

THE MESSENGER

ISSUE 48



ST MATTHEWS UMC
600 E FLORIDA STREET
GREENSBORO, NC 27406

Pastor Tammy's Ponderings



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“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸ He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹ In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.” *1 John 4:7-11 NKJV Love Like a Saint!*

By now I know you’ve seen it. It’s in all the grocery and drug stores. Maybe it makes you smile. Maybe you’ve shook your head in disbelief! Maybe you’re just tired of it all! What am I talking about? Valentine’s Day Stuff, of course! I am referring to all the heart embossed stuffed animals, heart-shaped candy boxes, heart-themed cards and heart-heavy TV commercials that have been out since 1/1/2026! Red balloons and pink roses have taken over the aisles, and sadly, some have bought into the myth that you can only prove your love to someone if you spend a certain amount of money or give a certain type of gift.

Now don’t get me wrong.... I am not against sincere displays of love and affection. There is certainly a time and space for gifts of candy, jewels and cards. But spiritually, there must be more. We must remember that real love is about so much more

than flowers and chocolate and trinkets and it’s too much for us to accomplish on our own. We need the power of the Holy Spirit. John Wesley wrote, “A Methodist is one who has the love of God shed abroad in his heart by the Holy Ghost given unto him/her.” Sisters and brothers, this kind of love can change the communities we live in. This kind of love builds relationships and tears down walls of hatred. This kind of active love changes lives.

Let’s go deeper.

Central to the Christian message is the word “love.” Jesus Christ gave an instruction on how saints could be easily identified. Jesus said, “*A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another*” (John 13:34-35). It really can be summed up very simply. God loves us; we love God and others.

So, love is our “distinguishing characteristic.” You should always be able to identify us with the love that we show. And, if this is the sign by which people know us, then we need to learn how to be good at it.

That’s easy to say, I know I know and—as anyone who has tried to do this unconditionally—hard to do. So, let’s look at some ways we can live out this: “Love Mandate.”

1: Just do it

To be a Christian saint is to be a lover. Let’s be clear; there’s been a lot of confusion about this, because often we think of love primarily as an emotion and, of course, there is a dimension of love that is emotional. However, the biblical definition of love is action that is in the best interest of another person. Christians love others - period. Saints love others whether they feel like it or not. Love is action.

So do something! Show your Christian love. When you come face to face with friend—OR ENEMY--- react with a loving action. Pray for that person. Offer a smile and a kind word. “Okay,” you may be thinking, “but what if I mess up? Take heart. In this challenge of saintly love, the Spirit of God is engaged with you. God is in you. You merely need to get started and just do it.

Continued on page 2

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2: Encourage

Encouragement is one of the very best expressions of Christian love, and it is something that everyone needs. For example, many of you know that my mom went to be with the Lord a few weeks ago. Because I was her primary caregiver, this time of grieving has been difficult. But God! God has used the saints ---each and every one of you to encourage me. You supported me, prayed for me, written messages to me and held me up when I didn't think I'd make it. And here I am, a little weary from the journey but I'm still standing because I have the assurance that she's with the Lord and I have the assurance that the God in you is connected to the God in me. That is the power of encouragement!

So, here's your challenge: Find a way to remember daily that love identifies you as a saint of Jesus Christ. Send a loving email to somebody this week. Send a letter on stationery that will be read again

and again. Send a card to someone who needs some love. Give someone a message of encouragement that will be saved because the recipient is touched by your thoughtfulness and kindness. Walk up to somebody face-to-face and build him/her up. That's loving like a saint. It's a simple, profound, and spontaneous act of Christian love.

Prayer

Lord God our heavenly teacher, teach us what is most important and instruct us in how to obey your commandments to love You with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength and love our neighbor as ourselves. Help us to love --not only with our lips, but also with our hearts and lives. Help us to live lives that demonstrate all that we are, and that all that we have, is yours. Help us to move from declarations of love for you in church only to open deeds of love for you in the world. Help us, this day to see You for who you are: the God who is love. Amen.

Pastor Tammy Ingram

Pastor Haynes Newsletter Addition: Love That Goes Before Us



In the Wesleyan tradition, we speak of *prevenient grace* as God's love that goes before us. Simply put, it means that before we ever reach out to God, God is already reaching out to us. Long before faith is fully formed, God's love is at work guiding, shaping, and preparing our hearts to recognize the truth of Jesus Christ and our need for Him.

