

### CREDO in North Carolina

by Leslie Klingensmith



**Greeting, dear St. Matthew friends.** I write this while also packing and preparing for the PCUSA CREDO Retreat. CREDO is a program sponsored by the PCUSA Board of Pensions that attempts to help clergy take care of themselves physically, emotionally, financially, and spiritually. Ideally, everyone is supposed to attend one time

during their career. My particular group will be meeting at the Lake Logan Conference Center in Canton, NC. For six days we will worship, reflect, and meet with various specialists in the different areas. We will be encouraged to set goals for ourselves and for our ministries and develop plans to make those goals happen.

**In preparation for the conference,** all participants have had to complete a number of assessments: a "Financial Snapshot," a "Life Journey Reflection," a "Spiritual Well-Being Survey," and a "Wellness Assessment," just to name a few examples. Honestly, for awhile I procrastinated on filling out the papers - partly because I was busy with other things, and partly because I thought they would be tedious. Once I buckled down and did them, however, they were quite interesting and even fun. Well...some were more fun than others! But they were all beneficial and had things to teach me about my call to ministry and how that call integrates with other facets of my life.

### UPCOMING EVENTS



#### **Sunday, May 6: Youth-Led Service.**

10:00 AM: Service in the sanctuary. St. Matthew's youth will lead the worship service, reflecting on gun violence and what young people can do to create a more peaceful society. The youth are requesting that any coins left in the offering plate next week be donated to gun violence prevention. Please plan to bring some extra change to drop in



*Click on image to visit CREDO website.*

**I thought you might find it interesting** to know that in the wellness assessment, the three areas in which I scored highest were appreciating life, positive relationships, and work/life balance. I was not surprised by those results - I do realize what a wonderful call this is, and am grateful every day for the privilege of pastoring such a special congregation. No congregation is perfect, and no pastor is perfect, but I'm glad we are on this journey together. There is still work to be done, though. I scored only moderately well on physical health due to my heart history and ongoing low-level back pain. Even before heading to CREDO, I know they are going to tell me that I need to make more time for exercise. Hopefully they can give me some strategies for that.

**I'm looking forward to sharing** more of the CREDO experience with you when I return. Please pray for me while I am gone, as you did when I was on sabbatical last summer, that I might be physically and spiritually challenged and renewed. I'll be back in the office on Tuesday, May 8. I am excited to plant the garden on May 19 and welcome a class of confirmation students on May 20. I'm also thrilled to be moving ahead with our Property Improvements Project. Here's to anticipating a great summer together!

Peace and grace,  
Leslie

## Youth Notes

*by Konni Brantner*

**Vacation Bible School,  
"GOD'S PUZZLE" - Monday,  
June 25 to Friday, June 29**



**We'll be meeting at St. Matthew**, 9:30-12:30 daily. Each day we'll have a visit from a different character, sing some fun songs, create some wonderful masterpieces, help some homeless children have a special birthday, learn about the problems of hunger in our

the plate for a worthy cause!

**7:00 PM: Camp Joy meeting.** We'll confirm the dates for the car wash, discuss a new fund-raising idea and hand out the permissions slips and packing list.

### **Wednesday, May 9: Book Group**

We will be meet at 7pm in the Agnes Wilson Room. We will be reading chapters 4 and 5 of Jimmy Carter's book *Faith: A Journey for All*.

### **Sunday, May 13: Mother's Day**

10:00 AM: Service in the sanctuary.

**Thursday, May 17:  
Women of the Bible Performance.** See details in Mary Martha Circle article in this newsletter.

### **Saturday, May 19: Rescheduled Spring Work and Garden Planting Day**

Everyone is invited to bring plants or seeds and come help that day. We'll be starting at 10:00 AM. There's lot of work to be done both inside and outside. Around 3PM we'll be planting the summer 2018 garden. We know that we'll be planting tomatoes, peppers and squash. Stay tuned for more plant suggestions.

community, play some exciting games, hear some fantastic stories.... In other words, each day will be crammed with fun!

**You won't want to miss the fun.** For more information, contact Konni. Click below for a registration form that you can print out, complete, and return it to the church.

### [2018 VBS Registration Form](#)

### [Camp Joy, July 8 to July 14](#)

**CAMP JOY is the best week** of the summer and it's coming up soon. This youth-oriented work camp is a wonderful opportunity for our young people to put their faith into action while having a great time!



**We'll be camping** in Berkeley Springs, WVA, along with about 100 other teens and their counselors. We have not been assigned our work projects but in the past they have included everything from scrapping and painting to roofing, siding, replacing windows, making handicapped ramps and building porches. Whatever we're assigned it is sure to be challenging and rewarding.

**Once again, the dates are:** July 8- 14. Because the summer plans of a few folks have changed, we know there are a couple of openings. If you are available and interested, please contact Konni.

### **Martha's Table Sandwich Making Marathon**

*Photographs by Paul Neal*



### **Sunday, May 20: Pentecost and Pop-Up Choir**

10:00 AM: Service in the sanctuary.

To celebrate Pentecost, we will host another Pop-Up Choir. We will sing *Common Threads* by Pat Humphreys. Everyone is invited to join the choir which will practice after church on Sunday, May 6 and May 13.

### **Sunday, May 27: New Member Orientation**

10:00 am: Service in the sanctuary.

From 11:30 am until 1:00 pm, the Evangelism Commission is sponsoring an orientation session for visitors. We will meet in the Agnes Wilson Room and a light lunch will be served. Please let Kit Boyle or Leslie Klingensmith know if you plan to attend, and if you need child care.

