



The Valley Echo

St. Matthew's United Church of Christ

April 2013

From the Pastor

By the time you read this newsletter, my time at St. Matthew's will be very short, and may have even shared my last worship service and sermon with you. My time here with you seems to have gone so quickly, until I look at the pictures of Leah and Elizabeth from the time we first moved here. They have grown in so many ways.

I believe I have grown as a pastor in my four plus years here. More than any of the other churches I have served I have been allowed and even encouraged to be a pastor (as opposed to a office assistant, sexton and volunteer). I have learned a lot about church renewal and serving smaller churches. I truly give thanks, for your encouragement and the opportunities St. Matthew's has afforded me.

And St. Matthew's has changed in many ways as well. As I look out from the pulpit, I see many pews where old familiar faces no longer sit. I look at the Sunday Schools classes and see new children and know of a few children are now adults. I also

believe the spirit of the congregation has changed for the good. For this I give thanks.

Yet, I am concerned about the future of St. Matthew's. From my first year here, I knew that a part time pastorate was in our future. The numbers (both people and \$) foretold this years ago. St. Matthew's has experienced many challenges in the past, but now another change is fast approaching, and with change comes the feelings of loss and grief. I have already seen and heard indications of this, hence my concerns. I have little doubt that the congregation will deal with this in a positive manner.

And so I say, "Be strong and trust in the Spirit." It has brought us this far and will lead us into the days ahead for the glory of God. Again, I say, "Be strong and trust in God."

In closing, as I say my goodbyes, I have heard about the choices the Council is considering for the Interim Pastor and they are good choices. I believe whoever they choose will serve the

congregation well. Give them a chance and welcome them as warmly as you welcomed me.

I will be beginning service to my new church, Immanuel United Church of Christ in Cambridge, Maryland on April 16. I will moving to Cambridge then and my family will be moving to Cambridge after school is finished in June. My new church is on the corner of Route 50 and White Hall Road in Cambridge. If you are on the Eastern Shore, give us a call and stop in. We would love to hear from you. You can reach us at:

Immanuel United Church of Christ
5401 White Hall Road
Cambridge, Md 21613
410 228 4640

Krotee's
2903 Cedar Woods Road
Cambridge, MD 21613
443 340 0509 – Dale's Cell
443 487 2504 – Diana's Cell

God be with you,
Pastor Dale

Contact Information

Council -

President: Allen Dutterer
Vice-President-Sharon Chapman
Secretary-Timna Shaw
Treasurer- Dale Geiman

Elders- Justin Geiman, Sharon Chapman, Robert Smith, Ketti Dutterer, Genny Rohrback, Angie Bowersox

Ministry Team Leaders-

Worship- Donna Geiman
Christian Education- Susie Gist
Outreach- Timna Shaw
Finance- Dale Geiman
Pastor/Staff- Donna Geiman
Property-
acting leader- Allen Dutterer

Committees/Groups-

Wellness- Mary Emma Bowen,
Parish Nurse
F.A.I.T.H.- Lynn Walter
Fall Fest - Betty Cree
ABC Singles - Mary Emma Bowen
Consignment Sale - Vicki Huber-Geiman

Mother's Day Dedications

Honor or memorialize your Mother, Grandmother, or a special woman in your life by putting their names in the St. Matthew's Mother's Day bulletin! **Just fill out the form below and donate \$1.00 for each entry.** Please place your form and money in the "Mother's Day Dedication" box located on the table in the entrance hall.

To ensure that your dedication is printed in the bulletin, **please have your money and names in by Sunday, May 5th.** Donations from the Mother's Day dedications will be used to help local Missions.

Please Print Legibly

In honor of

by: _____

In honor of

by: _____

In honor of

by: _____

In memory of

by: _____

In memory of

by: _____

In memory of

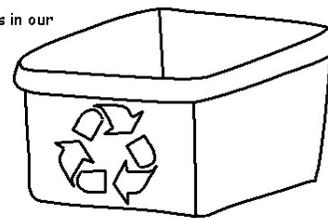
by: _____

Kid's Corner

Unscramble the letters to find the words in our

Earth Day Anagram

Word List: animal, clean, conserve, earth, ecology, green, habitat, plant, recycle, reduce, reuse



