

THE WINDOW

MPC Quarterly Newsletter

Season of Stewardship 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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matthewspresbyterian.org

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The Pastor's Page

by Reverend Luke H. Maybry



Dear Members and Friends of MPC,

I tuned in to NPR on my way to work this morning, like I always do, but learned that it was the beginning of their fall pledge campaign... so I immediately tuned out. For whatever reason, those "pledge campaigns" repulse me. The only thing that drives me crazier than people asking for my money is when I have to ask for theirs.

So here I sit during our own "pledge campaign" asking you for cash. We've got to get our 2020 budget together, so I need to ask you for cash. Please give your money to the Lord, we preachers say. The address is 207 W. John Street. And...please give generously, because the Lord loves a generous giver (and so do I).

Stewardship is a great deal more than just money, but stewardship includes money and nothing makes us more uncomfortable than that. Most of us don't mind being asked to give time, talents, and gifts, just so long as those gifts don't entail money. But they do entail money.

But what if our giving itself is a gift? The theme for this year's campaign is "and he thanked Him." It's about the one leper out of ten whom Jesus healed who remembered to give thanks. My sense of that story is that giving thanks itself was part of the healing. The other nine lepers forgot that. They were healed of the leprosy, but were they healed of their brokenness? The story isn't clear on that.

What is clear though is that we have a role to play in our own healing. God has saved us in Jesus Christ and has gathered us to this community as part of that salvation. God has given us hope, meaning, and purpose. God has made us a new creation. Yet we are not just passive recipients in that creation. We have a role to play. We can live it, enjoy it, and share it. When we do that, that healing becomes more real for us.

(continued on pg. 2)

WELCOME

(continued from pg. 1)

This year's campaign will start on October 13 and run through November 10, which is Dedication Sunday. The goal this year is to have 100% participation. It's vital that we remember to give thanks. God has been immensely good to all of us through the Church, specifically through Matthews Presbyterian Church. God is doing a good thing among us. God has given us all a bright future. Don't forget to give thanks.

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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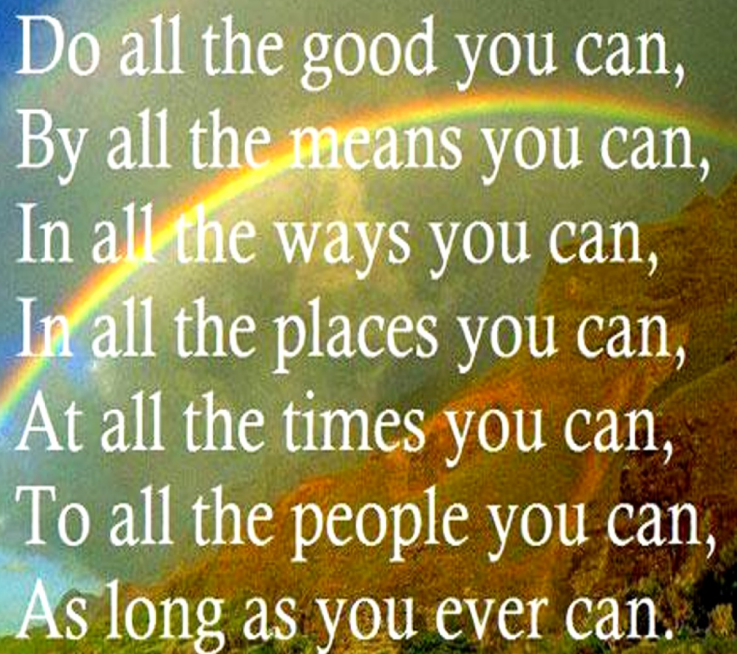
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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

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Save the date:

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

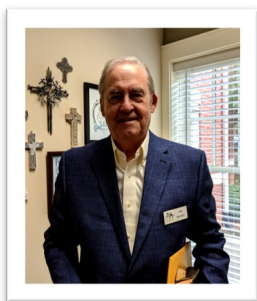


Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as you ever can.

