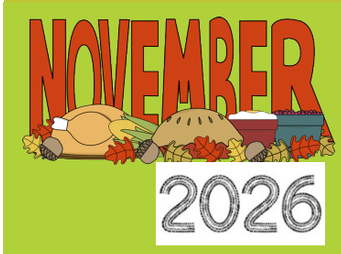
THE MESSENGER

ST MATTHEWS UMC
600 E FLORIDA STREET
GREENSBORO, NC 27406



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Issue 56

Pastor Tammy's Ponderings

EVERY DAY IS A DAY OF THANKSGIVING!

Years ago, Rev. Rod and I, along with my mother- and father-in-love, formed a gospel quartet called *The Voices of Deliverance*. We traveled around Albemarle, North Carolina, singing in churches and at special events. And, if I may say so myself, we were pretty good! We had a wonderful repertoire and an even better time praising the Lord.

One song was always a favorite - and almost always requested as our closing selection: *"Every Day Is a Day of Thanksgiving,"* attributed to Dr. Charles Hayes. Even now, I smile remembering its joyful testimony: **"God's been so good to me!"**

What I remember most, however, is not simply our singing. It is the way the people responded. Some stood and waved their hands; others clapped, sang along, or wiped tears from their cheeks. I believe the song touched them because each person had a testimony. They knew what it meant to be sustained by the goodness of God.

Why share this memory? Well, it's a set-up! I want to invite you to remember the goodness, grandeur, and greatness of God in your own life. In fact, I hope this article inspires you to have your own **personal praise party!**

We have so many reasons to give thanks: another day of life, the air we breathe, the beauty of autumn, food to nourish us, shelter, friends, family, and the fellowship of our church. Yet I know that not everyone enjoys good health, financial stability, or a season free from sorrow. Gratitude does not require us to pretend that life is easy. It invites us to recognize that **God remains faithful—even when life is hard.**

Psalm 103:2 declares, *"Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits."* What a necessary reminder! Often, today's worries crowd out yesterday's testimonies. We forget the prayers God answered, the strength God supplied, and the doors God opened. But when we remember how far the Lord has brought us, our memories become fuel for our praise.

Above all, **we thank God for Jesus Christ!** Paul exclaims in **2 Corinthians 9:15**, *"Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift."* Through Christ we receive forgiveness, new life, and hope that reaches beyond the grave. Even if we never received another earthly gift, the saving grace of Jesus would be reason enough to say, **"Thank You, Lord!"**

And what about those difficult seasons? **1 Thessalonians 5:18** teaches us, *"In everything give thanks."* Notice: It does not tell us to rejoice *for* every painful thing, but to remain thankful *in* every circumstance. We can grieve and still trust. We can struggle and still pray. We can face uncertainty and still praise the One who holds our future.

So this November, let us do more than gather around tables and enjoy wonderful meals. Let us practice Thanksgiving as a way of life. Thank God not only with words, but with kindness, generosity, service, and compassion. **One of the most meaningful ways to celebrate God's blessings is to become a blessing to someone else.**

Dear Saint Matthews family, take a moment today to remember what God has brought you through, what God has provided, and how God has kept you. Let those memories turn into worship. As I think of *The Voices of Deliverance*, I can almost hear that familiar song rising again. And my heart responds with gratitude — for God's faithfulness, for the privilege of ministry, and for each of you.

We do not have to wait until Thanksgiving Day to praise the Lord. Every day offers another reason to say, "THANK YOU, LORD!"

Happy Thanksgiving, Saint Matthews!

With love and gratitude, Pastor Tammy

PASTOR TOREY UNPLUGGED



Small but Strong: A Retelling of a Miracle

Over the past three years, I have often thought about my journey, my call, and my story. I think about my birth, my adoption, my parents and grandparents. I think about my journey through school and the first few years of my marriage. It has been an interesting road, and I count my blessings, because I am astonished at how God has carried me through so many years. If you will allow me, I want to take you through one of those blessings, one that may not have looked glamorous at first, but was nothing short of miraculous.

One blessing I count and return to often is God's prevenient grace in my earliest days. I was born to a teenage mother who was still growing into young womanhood. I arrived at 26 weeks, far too soon, weighing 2 pounds and 15 ounces. Because I struggled to eat, my weight dropped to 1 pound 10 ounces. That kind of fragility called for love, care, and attention, and I was surrounded by all three: a devoted care team, a family who refused to step back, and, most importantly, two praying grandmothers.