This kind of love is not distant or theoretical. It is lived out in real ways through kindness, patience, and genuine care for others. In a world often marked by division and self-focus, living out our faith publicly means showing a love that reflects God's grace. When we choose to love our neighbors with compassion and humility, we create space for others to encounter the gospel not just as words, but as a lived reality.

I have seen this grace at work in my own life. There was a time when my main concerns were my own goals—school, personal progress, and providing for my family. But answering the call to follow Christ invited me into a larger vision of love. Discipleship reshaped my priorities, teaching me that faith is never just about us. To follow Jesus is to live with love that always considers others and points, in everyday ways, to the grace that has already gone before us.

Come and Join Us for Worship

Every Sunday with worship services at 8:30am & 11am with 5th Sundays @10am (In person & all social media platforms) See Social Media Links Below:

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

Audio: Dial [1-929-205-6099](tel:1-929-205-6099), ID [82293573333#](https://www.facebook.com/stmatthewsgreensboro), passcode 583845

FACEBOOK <https://www.facebook.com/stmatthewsgreensboro>

The Abundant Heart!

The Heart

The heart is an important vital organ used to pump oxygen-rich blood throughout the entire body. It is made of a strong muscle called the myocardium. This muscle helps to keep a steady flow of oxygenated blood streaming from the heart to the rest of the body. This includes the body's tissues and cells, providing them with the nutrients they need. It also has an effective role in maintaining blood pressure and heart rate, working continuously to keep the body in a homeostatic state. Overall, the heart is essential to all life, providing the body with the nutrients and the balance that it needs to thrive in a consistent manner.

Signs and Symptoms of Heart Problems

There are specific signs and symptoms that someone experiencing heart problems exhibit. These can include recurrent chest pains, swelling in the lower body specifically the legs and feet, fatigue, shortness of breath, dizziness, and heart palpitations. Seeking medical attention if experiencing these signs is fundamental and crucial in saving one's life; and preventing major heart damage.

Maintaining a Strong and Healthy Heart

There are many ways to maintain a strong and healthy heart. Firstly, eating a healthy well-balanced diet is key. Just to name a few healthy foods: fruits, Vegetables, lean meat, fish, whole grains, and healthy oils such as olive oil are great food choices built with nutrients and vitamins that the heart needs to remain healthy. Secondly, exercise is essential to keep the heart strong, it helps to maintain blood pressure and heart rate at normal intervals. Lastly, there are multiple other ways to maintain a healthy heart: sustaining a healthy weight, smoking cessation, getting adequate rest, managing stress, and getting regular health screenings are all ways of keeping the heart healthy.

To summarize, the heart is the core of all life. When we treat our hearts with care, it helps us to live and thrive in love. We can be more effective and caring in our communities, and to others around the world. We must make the right choices to nourish and strengthen the heart. Eating a healthy diet, exercising, going to regular health screenings, and many other ways will help to maintain an abundant heart.

Citation: professional, C. C. medical. (2025, December 22). *Your heart: Powerhouse of the body*. Cleveland Clinic. <https://my.clevelandclinic.org/health/body/21704-heart>

Submitted by St Matthews Health Ministry



HATRED STIRS UP CONFLICT

BUT LOVE COVERS

OVER ALL WRONGS

PROVERBS 10:12 NIV

Community Service: A living body working together for God's purpose

Submitted by Dr. Pamela Siobohn Moye

“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.”
Matthew 25:34 (ESV)

Community service is one of the cornerstones St. Matthews. When we step beyond our walls to serve others, we live out Christ's call to love our neighbors in word and action. Every act of service, no matter how small or large it may seem, becomes a powerful testimony of God's love at work. This article shares the testimonies from student volunteers attending local colleges and universities. Through these we can see the impact of how we live our call to be in service to God.

“My experience volunteering.... taught me the importance of compassion, teamwork, and giving back to the community. During my volunteer experience... we helped with putting together goody bags specifically for the church, not for the Thanksgiving food distribution.”

“I enjoyed being a part of something that helped strengthen the church community. The people there were welcoming, even offering us fried chicken and pizza while we worked. Sharing food together made the environment warm and friendly, and it helped me feel comfortable and connected as we prepared the bags.”