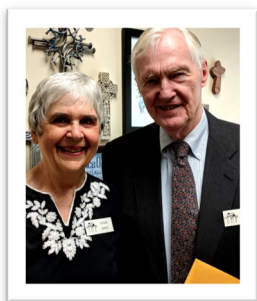
John Wesley (1703-1791)



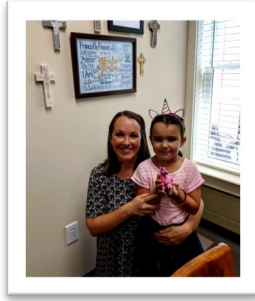
We Celebrate New Members



Jim Wagner by Transfer of Letter from Myers Park Presbyterian Church, Charlotte, NC.



Robert and Susan Davis by Transfer of Letter from First Presbyterian Church, Wheaton, IL.



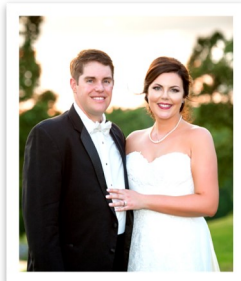
Ashley Posey by Reaffirmation of Faith; proud mom of Penelope Posey, previously baptized.



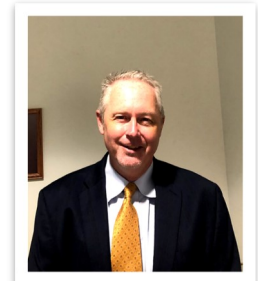
Sharon Peacock by Transfer of Letter from St. John's Episcopal Church, Charlotte, NC.



Dave and Sonny Bird by Transfer of Letter from Burnt Store Presbyterian Church, Punta Gorda, FL.



Jordan Wilmoth (pictured with his wife, MPC member, Marianne Schild Wilmoth) by Transfer of Letter from Salem Fork Christian Church, Dobson, NC.



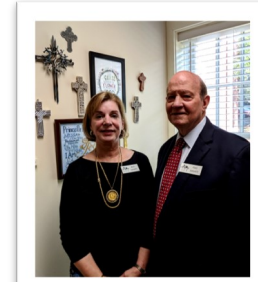
David Gilpin by Transfer of Letter from Living Savior Lutheran Church, Charlotte, NC. Proud parent of Zachary and Liam Gilpin, previously baptized.



Matt McLean by Transfer of Letter from First Presbyterian Church, Charlotte, NC and Kelly McLean by Profession of Faith and Baptism. Proud parents of Lily and Mya McLean, previously baptized.



Stacy Peronne by Transfer of Letter from Myers Park Presbyterian Church, Charlotte, NC. Stacy is the proud parent of Abigail and Alice Peronne.



Fred and Mary Hargett by Transfer of Letter from First Presbyterian Church, Monroe, NC.



With joy and thanksgiving, we welcomed Pearl Anna Wilmoth, daughter of Jordan and Marianne Wilmoth, and Kelly McLean 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 Pearl Anna and Kelly!

What is Stewardship?

We often use the word ‘stewardship,’ in regards to money. While stewardship does include our use of money, the word is more general. In the dictionary, stewardship is defined as: “the position and duties of a steward, a person who acts as the surrogate of another or others, especially by managing property, financial affairs, an estate...the responsible overseeing and protecting of something considered worth caring for and preserving.”

So, if I am a steward, I am managing or overseeing something that doesn’t belong to me. I’m not the owner, but I have the responsibility to make sure it’s being handled properly. If I’m the steward of a farm, I don’t own the animals, equipment, or land, but I take care of it as if I am the owner. If I’m the steward of someone’s money, I decide how the money is spent.

Our Lord owns everything. Jesus calls Christians to be stewards of what is His, and we are responsible for how we manage it. In the beginning, God created everything and put Adam in the garden to “work it and keep it.” There is much in our lives the Lord calls us to steward. With that said, this article will focus specifically on our stewardship of time and money.

Stewards of Time

It doesn’t matter how much money you have, where you are from, what color you are, or what your job is, we all have the same amount of time. You can’t buy or borrow more time from others, there’s absolutely nothing you can do to change how much time you have in a day.

