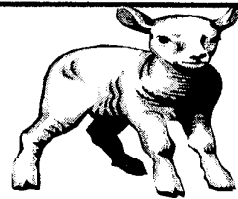


ST. MATTHEW'S BELLWETHER



VOL 2 ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2000

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

I am the type of person who likes to know what is ahead. I like to be able to plan for it. But sometimes, I believe, God puts us in situations — or allows them — where we cannot see everything. That way we must depend on Him, like it or not!

I was reminded of this when I was reading Max Lucado's column in the May/June "Christian Reader." Side note here: For those of you not familiar with this magazine, it is like a Christian "Reader's Digest." It is published by the publishers of "Christianity Today." It's a nifty little evangelical magazine, with excerpts from other magazines and from books, for those of us who get a little busy sometimes, and can't read "the whole thing." There are also original works and humor. Anyway, here is Max's story:

"What I intended as good was interpreted as bad...by a hummingbird. Recently one of the little fellows flew into the garage and got lost. Though the door was open, he didn't see it. He insisted instead, on bashing his head against a closed window, determined to get out. Soon our whole family was in the garage, empathizing with his confusion. "Help him out, daddy," came the chorus from my kids. So I tried by opening the window, hoping he would fly out - he didn't. I nudged him with a broom handle and he wouldn't budge. Finally, after several firm pokes, he made a move...the wrong way. He fluttered inside the two window panes. Now he was trapped. What a pitiful sight. I had no choice so I stuck my fingers in the opening, grabbed a few feathers, and jerked him out. I'm sure he didn't appreciate the yank, but at least he was free. The bird thought I was cruel. If only he had known that I had come to help. If only he knew. Like the little hummingbird, we sometimes don't understand what God is doing in our lives, or we want him to hurry up. We need to remember: Isaiah 55:8 (NIV) "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My way," declares the LORD.

A good Biblical example of not seeing the whole picture, was the birth of John the Baptist. To the people observing Elizabeth's life, she was simply a barren woman with no hope of having children. However, God's "whole picture" included the birth of not only a son to

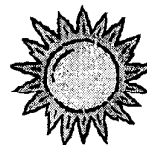
Elizabeth, but it also took away her disgrace: Luke 1:25 (NIV) "The Lord had done this for me," she said. "In these days he has shown his favor and taken away my disgrace among the people."

But in fact, this son would be "John the Baptist," who would prepare the way for Jesus: Matthew 3:1-3 (NIV) *In those days, John the Baptist came preaching in the Desert of Judea (2) and saying "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near." (3) This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: "A voice of one calling in the desert, 'prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'"*

Another example is the **New Millennium** that is on the horizon. Some think it will bring the end of time - some think otherwise. By the time you read this, one or the other will have taken place. Again, God has us in a situation in which we cannot see everything. But God has the "whole picture." He sees "so well."

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

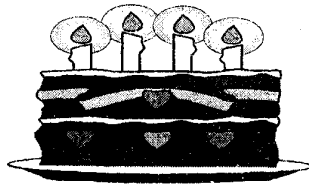
LARRY



**No matter what the weather outside,
it is always just right inside the
sanctuary - see more of you in
church in the New Year!**

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS-

11	Emily Gardiner
14	Roxie Server Katrina Forgrave
15	Joyce Christian
23	Nan Blehi Betty Willoughby
24	Fred Rozier
25	Eva Smith
27	Dustin Graham
31	Reed Rozier



**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

RUTH-ETHEL SMITH CIRCLE NEWS:

The December Meeting was held at the home of Eva Smith. Our projects were (1) providing a Christmas meal for a family of 5, and (2) helping a family of 6 who lost everything due to a fire.

We gave out gifts and enjoyed a nice lunch. Rev. Patrick told a story about the life of a Turkey at Thanksgiving and Christmas. We all had a good laugh.

I have enjoyed being your Chairperson these past 12 months, and am looking forward to the year 2000 as Catherine Morgan takes over as our new Chairperson

Lola Smith

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR NEW CHAIRPERSON:

The year 2000 is upon us with many thoughts of the coming year on how we can better be a part of our Circle. I am open for any suggestions you may have, which will be evaluated, discussed and voted on. Please speak whatever is on your mind, and be thinking of the projects you would like to have take place in your circle.

If there is anyone in the church who would be interested in becoming a member of the Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle, give me a call at 425-6207. I will be glad to pick you up and then you can decide for yourself if you'd like to join our fellowship and serve God in a small way. We meet the second Wednesday of each month at 10:30 a.m. and enjoy a covered-dish lunch and get to know the women of our church.

When I was chosen to be the Chairperson for 2000, I agreed to it before I remembered that I had already made plans to visit my son in January. Even though I will not be at the January meeting, another member will take care of business.

My special thanks to Lola Smith for the wonderful job she did as our 1999 Chairperson. Let's rally together in **2000** and keep our Circle going strong!!!

