THE MESSENGER



ST MATTHEWS UMC **600 E FLORIDA STREET** GREENSBORO, NC 27406

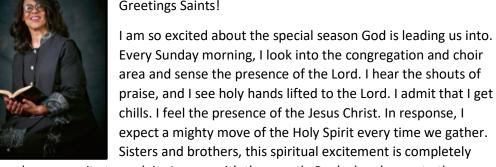


IN THIS ISSUE

Homecoming & Revival	2
The Spirit of Homecoming	g 2
Onboarding Pastor Ingram 3	
Voter Information	3
Health Fair	3
Youth Writer	3
Back2School Bash	4
Peeler-Hampton VPA	5
Big Beautiful Act	5
Summer ReCycle	5
Creation Care Ministry	6
Fall Prevention	7
AuthoraCare-Mental Health 8	
Shout Out	8
Men's Health	9
Eagle Scout Award	10



Greetings Saints!



beyond our capacity to explain. I agree with the apostle Paul when he wrote these words to the church in Ephesus because together, "we are coming to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge." (Eph. 3:19b) Saint Matthews UMC has a strong sense of love---for our God and for our neighbors. Our traditions run deep. We are still here, and we are still a viable community of believers because God is the center of our joy. God is first in our lives. God is in control of our destinies. God has the final say concerning our future and our lives. Therefore, we must remain committed and steadfast as we "hold to God's unchanging hand."

And you know what? This is just the beginning! While we are not blind to the nature of the world in which we live, nor to the cultural problems of our day, we serve a God who has the final say and the last word. God's gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Cor. 15:57) We are born of God; we believe that Jesus is the Son of God; therefore, have are victorious overcomers. (1 John 5:4)

So, in this season of reflection, please know that this should also be our season of expectation. Our past accomplishments have laid a foundation for a future that embodies "Greater." Greater praise. Greater commitment. Greater worship. Greater faith. Greater giving. Greater service. Greater LOVE.

Now is the time to rejoice. Now is the time to celebrate! The same God that did it before, is able to do it again. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. (Heb. 13:8)





Issue 43





The Marriage class meetings on Tuesdays at 6pm in the CHJ fellowship hall for the remainder of 2025 are as follows:

September 30th

October 28th

and

December 16th

(November meeting Canceled





Charge Conference

Sunday,

October 26th

At

1:00 PM



The Spirit of Homecoming

It's that time of year – Homecoming time! When we hear the word Homecoming, our thoughts usually refer to our Alma Maters – football games, parades, parties, dances, tailgates, and FOOD!! Homecoming is a time of re- connecting to our past and our roots. It could also be called a reunion. Homecoming traditions usually consist of visits to family and friends, dinners, and social gatherings.

A church homecoming would always consist of food – lots of it – but it is as a time to remember from whence we've come to be where we are now. We can hardly wait for service to be over so that we can make a mad dash to the fellowship hall to partake of all the goodies available. We hug and shake hands with friends we have not seen for a long time. We look at our church history and the struggles our founders endured to allow us to move from the brush arbor to a modern and beautifully designed edifice. Sadly, we are also reminded of loved ones we have lost since last year, and we long to see them again.

Homecoming can also be a time of regaining a lost connection with family. Ruth Graham, daughter of the late Rev. Billy Graham, talked about her homecoming experience. Having been betrayed her husband's infidelity and eventually being divorced, she fell into an unhealthy marriage – despite her parents' warnings - that lasted only a few weeks. Having nowhere to go, she drove the long mountainous journey to the family home in Montreat, NC. She was fearful of her father's anger and displeasure and expected him to reject her. As she approached the home, her father was waiting for her at the driveway where he embraced her and simply said, "Welcome Home." Some of the best times are enjoyed at homecoming celebrations. But the true spirit of homecoming is the reconnection with our roots, and friends and our families. Respectfully submitted, Crystal Stroud McCombs

Onboarding-Pastor Ingram

The SMUMC Onboarding meeting was held on Saturday, August 21, 2025 facilitated by Rev. Amy Coles. The onboarding process is a required structured approach from WNCC to help new clergy and their congregations build strong relationships from the start of a new appointment. It involves a certified facilitator to meet with church leadership and church staff to do knowledge sharing and

and church staff to do knowledge sharing and gain mutual understanding for a transformative ministry.



