

# ST. MATTHEW'S BELLWETHER



VOL. II ISSUE 4

APRIL 2000

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

*Romans 8:28 - "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."*

A young girl, named Sally, excited beyond words, anticipated an overnight trip with friends. Her sleeping bag was tightly rolled, her toiletries and flashlight were stuffed in a bag ready to hang across her shoulder. But as she awaited her ride, she noticed an ominous blackness moving across the sky. A rainstorm broke forth and dumped a deluge of water across the area. Flash flood warnings cancelled the camping trip and she was so downhearted. Trudging to her room, she grumbled, "This is gross."

About that time the phone rang. Mrs. Goodspirit, the child's wealthy neighbor, invited her over. "I've brought you a belated birthday present from Europe. Can you come over?" Sally gladly accepted.

"I'm leaving tomorrow, and this was my only chance to see you." Mrs. Goodspirit explained over lunch. She gave Sally a doll from Spain, and some pound cake from France. "This is great!" Sally thought to herself. Arriving home, she put the doll on her desk and ate the pound cake which, unfortunately, was spoiled. Soon, Sally's stomach twisted in nauseating knots. Following several emergency bathroom trips, she whimpered, "This is gross."

Her mother, braving the weather, found a bottle of foul-tasting, bad-smelling green stomach medicine at the pharmacy. But as she approached the counter, things began to happen! Sirens squealed and flashbulbs exploded!

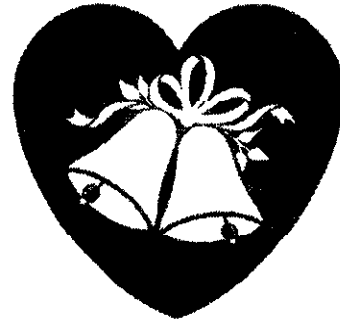
"Congratulations!" shouted the clerk. "You're our one-millionth customer!" He gave her a certificate for \$500! When Sally heard about it she said, "That's great!"

Later, Sally talked with her Mom. "I'm confused," she said. "The things I called gross turned out to be great, and the great things turned out gross. How do you know, when something happens, whether it's great or gross?"

"You don't," answered her mom. "But God does, so we trust Him with circumstances in life. When we do that, disappointments become His appointments, and then even the worst of things can deliver the greatest of blessings. And that, Sally, isn't gross—or great. It's grace!"



Your Pastor & Friend,  
Larry



YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO A

RECEPTION

HONORING THE

50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

OF

HANK AND BETTY ZIELINSKI

SATURDAY THE FIRST OF APRIL

2:00-4:00 P.M.

ST. MATTHEW'S UMC

202 HOPE MILLS ROAD

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C.

RSVP BY MARCH 25TH

DAN ZIELINSKI (910) 483-3183

MAY YOUR PRESENCE AND BEST WISHES

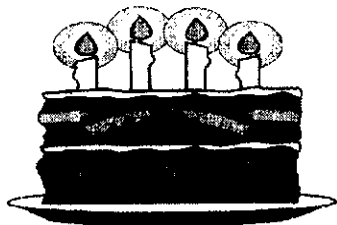
BE YOUR GIFT.

## A SPECIAL THANKS!

The teachers at J.W.Coon Elementary

School say a huge "THANKS" for all your donations. They still need tissue, liquid soap and any other school items that you can give (puzzles, books, etc.)

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS



**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY**

8 Barry Gallimore  
9 Joe Bledsoe  
Mark Hawkins  
James DeBruhl  
10 Millie Sessoms  
18 Joshua Hager  
19 Derek Webb  
20 Clarice Edge  
21 Margaret Lewis  
25 Lola Smith  
Cynthia Lindenmeyer  
26 Boyd Snyder  
27 Connie Miller  
28 Jean Lambert  
29 Edna Parker  
30 Mary Harfst  
John Williams, Jr.  
Pegi Lineberger

### 5TH & 6TH GRADE CLASS

I want the church to know how proud I am of all my students. Since I took over the class in January, the kids have started memorizing, in order, the books of the Bible beginning with the Old Testament. All of them have excelled in just a short time and we are about to begin the New Testament.