I spent about seven weeks in the hospital. When the day finally came for me to go home, my family welcomed another baby boy, small but strong. But the celebration was short-lived. My lungs were still underdeveloped, my immune system was still very weak, and soon after coming home, I developed infant pneumonia. It sent me back to the hospital, this time on life support, for three weeks.

When my mom tells the story today, she remembers the doctors sitting her down and telling her to prepare herself for the possibility that I would not recover. My family was, and always has been, a praying family. So, my mom picked up the phone and called my grandmother, and my grandmother began to pray.

As I write this today, it is a testament to how it all ended. The point I want to impart is that miracles often carry us through unbearable and traumatic times. They are unexplainable, and I attribute them to the power of Almighty God, particularly in my own story.

Many of you have stories and testimonies that we could tell for years, and that is exactly what we are called to do. I count my blessings every day, and I believe that practice contributes to the peace I consistently carry, and that peace I pray rubs off on the many people I encounter. So I say to you: count your blessings, and tell them to all who will hear. You might inspire someone, or give them the faith to keep living, lift their head, and say with hope, "What a Wonderful World."





From the Pastor's Heart: A Sincere Thank You!

"I thank my God every time I remember you." — Philippians 1:3

To My Beloved Saint Matthews Church Family,

My heart is overflowing with gratitude and thanksgiving for the tremendous outpouring of love you showered upon me during Pastor Appreciation Month!

Words cannot adequately express how deeply touched I was by your thoughtful gifts, beautiful cards, encouraging messages, heartfelt expressions of appreciation, and, most importantly, your prayers. Every gesture, whether great or small, reminded me of just how blessed I am to serve such a loving and caring congregation.

Please know that I do not take your kindness, generosity, or love for granted. Your words of affirmation have encouraged my spirit, strengthened my heart, and reminded me once again that **the work we do for the Lord is never in vain.**

Being your pastor is both a sacred privilege and a tremendous responsibility. I thank God for the opportunity to walk alongside you in faith, to celebrate life's joys, to stand with you through life's challenges, and to witness the wonderful things God continues to do in and through our beloved Saint Matthews.

As we continue this journey together, may we remain united in faith, steadfast in love, and committed to the work God has entrusted to our hands.

With a grateful heart and much pastoral love,

Rev. Tamara Z. Ingram

Your Pastor and Servant in Christ



THANK YOU PARTICIPANTS – "160 MILES WALKING CHALLENGE"

from April 12 – September 19 was the start of our 160th anniversary celebration with 18 participants walking weekly. Kudos to our top three walkers: Shirley Hymon-Parker (1179 miles), Anita Ingram (521 miles) and Cheryl Little (478 miles). Other participants included Tracy Anthony, Treana Bowling, Jean Brown, Karen Gilliam, Johnny Gripper, Debi McClendon, Faye McAdoo, Pam Moye, Mia Naylor, Alda Royal, Renee Royal, Ouida Scarborough and Michelle Thompson. The mileage tracking log has been disabled, so if you didn't get your water bottle gift, please contact the church office.

Special thanks to Medera Patron

for the great pictures of our 160th Anniversary and the colorful bulletin cover for Children's Sabbath. We appreciate you!

SAINT MATTHEWS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Sunday, October 25, 2026
CHILDREN'S SABBATH



Pictured designed by Medera Patron





IT IS HISTORY: By the SMUMC A&H Committee
20 November 2026

Americans turned back their clocks one hour on November 1; we anticipated a mid-term election; Veterans Day observances shall occur on the 11th and Thanksgiving services, parades, football games and delicious meals may leave us with special memories--and probably a little weightier in more ways than one.

It is a privilege to reflect on the significance of our men that served in the 37th Regiment of the United States Colored Troops (USCT) on our 160th church anniversary. These were men who helped to emancipate the enslaved; physically built our church-school; and resided in and are interred in the historic Warnersville Community of Greensboro, NC.

The **37th United States Colored Infantry Regiment** (originally organized under the Bureau of Colored Troops as the 3rd NC Colored Volunteer Infantry between 1863-64 at New Bern, NC). It existed to provide military manpower to the Union Army that allowed African enslaved and free men to actively fight to end slavery and preserve the Union. Its purpose evolved from active Civil War combat-designed to occupy former Confederate territories and enforce Reconstruction until the unit mustered out on **February 11, 1867** ("Muster"-to be formally discharged and released from active service, or to officially disband a military unit, *Merriam-Webster Dictionary*).