Voter information

The Greensboro Municipal Primary will be Tuesday, October 7th. Early voting for the Primary will be September 18th-October 4th. There will 4 Early Voting sites.

For times and locations please visit

https://www.guilfordcountync.gov/government/board-elections/early-voting-and-polling-places

Local elections are important.

The election is for Mayor, 3 At Large and a District representative from each District.

The General Election is Tuesday, November 4th. Mark your calendar. Early Voting for the General Election is October 16th November 1st.





Calling All Young Writers!

Are you a student with a knack for storytelling and a passion for news? Our newsletter is looking for a Youth Reporter to share stories important to you and your peers! If you're eager to interview, write, and have your voice heard, we want to hear from you. No experience necessary—just a curious mind and a desire to learn!

Interested? Contact us today to learn more!

Contact person: Wanda Edgerton at ponice1@yahoo.com or call 336-207-5441





Free Mammograms from 9am-2pm You Must Register in Advance Scan QR Code to Register



https://form.jotform.com /251188427942161 Come to our Community Health Fair and find out information regarding your health state. Free food, music, and so much more!!

Get Free Screenings & Information



N NOVAHT

- Cholesterol
- Blood pressure
- Diabetes
- · Women's health
- · Healthy Eating
- Kid's Health

For more information: 704.762.1524 or new2eqchurch@gmail.com THANK YOU to the volunteers for your hard work, dedication, and commitment as well as the many supporters in making the Book Bag Drive and Back-to-School Bash a major success. Because of your efforts, we were able to purchase 415 Bookbags; distributed 140 to our adopted schools, 156 distributed during the event and 117 remaining for other Title 1 schools and requests from community families. We really appreciate the outpouring of love. "Jimmie Gravely, Ramona Miller & Jasmine Williams



















#BeyondTheBond | That NEW school feeling!**≯**%

Peeler-Hampton VPA Elementary will welcome its first group of students next week. These young Dragons will embark on new journeys in the arts. From dance, theatre to ceramics, they will discover and develop passions. ✔ We honor the legacy of the former Peeler Open and thank our bond voters for helping provide a new space that will last generations to come. ♥







Come and Join Us for Worship

Every Sunday with worship services at 8:30am & I Iam with 5th Sundays @10am (In person & all social media platforms) See Social Media Links Below:

<u>:ZOOM</u> Video: <u>https://us02web.zoom.us/s/82293573333</u>, passcode 583845

Audio: Dial <u>1-929-205-6099</u>, <u>ID 82293573333#</u>, <u>passcode 583845</u> <u>FACEBOOK</u> <u>https://www.facebook.com/stmatthewsgreensboro</u>

YOUTUBE https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7Q7QTHei60HaiaJWc6ZCpQ



September 1 (*Day* of *Prayer for Creation*) through

October 4 (Feast of St. Francis) by Karlah Y. Burton, North Carolina Earthkeeper, Chairperson, SMUMC Creation Care Ministry

Biblical Text: Isaiah 32:14:18:

Revised Standard Version

14 For the palace will be forsaken,
the populous city deserted;
the hill and the watchtower
will become dens forever,
a joy of wild asses,
a pasture of flocks;

15 until the Spirit is poured upon us from on high,
and the wilderness becomes a fruitful field,

and the winderness becomes a mutual field and the fruitful field is deemed a forest.

The Peace of God's Reign

Then justice will dwell in the wilderness, and righteousness abide in the fruitful field.
And the effect of righteousness will be peace, and the result of righteousness, quietness and trust forever.

¹⁸ My people will abide in a peaceful habitation, in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places.

The depiction of devastated cities and wastelands in this passage from the Book of Isaiah expressively signifies the fact that destructive human behavior has negatively impacted the Earth! Collectively, our hope and expectation are for a peaceful world. May we act, pray, change, and reconcile with nature and the Creator in unity, repentance, and fellowship.

In 2025, the United Methodist Creation Justice Movement has developed resources for the Season of Creation following the theme of the worldwide movement and with reference to the book *The Serviceberry* by Robin Wall Kimmerer. You are invited to join in this ecumenical movement and are encouraged as Christians to respond in support of the wellbeing of our common home.

