

# THE WINDOW

Matthews Presbyterian Church - Quarterly Newsletter *Season of Stewardship 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

Contact information:

704.847.4094

[www.matthewspresbyterian.org](http://www.matthewspresbyterian.org)



## The Pastor's Page

by Reverend Luke H. Maybry



Dear Members and Friends of MPC,

One of the blessings that we have as a church is to be in a great town. Most churches are in communities that not only are rapidly changing, but are losing their identity. If the identity of the local church is inherently connected to the identity of the community (as it should be), and the community is losing that identity, then the local church has a problem.

Things are different in Matthews. This area has drastically changed, to be sure, but Matthews has managed to maintain its identity. One of the big things that it has lacked, though in my opinion, is a unified faith community that is present and active. Chuck Wilson (pastor of Matthews United Methodist), Larry Whitley (pastor of Mt. Moriah Missionary Baptist), and I, and our congregations are determined to change that. We are meeting regularly and our congregations are coming together around topics that are important to the community.

To that end, we have held forums together to talk about race. We do that twice a year, once in February and once in August. We are also hosting a discussion here at MPC on educational equality, which has been a big topic in Matthews lately. You can read more about that later in this newsletter.

In my short nine months here, I have found that the community has not only welcomed, but longs for that involvement. Our country is deeply divided today, as you know. I believe that our healing will more likely come from small communities like ours coming together than from the halls of power in Washington, DC. We, the Church, and more specifically, we at Matthews Presbyterian Church, are an inherent part of that healing.

I am grateful for this town. Matthews is not just a bedroom community for Charlotte. We have a culture and a story all our own. Part of that story is this church. I am determined as its pastor to do my part to make it a meaningful, hopeful, and holy contribution.

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.**

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

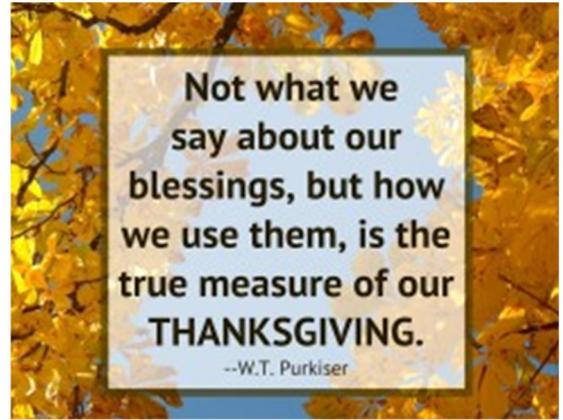
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## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Meet our new members (pg. 3)
- Capital Campaign & Stewardship news (pg. 4-5)
- Education Equality Forum (pg. 9)
- “Digging Deeper” (pg. 10)

### Save the date:

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

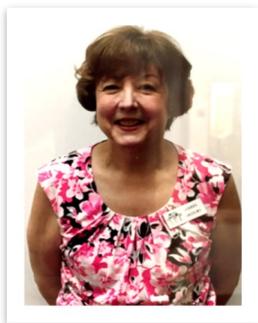


On July 15th, we welcomed a new member to the Christian Family, Ava Elizabeth Adkisson. The Book of Order reminds us that it is the responsibility of the whole congregation, particularly exercised through the session, to nurture those who are baptized as they grow in faith and seek to respond to Christ's call to discipleship. Join us as we welcome Ava to the church family!

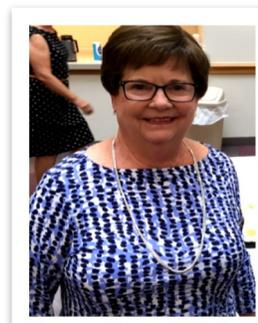
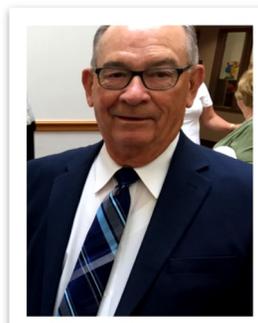


Ava Elizabeth Adkisson, Liz and Patrick

## *We Joyfully Welcome New Members to MPC*



Bo Lundh & Joanne Andrews joined by transfer of letter from First Presbyterian Church in Howard County, Maryland.



Ray & Jean Harrelson joined by transfer of letter from Albemarle Road Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, NC.



Terry Fallatt joined by transfer of letter from First Presbyterian Church, Rogers, Arkansas.



Venessa Tomberlin joined by transfer of letter from Hawley Memorial Presbyterian Church in Polkton, NC.



