

THE SAINT MATTHEW MESSENGER

Published Monthly

January

St. Matthew Who is minding the store?

You may not be aware, but St. Matthew's business is handled by lay people on a daily basis.

The Trustees take care of all of our property. Who? Under Ben O'Hanlan's leadership, Jim Cree has kept our electricity costs down by programming all of our thermostats in all 3 buildings; Clay Little has taken care of our electrical and IT needs in the church and in the Parsonage; Jennie Ervin and Lillian Darby have been overseeing the updating of the Parsonage; Denise Sudderth helped sell our Timeshare; Lee Geddie has worked with the landscaping company on up-keep of the church grounds .

How about our financial decisions? Matt Smith, chair of Finance, Bob Davis, treasurer, Marilyn Vanvick, financial secretary, and the entire finance committee meet monthly to assure that our financial needs are met.

How about Human Resource needs? Under the leadership of Michael Burn, the Staff Parish committee ensures that we have the policies and staff that we need to provide for the congregation's needs.

Who is caring for the needs of our congregation? Pat Wood, a retired Methodist minister and member of St. Matthew, has been visiting our sick and homebound members on a regular basis. She has found and met the needs of many in our congregation in the last several months.

Your Council on Ministries team, under the leadership of Christina Grant, has worked to provide opportunities for worship, fellowship, mission, and nurture.

The Worship chair JoAnne Hutto and Laura Bridgeman, Altar Guild chair, prepare our church for weekly worship.

Beth Murphy, Kasey Frank, Amy Moorehouse, Charlotte Easler and Katy Smith have provided leadership in planning and conducting children's Sunday school every week.

Susan Thomas and team are already working on the 2012 St. Matthew in the Mountains retreat

Olivia Pugh and her wonderful caring team "nurture" the congregation, taking care of our members and who are away, ill or homebound.

Clint Henderson and Stephanie Rose have organized all of the fun monthly fellowship events; and everyone can look forward to continuing opportunities in 2012.

Edward Johnson organized our stewardship program.

Claire Winkler and the Mission's team have provided many opportunities for mission.

Many others not named work on behalf of St Matthew to make our church truly a church family. Thank You!

Our Parsonage

Some of you may not know that we own a home behind the church, 55 Partridge Lane. The charter members of St. Matthew purchased the land that included this home. It has been our parsonage, the minister's home, since the founding of St. Matthew. As you can imagine, just like your own home, it requires maintenance on a regular basis. When we are preparing for a new family to move into the parsonage, we want it to be something that we are all proud of. In preparation for the new family, we have painted the entire interior, cleaned from top to bottom, and will have all of the carpets cleaned. In addition, we need to replace some of the broken interior shutters with new ones. So, help! While we had money budgeted for repairs, we have exceeded our budget. If you would like to help us, please make a donation and designate the parsonage repair fund.

Then, join us for an open house in the parsonage after the 11:00 service on Sunday, January 15th. Thanks in advance for your help.

Dates to Remember



Birthdays

January Birthdays

Rex Gray	1
Tom McIntyre	1
Bess Hewell	3
Sydney Jaynes	4
Sue Edmonds	5
Mary Beth Jackson	5
Matthew Jackson	5
Holly White	5
Marion Tucker	7
Olivia Doshier	8
Elizabeth Hewell	8
Don Gilstrap	9
Stephen Anderson	10
Cypriana Brannon	10
Charles Hughes	11
Kellie Owans	13
Phyllis Richmond	13
Art Eberly	14
Cypriana Brannon	15
Justin Hirsch	16
Jennifer Jackson	17
Cameron Sanders	18
Allison Warren	19
Adelaide Johnson	20
Kathy Swilley	21
Jane Eberly	22
Jim Garland	23
Andy Shull	25
Anna Cobb	27
Kiep Jordan	27
Angel King	27
Rebecca Gray	29
Debbie Looper	29
Kary Mitchell	29
Henry Shiflet	29
Olive Koger	30
Zack Tollison	30
J.O. Vaughn	30
Tom White	30