Also, the kids have been doing Bible drills. They stand in a line, I call out a Scripture, they have to tell me what part of the Bible it is in, and whoever finds it first and reads the correct verse is the winner. They have had so much fun with this and it teaches them how to find their way around the Bible quickly. Our class would like to congratulate **Ashley Stone**. She was the winner for the first session.

Please take a look on the wall next to our door, the kids created **Lenten/Easter** posters. I am so proud of my class and the hard work they are doing every week. Also, I would like to thank my husband (Scott) for helping me every week with this class.

Again, take a look at what the 5th & 6th grade class is doing, but do not blink—you might miss something.

Candice Wagoner,  
5th & 6th Grade Teacher

### ATTENTION!

### ST. MATTHEW'S UMC

### EASTER EGG HUNT

**SATURDAY, APRIL 15TH,**

**2:00 P.M.**

(Children of all ages are invited to attend. Donations of candy may be given to Sandy Jones.)

## SPECIAL OFFERINGS

### DONATIONS GIVEN TO:

- ◆ Power Bill from the Thrift Shop.
- ◆ Emergency Fund from...
  - ...Boyd Snyder Sunday School Class
  - ...Lee Anna Sproul
  - ...Joyce Christian
  - ...Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle
  - ...Gail Terwilliger in memory of Frances Bagley
  - ...Gertrude Schultz
  - ...Frank Bagley
- ◆ Building Fund from...
  - ...Frank Bagley
  - ...Boyd Snyder Class in memory of Frances Bagley
  - ...Perry Smith in memory of Frances Bagley
  - ...James & Joyce DeBruhl in memory of Frances Bagley
- ◆ St. Matthew's Church Budget from...
  - ...Charles & Joan Bagley in memory of Frances Bagley
  - ...Frank Bagley

### WEATHER DISASTER RESPONSE

We emphasize this: "Knowing what to do is your best protection and your responsibility."

Pamphlets are available in the foyer. FEMA and the American Red Cross have put together information that may be priceless to you. These are "Your Family Disaster Plan," "Your Family Disaster Supplies Kit," and "Food and Water in an Emergency." We hope that each family will take these, read them and use them. If we run out, our local Emergency Management Office has offered as many as we need.

NOAA Weather radios are now in place. One each is in the Sanctuary, Secretary's Office, Classroom Wing and Fellowship Hall. These radios activate for three reasons: A state-wide test of the system during a Severe Weather Watch and during a Severe Weather Warning. God bless those who donated the radios. We will feel safer here at church.

### FACT-OF-THE-MONTH

**Severe Weather Watch:** Conditions are favorable for severe weather to develop. Keep listening to your radio or watching your television for current updates.

**Severe Weather Warning:** Severe weather is upon us. **RIGHT NOW, TAKE COVER!** Any delay could cost you life!

What is considered a disaster? Be sure to read next month's Bellwether.

In the Service of Christ,

Amy and Dan Eberhardt,  
Disaster Response Committee Chm.





## THRIFT SHOP NEWS

February was a record setting month in sales for us. Partly due to the donation of many new dresses donated by Miss Nan, Wayne Hager's mother. We appreciate so much the yearly donation each year from her and her business. Without all the faithful workers and return customers, we could never continue. Some of the customers children ask to come to the "Grandma's Store". That's us, the workers, and the children are precious to us. Please continue to clean out your closets and kitchen cabinets and donate those items you no longer need or want to us. We also take old linens, used towels, pots and pans. These are very good sellers. Thanks to all!

Eva Smith, Chairperson

*Treat people as if they were as good you you would want them to be.  
It is the only way to make them so. —Goethe*



### HELP'N HANDS

It is a great deal easier to do that which God gives you to do, than to face yourself for shirking your duty. Writing each month is very hard for me, but to lead the Senior Adult Group is easy. This must be my calling as I grow in my Christian walk.

Our group is going great. At our March meeting, we had a large group attend and they all enjoyed our special guest.

We have a Covered-Dish Lunch each month, unless you are notified otherwise. I have invited Grace UMC (our mission church) to join us since they are small in number.

In February, Mr. James Hunt from Grace joined us and we all had a great time playing bingo. Our group loves to sing, and hope to sing for the church congregation this month.