The Symbol for 2025 is the **Garden of Peace** characterized by a dove carrying an olive branch bringing life to the Garden of Peace. In the Biblical story of Noah and the flood, it is a dove that plays the role of "blessed messenger" sent out by Noah and returns to the ark with a fresh olive branch in its beak; evidence that the flood is receding. Although the flood story begins with a situation where "the earth is filled with violence" (Genesis 6:13), the return of the

dove with the olive branch came to be known as a sign of new peace.

Weekly Topics (The Serviceberry):

September 7: The First Week of Creation pp. 1-26 (*Gift Economy*)

September 14: The Second Week of Creation pp. 29-50 (*Reciprocity*)

September 21: The Third Week of Creation pp. 53-82 (*Interdependence*)

September 28: The Fourth Week of Creation pp. 85-105 (*Hope for Creation*)

God Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens UMH 150

Words by <u>Catherine Cameron</u>
God, who stretched the spangled heavens, infinite in time and place, flung the suns in burning radiance through the silent fields of space, we, your children, in your likeness, share inventive powers with you.

Great Creator, still creating, show us what we yet may do.

Suggested "Green Reads:

Selections marked with (*) are based on the 2025 theme with a focus on the concepts of biblical hope, reconciliation, and ecological justice.

- The Serviceberry by Robin Wall Kimmerer
- The Soil Will Save Us by Kristin Ohlson
- A Biblical Theology of the Natural World by Douglas J. and Jonathan A. Moo (*)
- The Marvelous Pigness of Pigs: Respecting and Caring for All God's Creation by Joel Salatin (*)
- For the Beauty of the Earth: A Christian Vision for Creation Care
 by Steven Bouma-Prediger (*) How Can I Help by Doug Tallamy
- We are the Ark by Mary Reynolds
- Agrarian Spirit: Cultivating Faith, Community, and the Land by Norman Wirzba (*)

References:

- <u>https://seasonofcreation.org/</u>
- https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/articles

/season-of-creation-2025-worship-





10 ESSENTIALS OF SLIP, TRIP AND FALL PREVENTION





Over 50% of injuries reported to Church Mutual Insurance Company, S.I. (a stock insurer)¹ are the result of slips, trips and falls.

Make sure your organization has these 10 essentials for slip, trip and fall prevention covered to keep your people safe.

1 Practice Good Housekeeping

Ensure walkways are kept free of clutter and debris and develop processes to ensure they remain clear.

Adhere to Accessibility Guidelines

Equip the building with all required accessibility features, including handrails, lighting and ramps.

3 Don't Forget Cord Management

Take efforts to cover extension cords with cord concealers or cable ties near heavily trafficked walkways. Contract with a licensed electrician to establish permanent solutions to limit the long-term use of extension cords.

6 Use and Inspect Rugs

Furnish slippery and high-traffic areas with rugs free of tears and curled edges. Inspect floor coverings at least quarterly to ensure suitability as seasonal conditions change.

7 Examine Ladders and Step Stools

Make ladders and step stools easily accessible in areas where people are likely to need them. Inspect ladders and stools before each use and immediately discard any in disrepair.

8 Transfer Risk for Difficult Jobs

Contract with professionals to transfer risk and liability for tasks performed at great heights or requiring special equipment.

4 Require Appropriate Footwear

Require employees and volunteers (and encourage guests) to always wear appropriate footwear.

Take Care with Spills

Develop processes to monitor, cordon off and clean all spills and wet areas. Make pop-up warning cones, spill alert buttons or employee contact information accessible throughout the building to allow building occcupants to easily draw attention to slip and fall hazards.

"Church Mutual" is a stock insurer whose policyholders are members of the parent mutual holding company formed on 1/1/2020. S.I. = a stock insurer.

9 Inspect, Repair and Treat Exterior Walking Surfaces

Correct trip and fall hazards (potholes, steep slopes, dramatic changes in elevation, etc.) around exterior walkways and parking lots. Provide training and supplies to ensure parking lots and sidewalks remain free of ice, snow and pooling water.

10 Ensure Adequate Visibility

Ensure walkways and stairwells are well lit, and changes in elevation are marked with reflective tape or bright paint.





A Webinar Series presented by



Visit <u>authoracare.org/knowing</u> for a library of previously aired webinars. 336.621.2500

Protecting Mental Health & Preventing Suicide

How Awareness, Early Action & Support Save Lives

Noon - 1 p.m. | Thursday | Sept. 25, 2025

Understanding comes from knowing. Mental health challenges affect people from all walks of life. But stigma, silence and lack of knowledge can often prevent individuals from getting the help needed. For veterans, the impact of trauma and transition can create additional barriers to care.