So, if we’ve been given a specific amount of time, then we must be intentional and wise with how we use the time God gives us. Just like everything else in our life, we will give an account for how we spend our time (Romans 14:12). In Ephesians 4:15-16 we are instructed: “Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men, but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil.”

Knowing that our time on earth is a vapor (James 4:14), let us consider how we spend our days and be careful not to waste time. Using our time wisely does not necessarily mean turning into a busybody, as rest and enjoyment are gifts from the Lord. However, let us be careful that we are not taking a blessing from the Lord and turning it into a meaningless time-waster.

Stewards of Money

Jesus says something stunning in Matthew 6:21: “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” It might seem like our use of money has little bearing on our spiritual life, but Jesus teaches that the way we spend our money is actually a window into our heart. We can look at our spending and see what we truly value.

In the book, *Spiritual Disciplines in the Christian Life*, by Dr. Donald Whitney, Whitney argues the same point: “But as much as anything else, the reason use of money and the things it buys is one of the best indicators of spiritual maturity and Godliness is that we exchange such a great part of our lives for it. Because we invest most of our days working in exchange for money, there is a very real sense in which our money represents us. Therefore, how we use it expresses who we are, what our priorities are, and what’s in our hearts.”

We can say we love God and His church, but at the end of the day, the way we spend our money will show us what we truly value.

All of our time and money belong to the Lord. We shouldn’t think that God simply wants a small portion of our time on Sunday or a small percentage of our money. Rather, we are to prayerfully consider how we spend each minute and every dollar that the Lord entrusts to us. May we be good stewards of our time and money for the glory of God!

-Taken from “The Importance of Stewardship in the Christian Life” by James Williams

Questions to prayerfully consider during this Season of Stewardship:

What does your use of time say about your desire for the Lord?

How can you spend your time better?

Do you have anything that is wasting time in your life?

What does your use of money say about your walk with the Lord?

How can you spend your money in a way that is more honoring to the Lord?

What’s one practical change you can make right now?



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 August 31, 2019, \$449,365.82 or 84% 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.

Sarah Allred Reflects on Her Sabbatical

This Summer, I was given the opportunity by the Personnel Committee and the Session to take a sabbatical. From July 1 through August 12, I had an intentional period of reflection and rest for which I am very grateful. I was able to spend quality time visiting family in Charleston, WV, Midland, MI, and New York, NY. I took a weekend trip to the beach with my husband, something we rarely get to do because our weekends don't line up. I read a few books. I volunteered as a band manager for Girls Rock Charlotte, a week-long camp where teen girls form a rock band and write their own original song. It was a great six-weeks away.

There is something about taking a step back from your everyday responsibilities that gives you a renewed perspective on what's important in life. I had some help with this from a counselor. The counselor helped me pause and meditate on what I loved about my life, what I love that is missing from my life, and things in my life that need more love.

First of all, I love my life. My family is wonderful. My job is meaningful. I have the things I need. I came away from my six-weeks off with a renewed sense of gratitude and appreciation for the life I have.

In my reflection, I realized that I am lacking consistent experiences that nurture me and help me to grow. So, luckily there are lots of opportunities to be nurtured and grow. I am going to take more time to read about things I'm interested in. I have already started going to community events that I'm curious about. I went to the mayoral and county commissioner debate that our community forum hosted. I went to Creative Morning Charlotte's September event to hear John Tosco speak. He is an impressive person. These experiences give me renewed creative energy that I can use in all facets of my life.

Finally, I hope to spend more time nurturing the people in my life. It is so easy for me to get lost in the details and minutia when what is most important is the people. At home, I tend to worry about chores, bills, or repairs. Instead, I should enjoy the precious time I have with my husband and my dogs. At work, while being organized is important, I am constantly striving for that perfect level of organization that, frankly, is unachievable. Instead, I want to spend meaningful time with my colleagues and the people of MPC building relationships and creating wonderful artistic expressions of our gratitude to God.