The 37th Regiment evolved after President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, and the Bureau of Colored Troops was subsequently established by General Orders No. 143 on May 22, 1863. Young and older men of African descent served tactical purposes to:

- Disrupt Confederate supply lines,
- Engage in major battles to secure strategic strongholds like Wilmington, NC then they joined General William T. Sherman's march through the south;
- **Function as Military police** across NC and the Dept. of the South by maintaining civil order and to protect newly freed families and various military properties.
- Soldiers cleared forestry, processed timber, designed and constructed our first church-school.
- They purchased land from Warner and Unthank with their pension funds and became Warnersville residents.

"Originally not allowed to join the Army, by the end of the war, some 180,000 to 200,000 Blacks served in the United States Colored Troops (USCT) and comprised ten percent of the U. S. Army. There were at least 166 regiments of Black soldiers, who fought in approximately 450 battle actions. As a result of their participation in the war, three amendments were added to the Constitution. The 13th that abolished slavery, the 14th gave Blacks equal protection under the law, and the 15th gave Black men the right to vote. (**Resource**-*The United States Colored Troops in the American Civil War, By Stewart Henderson, Article Updated February 18, 2025, October 27, 2020*). Approximately 38,000 to 43,000 died, another 30,000 were wounded."

Commissioned troop leaders were Caucasian because this was strict military policy in early American history, until President Harry S. Truman signed Executive Order 9981 on July 26, 1948, ending military segregation. The A and H committee members invite interested members to research Caucasian Union leaders that commanded the 37th regiment comprised of patriots and some remarkable Methodist men such as *Brevet Brigadier-General* Nathan Goff, *Major General* Benjamin F. Butler-Recruiter for VA & NC; *Major General* Edward A. Wild & *Brigadier General* Edward W. Hinks; Other notable leaders included Major Generals Alfred H. Terry and William T. Sherman. Notable members of the 37th include **Harmon Unthank, *First Sergeants* James H. Dolberry, Sanders Kinsey, *Sergeants* William B. Davis, William Taylor, Milton Harris, Elisha Taylor. *Quartermaster Sergeant* Andrew Marshall**. Then let your search reveal more soldiers and their personal stories.

WE THANK ALL FOR THEIR SERVICES!

Thanksgiving is the perfect time to remember the 37th Regiment and all Veterans on November 11. "WE" stand on the shoulders of men and women who practiced stewardship so that "WE" would enjoy a better life than they experienced. God blessed us with hands to make good, different footprints as well. Veterans made sacrifices that most of us were never asked nor volunteered to make, in a country that caused systemic harms.**1 John 3:16** – *"This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters."* One can make a case that members of the 37th Regiment of the USCT and ALL Veterans--in their line of duty--followed *Jesus' example by practicing "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.* By serving beyond a tactical war, they created and gifted us WARNERSVILLE, a love in action that still serves mankind in Greensboro and beyond.

Happy Thanksgiving



"Happenings at the Crossroads "

UWF GROUP 3

Tuesday, November 10th @6pm
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86987345403?pwd=MUo3Wkd2M1daKzhIeXlkYzVnLzg1 QT09 Dial in +1-929-205-6099, 86987345403#; Passcode: 209243

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Tuesday, November 10th @6:30pm
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87378329945?pwd=CPPwOdDTArnTI8JtYGr3AtaHHJNMBk.1 Dial in +1-929-205-6099, 87378329945#; Passcode: 532309

TRUSTEES MEETING

Tuesday, November 17th @6:30pm
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87065901144?pwd=NFxg43bItVOawMkm8R4q2ewqbAGU qX.1 Dial in +1-929-205-6099, 87065901144#; Passcode: 450383

CHURCH COUNCIL

Thursday, November 19th @6:30 pm
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89924905941?pwd=MDIzNHduZVlhaUwwRnBoTWhKZHZ pdz09 Dial in +1-929-205-6099, 89924905941#; Passcode: 329886

TURKEY GIVEAWAY

Saturday, November 21st @ 12 Noon

200 Turkeys to be given away in the Coley Hooker Fellowship parking Lot. Help is needed to pass out turkeys, coordinate the waiting lines and bag food items.



"CALLING SAINT MATTHEWS UMC LEADERS" Your voices and presence are vital to where God is guiding our church. If you are named on the Church Leadership List for 2026 and 2027, your attendance is expected as we align our vision, support one another, and build the future of our community. We truly cannot do this work without you, and we look forward to gathering together! Mark your calendar for the **Leadership Retreat** on **Saturday Nov. 7th** from **9am - noon** in the CHJ Fellowship Hall.

