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Dr. John Ed Mathison retired in June 2008, after 36 years as senior minister of **Frazer Memorial United Methodist Church** in Montgomery, Alabama.

In July of 2008, Dr. Mathison launched John Ed Mathison Leadership Ministries, which will involve preaching, teaching, conferences and seminars. The purpose of the ministry is to train pastors and lay persons to be leaders impacting the world for Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God. The ministry website, www.johnedmathison.org gives a full description of this ministry and John Ed's teaching / preaching schedule. In October of 2008 he joined the Senior Consulting Team of New Church Specialties.

Under John Ed's leadership, Frazer grew from 400 members to more than 8,800 and had the largest Sunday School attendance for United Methodist churches in America. In 1986 the **Church Leadership Institute** sited Frazer as the fastest growing church of any denomination in Alabama. In 1999, the church was given the **National Church of the Year Award** from Neighbors Who Care, the victim assistance arm of Prison Fellowship, founded by Chuck Colson. Most recently, in 2006, The **Church Reporter magazine** recognized Frazer as the 25th most influential church in America.

At Dr. Mathison's retirement Frazer had **eight** Sunday morning worship services at the Atlanta Highway campus—three traditional, three contemporary, one Hispanic and one Chinese. The worship services of Frazer were **televised nationwide** each week with INSP Network, reaching about 40 million homes. The worship services were also cybercast live and carried on local radio and television. John Ed has been elected to serve at six General and Jurisdictional Conferences of the United Methodist Church. He currently is the Chairman of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy.

The son of a United Methodist minister, John Ed has a master's degree from Princeton University, a Doctor of Ministry Degree from Candler School of Theology and honorary doctorate degrees from Asbury Seminary, Huntingdon College and Birmingham Southern College.

An outstanding college athlete, John Ed was an All-State Basketball Player for three years in high school and was captain and leading scorer for Huntingdon College. He was consistently ranked number one in his age division in tennis in Alabama and has been ranked number three in the South. He has won seven state racquetball championships.

He is a nationally known and sought-after speaker. For several years Dr. Mathison has served as platform speaker for the National Conference of Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and platform speaker for the National Hi-Y Tri-Hi-Y Conference at Black Mountain, NC. He is also a seminar speaker at the Billy Graham Training Center at The Cove. In 1994, Dr. Mathison was selected as the **National Clergyman of the Year** by The Religious Heritage of America, joining the ranks of such nationally known figures as Billy Graham who have received the honor. He was selected in Montgomery, AL as Citizen of the Year in 2006.

He has written five books. **Tried & True** lists 11 church-growth principles utilized by Frazer for designing and implementing its ministry. **Every Member in Ministry** tells Frazer's story of how to get lay people involved in meaningful ministry. **Fishing for Birds** and **Extra Effort** are collections of 129 bulletin-front messages from Dr. Mathison to the Frazer congregation. **Treasures of the Transformed Life** is a 40-day spiritual growth study. He has also written articles for Decision Magazine, The Circuit Rider, and other religious periodicals. He and his wife, Lynn, have three daughters, Vicki, Lauren, and Clay, and one son, Si. They are also the proud grandparents of eight grandsons. They make their home in Montgomery, Alabama.

