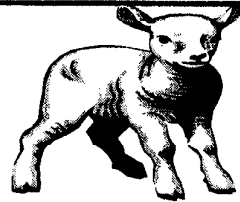


ST. MATTHEW'S BELLWETHER



VOL II ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2000

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

"The Investment of Friendship"

Proverbs 17:17 A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

There are a precious few people in my life I give the title of Friend. It is a word this world has expanded to include our acquaintances and co-workers. Most of these people are not enemies, but they are also not the kind of people who will drop everything for us in a time of need. A friend is someone you know and want to know better. You can tell each other things without expecting judgment when understanding or just an ear is really needed. Friends feel the pain the other is suffering in times of trial. It is understood that the other one will pray, but it is asked anyway so as not to assume.

Proverbs 18:24 A man of many friends comes to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

In a time of personal trial, your friends will, like the proverbial cream on fresh milk, rise to the top. Sacrifices are made in time and effort to be there, drop a note, make a call to check on a friend, or visit. I have read that most people will only ever have six to twelve very close friends in their lifetime. It may seem sad that there are so few. However, these close friends are like diamonds on black velvet as they reflect the love of Jesus in the dark struggles of our mortal lives. It is, in part, their rarity that makes them valuable.

Proverbs 27:6 Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but deceitful are the kisses of an enemy.

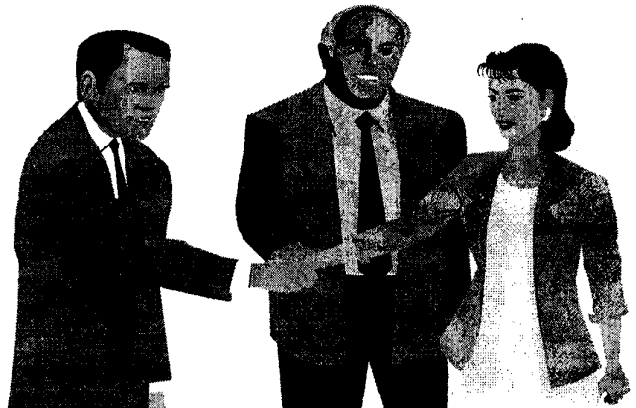
One true measure of a friend is seen when trials come. Another way to know who is a real friend is to find the person who will look you in the eye and tell you that you are wrong about something important. Someone who will make excuses for you when it really counts is not being a faithful friend. Jesus pointed his finger right in Peter's face and said, "Get behind me Satan..." Oh how that must have stung to be publicly called on the carpet. Peter was being selfish where the salvation of the world was at stake. Peter had been wrong, but Jesus stuck by him. Within days, Peter was an eyewitness to the transfig-

uration of Jesus. The rebuke was properly taken to heart and the friendship was restored and deepened.

To invest in having and being a friend means that we must invest time, and invest ourselves. To invest ourselves, we become vulnerable developing trust through confidences shared and kept, sharing the wounds to our hearts. Because we are human, it means that we will make mistakes. In those mistakes, we will cause and be hurt. Sharing trials and talking through our hurts—giving space when it is needed, being honest with each other and growing with the other are all parts of friendship. Careful investment and a willingness to weather the storms that will come pays dividends that are wealth beyond counting. It is not all roses and sweets. Without the struggles and effort, the roses might not be appreciated nearly as much. Christ showed us many facets of friendship, some of which are not so easy to do. Nevertheless, few things in life that are worth doing do not have a cost and a learning curve with them. The most priceless of these take a lifetime to achieve. I thank God for Christ who is the Friend that sticks closer than a brother, to show us how to be that kind of friend. Lord, make us imitators of you.

Your Pastor,
LARRY

ATTENTION! IN THE FUTURE WHEN CONCERNED ABOUT CANCELLATION OF SUNDAY/WEDNESDAY SERVICES WATCH CHANNEL 5 & 11 ON T.V. OR CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE AND LISTEN TO RECORDING ON ANSWERING MACHINE.