On May 20th, we welcomed our confirmands into membership at Matthews Presbyterian. Pictured (from left): Parker Davis, Charlotte Peele, Holden Bagley, Kadyne Pleasants, Emilie DeVantier, Carly Novak, (not pictured) Andrew Perry and James Gatlin.

# SHARE

## Meet our new Administrative Assistant



Leisa Gill has worked 5 years as an Executive Assistant for an Association Management Firm reporting to the president of the company. Prior to joining that firm Leisa had enjoyed a successful business in custom jewelry design for thirteen years. Leisa has also served as a Faith Formation Teacher for her church for many years.

Leisa is married to her husband Tom and has two daughters, Rebecca, a rising junior at UNC Charlotte and Elizabeth a rising senior at Butler High School. In her free time, Leisa enjoys traveling to the beach and the mountains, and spending time with her friends and family.

## 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 July 31, 2018, \$401,230.98 or 75% 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)	\$150,000.00
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A \$25,000 payment is made every quarter  
Through June 2019

Carpeting CWC downstairs

Painting CWC downstairs (excluding sanctuary)

### Planned Projects:

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

- Remove and replace oil furnace in the chapel building
- Remove carpet and refinish the hardwood floors in the chapel building
- Paint/wrap church bus
- Repair termite and water damage in the chapel building



## **Local to Global: MPC Goes Viral Stewardship, 2018**

This year's annual stewardship campaign is still in its planning stages, but several things have been established. It will kick off on Sunday, October 21<sup>st</sup> during worship with possibly a lunch afterwards. Stay tuned on that. It will run for four consecutive Sundays until November 11<sup>th</sup>, which will be Dedication Sunday. During that time, we will have a series of speakers, a sermon series, and booklet that we hope will answer some of your questions and raise awareness of all that God is doing at MPC.

For a congregation of four-hundred people, we have an extensive reach, both locally and globally. I have heard recently that a good measure of a congregation would be how much the community would miss it if it went away. MPC would be missed very much. While we must and will continue to support our ministry *inside* these walls, things like worship, Christian education, and fellowship events, we feel called to do more *outside* these walls.

God is calling MPC to get out in the community, out in the world even, to preach the Gospel and give witness to a greater truth, to the Light of the world that no darkness can put out. God has placed us here for such a time as this. So be on the lookout for Stewardship, 2018. We do good stuff locally and globally, much more than we think. Who knows, we might go viral next year! In the meantime, though, God has been generous to us and has indeed equipped the saints at Matthews Presbyterian Church. Please be in prayer and discernment and give generously as God has given to you.

*“Do you not know that God entrusted you with that money  
(all above what buys necessities for your families) to feed the hungry,  
to clothe the naked, to help the stranger, the widow, the fatherless;  
and, indeed, as far as it will go, to relieve the wants of all mankind?”  
– John Wesley*

## *Highlights of MPC Summer Fun . . .*

Summer at Matthews Presbyterian is a happening place! Our young people and adult volunteers are busy getting to know one another, growing in their faith, and exploring all the ways we can come closer to God!

At Montreat Youth Conference, we – along with about 1,000 of our closest friends - heard all about the history of the African-American traditional hymn, “Lift Every Voice and Sing.” Using the hymn text, we explored the ways God calls us to use our own voice, lift up the voice of others, and listen to voices we don’t always hear. During the week, we ate, played, joined in small groups and engaged in thought provoking keynotes with meaningful worship services.

Vacation Bible School lifted up all the ways we experience the life of Christ during the church year through the holidays of Christmas, Epiphany, Easter, and Pentecost. Our more than 50 participants and 20 volunteers ranged from 3 years old to a little over (ahem) 80! We had an Easter egg hunt, sang Christmas Carols, ate King cakes, and played “wind games” with our big parachute.

In late July, we proudly sent our mission trip volunteers off to Gary, West Virginia. For four days, members of our congregation worked, prayed, and enjoyed fellowship with our friends in Gary. Participants returned home inspired from sharing the gift of God’s love.

Throughout the summer, various youth donated their time and energy to help tackle some lingering projects throughout the church, including cleaning up the Christian Education Workroom, reorganizing our supplies, painting the walls, and finishing setting up on our CWC youth space.

While we return to the routine of the school year, it’s often the special, unique experiences we have over the course of the summer which bring us closer and provide the bonding which helps bring depth and richness to our school year programs. Plus – it’s a lot of fun! We are thankful for our summer times together!

### [Gary, WV Mission Trip 2018](#)



### [VBS 2018](#)



## Worship and Music Conference 2018

We had a wonderful time worshipping, singing, playing, eating, hiking, walking, laughing, and so much more together.



