

March 22, 2009  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent / One Great Hour of Sharing Sunday

J. William Harris, Pastor  
John G. Hipp, Pastor Emeritus

**“A cheerful heart is a good medicine,” wrote the author of Proverbs 17:22 (NRSV).  
May you be filled with cheerfulness and joy. We welcome you in the name of Christ.**

We Turn Our Thoughts Toward God

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP “O the Glory of Your Presence” Choir

WELCOME & COMMUNITY SHARING (*Please register your attendance.*)

MOMENT OF SILENT CENTERING

INVOCATION

\*Hymn of Praise: 384 “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

Proclaiming the Word

\*Psalter: 830 – Psalm 107:1 - 9

\*Affirmation of Faith: 881 – The Apostles’ Creed

\*The Gloria Patri: 70 – “Glory Be to the Father”

KIDS OF THE KINGDOM

GIVING OF TITHES & OFFERINGS:

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

THE OFFERTORY

\*THE DOXOLOGY: 95 – “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD’S PRAYER

\*Hymn of Preparation: 133 “Leaning on the Everlasting Arms”

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (in unison): **Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the Scriptures are read and your word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.**

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: 937 – Ephesians 2:1 - 10

ANTHEM “He Knows Just What I Need” Choir

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING: 848 – John 3:14 - 21

This is the Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON: “Believing What Jesus Believed” Dr. Bill Harris

Responding to the Word

\*Hymn of Commitment: 420 “Breathe on Me, Breath of God”

\*BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL RESPONSE “May You Run and Not Be Weary” Choir

\*RECESSIONAL

**\*Please stand (if your health permits), as a means of giving honor to God.**

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR FELLOWSHIP ...

### TODAY:

09:30am Altar Prayer

11:00am Morning Worship

10:00am Sunday School

12:00pm Luncheon & Planning Session

**THIS WEEK:** \*\*\*\*\*

**Mon.**, Mar. 23, 7:00pm – Art Class

**Tues.**, Mar. 24, 6:30pm – Cub Scouts

**Wed.**, Mar. 25, 7:00pm – Bible Study 7:45pm – Choir Practice

**Thurs.**, Mar. 26, 7:00pm – Friends-in-Christ Bible Study Introductory Meeting

**Sat.**, Mar. 28, 7:00pm – Gospel Singing

**NEXT WEEK:** \*\*\*\*\*

**Mon.**, Mar. 30, 7:00pm – Art Class

**Tues.**, Mar. 31, 6:30pm – Cub Scouts

**Wed.**, Apr. 1, 7:00pm – Bible Study 7:45pm – Choir Practice

**Thurs.**, Apr. 2, 11:30am – VIP’s

6:00pm – Mathews Elementary PTO

**SERVING OUR LORD:**

Today

Next Week

**Nursery:**

Volunteer

Volunteer

**Acolyte:**

Andrew Joseph

Andrew Joseph

**Preparation for Worship:** *Heavenly Creator, make us ready now to be completely open to your mighty Word. Amen.*

**Welcome to all who visit with us today.** Your presence enhances our worship of Almighty God. Please sign a visitor’s card, found in the pew racks, and give it to an usher during the offering, or sign the pew register pad found at the end of each pew. You are always welcome at Mathews.

**Our Covered-Dish Luncheon & Planning Session** is today right after the morning worship service. We invite all members of the congregation to stay for the fellowship of the luncheon and the planning session. We urge everyone to bring new & fresh ideas to the planning session.

**Art Class** is Monday at 7:00pm. We’ll have new banners soon! They’re almost finished, just a few more to go. Everyone is invited to join us!

**‘3 Simple Rules’ Bible Study** – Starting Thursday, March 26, at 7:00pm, the Friends-in-Christ class will begin a study on “Three Simple Rules” based on the Christian principles set forth by John Wesley and the book *Three Simple Rules*. The book *Three Simple Rules* by Bishop Ruben Job was published in 2007 as an optional resource for the 6-week class. Thursday’s session will be an introduction. A repeat of the information will be offered on Sunday for those who cannot come on Thursday evenings.

**Gospel Sing** – Mathews UMC is hosting a Gospel Sing this Saturday, March 28 at 7:00pm. This event features ‘2 for 1’ and The Centurions. Our choir will begin the evening. This is a free will / love offering concert. No admission charge required. Bring your family and friends, and plan now to attend this event.

**Our Community-Wide Easter Egg Hunt** is planned for Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup> from 10:00am to 12:00noon. We still need volunteers to purchase large plastic eggs and candy to put in the eggs. If you are willing to do that, then please bring the eggs and candy to the church office by April 5. Thanks for your help!