God bless everyone,

Catherine Morgan
Chairperson for 2000



SPECIAL OFFERINGS

DONATIONS GIVEN TO:

- ◆ Power Bill from the Thrift Shop.
- ◆ Emergency Fund in memory of Irma Evans Sister-in-law from the Boyd Snyder Class.
- ◆ Emergency Fund in memory of Linda Snyder from Boyd Snyder.
- ◆ Emergency Fund in honor of Mary Roth's birthday from the Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle
- ◆ Emergency Fund in memory of Annie Rue Hill and Linda Snyder from Carol Clark.
- ◆ Food Pantry from Mary Stanley, Margaret King & Lisa Gardiner.
- ◆ Emergency Fund & Food Pantry from Patty Poche'.
- ◆ Emergency Fund in honor of Connie Knight by a Friend.
- ◆ Emergency Fund in memory of Linda Snyder from Ruth Mullen.
- ◆ Emergency Fund in memory of Betty Huffman from Joyce Christian.
- ◆ Emergency Fund from James & Joyce DeBruhl, Gertrude Schultz, Night Owls Circle, Lee Anna Sproul, Boyd Snyder Class, Betty Priest and Paul & Jewel Sharpe.
- ◆ Emergency Fund in honor of Anne Alred by her brother, Hugh Wakefield.

ONE-BY-ONE:

HAPPY NEW YEAR! The year 1999 was an excellent one for this Christian Mission. The year 2000 brings with it new concepts and innovations for our reading program.

The schedule through May will be slightly different. We will attempt to fit in a Fifth Session of One-By-One before the school year is over.

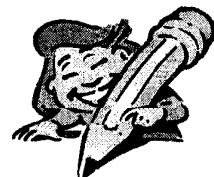
Session Three dates are January 17, 24, 31; February 7, 14 and 21. Then, we will have a break.

There are two new important phases opening to all who need it. **SAT** preparation and **GED** study for tests. If you know anyone who would like to take these classes, please let me know.

We are using younger peer Tutors this year and trying to lay the groundwork for carrying on the **One-By-One Program**. The youth are our future, and those already working as teachers would make you so proud! We welcome **Jeremiah Picon** and **Melanie Jones** as two new teachers.

The Lord and St. Matthew's Church have only begun to reach and to teach. We give thanks to our God and our friends.

God bless you all,
Amy Eberhardt



THRIFT SHOP NEWS

Glory! Glory to God for his blessings to us through the Thrift Shop. We are able to help so many people by selling items that they need at a minuscule fee.

In the year 1999, the Thrift Shop was open Tuesday through Saturday with faithful workers there every day donating their time and effort. We had a tremendous year with net proceeds of approximately \$19,000. Out of these funds, we did Mission Work totaling \$6,000 which was more than 10% of our income. The Thrift Shop took project such as upgrading the Church Property, the Narthex, new Paraments, items for helping the Rental Property get on a self-supporting operating budget, Day Camp, Bible School, Scholarship Fund (children are a top priority with us), the Card Ministry, etc. Yes, we pay our own telephone and heating bill, and we also give \$100 each month to the church's power bill. So you can see just how valuable the service from the Thrift Shop is. You are welcome to visit and read all the "Thank You" notes we receive from all the different places we have helped. We can always use good faithful workers. If you can give a few hours each week, just let me know.

Eva Smith, Chairperson



ATTENTION!

The new church "FLOWER
CALENDAR" has been placed on
the bulletin board. Cost is only
\$16.00 per arrangement.

THE FOOD PANTRY

It is because of your continued support of food, so generously given, that we are able to feed so many families. It is hard for most of us to realize just how many people come to us for help.

After our Christmas Dinner on December 19th, all left over Ham and Turkey was packaged, frozen and given out through the Food Pantry to Needy Families. Nothing goes to waste! One of our church members donated \$100 with which I purchased Canned Hams - and the list grows!

The Food Pantry is now almost bare. The only food left after the Christmas rush was Green Beans, Corn and Peas. We need Spaghetti and Sauce, all kinds of Cereals, Dried Beans, Peanut Butter, Jelly, Canned Tomatoes, Mixed Vegetables, Tuna, Salmon, Fruits, and the list grows.

Thanks again for what you have given and your continued generosity!

Eva Smith,
Grocery Clerk

UNITED METHODIST MEN NEWS:

UMM held their monthly Fellowship Breakfast at the K & W Cafeteria on Saturday, December 18th with 19 members and 4 wives in attendance.

After breakfast, Troy Willoughby, the UMM President, presented a request to donate money to needy families within the church. The motion was passed and 4 families will receive some financial assistance to help them during the Holiday Season.

Mr. Willoughby then conducted a review of what the UMM had done during 1999, and found out they had a great year. Some of the memorable moments include the Valentine's Dinner, the Family Barbecue, and the Landscaping of the church. The UMM also made significant contributions toward Scholarships, Needy Families and the Church Budget.