In this important webinar, we'll explore how understanding the signs of mental distress, applying Mental Health First Aid principles and offering early support can reduce suffering and help prevent suicide. You'll learn practical steps to support your mental wellness and the well-being of others – including those who have served.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Learn how to recognize mental health challenges in both veterans and the general population — and why early detection matters.
- Learn the key principles of Mental Health First Aid and how to apply them in everyday situations.
- Learn how to support someone in crisis and connect them to the proper care - because you know what to look for, you can help someone choose life.

Register for the Webinar on Zoom

https://authoracare.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_0tSNGHG4T96V_DBcEf-IKQ#/registration

Webinar ID: 822 9697 6316 | Join Via Phone Call: 312.626.6799



MEET OUR PANELISTS



Dr. Kaitlin Boger, EdD, LCSW Director of Counseling and Behavioral Health at AuthoraCare Collective

At AuthoraCare Collective, Dr. Boger is the Director of Counseling and Behavioral Health which provides service for adults and children and teens through our **Kids Path** program. Dr. Boger is a certified dialectical behavioral therapist with over 12 years of experience and has over 10 years of crisis experience, assisting individuals who may be experiencing suicidal or homicidal plans or thoughts.



Rita Honeycutt Veteran Service Officer, Randolph County Veteran Services

Rita Honeycutt is a Veteran Service Officer for Randolph County Veteran Services as well as a Mental Health First Aid Instructor. She is currently a student of the Shackleford Leadership Institute. Rita released her first book, "Jeeping with Jesus," with her friend Rebeka Kelley in 2022, and is currently writing her second book, "From Fat to Fit: My Whole Body Journey."

MEET OUR MODERATOR



Risa Hanau, LCSW Clinical & Community Educator at AuthoraCare Collective

Risa Hanau, LCSW, is the Clinical and Community Educator at AuthoraCare Collective. She is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker by training and holds a Master of Social Work from The University of Pennsylvania.



CONGRATULATIONS to J.W. & Betsy Brown celebrating 65 years of marriage on Tuesday, September 2nd. Blessings for many more to come.



Raising the Bar For Men's Health And Wellness Symposium



DR. DAMON TWEEDY

Psychiatry | Duke University



DR. GARY JOHNSON
Physical Therapy | Elon University





DR. KENYON RAILEY
Family Medicine | Duke Health

20 SEPTEMBER 2025 | 8 AM - 2 PM

HOSTED BY REV. JAMES COOK ST. STEPHEN MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH 5000 NOBLE ST. WINSTON SALEM, NC 27105

REGISTRATION REQUIRED



Join us for an empowering day focused on men's wellness!

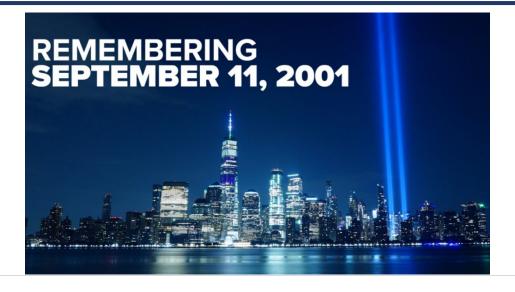
- · Free public event for men, 18 years of age or older
- Complimentary breakfast
- · Connect with health resources

https://redcap.link/RTB2025





Wake Forest University School of Medicine is the academic core of Atrium Health







EAGLE SCOUT AWARD

On July 27th,
Ryan James
Edgerton
received the
Scout Eagle
Scout Award at
St. Matthews
United Methodist
Church. In
addition, Ryan

received a Bronze Palm. The Bronze



Palm is awarded upon earning five additional merit badges above the 21 merit badges required for the rank of Eagle Scout. Moreover, Ryan received the Citizenship Award from the Marine Corps League, presented by Robert Hare. Ryan



SAINT MATTHEWS GREENSBORD, NC

Deadline for October Newsletter articles is September 22, 2025. Theme is "Harvest & Graditude" Please send your traditions & photos along with any photos to Wanda at ponice1@yahoo.com or Lisa at smumctreasurers@gmail.com.



Western North Carolina Conference

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Greensboro, NC 27406 Phone: 336-272-4505

Pastor: Tamara Ingram

E-mail Pastor: pastortammyz@aol.com

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