February Birthdays

Horace Clark	1
Jennifer Davis	2
Marty Brown	3
Lila Smith	3
Laurie Ervin	5
Lorraine Brown	6
Kasey Frank	6
Bettye Sue Graben	7
Don Smith	7
Kaitlyn Wagner	7
Patsy Greer	8
Jennie Hewell	8
Emily Gore	9
Catherine Barnett	14
Christina Grant	14
Marilyn Vanvick	14
Douglas Gray	15
James Orr	15
Helen Graben	17
Tommy Greer	17
Linda Gilstrap	18
Ed Rose	18
Steven Quam	19
Russell Warren	19
Steve Frank	20
Lewie Bates	22
Betsy Gardner	22
Ethan Looper	22
Ethan Treece	22
Nancy Field	23
Sarah Jane Tollison	23
Samuel Carrington	26
Rebecca Griffith	26
James Warren IV	26
Asher Moorhouse	26
Skyler Moorhouse	26
Ellen Jordan	27
Eleanor Royals	27
Matthew Anderson	28
Charlotte Easler	29

Many thanks to Gary Groff for hanging the historical pictures in the hallway, for the church historian.

THE MEANDERS WILL MEET IN THE DINING ROOM OF THE FAMILY LIFE CENTER ON JANUARY 19, 2012. WE WILL HAVE A "SOUPER" MEAL. ALISON HOARD, OF SSI IN GREER, WILL LEAD US IN SIMPLE EXERCISES AT 11:30. WEAR CASUAL CLOTHES.

An Opportunity to Serve - Triune Mercy Center

St. Matthew has been providing a noon meal for around 100 hungry people on the 5th Saturday of the month for about 10 years. Triune **Fifth Saturday** Mercy Center provides meals on Saturdays and Sundays for people that are hungry. If you would like to help with this ministry, contact Claire Winkler at 242-4845 claire.winkler@charter.net



Come ring in the New Year with the Rachel Circle!

January 3rd beginning 6:30pm at Katie Shew's house 233 Melville Ave, Greenville, SC 29605

We will now be meeting the first Tuesday of each month. Come ready to plan the May UMW meeting and a special service project for Pendleton Place.

Cam Treece donated many books to our church library. However, our library cannot accommodate paperback books. For that reason there are many of these books on the table in the library for the taking. Please do not return them.

During the month of January the St. Matthew in Motion children will be learning about the special visitors to the manger. The children will take a more in depth look at who the wise men were, the gifts they brought, and the journey they made.

Basketball Practice Information and Game Schedules

Practices

I-Mites: 3pm on Sundays
Mites: 3pm on Sundays
Men: 4pm on Sundays
Jr. Boys: 5pm on Sundays
Sr. Boys: 7:30pm on Sundays
Sr. Girls: 8pm on Sundays at ARP

There will be no Basketball practice on January 22nd due to make up games scheduled in our gym.

Basketball Game Schedules

I-Mites

Saturday, January 7 @ 11:30am @ Westminster Pres

Saturday, January 14 @ 10:45am @ Westminster Pres

Mites

Saturday, January 7 @ 1:00pm @ St. James

Saturday, January 14 @ 1:00pm @ 2nd Pres

Midgets

Saturday, January 7 @ 10:30am @ All Saints (new gym @ Christ Church downtown)

Saturday, January 14 @ 9:30am @ OLR

Saturday, January 21 @ 8:30am @ OLR

Saturday, January 28 @ 9:30am @ St. Matthew

Jr. Boys

Saturday, January 7 @ 11:30am @ St. Mary

Saturday, January 21 @ 10:30am @ St. Mary

Sunday, January 22nd @ 2pm @ St. Matthew for a makeup game with Westminster Presbyterian, and at 5pm @ St. Matthew for a make-up game with Christ Church

Saturday, January 28 @ 9:30am @ AYMC (new gym @ First Baptist)

Sr. Boys

Monday, January 2 @ 9:00pm @ W. Pres

Monday, January 9 @ 7:00pm @ TLC

Sr. Girls

Monday, January 2 @ 6:00pm @ ARP

Monday, January 9 @ 6:00pm @ ARP

Men's

Thursday, January 5 @ 9:00pm @ W. Pres

Thursday, January 12 @ 8:00pm @ W. Pres

Thursday, January 19 @ 9:00pm @ W. Pres

Youth Calendar

January 1st: Party with our Adopted Christmas Family at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome to join us and bring an appetizer and/or dessert to share.