We look forward to making the year **2000** even more successful. The United Methodist Men hope that your **New Year** is filled with all the blessings of the Lord.

Matt Jamison
UMM Secretary

HELP'N HANDS:

A **Happy** and a **Blessed New Year** from all of us Older Adults. We have had a good start to our program this year. Lots of interest, participation and good times together has helped to broaden our group.

Our next meeting will be held on January 27th at 11:00 a.m. Bring a Covered Dish and let us all share lunch together. We will be playing **Bingo** and discussing our expectations for programs during the year **2000**. Some exciting ideas are in store for you.

All Older Adults, **Men** and **Women** are invited to attend!

Eva Smith,
Coordinator

St. Matthew's United Methodist Women

2000 – Wow, how odd it looks to write that year date. How many times have you put 1999 and had to cross that out and put in 2000; it sure is going to take a while to get it straight!

One thing we have straight is the fine year our unit had in 1999. We purposed, we pledged, and we met all our budget obligations (\$3,500.00) and then some last minute projects led us on still further. At our December General Meeting, Millie Sessoms (past circle leader of the Night Owls) and Lola Smith (past circle leader of the Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle) were both presented an “Excellent Award” for their good leadership and hard work. Well done, ladies!

We want to have better attendance in the General Meetings and with the Night Owl Circle this year. The Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle has great attendance each month – they are to be commended for their dedication and commitment. Catherine Morgan is the new circle leader of this circle and I'm sure you will be hearing from her in the future. They have many on going projects that carry over from month to month in addition to a monthly project. You can read about some of their mission work on the UMW BULLETIN BOARD posted just outside the church secretary's door. Go by and read the board – many good things are posted there in addition to information about the circles and the General Meetings.

The Night Owl Circle has much accomplishments for their efforts each month. They complete a circle project and help with the unit projects as well. The circle has changed some in their format for 2000 (there's that number again, ha). The circle will still meet the second Thursday each month, but they will begin meeting in the church Fellowship Hall each month. A baby-sitter will be provided if enough young mothers show an interest in joining the circle. If there is anyone interested in joining, I encourage you to call Candice Wagoner (487-5208) and let her know your desire. Candice will be writing an article each month with news from her circle – so stay tuned for further news reports!

Last year I encouraged you to make a “resolution” for the New Year. The resolution would be for each of us to become better and more committed in our UMW work for the year. Well, most of you made and kept that resolution and it paid off in much missional work. Let's be sure and keep that resolution for 2000!

Please make every effort to attend our January 03 – General, Covered Dish Meal, Meeting. I will be handing out your 2000 Directory and giving you some additional information. Also, we will give two door prizes and also have a (secret) diversion; don't miss out. See more of you in 2000!

Favorite Recepte:



PARMESAN CHICKEN

- 1 cup grated Parmesan cheese**
- 2 cups soft bread crumbs**
- 1/3 cup melted butter or margarine**
- ½ cup regular or country-style Dijon mustard**
- 6 chicken breast halves, boned and skinned**

Combine cheese, breadcrumbs and butter. Coat chicken breasts with mustard, then dip into crumb mixture. Place breaded chicken in an uncovered 9 x 13 baking pan. Bake at 425 for 15 minutes or until Chicken is done. 6 servings.

JANUARY

ST. MATTHEW'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

2000

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2	3	4	5	6	7	1 NEW YEAR'S DAY
	UMW General Mtg. - 7pm	Dist. Pastor's Mtg. at John Wesley UMC- 10am Prayer Mtg.-7pm	Card Ministry-5pm No Bible Study Choir Practice-7:30pm	Administrative Board Mtg. - 7pm		8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
SS Workshop-2:30-5:30pm in Fellowship Hall	One-By-One-7pm	Prayer Mtg.-7pm	Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle- 10:30am in F.H. Card Ministry-5pm Bible Study-6:30pm Choir Practice-7:30pm	DCOM at Hopewell UMC - 10am Night Owls-7pm in F.H.		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
UMM Breakfast-7:30am	One-By-One-7pm	Prayer Mtg.-7pm	Home Extensions-9:30am Card Ministry-5pm Bible Study-6:30pm Choir Practice-7:30pm	Help 'N Hands-11am		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	One-By-One-7pm	Prayer Mtg.-7pm	Card Ministry-5pm Bible Study-6:30pm Choir Practice-7:30pm			
30	31					
Lay Speaker Courses-8am (Basic/Advanced) at Salem UMC	One-By-One-7pm					

EVERY SUNDAY SCHEDULE:

8:30AM EARLY WORSHIP SERVICE (NO)

NURSERY PROVIDED

9:45AM SUNDAY SCHOOL (ALL AGES)

11:00AM WORSHIP SERVICE (NURSERY PROVIDED)