

**From our Youth Coordinator**



To My Church Family,

Page 4

Over the last several months, Lee Anne has taken me under her wing and taught me the ins and outs of my new upcoming role as Youth Leader.

I have spent many hours asking questions, taking notes, comparing ideas and learning the ropes. Lee Anne has lent me her ear and her heart over and over. She has made it her mission to help me get comfortable, feel confident and send me on my way prepared.

In addition, I have observed and taken part in the High School Sunday School class while Lee Anne graciously led the kids through her last few months with them. The lesson we covered was perfectly chosen by Lee Anne to help the youth transition AND spoke straight to my heart as I prepared to lead them myself.

To say Lee Anne has been a blessing to our youth and to me would be a vast understatement. She has poured her heart and soul into these kids and they all love her dearly. She has most certainly done the same for me.

As we embark on February, Lee Anne and I will be officially transitioning roles as Youth Leader. In the coming months, I pray that the Lord will guide me to lead our youth as well as Lee Anne has. I look forward to this opportunity and will be forever grateful to have Lee Anne's blessing as I move forward.

I am armed with God's love and tons of grace to lead our youth thanks to an incredible mentor who believes in me and these precious kids!

Thank you, Lee Anne, for everything. Your legacy of love will flow forever through this new blessing in my life.

Love,  
Michelle Denkinger

# Mathews Baptist Church Org. 1776

## "The Lighthouse"



**FEBRUARY 2021**

**SPECIAL DATES**

- ◆ 2<sup>nd</sup> Groundhog Day & Blood Drive
- ◆ 7<sup>th</sup> Super Bowl
- ◆ 8<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> Focus on Missions' Week
- ◆ 14<sup>th</sup> Valentine's Day
- ◆ 15<sup>th</sup> Presidents' Day
- ◆

**LOVE** Love is *patient,*  
love is *kind.*  
It does not *envy,*  
it does not *boast,*  
it is not *proud.*  
1 Corinthians 13:4

In the scripture, we find as Christians we are to love God, with all of our being, and we are to love others as we love ourselves. (Mark 12:29-31) Well, how do we know if we are truly loving God and others? Fortunately, the Apostle Paul gives us a checklist in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 (CSB). Let's see how we do.

"Love is patient": Are we patient with God and his timing in our lives? Are we patient with our spouse,

children, and grandchildren? Are we patient with our aging parents? With our neighbors and co-workers? What about the person in front of us at the check out counter paying all in coins? The slow driver in front of us?

"Love is kind": Are we kind to our spouse, children, and neighbors? How about the frustrating co-worker? What about that store clerk who is "just doing their job"?

"Love does not envy": Are we envious of other's houses, cars, jobs, talents?

[Love] "is not boastful": Do we ever boast about our income, job, possessions, or abilities in front of others? Do we ever compare our

children to others?

[Love] "is not arrogant": Do we ever think of ourselves better than anyone else?

How are you doing? That is just the first verse (verse 4). I hope God grades with a curve.

[Love] "is not rude": Certainly, we are not rude to our families, neighbors, co-workers, church members, other shoppers, other drivers, the opposing team, or the referees.

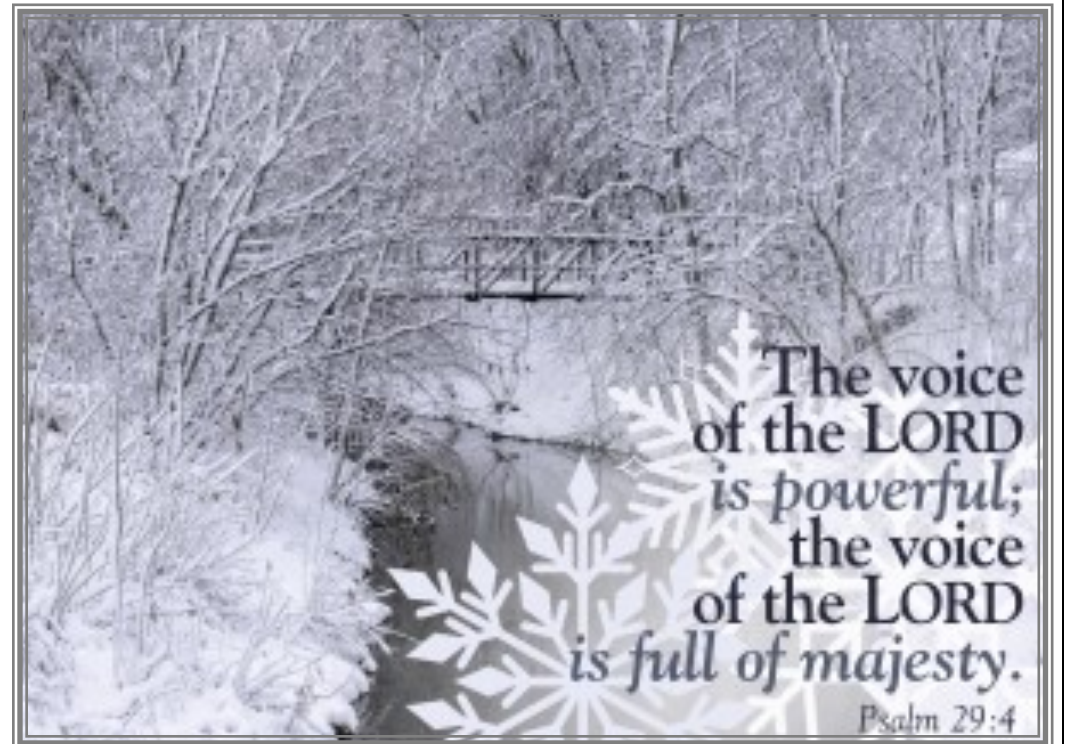
[Love] "is not self-seeking": Are we always looking out for our own interests or do we put others first? Do we put God first? Our spouse first? Do we seek ways to serve others?