Montreat Conference Attendees: Hannah Williams, Mallory Karrenstein, Miller Webb, Caroline Purdie, Emilie DeVantier, Carly Novak, Charlotte Peele, Brooke Libbey, Kylie Drake, Josie Karrenstein, Stelli Meyers, Kaitlin Novak, Rebecca Bagley, Janet Cline, and Sarah Allred.

## Summer Arts Camp 2018

This year, we explored our gifts of music, art, and drama. We played instruments and sang, made banners, played drama games, and had fun. On Friday, we spent time at Blessed Assurance Adult Day Care sharing our music and art with them. It was a great week!



# SERVE

## Using our God-given Gifts

By Sarah Allred

After a summer out of our normal routine, we begin September with the opportunity to retune and reflect. What is God calling me to do with my gifts? How is God calling me to use my time? For me, it is an opportunity to remember the importance of relationships. When we come together each week in worship, rehearsal, or Bible study, we build relationships. God called us to this community to love and support one another to do God's work in the world. It is through bringing our gifts and skills together in relationship that those gifts can be multiplied. In Matthew 25:1-30, Jesus tells the Parable of the Talents. If you are not familiar, please grab your Bible and read it. It is by taking these talents and sharing them, that the two good slaves are able to make more. We all have gifts that could be multiplied when sharing. They may not seem like much on their own, but when combined with others, they are strengthened. Let us look for new opportunities to use our gifts in relationship with one another so that we as a church might further our mission with one another, the community, and the world.

## Music Ministry

There are ways for everyone to participate. Join us!

### For Adults:

Chancel Choir has started

Wednesdays from 7:30-8:45pm

Spirit Ringers Starts September 19

Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30pm

### For Youth (grades 6-12):

Youth Music starts September 23

Sundays from 6-6:45pm

### For Children (preschool-grade 5)

Children's Choir starts September 12

Wednesdays during AMP!

Preschool Choir starts September 12

Wednesdays during AMP!

**For more information about our Music Ministry contact Sarah Allred**

[sarah@matthewspresbyterian.org](mailto:sarah@matthewspresbyterian.org)

or 704.847.4094 ext. 1004



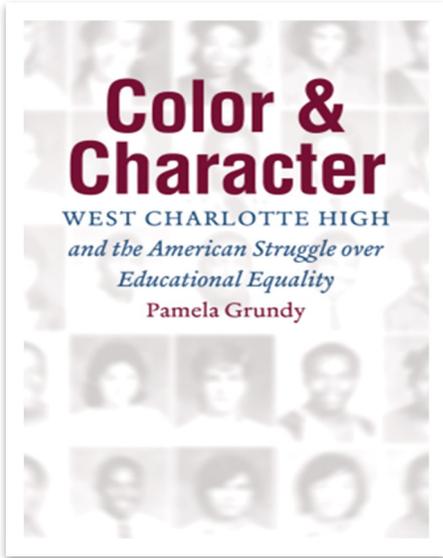
*Join us in giving back  
to our community!*

***Sunday, October 28th  
in the Fellowship Hall***

*“The greatness of a community  
is most accurately measured  
by the compassionate actions  
of its members.”*

*- Coretta Scott King*

# Upcoming Community Forum on Education Equality



**Specifically, the book *Color and Character*  
by Pamela Grundy**

**On September 16, 7pm**

**At Matthews Presbyterian Church**

The book highlights the journey of West Charlotte High School. Drawing on nearly two decades of interviews with students, educators, and alumni, Pamela Grundy uses the history of a community's beloved school to tell a broader American story of education, community, democracy, and race—all while raising questions about present-day strategies for school reform.

The evening will feature Judge **Lou Trosch**, a juvenile court judge in Charlotte who has worked extensively with Race Matters for Juvenile Justice and is an alumnus of West Charlotte High School.

## **MPC Volunteer Opportunities**

With Fall comes lots of ways to volunteer! Here's a few ways you can help out around the church:

### **With Children and Youth**

#### Sunday Morning Nursery Volunteers – (7<sup>th</sup> grade or older)

Get to know our youngest by volunteering in the nursery during the worship service! You will play, sing, and dance with those who are in either our infant/toddler or preschool nursery.

#### Elementary or Middle aged Sunday School Assistant or AMP/Wednesday Night Fellowship Helper – (9<sup>th</sup> grade or older)

Help our elementary or middle-aged students learn more about the Bible or themselves as an assistant to our lead teacher. You can volunteer as often or as few times as you'd like either on Sunday or Wednesday!

### **In Worship**

#### Lay Reader – (6<sup>th</sup> grade or older)

Help lead worship by leading the Prayer for Illumination and reading the Old Testament scripture.

