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# ST. MATTHEWS BY-THE-SEA

## MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

### 2017

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# WILL YOU VOLUNTEER?

The purpose of this booklet is to acquaint members of our church with the various ministry opportunities available. God has given each of us special talents to share with others. Our goal is to have every member of St. Matthews By-The-Sea in ministry.

To accomplish our goal, we are asking you to VOLUNTEER. There is no job too little in God's eyes.

Each individual is asked to **prayerfully consider where God is leading you to minister** and to make a **one-year** commitment to serve him wherever he leads.

This booklet describes the **32** different ministries already available in our church. We hope that you will find a ministry or an area where you may already have an interest and you feel God can use your talents in that particular area.

Our prayer is that God will speak to you and you will share your gifts/talents that He has given you.

God bless each one of you in making your decision on being a **VOLUNTEER FOR CHRIST.**

## **ADMINISTRATIVE**

### **COUNTERS**

Counters are needed to count the collections from all worship services and prepare bank deposits. They properly record allocated monies for the Financial Secretary and Treasurer to keep accurate records and prepare reports.

Volunteers are needed to commit to a rotating schedule as determined by the Finance Committee. Three people are needed for each Sunday.

### **OFFICE WORKERS**

Help is needed to answer the telephone during the weekly Monday morning staff meetings. Workers are also needed to help with periodic mass mailings, stuffing inserts into the weekly bulletins and filing. Normal office hours are 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM. Office coverage is also needed when the Administrative Assistant is out of the office for vacations and doctor's visits.

## **COMMUNITY CARE**

### **CHECKERBOARD MINISTRY**

The Checkerboard Ministry provides activities and fellowship to intellectually challenged individuals in our community. Activities have included miniature golf, bowling, a Valentine Ball, dances, talent shows, horseback riding, and a luau. Usually, five activities are held each year on Sunday afternoons. Committee members often help with providing ideas and food, along with joining in on the fun of the activity. Checkerboard is truly a rewarding ministry with which to be involved.

If you know of any challenged individuals who would enjoy participating with the group, please tell them about Checkerboard. Individuals of all ages are welcome to attend.

### **CRAFT GROUP**

We meet every Tuesday 9-11:30 AM in Clendaniel Hall. This group meets from September – May.

Our goal is to make items for the Christmas Bazaar held the second weekend of November. The Bazaar is one of two fund raisers by the United Methodist Women for missions. Our craft closet is well stocked with supplies; all we need are willing workers. The second fund raiser is a Yard Sale on the second Saturday in May (Mother's Day).

We welcome both women and men who enjoy making crafts

## **FAITH, HOPE, LOVE QUILTERS**

The Quilters make quilts for cancer patients and those in need of love and comfort. We meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Mondays at 10:00am. Will you join us for fellowship while helping others?

## **NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS**

(NHN) – works with state, county and local agencies and organizations to address the needs of the poor and break the cycle of poverty. We have helped a young mother with dental problems, provided gifts at Christmas for Pyle Center families, collected diapers for the Pyle Center, and aided in fuel assistance. NHN also provides supplies for UMM home repair projects.

## **PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY**

The purpose of this ministry is to knit or crochet a shawl for occasions when the pastor, a shepherd or church member visits a person in the hospital, nursing home or at their own home. This conveys a feeling of love and caring in a tangible manner. You may work in your own home. The congregation prays over the shawls, before they are presented to the persons for whom they are intended.

## **SAMARITAN THRIFT SHOP**

The mission of the thrift shop is to offer low cost clothing and household items in order to generate funds for emergency and supplemental food assistance. Volunteers work a three hour shift 9 – 12 or 12 – 3 on a Monday-Friday or 9 – 12 on Saturday. The shop is closed on Sunday.

## **CONGREGATIONAL CARE**

### **BREAVEMENT COMMITTEE**

The Bereavement Committee prepares and serves meals for receptions, funerals or memorial services. This group has a rotating schedule which calls on members for various side dishes to accompany the meal. Help is needed setting the tables and cleaning up after the meal.

### **NEW MEMBER MENTORS**

This ministry is to inform, acclimate, educate and lead new members through a smooth transition into active involvement in SMBTS church life and to insure all new members have an opportunity to enjoy Christian fellowship with their new church family.

### **PRAYER MINISTRY**

Prayer is the backbone of all of our programs and our many ministries at St. Matthews. We meet on Monday mornings at 9 A.M. in the parlor of the church to pray for our church family, our loved ones, friends, and our nation. We have a short devotion, lift names in prayer, and send cards. If you would like a copy of our prayer list you will find it in the mail drawer marked PRAYER GROUP in the hall by the office. We encourage everyone to take a name from the baskets on the doors and pray for that person throughout the week. Start your week with us.

## EDUCATION

### SHEPHERD PROGRAM

The Shepherd Program provides lay care support for members of our church family. Shepherds work alongside the program coordinator and the pastor to offer prayer, encouragement and support to those in need. The shepherd's goal is to give effective, hopeful, consistent attention to the “sheep” in the aftermath of illness and hospitalizations.

**Card Shepherd** - Sends cards and greetings to inactive members and others.

**Concern and Comfort Shepherd** - The coordinator assigns the shepherd a member. Duties include visits, (if desired by the member), communions, and calls. Duties also include direct contact so as to provide Christ like love, prayer, and caring.

**Crisis Shepherd** - These shepherds have intense weekly contact with those in the midst of a crisis until care is no longer needed. The care is extremely personal.

### TRANSPORTATION MINISTRY

This ministry provides transportation to doctor appointments, shopping, hospital visits, church activities, etc. Drivers are needed especially those with SUV's or vans.

### BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study groups meet during the seasons of Advent and Lent. Participants engage in lively discussions related to material they read since their group last met. The pastor serves as group facilitator. Other Bible Study groups led by members of the congregation have also formed, and there is always room for more.

### CHILDREN'S CHURCH

The objective is to provide a Christian atmosphere during the 2<sup>nd</sup> service for children through games, puzzles and discussions. Volunteers are needed every Sunday.

### LIBRARY

Our library at St. Matthews is located in the Meeting Room next to the church office. We have many newly donated books as well as many reference, self-help and spiritual guidance books. You can browse and checkout books whenever you like. Just return them when you are through. Anyone interested in helping to catalog books, straighten shelves and prepare new books is welcome.

## **FELLOWSHIP**

### **NURSERY**

Volunteers who love children 0-3 are needed! Nursery workers serve on a rotating basis for each service. The greatest need is during the summer months.

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL – ADULTS**

This class is for adults looking to further their knowledge of the Bible.

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL – CHILDREN**

What is more important than a child's Christian education? There is a need for kindly teachers who have a love for kids to be available to share God's Word on Sunday mornings.

### **FAMILY FUN NIGHT**

Gathers in the fellowship hall on the second Friday of every month to share covered dishes and enjoy games and fellowship.

### **SINGLE SENIORS**

This is a fun-oriented organization for those who do not have a spouse and want Christian fellowship with others in their same situation. Monthly activities are planned that include lunch, sometimes at a restaurant and other times a cover-dish at church. We have an annual Birthday Bingo party in January to celebrate our having another birthday! Other activities include attending plays, shows, movies, boat rides, visiting places of interest, and anything else suggested and considered by the group. Our main objective is to know each other better and enjoy each other's company.

# **MISSION**

## **MISSIONS COMMITTEE**

The missions committee prepares the budget for the support of missionaries and mission ministries in our community, our nation, and around the world. Monthly support is sent to ministries in Nepal, the Middle East, Nicaragua, Africa and other world-wide organizations. We send support to two missionaries at Red Bird Mission in Kentucky as well as the Red Bird School. In our community, support is sent to the Sussex Community Crisis Housing Services, the Sussex Pregnancy Center and ARC of Delaware.

The congregation is kept informed of mission activities and participates in several annual and special fund drives as needs arise. Missionaries sometimes visit us, and the committee plans special events for these occasions.

## **BEACH MINISTRY**

Each summer, SMBTS hosts the Super Kids Beach Ministry, a kind of Vacation Bible School on the beach. Volunteers are needed to assist in publicizing and administering this ministry for one week each July.

Volunteers are needed to secure volunteers within SMBTS and other UMC churches in our area to provide lunches and dinners for the team each day. The volunteers coordinate menus to maintain a healthy variety of meals and diet. And also provide hosts/hostesses from SMBTS when local churches provide meals.

Donations of healthy snacks for the team at the rental home are also needed.

## **RED BIRD MISSION TEAM**

A team of people travel to Kentucky in the fall to provide home repairs for people living in the Red Bird Missionary Conference in Appalachia. The team collects soup labels and box tops redeemable for educational aids.

## **UNITED METHODIST MEN**

Our United Methodist Men strive to fulfill their mission through;

- Christ centered monthly meetings
- Service to our churches
- Service to those in our church or community in time of need
- Financial support to outreach programs in missions, such as Red Bird Mission, UMC Congo Mission, Salvation Army and several local missions.

## **WORSHIP**

### **UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**

Our purpose is: “To know God and experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship and to expand the concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.”

The SMBTS UMW unit meets the second Tuesday of each month (September thru June) at 12:30 pm We participate in the UMW reading program to enhance our knowledge of world issues. A yearly retreat is planned for late winter or early spring.

Our fund raisers are the Spring Yard Sale and the Christmas Bazaar. The United Methodist Men sell soup at our fund raisers as a way for them to raise funds for their mission projects.

A few of our local mission projects are: Health Kits for UMCOR, Salvation Army Christmas Project, food collections, toilet tissue and paper towels for a homeless shelter. We invite all women of the church to attend our meetings and take part in any and all of our activities.

### **ALTAR GUILD**

The committee prepares the altar area with appropriate clothes, candles, and decorations. The elements for Communion are prepared and set out for use during the two services. It also orders and picks up bread for weekly visitors and arranges altar flowers for weekly, Easter & Christmas services.

### **BELL CHOIR**

The Bells of St. Matthews offers opportunities to praise God through music. Rehearsals are Wednesday afternoons at 4:30-6:00 PM, September through May. The Bell Choir rings during worship on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month. No experience necessary.

### **CHANCEL CHOIR**

Weekly practices and a commitment to the sometimes tedious work of thoroughly learning a piece of music are what make our Chancel Choir and Bell Choir the blessings they are in worship.

Previous choir experience and a music background are not necessary to be part of either choir. Teaching music basics is done as needed and individual help is always available.

For some people, fitting into their schedule a weekly practice and worship service is not possible. So our Christmas and Easter Cantatas are open to anyone who would like to participate. Practices are Wednesday evenings – 7:00 to 8:30 PM.

## **PARKING LOT ATTENDANTS**

The parking lot attendants help worshipers find places to park, assist with handicap parking, and greet all worshippers as they arrive.

## **USHERS/GREETERS**

You never get a second chance to make a first impression. Ushers and greeters welcome all members and guests that attend our worship services, hands out bulletins, seat worshippers and receive the offerings. This is done on a rotating schedule.

## **WORSHIP LEADERS**

Enthusiastic people are needed to serve as worship leaders at all of our Sunday services. Whether calling on the congregation to enter into worship, or sharing the word from Scripture, or assisting in the celebration of Holy Communion, worship leaders represent the congregation as collectively we offer our praise and thanksgiving to God.

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