



FROM THE PASTOR

A TIME FOR LETTING JESUS SHOW ...

The “holiday season” is upon us. For some persons this special time of year begins with Halloween and extends through the beginning of the year. For those of us who are more traditional the season begins with Thanksgiving Day and runs through New Year’s Day. For everyone this period holds anticipation. It combines Christian celebrations with cultural holidays, and it has become a time when families and friends look forward to getting together and when church families add events to the calendar. Consequently, the “holiday season” is a busy and an emotional time. What some persons anticipate with delight others will dread.

Our focus at church will not be to burden each other with busy work but to use the rituals and services of the season to express the love and presence of Jesus Christ in our ministry and our relationships. At the center of all that occurs over the next two months is the celebration of the coming of Christ into the world. Through this time of giving thanks, commemorating the birth of Jesus, and making resolutions for the New Year, let us keep Jesus Christ at the heart of all we do.

Frederick Buechner tells a touching story about a little girl’s experience in a Christmas pageant. The pageant was not unusual. The pastor of the church read the Christmas story. Young persons in the congregation played the parts of Mary and Joseph, the wise men, and the shepherds. Appropriate carols were sung as the story unfolded. At the end the children of the church, dressed in white robes, came onto the stage as angels of the heavenly host.

The children gathered around the manger saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will among men.” No one prepared for the problem that ensued. There were so many children that those in the back began pushing and jockeying for a better position around the manger. A particularly short girl of about nine ended up behind several taller children. She couldn’t see what was going on. As everyone sang, she yelled in a shrill voice, “Let Jesus show!” The singing stopped and the congregation sat in stunned silence. The pastor was wise enough to realize that the words of the little girl were just right for the situation. He immediately gave the benediction and closed the service. The worshipers filed out of the church with those unforgettable words ringing in their ears: “Let Jesus show!”

While letting Jesus show is our calling for all the days and seasons of the year, let us be especially conscious of doing that during the season of holidays that we are entering. Let Jesus show through our words, our deeds, and our relationships.

Blessings in Christ,

J. William Harris



Welcome
Our New
Members

NEW MEMBER

We welcome a new member,
Jeff Turner,
who joined our Mathews UMC congregation on September 9th.
He resides at 524 Bond Ave.
Welcome home!

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICE & CHOIR PRACTICE

We are having Bible Study on Wednesday nights at 7:00pm. We are still studying the *Gospel of Mark*. Plan to join us on Wednesday nights to learn more about God's word.



Our Choir Practice has resumed. We meet on Wednesdays at 7:45pm after Bible Study. We're always looking for new voices, so join us for an uplifting mid-week time of study, song and fellowship.

3rd SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP MEALS



Fellowship Meals

We have finished our 'Fellowship Meals' for this year. We raised a total of \$992.00 for the Building/Improvement Fund. The Church Council and the Trustees wish to thank everyone who participated in these meals.

We will restart the meals next year on January 18, 2009. We hope that everyone will join us for this time of fellowship.

Remember, the purpose of these meals is twofold:

- First, we are gathering in the name of Jesus to break bread with one another to bring our members closer together through fellowship.
- Secondly, we are taking this as an opportunity to raise money for our Building Fund.

BIBLE QUIZ ...

Isaiah, a spokesman for God, looked for the Messiah to come from a certain family. He wrote: "A shoot shall come out from the stump of _____, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord" (Isaiah 11:1-3, NRSV).

From whom did Isaiah say the Messiah would come?

- A. Adam
- B. Noah
- C. Samson
- D. Jesse

Last month's answer: A





The Men's Club will meet on Thursdays,
November 13, 2008
&
December 11, 2008
at 6:30pm in the Social Hall.



All men of the church are invited to join the Men's Club and should plan to attend the meetings.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY



The Pastor and Congregation of Mathews UMC extend deepest Christian sympathy to ...

- ❖ the family of Irene McClain, who passed away on September 9.
- ❖ the family of Christine Palmer, who passed away on September 21.

ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY

All Saints' Sunday is November 2, 2008. During our worship service on this date we will remember the Saints of Mathews UMC who have joined the Church Triumphant since last year. They are:

Mr. Billy Covil	Nov. 4, 2007
Mrs. Louise McNeill	Nov. 16, 2007
Mrs. Lillian Richards	Dec. 5, 2007
Mrs. Margaret Hollingsworth	Feb. 9, 2008
Mr. Dennis Crosby	May 24, 2008
Mrs. Irene McClain	Sept. 9, 2008
Mrs. Christine Palmer	Sept. 21, 2008

HONOR OUR VETERANS

Veterans Day, which is November 11 each year, is a holiday to honor America's veterans for their patriotism and willingness to serve and sacrifice for our nation's common good.

Christians follow the Prince of Peace, so war is a dilemma that often challenges people of faith. Some Christians are pacifists, while others believe in a "just war." Many believe that the goals of freedom, justice, equality and democracy are worth the cost required.

Whatever individual Christians decide about any given conflict, most Christians believe that men and women who strive to make this world free of tyrants are to be respected. As Winston Churchill said, "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few."

Thank you to all the men and women who served or are now serving our country.



VETERANS
Day

Thanksgiving – November 27, 2008

Count Your Blessings ...



Count your blessings instead of your crosses;
Count your gains instead of your losses.
Count your joys instead of your woes;
Count your friends instead of your foes.
Count your smiles instead of your tears;
Count your courage instead of your fears.
Count your full years instead of your lean;
Count your kind deeds instead of your mean.
Count your health instead of your wealth;
Count on God instead of yourself.