January 8th: Brief Ski Trip meeting at 5:30, UMYF 6-7:30pm

January 13-16: Annual Ski Trip to Winterplace, West Virginia

January 22nd: UMYF 6-7:30pm

January 29th: District Youth Worship at 6pm

Our youth took to Wal-Mart, in order to purchase wonderful toys and needed clothing for one family. There's more to the story, however.

From the Pumpkin sales, the youth allocate 1/2 of the proceeds to missions and 1/2 to their own needs. From the mission proceeds, they decided helping THIS specific family was a mission to take on. Why? The children in this family had gone into foster care and only recently reunited with mom and dad. It was a story of tragedy, pain, and finally, renewal. Our church has a heart for kids in foster care, and this was a touching story to the youth group. So, they helped!

The story continues. This family has taken their story of redemption to others. At a recent event sponsored by our sister church, John Wesley, and the nonprofit Fostering Great Ideas, other families still broken and apart were able to have a thanksgiving meal together. The family we helped spoke of their trials and gave much needed encouragement to these other families walking their own path towards recovery.

There is nothing more powerful than grace given. The entire story is one of grace. Our youth have hopefully learned a little more of what grace is; I imagine we all have.

For Memorial Fund
In memory of Dora DeVore from Audrey & Tom White.

For Altar Guild
In memory of Wanda McCall, Dora DeVore, Andy Grose & Jo Capers from Anonymous.

For Justin Anderson Endowment
In memory of Justin Anderson from Betty Jo Anderson.

OUR COLORED GLASS WINDOWS

NO, NOT STAINED GLASS WINDOWS. THE ARTIST, GORGON W. SMITH OF FORT WORTH, TEXAS USED COLORED GLASS TO FABRICATE THE WINDOWS.

OUR BEAUTIFUL COLORED GLASS WINDOWS ARE THE SUBJECT OF A NEW BOOKLET THAT HAS BEEN PUBLISHED AND IS A GIFT TO THE CONGREGATION. WITH GRAPHIC DESIGN AND LAYOUT BY SUSAN WHITE, PHOTOGRAPHY BY DAWN ANDERSON, AND PROJECT DIRECTION BY CLAIRE WINKLER, THE BOOKLET CONTAINS PHOTOGRAPHS OF OUR WINDOWS WITH ACCOMPANYING TEXT FROM ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS. ONE HUNDRED BOOKLETS WERE PUBLISHED. THEY ARE AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX. PLEASE TAKE ONLY ONE PER FAMILY.

It's been a joy during this interim pastorate to get to know St. Matthew from the inside. You all have been most gracious to Marian and me. I don't know who the next full-time pastor will be; but he/she will discover a vital congregation poised to do great things.

St Matthew is a multi-generational church with a surprising number of children and youth. Lay Leadership is spread across generational lines, with young adults assuming key responsibilities. Worship meets varied needs and reflects deep commitment from those involved with music hospitality and altar guild.

What needs to happen? From my perspective a transition in pastoral leadership can afford the whole congregation an opportunity to re-vision... to take a closer look at what God needs for this faith community to become. All the pieces are in place. A compelling sense of mission will bring it all together and foster genuine hope.

At the beginning of a new calendar year it's crucial for each member to recommit to support St. Matthew with prayer, presence, gifts, service and witness.

Bob Stillwell

Confirmation 2012

It is almost time for our 2012 Confirmation class to begin. You might be asking, "What exactly is confirmation, and who gets to participate?" The short answer is: Confirmation is a time where you make an independent decision to join the church. By being confirmed, you become a full member of St. Matthew, and the United Methodist Church. The second part of the answer is that we open the Confirmation classes to any youth in 6th-12th grade who have yet to be confirmed.

Confirmation at St. Matthew has traditionally been a part of the 6th grade year. However, youth in older grades who are not yet confirmed can also participate in the classes. If you know of a youth we may have overlooked, let us know so we can get the information to them.

This year Rev. Edward McCutcheon and Rebecca Griffeth will be co-teaching the confirmation class. We are truly excited about the opportunity to learn with this new class of Confirmation students as they grow in faith. We hope that when our new pastor is appointed, that he/she will join in from time to time with our class and accompany us on the Confirmation retreat.

