



SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

Dr. George Mathison was recently named Rotary Club's Citizen of the Year. Mathison, at center, is joined by Rotary Citizen of the Year Committee Chair Bill Sauser, left, and Rotary Club President-Elect Chris Rodger.

Auburn Rotary Club names Mathison 'Citizen of the Year'

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Dr. George Mathison, senior pastor of the Auburn United Methodist Church, was recently named Citizen of the Year by the Auburn Rotary Club. As a result of this award, Mathison also received a Paul Harris Fellowship, which is the highest honor bestowed by the organization.

Founded in 1927, the Auburn Rotary Club, which is composed of more than 100 local professionals and retired community leaders from all backgrounds, is dedicated to various community and international activities. Club members attempt to live their lives by the Rotary 4-Way Test: Is it the truth? Is it fair to all? Does it foster goodwill and better friendships? Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

"To me, Dr. Mathison personifies all of these principles in his life," says Chris Rodger, president-elect of the local club and a member of the Auburn United

Methodist Church.

In addition to receiving a certificate and a plaque, Dr. Mathison had a \$1,000 donation made in his name to the Rotary Foundation. The Foundation sponsors activities such as group study exchanges, which send participants to other countries to promote understanding, and the Polio Plus Program, the aim of which is to eradicate the disease.

A native of Opelika, Mathison graduated from Opelika High School; Young Harris Junior College in Young Harris, Georgia; Huntingdon College in Montgomery; and Emory University in Atlanta. He received his doctorate through the Sewanee-Vanderbilt Joint Doctor of Ministry Coalition in Nashville, later serving as a Research Fellow at Yale University in Biblical Homiletics.

Mathison and his wife Montaigne, an art teacher at Drake Middle School, have one adult daughter Mallory.