“This part of the volunteer work felt meaningful because we were preparing meals that would directly support families in need during the holiday season. As we filled the boxes... I realized how important acts of service like this are for people who may be struggling. The process was thoughtful and eye-opening, reminding me that helping the community even in small ways can have a big impact.”

“One of the highlights of my experience was connecting with the other volunteers working alongside me. Many of them were students from North Carolina A&T, and like me, they were studying to become social workers. Talking with them throughout the day was motivating and comforting, because we shared similar passions, goals, and interests. It was inspiring to meet peers who were just as committed to helping others, and being surrounded by them made the volunteer experience even more enjoyable and meaningful.”

“Volunteering at St. Matthew's Church gave me a powerful combination of service, learning, and connection for putting so much care for other people. Every moment of the day strengthened my passion for helping others. This experience not only allowed me to support my community but also deepened my commitment to pursuing a career dedicated to making a positive difference in people's lives.”

As you can see, St. Matthews commitment to community service reflects the example set by Jesus, who consistently reached out to the hungry, the sick, the lonely, and the forgotten. We are His hands and feet, offering compassion, dignity, and hope to those around us. Service strengthens us as a church family. When we serve together, we build deeper relationships, grow in unity, and discover the unique gifts Gods has placed within each of us. Serving side by side allows us to learn from one another and grow together in faith. Our obedience to the Holy Spirit allows us to remain standing in the gap while here on earth. Through God's grace, love, and mercy we are of service.

“My time in service at St. Matthew's Church deeply moved me, as the kindness, worship, and spiritual connection I experienced there strengthened my faith and touched my spirit in a way I will never forget. For a long time, I had been struggling in my relationship with God not because I stopped believing, but because my life shifted in a negative direction that left me confused, hurt, and questioning everything. I kept wondering, “Why did God do this to me?” and “Why did He take the people who made me the happiest? I attended a service that was based on a passage from the book of Luke 17:11–19 where Jesus healed ten men suffering from leprosy, but only one of them, a foreigner, returned to thank Him. This story touched me because, in a way, it reflected where I was spiritually. Even though I had drifted away, confused and unsure, I still found myself coming back to God, wanting to thank Him for keeping me even through my pain.”

That message reminded me God never stopped being there I was just lost for a moment. I went to the altar, and on one side of me was my teacher, Mrs. Moye, on the other side the pastor stood with his hand on my shoulder. In that moment, it didn't matter what drama existed in my life, who had hurt me, or what strangers were around me God brought us together in unity and love. I felt surrounded, supported, and spiritually covered. That feeling reminded me that even when I feel alone or distant, God is always finding a way to pull me close again.

My experience at St. Matthew's Church was powerful, healing, and unforgettable. The church members were welcoming, the message was exactly what my heart needed, and the atmosphere felt safe and comforting. Being there reminded me that God never stopped loving me, even when I drifted away. Thanks for inviting me, Mrs. Moye.”

From these testimonies we can see St. Matthews is not just a building, but a living body working together for God's purpose. May our actions continue to point others to Christ, and may our service be a reminder that love, when put into action, has the power to transform lives – including our own. “Let us not love with words or speech but with action and in truth.” 1 John 3:18 (ESV)

40 Days, 40 Items Lenten Challenge: Help us fill the Pantry!!!

Join our Challenge to stock the shelves. For the 40 days of Lent, we are asking each member to collect a non-perishable food item daily. You will place items in a box at your home and at the end of the Lenten period, bring your box to the church's Narthex on the following dates/time: Monday-Thursday, March 30th through April 2nd from 10am to 12noon and Sunday, April 5th from 10am to 11am.

- The Goal: 100% participation to fight local hunger.
- The action: Let's turn our Lenten sacrifice into a feast for those in need!

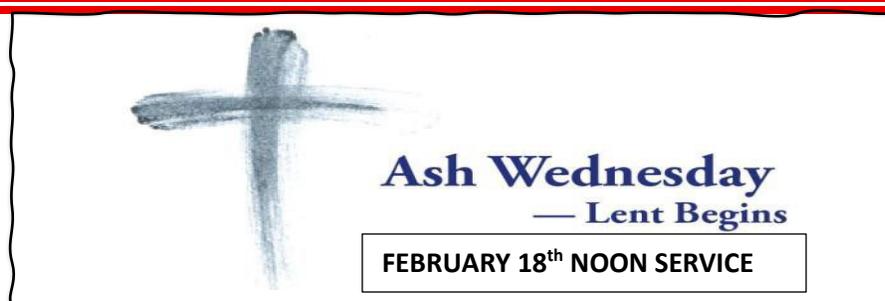
Sponsored by St. Matthews Shepherding Ministry

- Food Pantry items needed:

Canned Meats: tuna, spam, salmon, ham, Canned Entries: ravioli, beef stew, spaghetti & meatballs, chili, etc.