SMUMC 160TH ANNIVERSARY "BE THE CHURCH" CAMPAIGN

In continuing our 160th church anniversary celebration, we invite all members to participate in the "Be the Church" campaign. This campaign gives our congregation the opportunity to help our community more than ever from November 1, 2026, to January 31, 2027, we are asking the congregation to commit to volunteer hours over and above the normal SMUMC programs; the goal is to accumulate 160 hours of community service collectively as a church! Everyone is asked to use a volunteer form to log in their hours weekly (the sheet will have a list of acceptable agencies and projects that can be counted). There are manual forms plus collection box in the Narthex, or you may use the online form sent via email. Each week, our collective progress will be charted and displayed by the mercury on the 160-hour thermometer in the hallway! For more information, please reach out to any committee member: Wanda Edgerton, Jimmie Gravely, Debi McClendon, Lydia McNeill, Ramona Miller, or Ouida Scarborough, The Co-Chairs are Pastor Ingram and Pastor Haynes.

FUN @ Trunk or Treat 2026



An Interview with Four of Saint Matthews 160th Anniversary Legacies

During the week of October 18,2026, this writer was given the distinct pleasure to interview Four Members of Saint Matthews' Legacy Members. Among them are Margaret Burton, Rev. James Curry, Howard Drake and Coley Hooker. I was given a series of questions by Wanda Edgerton, church newsletter advisor. Their responses to a specific scripture that has anchored them throughout their lives include Psalm 23 and Psalm 24. This group has received inspiration from the following hymns: "My Hope Is Built," " It Is Well with My Soul," "Precious Lord," " The Church's One Foundation," "What A Friend We Have in Jesus," and all children's songs.

Coley Hooker remarks that Bible Study, sermons and music have meant the most to him during his decades of service to the church. He continues to pray daily and worship each Sunday. He remembers walking to church to attend the morning and evening services on Sunday and prayer meeting on Wednesday evenings; there were no cancellations.

Sunday School participants ranged from babies to adults. To the younger generation, Mr. Hooker encourages them to continue to attend church regularly. Mr. Hooker remarks that as he looks back over 95 plus years, he has been able to call upon the Lord who is always there. The church was more of a community church, and its doors were never locked!

Rev. James Curry, a retired UMC Minister, enjoys reading the bulletins, which contains lots of events including those in the week ahead. The ministry that has meant the most to him during his decades of service is The Food Pantry, for it is a means to assist others who are in need. Faith in God has allowed Rev. Curry to remain strong through difficult times. He advises young people to stay in school; get an education that will carry you far in life. He spent 22 years in the United States Air Force, and while flying those planes, Rev. Curry remarks that he trusted God completely then as well as now.

While growing up In the town of Hickory, North Carolina, **Margaret Burton** resided near the church where she worshiped during the morning and evening services. Prayer has kept her faith strong through life's difficult times. She advises the young people to remember their faith for God is always available; just call on His name. Mrs. Burton's faith was at work when she was mistakenly hit in her eye by another child as they were playing softball. The girl's fingernail scratched Mrs. Burton's eye, and Burton's parents traveled from Hickory to places between and finally to Winston-Salem where the family was told that Margaret did not have cancer! Faith at work!

Howard Drake, a Dudley High School graduate who grew up in Greensboro, walked to church and was baptized in 1936. While walking, he encountered other members who were traveling in the same direction. He was a member of the youth choir as Ms. Juanita Wells was the musician. He enjoyed all the songs they were taught. Because children were expected to be in the sanctuary from the beginning to the end of worship, children went to the bathroom before service began. Mr. Drake advises young people to attach themselves and stay focused on those individuals who model positive leadership roles. As young people decide to live a better life, events begin to fall in place. He mentioned Mr. Johnny Briggs, who was his first cousin and a member of St. Matthews. Mr. Drake shared the fact that some ministers were "pound" by their congregations, they received additional food and supplies from their members if they needed it.

This writer has enjoyed talking and listening to these individuals who have shared interesting accounts of their Faith Walk. I suppose that's why they are Legacies!