**THRIFT
SHOP
NEWS**

After a good year in "1999", we are gearing up for an even better "2000". The Thrift Shop Committee consists of:

Eva Smith - Chairperson
Lee Anna Sproul - Vice-Chairperson
Dorothy Spakes - Treasurer

Jean Lambert - Asst. Treasurer
Adella Pray - Financial Treasurer

Our Thrift Shop Committee representatives are Ruth Caldwell, Betty Jennings, Spike Spidle and Fred Rozier. We have new people volunteering as workers each day, and all our faithful regulars are back. Our men are continuing their work on the last two Saturdays of each month. We are closed to the public each Monday, so we can restock our store and have it ready to open on Tuesday. If you would like to come on Monday for a couple of hours (9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.) let me know. We need you!

Eva Smith, Chairperson

UNITED METHODIST MEN NEWS:

UMM held their monthly Fellowship Breakfast on Sunday, January 16th. There were 16 men present for a planning session.

The "Sweetheart Dinner" will be held Sunday, February 13th at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The menu will be posted later. Ken Shackelford and Dale Mitchell will chair this event.

We will have another "Church-Wide Picnic" in August. The date will be announced as summer approaches. We are searching for someone to take over as Chairman of our annual "Barbecue Sale" which takes place in October. If you would like the job, please see Troy Willoughby.

Ushers and Thrift Shop workers were assigned for February.

We have several openings if you would like to join our group. The only qualifications is that you (1) be a man and (2) attend. See you on February 20th at 7:30 a.m.

Troy Willoughby
UMM President

ATTENTION!

The "7th & 8th Grade Sunday School Class" is continuing its **FOOD DRIVE** throughout this month. The "5th & 6th Grade Class" will be involved also.

Bad weather has been an asset for us in planning this Food Drive that will enable everyone to help replenish the Food Pantry. Our study on hunger has given a different insight to this problem.

Boxes with signs will be placed throughout the Church and Sunday School Classes to aid in the collection. We hope everyone will contribute to this worthy cause.

Thank you in advance,
The 7th & 8th Grade Class



HELP'N HANDS

"THE OLD MAN AND HIS GRANDSON" FROM GRIMM'S FAIRY TALES:

There was once a very old man whose eyes had become dim. When he sat at the table he could hardly hold the spoon and spilt the broth upon the tablecloth, or let it run out of his mouth. His son and daughter-in-law were disgusted at this so they made the old grandfather sit in the corner behind the stove. They would give him food in an earthenware bowl, and he would look toward the table with his eyes full of tears.

Once his trembling hands could not hold the bowl and it fell to the floor and broke. The daughter-in-law scolded him. Then they bought him a wooden bowl.

They were sitting thus when the four year old grandson began to gather together bits of wood upon the floor. "What are you doing there?" asked the Father. "I am making a little trough," answered the child, "for you and Mother to eat out of when I am big." The man and his wife began to cry. Then they took the old Grandfather to the table and henceforth always let him eat with them and likewise said nothing if he spilled anything.

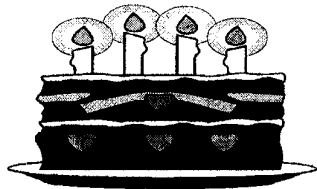
There is no better exercise for the heart than reaching down and lifting people up.

Help'N Hands is looking forward to a year of good deeds, fellowship and activity. Join us!

Eva Smith
Adult Coordinator

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS-

2	Linda Webb Sue Rutledge
4	Mark Webb
6	Denise Gallimore
10	Leigh Thomson
11	Jean Biggs
12	Catherine Morgan
13	J.A. Sessoms
14	Connie Knight
16	Gary Bretz
17	Toni Terry
18	Tyler Manship
20	Marty Webb Loren Scruggs Calvin Rome Bob Probst
21	Phillip Powell
26	Bill Parker Al Hildreth
27	Raymond Gray



**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

RUTH-ETHEL SMITH CIRCLE NEWS:

The Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle had its first meeting for 2000 on January 12th. Connie Knight and Lola Smith were our hosts. Lola Smith presided over the meeting during my absence. My thanks to Lola for doing such a good job.