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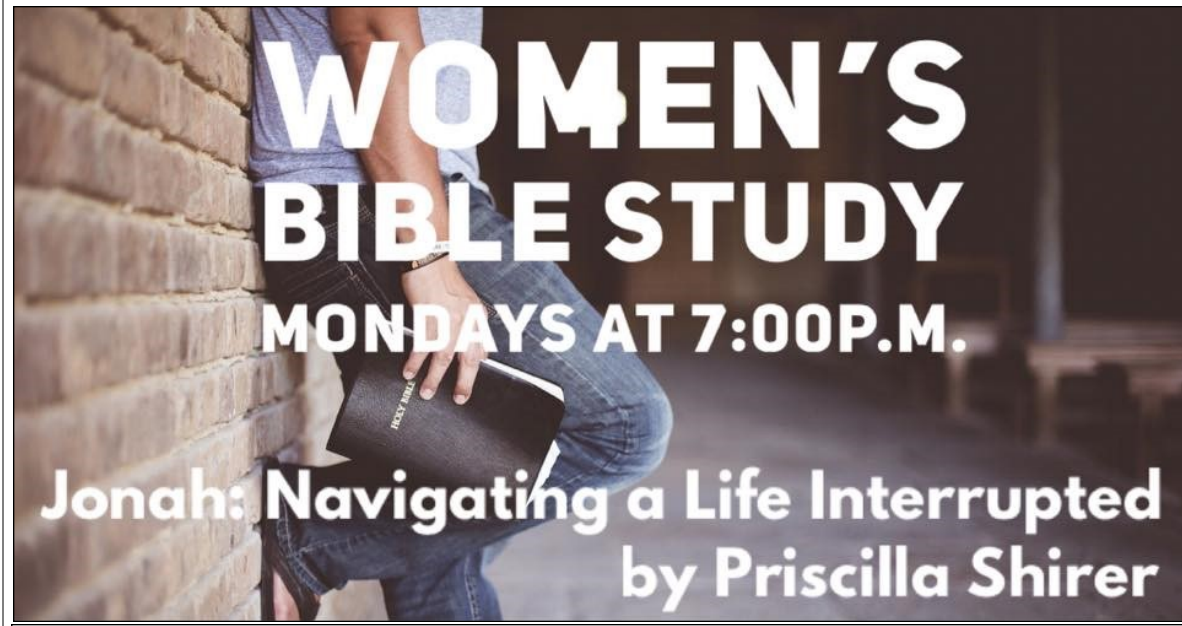
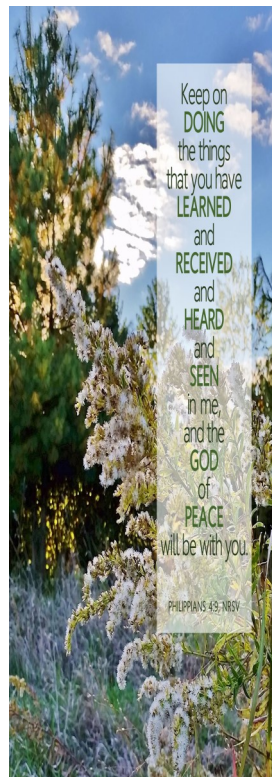
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Tuesday, Feb. 2  
2-7 PM  
Piankatank  
Ruritan Club.  
This drive is  
sponsored by  
St. Paul, Beulah,  
& Antioch  
Churches.  
Appointments are  
required & can be  
made at the web-  
site,  
redcrossblood.org  
or call Nan Cross,  
725-2485. All  
types are  
welcome &  
needed.



Join us at Mathews Baptist Church on Monday nights at 7 PM for a seven week study by Priscilla Shirer called Jonah: Navigating a Life Interrupted. The study will begin February 1st and will be led by Lee Anne Bray.

[Love] *"is not irritable"*: Does your spouse, your children, your co-workers, or other people irritate you?