Want you join us? We need you and your ideas!

Eva Smith, Adult Coordinator

It was indeed a great pleasure to have Gertrude Schultz visit with us in March. We hope she will be able to come back and join our Circle.

Clarice Edge, Lola Smith and Jean Lambert will be celebrating a birthday in April. HAPPY BIRTHDAY to you all. May you celebrate many, many, more. Our next meeting will be April 12th at 10:30 a.m. I hope everyone can attend and bring a guest. We have lots of room and everyone is welcome.

April is such a special month. The month we celebrate EASTER. The time of our Savior's crucifixion. What a sacrifice our Heavenly Father gave to save us. What a wonderful Father He is. Would we have done that? Think about it...Prayerfully meditate on it...Be Thankful and Lets All Live It.

God's Blessing To All,  
Catherine Morgan


### UNITED METHODIST MEN

The United Methodist Men met on Sunday, March 19th for its regular monthly meeting. A delicious breakfast was prepared by Dale Mitchell and enjoyed by the 17 men in attendance.

A brief topic of the *appearance of your church* was headed by Troy Willoughby. The discussion was emphasizing *"our church"*, and we need to be aware of things to do to make it more attractive. Also, a question was put to the membership: What can we do to encourage more men to attend and get involved with the Men's programs?

A check of \$25.00 was presented to the Methodist Men for work done by Raymond Gray and Troy Willoughby for a member of the church. The Methodist Men are always on call to aid and assist any member on small jobs around their home. There is no charge for this, but a few people feel they must make a contribution. A phone call to the office will get you some help (425-0401).

There is a scheduled **Clean-Up Day** on Saturday, April 8 at 8:00 a.m. with Coffee and Biscuits before we start. Bring your gloves and rakes. We will have all other equipment needed to do the clean-up. Ushers and Thrift Shop workers were assigned for April. J.A. Sessoms will be Head Usher.



Respectfully Submitted,  
Raymond Gray, V.P.

### RUTH-ETHEL SMITH CIRCLE

The Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle met March 9th in the fellowship hall. Our attendance was great and I thank you for being there. When we have to make changes and adjustments, for whatever reason, you always come through.

We lost another Dear Friend and member of our Circle. Frances Bagley was a wonderful Lady and more importantly, a child of God in every respect. She will be sorely missed by all.

Let's not forget to use our Community Way Days Vouchers from Food Lion on April 10, 11 and 12. Food Lion will contribute 5% of the total spent by shoppers (including the use of MVP cards) to the Methodist Home for Children. Also, each shopper who purchases at least one MVP product, they will donate an additional 25 cents. So please use these vouchers. If anyone in the church would like to participate in this worthwhile project, I have additional vouchers and will be glad to give you one. Just call me at 425-6207, or see me after church service.

(Continued in next column)

As Spring bursts forth everywhere in the form of new flowers and budding trees, what a time to be alive! We have had some beautiful days and only God could stop Spring from bursting forth now. The season is ready to come alive again after the Winter's sleep. All the great and lovely gifts of nature are soon to be with us again.

The UMW unit had a great Kitchen Shower for the church on Sunday, March 12th. Many great and useful items were given and a time of fellowship was an added benefit of the gathering. Games were played and prizes awarded to the lucky winners. Our food and decorations chairperson, Mary Rozier, planned a great time for us and we thank her for all the hard work. Maybe we can do this again in the future; it sure was a lot of fun. "Thank you" to everyone involved.

Our *Food Lion Community Way Days vouchers* will be handed out this month to each circle. If you miss your circle meeting, please see your circle leader for some of the vouchers to use at the Food Lion on the dates of April 10, 11, and 12th. We need everyone to help with this event.

Circle leaders begin to collect your *in memory and in honor* names for the Candle Burning at our UMW Annual Conference. Also, start taking recommendations of names for our *Gift In Memory and Gift in Mission*. A brochure is on our bulletin board explaining about each of these budget line items. Check it out!!

Keep trying those good recipes and also, be thinking about what you will make or do for our October Bazaar - it will be here before you know it!!