Thank you for this opportunity to rest and reflect this summer. It has made a huge impact on my personal and professional life. I am so grateful to be the Director of Music at Matthews Presbyterian Church!

Sarah's Summer Reading . . .

I read a book this summer called "This Is Your Brain on Music." It was fascinating! You should read it! To sum it all up in one sentence, we all have an incredible understanding of music. All of us! Your brain is able to understand music in ways you may not even have language to define. Basically, you all know just as much about music as I do, you just don't have the words to describe it!

All that is to say, you should come make music with me!!! There are lots of ways to do that, no matter your age or perceived musical ability.

MPC to Host Presentation on Mental Health: "Into The Light"

On Sunday, September 22, from 6:30 - 8:30pm, our church will be hosting guest speaker David Johnson from Silent Images. David will be giving a presentation called "Into the Light" highlighting a documentary series created by Silent Images focusing on mental health. The series was created to raise awareness and understanding of mental health in our community. David is the founder and director of Silent Images, located in downtown Matthews. His mission is to raise awareness and get people talking about mental health. Area churches will be invited to participate in this special event, and coffee and light desserts will be provided in the Friendship Court. We hope you can join us!

For more information on David Johnson or Silent Images, please visit their website:

www.silentimages.org



Children's Music:

Wednesdays during AMP
Cherub Choir for Preschool - 1st Grade
Cathedral Choir for 2nd- 5th Grade

Youth Music:

Sunday nights at 6pm
for 6th - 12th Grade

Adult Music:

Spirit Ringers -
Wednesdays at 6:30pm
Chancel Choir -
Wednesdays at 7:30pm
Jam Sessions on the first
Sunday of the month at 4pm

For more information on our music
ministry, contact Sarah Allred at
sarah@matthewspresbyterian.org

Youth Mission Trips: A Summer of Blessings

by Miller Webb

This summer, the youth went on a multitude of trips, all very fun and successful. The first trip we went on was to Swansboro, NC. In Swansboro, we helped this woman named Patty. Her house was almost swept away by Hurricane Florence last year. Over the summer, we helped her fix up her house and get her life back together. Our group felt that we got closer to Patty as the week went on. When we finished the project, she told us she wanted to take a picture of us in front of her house so she can remember all the people who helped her fix all the damage. She was very excited and happy that we took time out of our summer to help her.

The next trip our youth went on was to Montreat, NC for a Worship and Music Conference. The middle and high schoolers go on this trip every year and have a blast!! Everyday, we go to classes that are centered around the theme for the week. This year's theme was "Not as the World Gives". We also attend the worship service everyday at the auditorium where we hear amazing preachers and sermons. Every year, the conference gets new staff so every time you attend the conference, it's a little different than the time before. There are a variety of activities every night, including a talent show, hymn festival, and open mic night. On the last night, we have a concert at the auditorium where all the music groups share the songs they have learned during the week. The youth have fun, time after time, in Montreat and learn more and more about Jesus Christ.

The last trip our youth attended this year was a mission trip to Gary, WV. This was our 15th year going up and helping their community. This year we did a multitude of projects including painting a church, demoing and refurnishing a greenhouse, painting the inside of a home, and much more. We are always told that we get more work done in two days than most groups do in one week! This year was no exception. Since we finished our projects early, we got to spend some time around the School For Life, where we stay, and help Jack and Marjie with projects. Jack Fultz has been running the School For Life ever since we've been going to West Virginia. He has dedicated his life to improving the Gary, WV area. Marjie Moore works alongside Jack at the School and works with the young girls in the community. She started Sunlight Ministries, an organization that the children of the community help to run. Every time we come, they put on a performance in the gym and we go in and watch their dance. This year, that performance was accompanied by a memorial service for Bryan Gustus. For those who don't know Bryan, he was the sweetest, smartest guy you would ever meet. He loved the West Virginia Mountaineers, he loved Gary, WV, and he loved everyone he met. About a year ago, Bryan passed away unexpectedly. This summer wasn't the same without him. Bryan was a huge part of our trip and he was dearly missed this summer. However, our trip was still successful and we made a positive impact on the community, which is our ultimate goal!!