Canned Fruits: mixed variety, peaches, pears, etc. Canned Vegetables: pork & beans, black eyed peas Saltine crackers, Peanut butter & jelly Boxed or Canned Milk: whole milk or 2% milk
Packaged Pasta: macaroni, noodles, spaghetti, small bags of rice or pinto beans,

Cereals: oatmeal, grits, boxed cereals Condiments (small bottles): ketchup, mustard, mayo
*Note: Fresh items like loaves of bread, fresh fruit, and pre-packaged sliced cheese are also needed but please deliver them to the church as soon as they are purchased.



LENT 2026 CALENDARS will be distributed with the February 11th bulletin on a separate attachment or insert for printed copies. Daily scripture and reflections are listed as well as information on fasting for Lent. For questions or more information, please contact your Shepherd.

- FASTING PRAYER FOR LENT “Do you want to Fast this Lent?”
 - “Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
 - “Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
 - “Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
 - “Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
 - “Fast from worries and have trust in God.
 - “Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
 - “Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
 - “Fast from bitterness and fill your heart with joy.
 - “Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
 - “Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
 - “Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.”

Submitted by Wanda Edgerton

**Memorial Breakfast
Honoring
Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr.
Monday, January 19, 2026**

The Sheraton Greensboro Hotel at Four Seasons
“From Words to Action: Advancing the Dream Together”
By Karlah Burton



Established in 1987 by the Greensboro Human Rights Commission, the annual event celebrates Dr. King's legacy, promotes human rights, and inspires community action. Having evolved from a small gathering of approximately seventy-five attendees at a local Presbyterian church to a major local event, this year it was reported that an estimated 850 people were in attendance! The program featured keynote speakers, Karrie G. Dixon, EdD, five each of Everyday Champions of Civil Rights and Morningside Award recipients, symbolizing a commitment to justice and equality as part of this national holiday.

Everyday Champions of Civil Right Awards are given to city residents who have gone “above and beyond” to champion increased human rights and social justice. Honorees for 2026 were James Hairston, PhD, Deena Hayes-Greene, the late Tifanie Rudd, the late Janet Ward Black, and Justin Washington. **Morningside Awards** are given each year by the City of Greensboro to 5 James B. Dudley High School graduates in recognition of their charge to social justice and in memory of Cesar Cauce, Dr. James Waller, William Evan Sampson, Sandra Neely Smith, and Dr. Michael Nathan who died in the Greensboro Massacre of 1979. The 2026 awardees were Misa Brumby, Brinity Horton, Jordan Johnson, Gabrielle Taylor, and our very own Gabrielle Brown. Congratulations, Gabby!



Also featured as part of the program were Natalie Wilson, News Anchor & Reporter, WGHP-TV; Marikay Abuzuaiter, Mayor, City of Greensboro; INSPIRO: The Triad Youth Choir; Patricia Levitin, NC Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission; Shon Smith, EdD, Chair, Human Rights Commission; The Poetry Project, Maria Hicks-Few, Deputy Director, Human Rights Department; Love Jones, PhD, Director, Human Rights Department; also Rabbi Andy Koren, Rev. Erika Hendrix, DMin, Imam Abdel Nuriddin, ND, PhD who rendered the invocation. Keynote Speaker, Karrie G. Dixon, EdD, holds a bachelor's and doctorate degree from NC State University as well as a master's degree from UNC-Greensboro. She is the current chancellor of North Carolina Central University. As part of fifteen years of system wide leadership, Dixon was named NCCU's 13th chancellor in July 2024 becoming the first woman to serve in that role at two UNC institutions. She is a preceding chancellor of Elizabeth City State University. Dr. Dixon gave a message of hope which included words to encourage continued present-day action in the image and legacy of Dr. King, furthering the quest toward equal rights and fair treatment for all.