Submitted by W. Jean Brown



LITURGICAL ARTS MINISTRY

As the children gathered to prepare for a Liturgical Arts presentation for Children's Sabbath, their leader engaged them in a discussion about God's love for them and the love they have for themselves. The United Women of Faith requested Whitney Houston's rendition of ***"Greatest Love of All"*** as it ties in well with the national theme, ***Let the Children Lead Them***. During the rehearsals, we talked about how the children are to think positively and believe in themselves. We read and memorized Psalm 139:14 to remind each child that they are" fearfully*, wonderfully, [and beautifully] made."* We all love our youngest members ... our precious gifts from God!



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY, GLORY TRAIN …. 22 years strong!!! It's been a glorious ride with a beautiful array of colorful cast members along the way. I applaud each and every one of you. If you only boarded the Train one time, *God bless you*. If you joined us for just one season, I *appreciate you*. If you made it almost to this juncture, I *honor you* and am thankful for your faithfulness. Throughout the years, many performers have come and gone for various reasons and I pray your "Train experience" will live with you forever… we had some fun along the way (some of us will never forget that van ride to Roanoke Va. in February, 2007 — *"He Touched Me"*).

Now to the few "original" travelers who started this remarkable journey with me on Sunday, November 7, 2004, and are still riding the rails, I *salute you* for your years of dedicated service: **Tony Phifer**, **Wanda Phifer**, and **Albertina McGirt** . . . and **Mia Naylor**, who started with us, but took time off for college and to start a family; she's come back now in full force.

In years past, The Glory Train averaged two performance requests a year. This year, 2026 has been outstanding! We had eight invitations between February and September. Despite the fact that we were faced with having to secure a new accompanist at the close of last year, lost three long-term performers, and had to recruit and coach new understudies, God continued to open doors for us and we were able to honor every one of the eight invitations. As the director, I am proud of our enthusiastic Glory Train family including the non-Saint Matthews folks who have faithfully supported us on stage. God has truly sustained the Liturgical Arts Ministry overall, and for that, I am truly grateful.



Happy Anniversary,
Gwen Poole, Director



New Zion Missionary Baptist Church
Sept. 13, 2026



Prayer before the performance at New Zion Missionary Baptist Church
Sept. 13, 2026

United Women in Faith: Listening, Learning, and Growing Together

On Oct.24, St. Matthews United Methodist Church United Women in Faith (UWF) gathered for a meaningful General Body Meeting focused on fellowship, education, and future activities. A brief membership survey was conducted to gather perspectives and guide future planning. Of the 16 members attending, 13 completed surveys, representing an 81% response rate. Survey Highlights: Our Members Have Spoken!

The survey results provided valuable insight into members' experiences and hopes for the future.

One particularly inspiring recommendation was "Each One, Bring One!" — a simple invitation for every member to encourage another woman to participate in UWF fellowship and activities.

These preliminary findings will help guide our planning for 2027 as we seek to strengthen participation and expand opportunities for fellowship and learning.

Don't Let Medicare Spook You!

Following the General Body Meeting, we were pleased to welcome guest speaker Ms. Urrikka Woods Purifoye of Unbounded Life Medicare Enrollment Consultations, who presented an informative session entitled "Don't Let Medicare Spook You!"

Ms. Purifoye provided valuable information regarding Medicare updates for 2027, helping attendees better understand upcoming changes and important considerations related to Medicare enrollment and benefits. She also answered questions, providing clarification and helpful guidance to participants.

Her presentation reinforced the importance of education, informed decision-making, and health and wellness within our church community. We extend our sincere appreciation to Ms. Purifoye for sharing her time, knowledge, and expertise.

Moving Forward Together

The October gathering reminded us that United Women in Faith is a community of women committed to meaningful relationships, lifelong learning, and shared activities.

As we prepare for 2027, we look forward to building upon our members' suggestions and creating more inclusive opportunities for participation.

Together, we will continue to listen, learn, and grow—because every woman has a place and a purpose in United Women in Faith!

Dr. Pamela Moye, President
Ms. Gail Haynie, Vice-President
United Women in Faith
Saint. Matthews United Methodist Church



VETERANS DAY

HONORING ALL THOSE WHO SERVED





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"When the autumn leaves are falling,
and the table's set with care,
We pause to count our blessings
for the love that lingers there.
For the harvest from the garden
and the faces gathered round,
We give thanks for every mercy
where true gratitude is found."

Deadline for December Newsletter articles is Friday, Nov. 20. Theme is "Hope, Peace, Joy and Love." Send all articles and photos to Media Ministry at smumcgreensboro@gmail.com.

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