On behalf of the church, we thank you for always supporting our mission trips and helping to let us keep going back year after year. Not only are our trips fun, but impactful on the communities we help.

Our Children and Youth Enjoyed Summer Fun at MPC

We stayed very busy this summer at MPC. On Tuesdays, the children and youth rotated on a bi-weekly schedule for an activity either in the greater Charlotte area or at church. The youth spent some of these Tuesdays figuring out an escape room, redecorating their new and improved youth lounge, and swimming. The Preschool and Elementary children spent some of their time playing water games, watching a performance at ImaginOn, and painting. This time on Tuesdays served as a way for Sarah Evans to get better acquainted with these groups and to have a time of fellowship together.

Vacation Bible School was also a big hit this summer!! With roughly 65 kids in attendance daily, they rotated through stations doing science, crafts, music, and learning a Bible story each day that was dramatized by our middle school group. Each station served to teach children a different way in which the Bible calls us to care for our neighbors.

SERVE



The youth will be volunteering at Samaritan House bi-monthly throughout the school year.

Samaritan House provides short term recuperative care for the homeless recently discharged from local hospitals.

Our youth will share in fellowship with guests at Samaritan House; sharing snacks and playing board games together.

If you would like to participate in this mission or learn more about Samaritan House, please contact Sarah Evans.

get involved.
join a committee.

Help us plan all that's happening around the church by joining a committee.

The following committees meet on the 1st Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm:

Christian Education & Spiritual Growth
Worship & Music
Mission & Outreach
Fellowship & Member Care
Building & Grounds

Come be a part of the important work these committees do for our church.



PW Yard and Bake Sale

Please support the PW Yard/Bake Sale on, Saturday, September 21, by donating items, volunteering to help sort and price, by baking goodies, or by helping on Saturday. Twenty five percent of the proceeds will be split between the Charlotte Presbytery Disaster Relief Fund and Room in the Inn. Unsold items will be donated to the Kidney Foundation.

Donation items may be dropped off in the Fellowship Hall:

September 18 - 20
from 10:00am - 1:00pm
and 6:00pm - 8:00pm

Come and shop the PW Yard and Bake Sale!

Fellowship Hall

Saturday, September 21st

From 8am to 12pm

Digging Deeper

by Pastor Luke

It's hard to read the Bible and not come away with an idea that we're supposed to welcome strangers and aliens. "You shall love the stranger," God tells us in Deuteronomy 10:19, "for you were strangers in the land of Egypt." We read verses like that dozens of times in both the Old and New Testament. The Israelites leaving Egypt and wandering around for forty years were nothing if they weren't a caravan of refugees. So when Israel found a home in Canaan, how could they not show kindness to strangers there?

Mary & Joseph fled Palestine with their infant baby, named Jesus, to escape religious and political persecution. Ironically enough, they had to go back to Egypt. What were they if they weren't refugees? Part of our collective story as a people of faith is being a refugee. We know what it's like to pack everything we own, put it on our backs, and flee in terror. That's part of our collective story as the people of God.

It's also part of our collective story as Presbyterians. There is a reason, after all, that we are no longer in Scotland. We were persecuted there, so like Mary & Joseph before us and like Moses before them, we fled. Most of us left Ulster from Scotland to land in Ireland, only to be driven out there to Philadelphia, where we moved west to Pittsburgh and then south to the Carolinas.

How dare, then, that we, who have been refugees no fewer than four times in our collective history and have found a home nonetheless, not be gracious to refugees today? I understand the need for laws and rules and maybe even physical barriers in some places (walls), but the world has more refugees in it now than at any time since the end of World War II. Whatever the Christian response is, the emphasis must necessarily be grace and mercy. If it's not, then whatever it is, it's not Christian.