As always, I found the 39th Annual MLK Breakfast to be very inspirational, a good time of fellowship but in the words of Reverend Doctor Samuel Moore (SMUMC, sermon 1/18/26), “It isn't about the food”. I found my motivation after finally having accepted my mother's (Margaret Burton) invitation to attend the event years ago. Former church members (deceased) have worked with our youth group, I'm told, setting up the opportunity to assist as event hosts/ushers over the years dating back to before I joined the church in 2007, Hallelujah! Praise the Lord! Thank you, Jesus! For a while after that I served as part of the MLK, Jr. Breakfast Planning Committee, having made a few acquaintances along the way. As such, the Saint Matthews UMC table has already been reserved for 2027! More information to come. It was great to see Reverend Haynes, Pleasantte Kinsler-Johnson, her husband and their friend visiting from SC; my buddy, Anna Wright of Fairfield Community Church (formerly Fairfield UMC located in High Point, NC, having recently disaffiliated), which comprised the SMUMC table...AND me! May we continue to reflect on the life of the Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr., affirm equal opportunity, and foster human rights within the world community.

***When inclement weather occurs, in-person worship services could be cancelled. Notifications about closings, time changes, online services options, etc. are sent via our email, voicemail and text distribution channels as well as the local TV stations and Facebook. Please check out one of these venues before coming to the church. If you want to be added to our distribution channels, contact the church office. Thank you.**

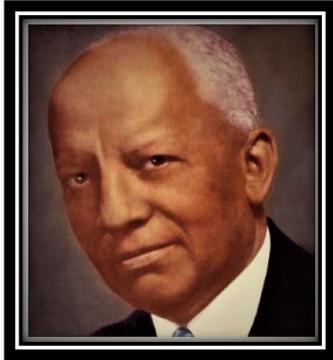


IT IS HISTORY

CARTER GODWIN WOODSON

December 19, 1875 – April 3, 1950

Woodson was born in New Canton, VA, and died in the city of Washington, D.C. He was an American historian who first opened the



long-neglected field of black studies to scholars and popularized it in schools and colleges among black people, focusing attention on black contributions to civilization. He

founded *Negro History Week* (1926). Noted as the Founder of Negro History Week. (Photo-Carter G. Woodson, c. 1910s. *Hulton Archive/Getty Images*).

Carter Woodson, from a low-income family, supported himself and his family by working as a sharecropper, in Kentucky coal mines, and in other jobs during his childhood; he was unable to enroll in high school until he was 20 and graduated in less than 2 years. After attending Berea College in Kentucky, Woodson served as an education superintendent in the Philippines for the U.S. government. He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees at the University of Chicago in less than two years. He taught high school, wrote articles, studied at home and abroad, and was the second Negro to receive his Ph.D. from Harvard University (1912). In 1915, he founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History to encourage scholars to engage in the intensive study of the Negro's past. Prior to this work, the field had been largely neglected or distorted in the hands of historians who accepted the traditionally biased picture of blacks in American and

world affairs. In 1916, Woodson edited the first issue of the association's principal scholarly publication, *The Journal of Negro History*, which, under his direction, remained an important historical periodical for more than 30 years.

Woodson was dean of the College of Liberal Arts and head of the graduate faculty at Howard University, Washington, D.C. (1919-20), and dean at West Virginia State College, Institute, W.Va. (1920-22). While there, he founded and became president of Associated Publishers to bring out books on Negro life and culture, since experience had shown him that the usual publishing outlets were rarely interested in scholarly works on blacks. Other important works by Woodson include the widely consulted college text *The Negro in Our History* (1922; 10th ed., 1962); *The Education of the Negro Prior to 1861* (1915); and *A Century of Negro Migration* (1918). He was at work on a projected six-volume *Encyclopedia Africana* at the time of his death. URL: <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Carter-G-Woodson>. Access Date: February 10, 2021

Despite misgivings about churches run by the wrong people, Woodson remained a **Christian**, serving as a Sunday school teacher and president of the board of deacons at the First Baptist Church in Winona, WV.

In 2026, The United Methodist Church (UMC) various conferences and St. Matthews are observing the 100th anniversary of the mission started by Dr. Carter G. Woodson, the "Father of Black History". The national theme for 2026 is "A Century of Black History Commemorations," celebrating the 100-year legacy since Woodson established Negro History Week in 1926. See our wall of historical people and events presented to support his legacy (church narthex bulletin board).