We have acquired two new members, Patty Poche' and Joyce Christian. We are so glad to have them and pray that they will receive a blessing as we begin to reach out in our Church and Community to help others.

Let's all remember to continue putting our change in a container for the "WORLD THANK OFFERING", which will be collected in November. Also, every time you pray, drop a penny in a plastic bag and bring them to our monthly meeting.

Our February Meeting will be held **THURSDAY**, instead of Wednesday at 10:30 a.m., and our project is to stock the **FOOD PANTRY**. On February 21st, those who can will go to the **FOOD BANK** to help bag food for distribution to the needy in the county. We will meet at the church at 9:30 a.m. and carpool there. We will bag groceries from 10:00 a.m. — 12:00 p.m.

"Happy Belated January Birthday" to *Joyce Christian* and *Eva Smith*, and "Happy Birthday" to *Connie Knight* and of course *Me*.

God's Blessings to all,
Catherine Morgan, Chairperson



SPECIAL OFFERINGS

DONATIONS GIVEN TO:

- ◆ Power Bill from the Thrift Shop.
- ◆ Emergency Fund from the following...Boyd Snyder Class in memory of Kenny Shackelford's Mother...Paul & Jewel Sharpe...Gertrude Schultz...in honor of Joyce Christian from her Secret Prayer Partner...Thrift Shop...Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle...in honor of Eva Smith's birthday by her Secret Pal
- ◆ One-By-One in honor of Xavior Pray Nix, son of Juli Pray and grandson of Bob & Adella Pray
- ◆ Scholarship Fund from Carl Lindenmeyer and Robert Swan & Irma Evans
- ◆ Building Fund from James & Joyce DeBruhl
- ◆ St. Matthew's from Kimi Oldorff in memory of Fran Lynn

A THOUGHT TO PONDER:

There was an atheist couple who had a child. The couple never told their daughter anything about the Lord. One night when the little girl was 5 years old, the parents fought with each other. The dad shot the mom right in front of the child. Then the dad shot himself. The little girl watched it all. She was then sent to a foster home. The foster mother was a Christian and took the child to church. On the first day of Sunday School, the foster mother told the teacher that the girl had never heard of Jesus, and to have patience with her. The teacher held up a picture of Jesus and said, "does anyone know who this is?" The little girl said, "I do, that's the man who was holding me the night my parents died."



ONE-BY-ONE:

We will have class every Monday in February To all participants: "Welcome"! This promises to be a most successful session.

The Lord is thanked daily for His blessings on our Christian Outreach Ministry. We also thank all the members of St. Matthew's United Methodist Church for being the backbone of one of God's creations.

In Christ's name,
Amy Eberhardt



ST. MATTHEW'S UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Well!!! Happy snow-time to all. Maybe by the time you read this article, we will be back into our daily routines. As boring as those routines can become at times, at least we can get out of the house and search for more interesting activities. Although, I did get some great "Spring Cleaning" done one day. The preacher helped (he was held captive during his recuperation) and I took advantage of it. By the time we were finished with all the work, he decided he had not been as bored as he thought!!! Ha, Ha!!

Our UMW Circles got off to a good start this month with both Circles welcoming new members. Each Circle will have individual projects each month and then the Circles will combine and work on a unity project. We have many plans already this new millennium, and we pray God will bless us in our endeavors.

I will be contacting those of you that have volunteered to work with me on the "Lenten" booklet, but the weather has been a hindrance for any type of preparation on this project. We still have plenty of time to get the booklets out by the end of March.

Catherine Morgan and I went to the Sub-District Meeting at Cotton UMC on January 22nd. There was a program and then we went into workshops for individual offices. The ladies at Cotton went all out for the refreshment time—the fellowship hall was beautifully decorated and they had four long tables of goodies. I believe there was a total of 75 ladies attending.