e@du@rc _____

e su@r _____

ba t@h a t _____

la i@m a n _____

e@n e r g _____

a@n c l e _____

g@o e y o l c _____

e y e c c r l _____

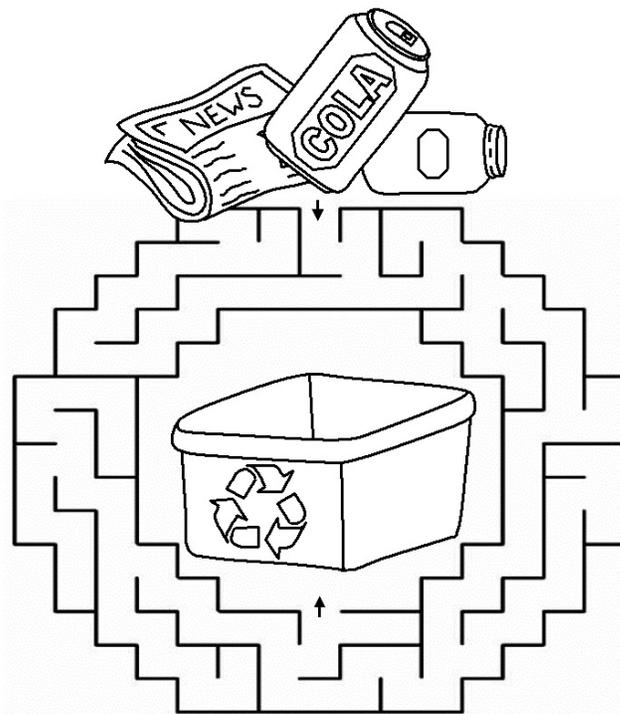
h e a r t _____

@e e s r n o c _____

l a p@n t _____

Earth Day Maze

Help get the recycling into the bin.



Camping Trip

We are planning to return to Drummer Boy campground in Gettysburg, PA this fall for our church camping trip. Going camping after Labor Day seemed to work well last year, so the tentative date for the camping trip is September 13-15, 2013. A sign-up sheet will be put out soon to see how many campsites we need. More details will follow in the coming months.



Upcoming Sunday Worship



April 7, 2013- First Sunday after Easter. This Sunday we will say farewell to Pastor Dale. The service will celebrate the confirmation of 3 confirmands and 3 baptisms. Plan to stay for a luncheon in honor of the Krotee's.

April 14, 2013 Second Sunday after Easter. Pastor Lois Ann Furgess Ohler will lead worship.

April 21, 2013 Third Sunday after Easter. Interim Associate Conference Minister Maria Bacchicocchi will lead worship.

April 28, 2013 Fourth Sunday after Easter Debra Peters Wilcox will lead worship. Debra is a student at Lancaster Seminary.

Congregational Meeting

**Sunday, April 21st at 12 Noon
will be our next Congregational Meeting**

*Contact Allen Dutterer, Council President
if you have agenda items*

Robert's Rules of Order will be used.

Wellness

Let's Go for a walk!

Spring is almost here and everyone talks about getting in shape. Sometimes they miss the activity that is so easy and yet promotes good health. It involves putting one foot in front of the other – it's walking.



Walking is biblical. Jesus and his disciples walked everywhere to spread the Good News. So, why not walk now.

Walking helps:

- Promotes circulation and is good for your heart.
- Increases circulation improving brain power
- And mental clarity
- Improves your mood.
- Maintain a healthy weight
- To relieve stress
- To appreciate the wonder of creation

Start small, maybe 15 minutes three to four times a week and increase the time and number of times as you feel you can.

The only equipment you need is a good pair of walking shoes and a water bottle. It is important to stay well hydrated when exercising.

So as we swing into spring, get walking and enjoy the warmer weather.

~ Donna Geiman,
Wellness

Welcome Our New Members!

On March 31 and April 7 we will be welcoming 7 new members through our confirmation program. The students have worked very hard in the last 7 months. Take a few minutes and welcome, Kaitlyn Blizzard, Taylor Blizzard, Ryleigh Geiman, Nichole Green, Vicki Green, Leah Krotee and Grant Shaw. Please help to encourage these young people on their faith journey.



CONFIRMATION

Interim Search Committee

The interim pastor search committee has been working toward getting an interim pastor as soon as we can. We have interviewed several and are currently negotiating with a pastor to have in place for the beginning of May. If you have any questions, please direct the questions to Lynn Walter, Ketti Dutterer and Donna Geiman . You may always ask a Council member if you have concerns.

A Cleaner Carroll County

We can do our part for Mission 4/1 by doing our part keeping Hughes Shop Road clean. On April 27, 2013 at 9:00am we will be picking up trash from Stone Road to Baugher Road. Those picking up trash must be at least 14 years old with parental consent. If there are some youth who are not old enough to walk, but would like to help, we can plan an activity at church caring for the flower beds. Anyone planning to help, please let Donna Geiman know (410-848-0010).



Easter Candy Sales!

Thanks to all who purchased Easter candy made by the youth. We made approximately \$100.00 to donate to our CROP Walk Team.