### **Sunday, June 10: Church Picnic** at the Lessig Farm

**Wednesday, June 13:  
Mary Martha Circle  
Lunch** at Mrs. K's Toll House Restaurant in Silver Spring.

**LITURGISTS**



Sandwich creation at full power

**A HUGE thanks to everyone** who helped with Martha's table on Sunday, April 15. It was a tremendous success. We made 3,235 sandwiches - about 1,335 peanut butter and jelly and about 1,900 meat with cheese.

**We made these sandwiches...**

- using 1360 slices of cheese,
- 94 pounds of lunch meat,
- 32 jars of jelly,
- 72 jars of peanut butter
- and a mountain of bread
- And of course a lot of willing hands!

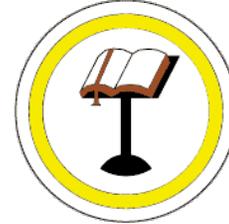
- Konni Brantner



First peanut butter...



...then jelly to finish.



- May 6 Nulty Lynch
- May 13 Norman Hammer
- May 20 Joe Evans
- May 27 Steve Hursh

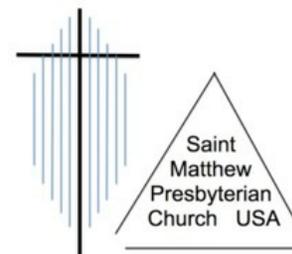
**SERVERS**



- May 6 Elsie & Don Maxam
- May 13 Jeanne & John Meyer
- May 20 Ida & Jim Leong
- May 27 Lan Chau & Julia Su

**Thank you so much** for "volunteering." If you are unable to serve on your date, please find a replacement or contact Glenda De Jong 301-460-8523.

**Thank You Paul!**



**A shout out to Paul Neal** for the new improved St. Matthew website. I missed a sermon and the website had the last four.

**Click the image above** to visit the website

- Rogie Smith



Do we make the sandwiches or do they make us?

## VBS Wishlist



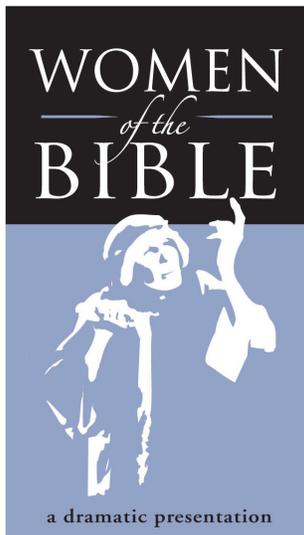
- New and gently used T shirts (all sizes)
- Paper bags (grocery size) The dollar store now uses these
- Sample size toiletries
- New toothbrushes
- Vinyl tablecloths- any size, any pattern
- Bread ties
- Lots of news print
- Small packs of M&Ms
- Brads
- Cool whip lids

- Konni Brantner

## Congregational Notes

### Mary Martha Circle News: *Women of the Bible* Performance, Thursday, May 17

by Julia McBee



*Click to learn more.*

**Join us to go see a** performance of *Women of the Bible*. The show is Thursday, May 17th at 1:00pm. Oakdale Methodist Church is sponsoring the performance.

**The show spans the lives** of women across the Old and New Testaments. *Women of the Bible* is a dramatic, one woman, presentation that brings the Bible to life. Anita Gutschick's powerful performances have

reached thousands with one central message: God worked and continues to work-through ordinary people.

**We can carpool** from St. Matthew or meet at Oakdale Methodist Church. It is just off of Route 97 at Emory Church Road. If you have any question contact Julia McBee (301) 603-0450. Click on the image above to visit the program's website or go to: <http://www.womenofthebible.com/>.

**The Circle will also be sponsoring** their June get together as we did last year by going to Mrs. K's Toll

## Important Links



Leslie Klingensmith,  
Pastor  
301-598-4400

Konni Brantner,  
Director of Youth

House Restaurant in Silver Spring. We plan to go June 13th. Please contact Millie Ames, Julia McBee or Ruth Burgos-Sasscer.

## Per Capita Request

by Paul Neal

**Each year we ask members** to please consider paying your annual per capita assessment. What is the per capita assessment? It is an annual payment we make to support the Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly.

Details are on the bulletin board in the narthex. We have already budgeted to pay it. However, if you pay your family's Per Capita it frees up dollars for other St Matthew priorities such as Mission and Improvements.

**We pay \$40 per capita** on each confirmed member of the congregation. With 260 members that represents \$10,400 that we can potentially put to work. How to Pay? Just make a note on your check that the amount represents/includes your "per cap."



## Columbarium Meeting, Sunday, April 22

by Millie Ames

**The Columbarium committee** met in the Columbarium after service on Sunday April 22. Those attending were: Nell Taylor, Millie Ames, Joan Weigel and Deeds Wells.

**There was a discussion** on how to improve the overall environment so that chosen plants could flourish. It was also suggested that a new bench should be added.

**We agreed on the need** to find a replacement for the Committee's chair and to recruit new Columbarium worker bees. Those interested in working with plants and helping keep the garden a serene retreat are invited

# What is Per Capita?



Education and Outreach  
301-871-6275

Jeremy Young,  
Director of Music  
and Organist  
301-681-8013

Al Conner,  
Church Office  
Administrative Assistant  
301-598-4400

Janet Froom,  
Clerk of Session  
(301) 871-7239

Bill & Julia McBee,  
Newsletter Editors  
301-603-0450

### Newsletter Deadline

**Friday, June 3** is the deadline for the June *St. Matthew Messenger*. Please send articles and pictures to Bill McBee <whmcbec@gmail.com>. Thank you.

to contact a member of the committee.