Our confirmation classes will begin with a parent/youth/mentor information meeting on January 22nd from 4:00-4:30 pm. Classes will run through the end of April. If you have any questions, and/or would like to sign up for confirmation class, please contact Rebecca Griffeth via email: smumyf@gmail.com or at the church office: 864-242-1966 by Sunday, January 8th.



Have you heard Carol Royals will be taking over the have you heard column? You may contact her by email at carol.royals@earthlink.net or by phone at 288-5435 or ©477-0334. We will also keep a drop box in the narthex.

Have you heard Alycia Brady recently turned 18? She is growing up so fast!

Have you heard Rebecca Griffeth has been asked to serve on the steering committee for the 2013 Children's Focus Conference in Greenville?

Have you heard Jessica Bilcliff has early acceptance to: Auburn University, College of Charleston, and USC in Columbia? Congratulations, we wish you the best of luck in making your decision.

Have you heard Katy Smith wrote and directed our Children's Christmas pageant this year? Thanks for all of your hard work!

We will be loyal to the Church and uphold it with...

OUR PRAYERS

Those in need of Prayer

Mary Walker Morris
Bess Hewell
Robert Lee
Cathy Gardner

Out of Town

Rev. Tom Field
Ann Shock

Serving Our Country

Evan Childers
Kyle Gaillard
Tom Jordan
Chad Cunningham
Jeffrey Van Camp, Jr.

the Homebound

Georgia Clarke
Miles Day
Betty Derrick
Jim Gibbs
Mary Walker Morris
Lois Smith
Frank & Mary Cole
Doris Fisher

OUR PRESENCE

	8:45	Sunday School	11:00
Dec. 4th	65	137	177
Dec. 11th	81	149	183
Dec. 18th	68	133	174
Dec. 25th			108

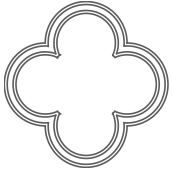
OUR GIFTS

Dec. 4th	18,967
Dec. 11th	10,280
Dec. 18th	12,358
Dec. 25th	9,204
Received YTD	562,672

OUR SERVICE

	January 1 st	January 8 th	January 15 th	January 22 nd	January 29 th
Liturgists					
Children's Church					
Greeters					
Acolytes					
Crucifiers					
Ushers for the month	Michael Easler	Gary Brown	Lindsay Carrington	Van Thomas	Mark Barnett
Communion		Dawn Anderson			
Pew Angels		Jo Ann Hein Marion Tucker		Sarah Jane Tollison Sara Young	
Altar Guild	Carolyn Barnes Pat Wood	Carolyn Barnes Pat Wood	Carolyn Barnes Pat Wood	Carolyn Barnes Pat Wood	Carolyn Barnes Pat Wood

*Ushers: Please be in the Narthex by 10:45 a.m. If you are unable to usher on an assigned Sunday, please arrange for another usher to take your place.
Children's Church: If you are unable to serve on an assigned Sunday, please arrange for another volunteer to take your place. Contact: Amy Moorhouse*



Saint Matthew UMC
 701 Cleveland Street
 Greenville, SC 29601

Return Service Requested

Nonprofit Org.
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Greenville, SC
 PERMIT NO.
 933

Saint Matthew Office Phone Numbers and Email Addresses			
864-242-1966			
Rebecca Griffeth	smumyf@gmail.com		x.112
Kelly Wagner	officeadmin@stmatthewumc.net		x.110
Pam Worthy	custodian@stmatthewumc.net		
God's Hands & Feet	ghf@stmatthewumc.net		x.122
Early Service	earlyservice@stmatthewumc.net		
Fax number	864-232-0166		
Preschool Phone Number	864-242-2880		
Saint Matthew Office Phone Numbers and Email Addresses			

Church Staff

- Rebecca Griffeth Director of Children and Youth Ministries**
- Sam Taylor Organist**
- Kelly Wagner Church Administrator**
- Christina Via Preschool Director**
- Pam Worthy Church Custodian**

Mission

The mission of Saint Matthew United Methodist Church is to continue Christ's work in the world.

Vision

We believe that God's vision for Saint Matthew United Methodist Church is to be a congregation of disciples that values children, youth and families and communicates the story of faith to them in creative ways. We will build a Christian community by increasing our ministry to all ages through a variety of activities and worship approaches that reach out to others with the life-transforming message of the gospel.