Submitted by E. A. McGirt, A&H



**BE SAFE IN THIS WINTER
WONDERLAND WE ARE
EXPERIENCING.**

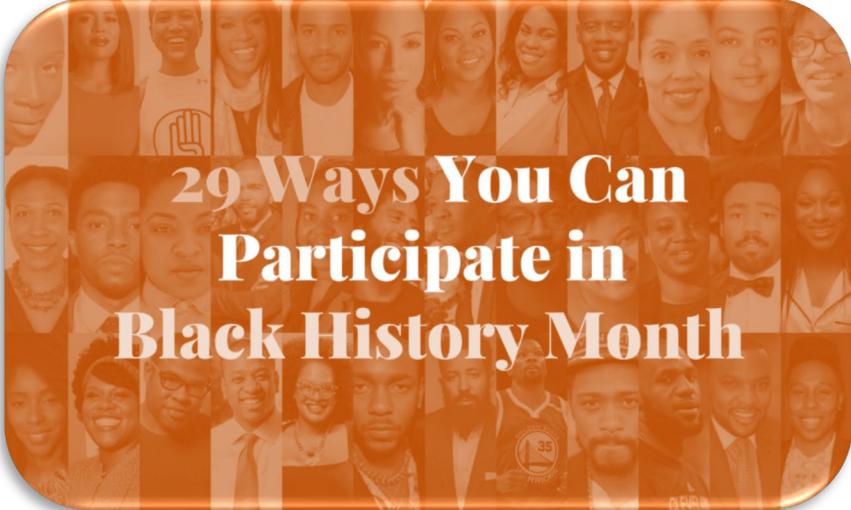
NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

*Hatred paralyzes life;
love releases it.*

*Hatred confuses life;
love harmonizes it.*

*Hatred darkens life;
love illuminates it.*

- Martin Luther King Jr.



29 Ways You Can Participate in Black History Month

No matter your heritage, culture, or racial background, Black history is EVERYONE's story. Here are 29 ways you, your family, and our congregation can celebrate and participate in Black History Month.

1. Patronize a local or online Black-owned business.
2. Attend church, Bible study, or worship at a historically Black church and experience the Gospel from another vantage point.
3. Sing hymns or songs during worship by a composer from the African diaspora. Include the history of the song or hymn in the church bulletin or on your website.
4. Attend or co-host a Black history or Black culture event in your community, in partnership with a Black congregation.
5. Take a church family field trip to a Black history site or museum in your area.
6. Learn more about "Black Harry" Hosier (c. 1750-1806), an African-American Methodist preacher and evangelist.
7. Research other Black United Methodist leaders from our church's heritage.
8. Fearlessly learn more about how racism has and still affects Black people around the world and start confronting racism.
9. Donate to a Black nonprofit or empowerment organization in your community.
10. Watch a film by and about the heritage and lives of Black people. Titles to consider: "Antwone Fisher," "Malcolm X," "If Beale Street Could Talk," "Hidden Figures," "The Hate U Give," "One Night in Miami," and "Tulsa Black Wall Street."
11. Watch and discuss documentaries about the Civil Rights movement and other series on the challenges and triumphs of Black people. Suggestions: "Eyes on the Prize," and Henry Louis Gates' recent series, "The Black Church: This Is Our Story. This Is Our Song," and "The Red Summer of 1919/Voice of Freedom (PBS).
12. Visit a landmark about the lives of local Black heroes in your area (Tour the Civil
13. Rights, the Greensboro Historical and NC Museums of History-Raleigh, NC)
14. Read a contemporary book by a Black author.
15. Read a story featuring a Black hero to your children, grandchildren, or to a local school class.
16. Seek out and talk with a Black elder (75 or older) about their experience in your community.
17. Study one of the 54 nations on the continent of Africa, including the language, culture, current events.
18. Donate to one of the 12 United Methodist-related historically Black colleges and universities in the United States and Zimbabwe.
19. Learn about an unsung hero of Black history.
20. Attend shows featuring local Black artists, actors, poets, local musicians, or dancers.
21. Explore the breadth of Black music, from jazz to hip-hop, and gospel to southern African folk songs.
22. Call out racism and prejudice aimed at Black people and other People of Color in your church and community.
23. Learn about "colorism" and how it plays out in our society.
24. Learn more about the Black UMC caucus, [Black Methodists for Church Renewal](#).
25. Subscribe to and learn from Black media and the Black press.
26. Engage in positive, supportive conversations about Black history and culture on social media.
27. Learn the lyrics to "[Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing](#)".
28. Read Dr. King's "Letter from a Birmingham Jail." The letter can be found here: [Letter from Birmingham Jail \(csuchico.edu\)](#)
29. Read a biography of an influential Black figure, such as Nelson Mandela, Malcolm X, Shirley Chisolm, Kobe Bryant, Michelle Obama, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Justice Thurgood Marshall, the Rev. Joseph Lowery.
30. Register to vote the 3rd and 4th Sundays after worship services, Narthex Display.