#### Acolytes – (3<sup>rd</sup> grade or older)

Help lead worship by bringing in the Light of Christ and assisting with the offering.

### **In the Office/Around the Church**

#### Office Help – all ages

Come assist Leisa or other church staff with tasks like mailings, sorting, organizing, labeling, and other routine office jobs. Any help is appreciated!

#### Around the Church – all ages

There are lots of little jobs and tasks around the church waiting for someone to take them up. Some are simple and some take a little skill, but there are lots of ways to help!

**Contact [Leisa@matthewspresbyterian.org](mailto:Leisa@matthewspresbyterian.org) with questions or to get details.**

# GROW IN FAITH

## *Digging Deeper*

by Pastor Luke

Social change is always a difficult topic, especially when the church takes it up. Looking back over centuries of history, though, the church is often at its best when it dares to speak. John Wesley, the founder of what is now the United Methodist Church, was instrumental in starting the Temperance (anti-alcohol) Movement. Yet for Wesley, it was not so much anti-alcohol as it was anti-hard liquor. Wesley protested the practice of 18<sup>th</sup>-Century British factory owners giving cheap gin to their workers. If workers were addicted and drunk, the factory owners thought, they would be less likely to protest their menial labor, low pay, and terrible conditions. As a form of protest, Wesley urged his congregations to give up hard liquor. For Wesley, temperance was a pro-worker, anti-exploitation, social stand.

Likewise, not long after that, slavery started to be hotly debated in the newly-formed United States of America. Slaves provided cheap labor to a globally thriving cotton trade. Money and power talk, as they say, but the church talked, too. Harriet Beecher Stowe, Lyman Beecher (Harriet's father and Presbyterian pastor), Frederick Douglass, and William Lloyd Garrison were all church people who had been inspired by the Second Great Awakening. Not only was the Abolitionist Movement a social movement, it was considered a conservative social movement.

Finally, one hundred years later, Rev. Martin Luther King was, more than anything else, the pastor of Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama. At least initially, his leadership in the Montgomery Bus Boycott was part of his pastoral duties for the church. The Civil-Rights Movement then was a social stand within the church.

The church, then, has a long history of speaking out on social issues. While it is always controversial and often not very popular, these stands throughout history have changed and even made history. The same is true in our own time, as well. We are indeed, as Hebrews 12:1 says, "surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses" who faithfully proclaimed the Gospel and applied it to the issues of their day. May God give us wisdom and courage to do likewise.

## Humble Service in the Body of Christ

"For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully."

**Romans 12:3-8**

## Sunday School Classes:

### **Children**

For those Kindergarten to 5<sup>th</sup> grade – Throughout the fall, the elementary class will focus on the Life of Moses through Music, Dance, Cooking, Art, and Games! Led by Janet Cline, Liz Adkisson, and William Turk.

### **Youth**

Two Sundays per month, the youth will study the Bible in separate High School and Middle School classes. The other two Sundays, the youth will learn about the church in mission through discussion and hands-on projects. Led by Susan Perry, Anna Gatlin, Doug Samson, and others.

### **Adults**

Explorer's Class – Led by Martin and Janie Best, this class will be a topical, discussion based class tackling large topics of faith. Meets in the classroom off the kitchen in the Chapel Building.

Living and Learning the Word – Led by Mark Bagley, this class will begin the year in the book of Romans and then move on to Luke. Meets in 206.

Genesis Class – Led by Katie Meyers and Chris Karrenstein, this class engages in a variety of topics and is typically populated by parents of school-aged kids. Meets on the second floor in the Chapel Building.



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! There are still a few openings in our toddler and 4 year old classrooms, so please spread the word. The infants are beginning to fall into a schedule, the toddlers have adjusted 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, our favorite things and colors this month. Be sure to take a peek in our classrooms at the freshly painted walls and 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 with our preschool family!

For more information or to schedule a tour, please contact the preschool office at 704.847.5564 or [cdcdirector@matthewspresbyterian.org](mailto:cdcdirector@matthewspresbyterian.org)

# Matthews Presbyterian Fall Calendar

## September

- 9 First Day of Sunday School 9:15 am / Youth Parent Meeting 5:00 pm  
12 AMP 4:45 pm / Wednesday Night Supper 5:45 pm / Committee Night 6:30 pm  
16 Color and Character Community Forum 7:00 pm  
19 Spirit Ringers starts 6:30 pm

## October

- 21 Stewardship Kick-off Lunch/Congregational Meeting  
28 Blood Drive 8:00 am - Noon / Trunk or Treat, 4:30-6:30 pm

## November

- 4 All Saints' Day  
11 Stewardship Dedication Sunday  
18 Youth Sunday

## 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**  
**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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