootings as other industrialized nations combined.

Additionally, in that same time frame, 1.45 million Americans have died from gun violence, which is a greater number than every American killed in combat since the Revolutionary War. Another sobering statistic? In America, more children under the age of four die from firearms (110 in 2016) than police officers do in the line of duty (65 in 2016).

Gun violence in America is an alarming problem. And... it is a uniquely American problem. And yet legislative action since 1970 has been scant. Contrast that with New Zealand, in which Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern's government took only twenty-six days to tighten gun laws and ban assault rifles after a mass shooting there in March.

This is a complicated problem, to be sure, and it involves a great deal more than gun control. But God's children are dying at alarming rates and the Church must therefore act. Not to act is to be complicit in the killing.

In 1905, college football was in its infancy. It was gaining mass popularity as a growing American pastime. Fifteen players were killed that year on the gridiron. It was out of control. College presidents wanted to ban it. US President Theodore Roosevelt called coaches and administrators together and instructed them to make it safer, that the deaths were unacceptable. They came up with what we now know as the NCAA.

Gun violence eclipses that exponentially. Where is our resolve in addressing it? We are not helpless in this crisis. It does not have to be this way. We serve a God who lives and reigns and who will one day turn our swords into plowshares and our spears into pruning hooks. That day is surely coming. We know where this struggle is leading and who ultimately wins it. So let's fight it. We are more than conquerors.

“If civilization is to survive, we must cultivate the science of human relationships—the ability of all peoples, of all kinds, to live together, in the same world at peace.”

Franklin D. Roosevelt



Join in the VBS Fun at MPC!

July 29th -August 2nd ~ 9am-noon

* VBS for 3 year olds – entering 6th grade *

Middle School Bible School for entering 7th - 8th grade

*Church members: \$10 per child with a \$20 cap per family

*Non-member: \$15 per child with a \$30 cap

To register, fill out a VBS registration form, located on the sign up table or on the website.

Volunteers are needed! Youth (rising high school and up) & adults of all ages are welcome.

For more information, contact Leisa@matthewspresbyterian.org



**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 23rd 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.

On May 1st, 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 that donated throughout the school year.

We have seen so many developmental changes this year! The infants are now walking 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 have very few openings for the 2019-2020 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.matthewspreschool.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 2 – Family Fun Hour for Children, Youth, and their Parents at 9:15am

June 7 – MPC to the Symphony at Stumptown Park starts at 8:15pm

June 17-21 – Youth Swansboro Mission Trip

June 23-29 – Youth and Adults to Montreat Worship and Music Conference

July 25-28 – Gary, WV Mission Trip

July 29-August 2 – Everywhere Fun Fair Vacation Bible School

August 25 – Blessing of the Backpacks



Matthews Presbyterian Church

A community for you.



Reverend Luke H. Maybry - Pastor
Sarah Allred - Director of Music Ministries
Sarah Evans Shetley - Director of
Children and Youth Ministries
Tom Kiff - Organist
Leisa Gill - Administrative Assistant
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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