CROP Walk Is Coming



The annual CROP Walk is April 21, 2013. The walk is approximately 5 miles and very level. Registration begins at St. Paul's Methodist Church in New Windsor at 1:30 with the walk beginning at 2:00 pm. The Crop Walk benefits Church World Service as well as local human service agencies- Carroll County Food Sunday and Access Carroll. If you are able to walk see Donna Geiman for a sponsor sheet. Those can be for individuals or for a family. If you can't do the walk, consider sponsoring one of the walkers. Every donation helps families in need here in Carroll County and around the world.

Mission 4/1

The United Church of Christ is encouraging the care of the earth. Beginning on April 1st, during the 50 day period of Eastertide, they are encouraging each church to engage in activities to help planet earth. You can help by planning to plant a tree, help by recycling, walking instead of driving, even using vinegar to clean instead of harsh products. Be creative and help Mother Earth, God's wonderful creation.



MISSION 4/1 EARTH



Bereavement Skills Training



**FOR ANYONE INTERESTED
IN LEARNING ABOUT GRIEF
AND
HOW TO HELP THE BEREAVED**

DATES: (5 CONSECUTIVE WEDNESDAYS)
APRIL 10, 17, 24, MAY 1, 8, 2013

TIME: 6:00 PM TO 9:00 PM

COST: FREE

LOCATION: CARROLL HOSPICE
292 STONER AVENUE
WESTMINSTER, MD 21157



PLEASE CALL TO REGISTER:
KATHY BARE (410) 871-7231
JESSICA ROSCHEN (410) 871-7656



Please join us in celebration of the
GRAND OPENING
of Access Carroll's new location

when **Monday, April 15, 2013**

where **10 Distillery Drive, Suite 200
Westminster, Maryland**

time **1:30 p.m. until 6:00 p.m.**

r.s.v.p. **By Friday, March 29, 2013
Linda Koehnlein 443.952.7506
Lkoehnlein@accesscarroll.org**



www.accesscarroll.org

Access Carroll is a private, nonprofit provider of patient-centered, integrated health care for our neighbors who are low-income Carroll County residents.

Notes & Thank Yous



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
CENTRAL ATLANTIC CONFERENCE
916 S. ROLLING ROAD
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21228

March 6, 2013

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your gift to Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) in 2012. We as an association & conference rely on your generosity to further our ministry. Know that your gift is deeply appreciated.

*Blessings,
Rev. Marie Bacchiocchi
Interim ACM*



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
CENTRAL ATLANTIC CONFERENCE
916 S. ROLLING ROAD
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21228

March 6, 2013

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for being a 5 for 5 church. It is through such generosity as yours that our denomination can do so much. We all deeply appreciate your commitment to the UCC.

*Blessings,
Rev. Marie Bacchiocchi
Interim ACM*

Book Club

We are currently reading The Jungle by Upton Sinclair. We will meet to discuss this book on Sunday, April 28th at Lynn Walter's house at 7:30pm. Please join us for a lively and sometimes silly discussion that always includes good snacks and great people. If you are interested in joining us please contact Vicki at 410-751-9394 or vhuberg@gmail.com.



Prayer Concerns

There is now a prayer concerns book on the table in the entry hallway. You may place someone on the prayer list by writing in the book. Anytime Mary Emma Bowen, Betty Gragg or the church office receives a prayer request, they will write it in the prayer concern book. People will be listed on the prayer list for 30 days. You may continue to have a person listed by writing their name again in the book, contacting Mary Emma, Betty Gragg, or the church office.

Home Visitation

If you know of someone who might benefit from a pastoral visit at home please contact Mary Emma Bowen, RN, Parish Nurse or Betty Gragg, who are working together to make sure everyone is seen as needed.



Flower Calendar

The 2013 calendar is on the bulletin board in the entrance hall to the church. Please use this calendar to sign up to place flowers on the altar or on the organ.

Meeting and Events Calendars

Calendars are on the bulletin board in the entrance hall to the church. Please list all meetings and/or special events your committee/team has planned. The church office uses this calendar when compiling information for the bulletins and newsletters.

Go Green for 2013



Help save resources by joining St. Matthew's email list, you'll be notified monthly when the newsletter has been posted in PDF format to our website, and a paper copy will no longer be printed and mailed for your household.

To join for 2013, please send an email to office@saintmatthewsucc.org requesting the electronic newsletter or complete the form below and place in the offering plate.

Attention: Church Office

My family wishes to receive the newsletter electronically and not have a paper copy.

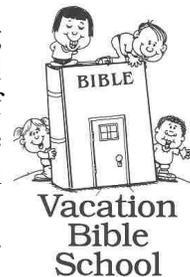
Family Name:

Email Address:

Please check if you would also like to receive the weekly announcements electronically.