RESOURCE: UMC R2hub.org:

*Submitted by: Albertina McGirt and Peggie Horton,
Religion and Race Co-chairs*



Fellowship Choir @ MLK Day Parade

On Monday, January 19, 2026, the Fellowship Choir of St. Matthews UMC joyfully participated in the Greensboro MLK Day Parade. This was the ministry's second year participating and the participants doubled in number. It was a blessing to have some of the children riding and passing candy out, inviting the people of the community to come worship with us at St. Matthews. We were even featured on the local news!!! Special thanks to everyone who participated and all those who contributed bags of candy for us to share.

Submitted by: Mia Puryear Naylor, Fellowship Choir President



UPDATE: NEW NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

To keep our congregation informed and our communications clear, we are implementing new submission standards for all newsletter contributors.

Starting immediately, please ensure your articles meet our updated word count, deadline, and formatting requirements to be included in the monthly publication.

Key Highlights

- Deadline: will be posted in the monthly newsletter
- Length: 150–500 words maximum; not to exceed a page
- Photos: Attach high-res JPEGs separately; do not embed them in docs.
- Process: Email your draft as a Word document or plain text to the media,
- smumcgreensboro@gmail.com.

>Note: These changes help our volunteer team maintain a consistent and professional look for our church family. Thank you for your cooperation!

SPPRC CORNER – STAFF SPOTLIGHT WILL BROOKER

How long have you worked for SMUMC? Since 2016

At what age did you start playing Organ and Piano? 16 years old

Name two of your favorite songs to teach and play? “How Excellent” & “Oh Give Thanks”

Favorite time of the year? Summer

Your first car, make model, year and color? 1987 300 ZX Nissan

A good breakfast is pancakes, waffles or neither? Waffles

A state I would like to visit that I haven't? Washington

Do you have a pet, if so what type? No pets

Favorite thing to do to relax? Sleep

Besides love and money, you could never have too much of? Teaching of life expectations.



Scholarship Opportunities -- Attach are a list of scholarships for both upcoming and current college students - please click on the link to apply --

<https://www.gbhem.org/scholarships/>
<https://www.cbcfinc.org/programs/scholarships/>



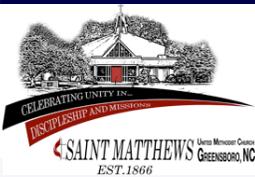
WE LOVE SMUMC: BP CHECKS

Sunday, February 22nd after each Worship Service, Room 20



The Messenger Newsletter is in need of a proofreader for the newsletter. A keen eye for details and language mastery is helpful. If interested, please contact Wanda Edgerton by way of email ponice1@yahoo.com or phone 336-207-5441

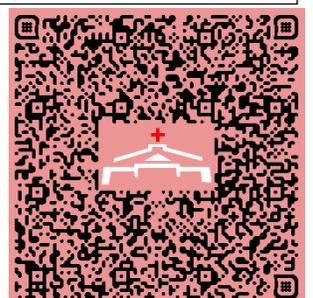
Deadline for March Newsletter articles is February 20, 2026. Theme is "Celebrating Women's Achievements" Please send your articles & photos to Media Ministry at smumcgreensboro@gmail.com.



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Gate City Alumni Chapter

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The Gate City Alumni Chapter... See more

2026 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

JANUARY 1 - MARCH 15, 2026

The Gate City Alumni Chapter has established a scholarship program to assist Guilford County High School seniors pursuing a college education at North Carolina A&T State University.

- Need-Based Scholarship,
- Open to Guilford County HS Seniors admitted to NC A&T SU for the 2026-2027 academic year,
- Offers \$1,250/semester,
- Renewable for four years (when meeting yearly requirements).

APPLY TODAY!

<https://bit.ly/GateCityScholarship>

QUESTIONS? EMAIL:
GATECITYAGGIESCHOLARSHIP@GMAIL.COM