[Love] *"does not keep a record of wrongs"*: You don't keep a list of people who hurt you, do you? You are not becoming bitter as you relive that hurt over and over again, are you? Forgive!

That is the second verse (verse 5) I am not doing so well and there are 3 more verses to go.

*"Love finds no joy in unrighteousness"*: We don't celebrate when others mess up, do we? We don't find pleasure in gossiping about other's behaviors.

[Love] *"rejoices in the truth"*: Are we truthful with those around us. Our spouse, family, friends, boss, teachers, the police officer?

I know this is painful, but we have two more verses to go through. (verses 7 and 8)

[Love] *"bears all things"*: Do we bear other's burdens? Do we hurt when they hurt? Do we meet the needs of others to the best of our ability or do we not want to be burdened?

[Love] *"believes all things"*: Do you give others the benefit of the doubt? Do we trust others?

[Love] *"hopes all things"*: Do we hope for the best for those around us? Are we encouraging or discouraging? Optimistic or pessimistic?

[Love] *"endures all things"*: When we truly love, we can put up with a lot. Look at how God puts up with us.

This is it, the final verse (verse 8). You didn't give up, did you?

*"Love never ends"*: When we truly love, we don't give up on people. Paul writes, *"Now these three remain: faith, hope, and love—but the greatest of these is love."* (1 Corinthians 13:13 CSB)

If you are like me, you probably failed Paul's test. But don't give up. When we love God with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our mind, and with all our strength we will start to love others according to Paul's definition of love.

Faithfully,  
Pastor Brian

And now these three remain:  
**FAITH,.....**  
**& HOPE**  
**& Love.**

..... But the greatest of these is love.

I Corinthians 13:13

MISSION NEWS

Thank you to all who gave and helped us exceed our Lotie Moon Christmas Offering goal of \$7,500. The total received as of 1/24/2021 was \$8,045.<sup>25</sup>

There will not be any meetings in February and no plans have been made yet regarding Focus on WMU Week which is on February 8-14 (Feb. 13th is designated as Children's Mission Day).

Our ongoing mission projects include collecting...

1. Non-perishable food, paper products/toiletries for Social Services and Hands Across Mathews
2. Yarn for making blankets for cancer patients

Tee Mallon, WMU Director



BUILDING FUND UPDATE:

As of 1/31/2021, we have received \$156,369.<sup>85</sup> towards our goal of \$400,000.

Loan Balance as of 12/31/20: \$244,540.03  
Payments 1/01/21-1/31/21: \$ 12,980.65 (prin.\$12,247.03 int. \$733.62)  
Loan Balance as of 1/31/21: \$232,293.00



Please pray for...

† Cathie Wahlers having medical tests this month.

Praise God for...

† Showing us what love is through Jesus.

Nursing Home/Assisted Living...

† Martha Hall (Mathews)  
**Homebound:** Ed Haufler, Julie Harvell, Louise Diggs, Estelle Tankard

Long Term Illness/condition...

† Archie Owens †Gloria Travenski  
† Raymond Harris †Sam & Mary Vogel  
† Jim Travenski †Leonard Downs, Jr.  
† Cathie Wahlers †Derek Zwiers  
† Don/Christy Talbott †Carol Buckley  
† Lynn Braun's mother Claudette  
† Stephanie Anthony & her son Chris

Our Church Families' Missionaries...

† Susan/Mike Mangerchine (Navigators-New Orleans)

Our love and sympathy go out to...

† Chris Hubbard (Frannie) & Hope Lowe (Jonathan) whose Uncle Mike Hubbard passed away on Jan. 11 & also their family member,



GOOD NEWS PANTRY

The **MBC Good News Pantry** is open and stocked for our community. The Gazette Journal generously donated the paper box so the congregation can provide for those in need in our community. The pantry is located at the front of the building near the office door for easy access. Please donate what you can or take what you need!

Audrey S. Pierce on Jan. 16.  
† Cathie Wahlers whose aunt passed away.  
**Congratulations to...**  
† Scott & Courtney Stewart (Alice & Larry's son/daughter-in-law) on the birth of their son Brayden Thomas Stewart on Jan. 13.  
† Jade & Joseph Monastyrlly on the birth of their son Judah Lee Monastyrlly on 1-18-21, weighing 6 lbs. 15 oz. and 19 inches.

Church Attendance-Jan. 2021

Date	9:00	10:00	11:00
01/03/2021	66	56	17
01/10/2021	75	56	19
01/17/2021	77	66	15
01/24/2021	70	54	17
01/31/2021	52	40	9



Coming...

7-14<sup>th</sup>: Week of Prayer-North Amer. Missions  
14<sup>th</sup>: Daylight Saving Time Begins  
17<sup>th</sup>: St. Patrick's Day  
20<sup>th</sup>: Spring Begins  
29<sup>th</sup>: Exec. Comm. Mtg. @Saluda BC