Vacation Bible School

We will once again be participating in a joint Vacation Bible School this summer with Baust UCC. If you would like to help with the planning or if you are interested in volunteering to help during VBS, please contact Susie Gist 410-848-2187.



Support *The Shepherd's Staff* Back-to-School Program!

Come to a **DESIGNER BAG AND BASKET BINGO**



FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 2013

GAMBER FIRE HALL

3838 Niner Road, Finksburg

\$18 IN ADVANCE

(Cash, Check, Master Card / VISA)

\$20 AT THE DOOR*

(Cash / Check)

Children must have a paid
admission ticket

Bring a "Personal
Care Item" and
receive a ticket
for a special
raffle!

Doors open @ 5:30PM / Games Begin @ 7pm

LIMITED SEATING BY PRE-PAID RESERVATION

LAST YEAR'S BINGO WAS A SELL-OUT! GET YOUR TICKETS EARLY!!!

*Tickets At The Door - IF AVAILABLE

*NO REFUNDS

COACH™ • VERA BRADLEY® • THIRTYONE™ • KATE SPADE

20 GAMES • 3 SPECIALS • RAFFLES • DOOR PRIZES

"COME HUNGRY AND PATRONIZE THE KITCHEN"

FOR TICKETS - Call *The Shepherd's Staff* @ 410-857-5944

M - T - F 10am - 2pm and TH 3pm - 7pm

All Tickets Must Be Pre-paid.

Ticket Pick-up at *The Shepherd's Staff* Office or Will Call at Door.

The Shepherd's Staff - Celebrating 23 Years of Service!

THIS FUNDRAISER IS IN NO WAY CONNECTED WITH VERA BRADLEY®, COACH™, THIRTYONE™, KATE SPADE AND LONGERBERGER BASKETS®
Remember to speak with your own tax or financial advisor so you're sure you get the most out of all your deductions.

“Life Line Screening saved my sister’s life.”

Michelle Acquista

Age: 59

Symptoms: None

Results: 98% blocked carotid artery

“I am so thankful that the screening caught that blockage and saved my sister’s life. I am now passing this information to everyone and getting all my family and friends to go.”

Patrice Falls – Blacklick, OH



- Life Line Screening uses painless ultrasound (sonogram) to see the plaque build-up in your arteries—a leading cause of stroke.
- 80% of strokes can be prevented.*

Make an appointment for you and a loved one today.



Where: Westminster - St. Matthew’s United Church of Christ

Sponsored By: Minimally Invasive Vascular Centers

When: Friday, April 26, 2013

Pre-registration is required. Call: 1-800-324-1851

Priority Code: HSC5568

To register on-line go to www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners

*Source: National Stroke Association



Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service - 10:45 a.m.

April 2013

Birthdays, Anniversaries, Upcoming Events

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Lynn Walter	2	3 Choir Practice - 7 p.m.	4 Richard Smith Wellness Committee - Noon	5	6
7 Emily Barnette 2 nd Sunday of Easter - White A -Baleigh Geiman, Nichole Green L - Donna Geiman G- Betty Cree, John and Jean Means U - Bob Smith, Mike Smith, Justin Geiman, Mel Starner N - Cindy Beach, Baleigh Geiman Youth Group Following Worship	8 Jolene Wagner Church Council 7:00 p.m.	9	10 Ronald Blizzard Choir Practice - 7 p.m. Brownie Troop Meeting	11	12 Dorothy Myers	13
14 Carol Fogle 3 rd Sunday of Easter - White A - Ryleigh Geiman L - Lynn Walter G- The Justin Geiman Family U - Dick Smith, Betty Cree, Marybell Green, Ketti Dutterer N - Danielle, Vickie Green	15 Nadine Lee	16 Tim Gist	17 Newsletter Deadline - 2:00 p.m. Choir Practice - 7 p.m.	18  SINGLES	19	20 Leister's Store Tea in Fellowship Hall 2 - 4 p.m.
21 4 th Sunday of Easter - White A - Grant Shaw L - Sharon Chapman G - The Lucas Geiman Family U - Carolyn Smith, Deanna Geiman, Jolene Wagner, L. Walter N -Vicki Huber-Geiman, Ryleigh Geiman Congregational Meeting Following Worship CROP Walk	22 Sam Bakert Earth Day	23	24 Choir Practice - 7 p.m. Brownie Troop Meeting	25 Timna Shaw	26	27 Yard Sale
28 Penny Gist 5 th Sunday of Easter - White A - Vicki Geiman L - Susie Gist G - Pat Desautel, Betty Gragg U- Donna Geiman, Betty Cree, Betty Gragg, Susie Gist N - ()	29	30				