Peace Love JOY Peace Love JOY

Celebrate Christmas

Decorate your Christmas tree.
Ring a Christmas bell.
Sing a joyful carol
With a jubilant noel!

Light your Advent candle wreath.
Rejoice with friends on Earth.
Give thanks to God for sending Christ
In this, His Christmas birth.

Share your joy of Christmas
And God's blessings from above.
Celebrate God's Graciousness!
Celebrate God's Love!

(Peggy Ferrell, Prayers and Poems)

Those Who Regularly Share In Our Ministry

Ministers ... All Members	Organist ... Jesse Nance
Pastor ... Dr. J. William Harris	Custodian ... Ray Snelling
Chief Usher ... Ralph Thomas	Church Secretary ... Libby Joseph
Websteward ... Dale Moseley	Congregational Nurse ... Ann Landis
Sound Technician ... Charles Lockaby	

Acolytes: Andrew Joseph ... Jamie Redden

Service Hours: Sunday School, 10:00am Sunday Worship, 11:00am
Wednesday Prayer Meeting, 7:00pm

Church Office Hours: Mon - Thurs, 9:00am - 1:00pm
Office #227-2963, Pastor's Home #223-9545, Cell #993-8156

A LETTER FROM OUR LAY LEADER

Dear Friends at Mathews,

I was doing my evening devotions the other night which is a study in the book of Acts. Peter and John had just healed a crippled beggar at the temple through the power of Jesus' name. In chapter 4 they are arrested and brought before the high priest and the high-priestly family. Peter spoke to them as he was filled with the Holy Spirit and explained and defended their actions. But what I really noticed in reading this passage was verse 13, and what the high priest and family noticed:

13. *Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John and realized that they were uneducated and ordinary men, they were amazed and recognized them as companions of Jesus.* (NRSV)

That is what we are, ordinary individuals who love the Lord. Sometimes we lack the boldness of Peter and John, which we need to overcome our fears. However, we need to remember what Jesus said in Luke 12:11b & 12:

11b-12. *Do not worry about how you are to defend yourselves or what you are to say; for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that very hour what you ought to say.* (NRSV)

Our church is growing and the love that is shown is tremendous. Now is the time for us to look for ways to be bold for Jesus and reach out more and more to our local community. The Witness and Evangelism committee is looking for your ideas and suggestions on what you think we as a church can do to help our church grow in our love and outreach to our community.

Love in Christ,
David Joseph, Lay Leader



Dear Friends,

I want to thank everyone who helped make this year's POPCORN fundraiser a great success. We doubled the amount raised from last year. The money earned will help with the expenses of the pack and allow the Cub Scouts to go to Cub Scout Day Camp, and on fun and educational trips.

*Your Friend in Christ,
Dale Moseley*

CONGRATULATIONS TO ...

Andrew J – 'A/B' Honor Roll for the 2007/2008 school year at Greenwood High School.

Agnese Minor – Was recently honored at the Self Regional Healthcare annual banquet for volunteering 2,000 to 5,000 hours of service at the hospital.



DECORATING THE CHURCH

We invite everyone to come and help
'Decorate the Church' for the
Christmas season on
Sunday, November 23, 2008
at 2:00pm.



(There will be Soup & Cornbread available after the
worship service for those who wish to stay and help
decorate the church.)

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE



Christmas
Eve
Worship

Come and celebrate the true meaning of
Christmas at our
Christmas Eve Service
Wednesday,
December 24, 2008
7:00pm
Here at Mathews UMC

CHRISTMAS IS PROOF

Christmas is a time to be happy! ... A time for celebrating and sharing. For God stoops down to be one of us, born as a poor baby so that we can be rich. He does not leave us to get along as best we can. He joins us where we are. God is committed to us. Christmas is proof that God cares. That is why we celebrate — and show our care in turn to those who need it.

(F. Hebart)

WHAT'S SO AMAZING ABOUT CHRISTMAS?

Consider this: God loved the world so much that he came visiting. God slipped into the world as a helpless baby, without fanfare or heraldry.

Think of it: The baby, born of humble parents, the man a carpenter, the woman still in her teens, scholars say. Jesus was born in a backwater town called Bethlehem, in a stable reeking with animal smells.


It took years before people fully comprehended God's self-revelation. Even John the Baptist, sitting in Herod's prison, sent a message to Jesus asking, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" (Matthew 11:3, NRSV). Jesus then explained that he was working miracles and bringing good news to the poor.

That became even more clear when Peter concluded that Jesus was "the Messiah, the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:16, NRSV).

What's amazing about Christmas is that it began in a manger. And today more than 2 billion people around the world celebrate Jesus' birth.



THEY LOVED THEIR CHURCH


MAY THE
GRACE
OF THE LORD
BE UPON
YOU

During the Great Depression, First Methodist Church in Willard, Ohio, was in great danger of closing. It wasn't that the church lacked members. So many of them were unemployed or had a meager income that they could give very little.

Because the church was in debt, the time came when the members had a choice: They could mortgage their homes and save the church they loved, or they could shut the doors and try to find another place to worship. Many families mortgaged their homes, thus saving their church home.

After the Depression waned and the members were a bit more stable financially, they decided to rename the church Grace Methodist. They said the church had been saved by the grace of God and his blessings for them.