**"Refugees are mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, children,
with the same hopes and ambitions as us—except that a twist of fate
has bound their lives to a global refugee crisis on an unprecedented scale."**

— Khaled Hosseini



Our Sunday School Classes have moved! All adult classes are now located on the second floor of the new sanctuary building. The Explorers and Living & Learning adult classes study scripture by picking a particular book of the Bible and reading/talking through it together. The Genesis class, also for adults, will sometimes choose a particular book, but they also work through different curriculum studies.

Our Youth Sunday School class is “Feasting On The Word” this year as they study a lectionary based curriculum. Together, they study scripture and try to make sense of how it applies to their lives today and how it calls them to live in the world.

Both our Prek-1st grade and our 2nd-5th grade classes are using the Deep Blue curriculum to help them explore God’s Word this year. Through kid-friendly language our children learn who they are through the eyes of God.



Join the Women's Bible Study on Mark, beginning Tuesday, September 10th.

The class will meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month. Women who classify themselves as older are invited to join Jackie Ford at 10:30am. Women who classify themselves as younger are invited to join Betty Meadows at 7pm.

AMP is each Wednesday from 5:00-7:00pm for children 3 years old—8th grade.

Parents or guardians participating in Luke's Bible study or bell choir can pick up their children at 7:30pm.

Enjoy good food and fun at our weekly fellowship dinners!

Wednesday Night Supper begins at 5:45pm. Adults are \$6.00; children \$3.00.

Spirit Ringers rehearse from 6:30-7:20pm. Join our adult handbell choir!

Contact Sarah Allred for more information.

sarah@matthewspresbyterian.org

New Midweek Bible Study for Young Mothers

Sarah Evans is offering a book study for moms of preschool/elementary age children.

This study will be held on Wednesdays from 12pm-1pm, starting September 25.

We will be reading ***Rhythms of Rest: Finding The Spirit of Sabbath in a Busy World***.

Sabbath-keeping not only brings physical refreshment, it restores the soul. God commands us to "remember the Sabbath," but is it realistic in today's fast-paced culture? In this warm and helpful book, Shelly Miller dispels legalistic ideas about Sabbath and shows how even busy people can implement a rhythm of rest into their lives--whether for an hour, a morning, or a whole day. With encouraging stories from people in different stages in life, Miller shares practical advice for having peaceful, close times with God. You will learn simple ways to be intentional about rest, ideas for tuning out distractions and tuning in God, and even how meals and other times with friends and family can be Sabbath experiences.

Ultimately, this book is an invitation to those who long for rest but don't know how to make it a reality. Sabbath is a gift from God to be embraced, not a spiritual hoop to jump through.



Matthews
Presbyterian Church
Child Development Center



Our preschool program is off to a wonderful start this school year! Enrollment has been blossoming with many new families! We love to see our preschool grow! The infants are beginning to fall into a schedule, the toddlers are adjusting nicely, the 2's are so busy, the 3's are loving art and the 4's center time is already running like a well-oiled machine. We have been learning all about our new friends, our family, apples, leaves, and colors this month. Be sure to peek into our classrooms at the artwork that has already been done by our little hands.

We have many exciting things planned for the fall season including nature walks, pictures and our all-school Thanksgiving Feast just to name a few. We are looking forward to a wonderful year filled with learning and laughter!

If you or anyone you know is looking for a part time preschool, we do have a few spots available for the 2019-2020 school year. We have room for one infant, one toddler, and one 4-year-old.

If you would like more information on the preschool, check out our website at www.matthewsprespreschool.com or contact our preschool director, Heather Efird via email at cdcdirector@matthewspresbyterian.org or 704-847-5564.

Matthews Presbyterian Fall Calendar

Saturday, September 21 - PW Yard and Bake Sale to support the Presbytery Disaster Relief Fund and Room in the Inn

Sunday, September 22 - Into the Light: Starting the Conversation of Mental Health 6:30pm (free church wide event)

Sunday, October 6 - World Communion Sunday

Sunday, October 13 - Stewardship Kickoff Sunday

Sunday, October 27 - Trunk or Treat Sunday

Sunday, November 10 - Stewardship Dedication Sunday



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
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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