If you have not received your **2000 Directory**, please contact your Circle leader; they have your copy. Lots of information is inside. Please use it at each Circle meeting.

The **2000 "39 & Under"** event will be held in Goldsboro, N.C. on February 18 & 19. If there is anyone that would like more information and an application, please see me.

If you were not at your January Circle Meeting, please check with your leader for the January project. Everyone is needed to help on these activities.

Please try the recipe this month. Lola (I think) got it from the newspaper and served it at the January General Meeting and we all thought it was quite good. I think it is supposed to be a dessert—it has rice in it and it is ooooooh soooooo gooooood!

I'll be talking to you next month.

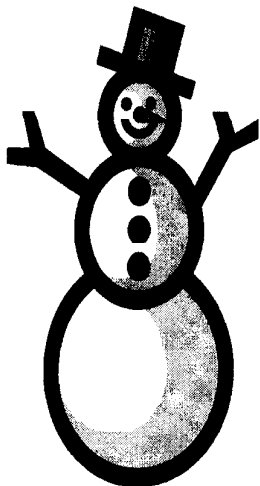
Your UMW President,
Betty Patrick

NIGHT OWLS CIRCLE NEWS:

The Night Owls sent \$55.00 to an Unwed Mother's Organization. Our project for March is to buy undergarments for the Men's Homeless Shelter. Bring the undergarments to our February Meeting on the 10th at 7:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

Our March Meeting will be held on the 9th at 7:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Ginger Sessoms will be in charge of the program, and Shirley Pitchford will be in charge of the refreshments.

Candice Wagoner,
Night Owls Leader



Glorified Rice

Prepare 2 cups of Cooked Rice.
Mix with 1/4 Cup of Sugar, 1 Cup
Miniature Marshmallows, 1/2 Cup
Slivered Almonds or Coconut.

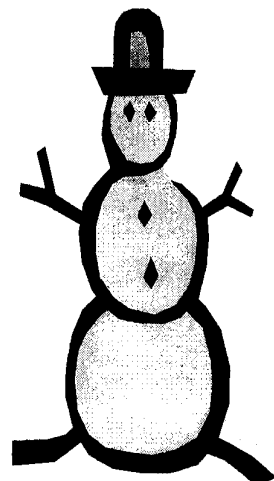
Fold in 1 Cup Whipped Cream or
Non-Dairy Topping

Chill well before serving.

Enjoy!



Submitted by: Lola Smith



FEBRUARY

ST. MATTHEW'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

2000

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
		1 Prayer Mtg.-7pm	2 Card Ministry-5pm Bible Study-6:30pm Choir Practice-7:30pm	3	4	5	EVERY SUNDAY SCHEDULE: 8:30AM EARLY WORSHIP SERVICE (NO) NURSERY PROVIDED 9:45AM SUNDAY SCHOOL (ALL AGES) 11:00AM WORSHIP SERVICE (NURSERY PROVIDED)
6	7 Larry at Pastor's Day Apart Mtg.	8	9 Card Ministry-5pm Bible Study-6:30pm Choir Practice-7:30pm	10 Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle - 10:30am in F.H.	11	12	
13 Young Disciples-12pm (Hot Dog Lunch & Skating) UMM Sweetheart Banquet-6pm	14 One-By-One-7pm	15 Prayer Mtg.-7pm Council on Ministries - 7:30pm in F.H.	16 Home Extensions-9:30am Card Ministry-5pm Bible Study-6:30pm Choir Practice-7:30pm	17 Night Owls-7pm in F.H.	18	19	
20 UMM Breakfast-7:30am	21 One-By-One-7pm	22 Prayer Mtg.-7pm	23 Card Ministry-5pm Bible Study-6:30pm Choir Practice-7:30pm	24 Help'N Hands-11am	25	26	
27	28 One-By-One-7pm	29 Prayer Mtg.-7pm	Card Ministry-5pm Bible Study-6:30pm Choir Practice-7:30pm				