UMW President - Betty Patrick

### NIGHT OWL CIRCLE

I would like to say "Thank You" to everyone that participated in our March project. The Kitchen Shower was a huge success, and I was very pleased by the number of people that attended from both Circles. Thanks to Mary Rozier and Committee for making it such a special day for everyone.

Please do not forget the April project of collecting school items for the teachers. Some things have already been taken to J.W. Coon Elementary School and the teachers have been very grateful.

Be in prayer for our May project. We have chosen to give a donation to the Scholarship Fund for the continuance of education.

Our Lenten Booklets have been completed and are ready to be sold. Please remember each Night Owl is to purchase one. The cost is only \$2.50 and requires only one stamp for mailing. Please tell everyone to purchase their Easter Cards from the Night Owls.

Thanks again for all of your time and dedication to our mission work and to our Circle.

God Bless You All!  
Candice Wagoner  
Night Owls Chairperson

#### BLACK FOREST PIE

- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1/3 cup baking cocoa
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 1/3 cup milk
- 1/4 cup butter or margarine
- 2 eggs, lightly beaten
- 1 can (21 ounces) cherry pie filling, *divided*
- 1 unbaked pastry shell (9 inches)
- Whipped topping, optional

In a saucepan, combine sugar, cocoa, flour and milk until smooth. Add butter. Bring to a boil; cook and stir for 2 minutes or until thickened. Remove from the heat. Stir a small amount of hot mixture into eggs. Return all to the pan. Fold in half of the pie filling. Pour into pastry shell. Bake at 350 for 35-40 minutes or until filling is almost set. Cool completely on a wire rack. Just before serving, top with remaining pie filling and whipped topping if desired. *Yield: 6-8 servings.*



# **ONE-BY-ONE**

## **R.E.A.D.**

Welcome to a special part of our world at St. Matthew's! This month's column is dedicated to all of our new church members, our established members, and to all visitors.

### **What is ONE-BY-ONE?**

It is a ministry to reach and to teach people how to read better so that their lives improve. R.E.A.D. is an acronym for specific needs in reading: Remedial, Educational, Advancement, and Diversity. Our motto is: "The Lord has blessed me with the ability to read. My thanks to God will be to help someone else to learn."

A year ago, there was a dream and a prayer. We started with six volunteer "teachers" and six students, grades 6-12, who needed "catch-up" help for school. By the end of the school year, we were geared up to go on! We were beginning to see unbelievable success and were receiving requests for growth. Some very special individuals and other groups from church had already donated items and money.

We dreamed of teaching people to read in our church and community. We prayed to have teachers and students, so that ONE-BY-ONE could grow. The Lord not only encouraged the dream, but also answered the prayer.

ONE-BY-ONE was projected to commence in stages over a four-year period, but it was June and we were into the third year of progression. Some asked, "Too much? Too soon? ABSOLUTELY NOT!"

After our first six students, God took over completely. There is no other explanation for what has happened. Never has a student request been turned down. Except for one student, never has the program had to ask for a teacher. If a request was made, then a volunteer came forward before the next class night. Only God has HIS reasons.

Our teachers and our students are gifts to each other. One-by-one, they bond, they teach, they learn, they spread the Good News. Thanks come in bunches of love.

### **How Have We Grown?**

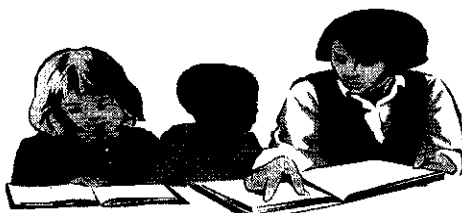
March 10, 2000, marked our first birthday. During this first year, the sheer numbers have been staggering. The ages of our students have changed from six years to adult. The ages of our teachers have changed from those in middle school to great-grandparents. In that time, we have reached way beyond St. Matthew's to our whole community, to most areas of Cumberland County, all the way to the Czech Republic. We have added to tutoring remedial and adult education.

We have had 31 teachers, two regular substitutes, one bookkeeper, two student helpers, two Co-Directors, and one Director. We have had a total of 36 students, including three adults. The total number of volunteer hours by the teachers and students spent only at the church was 1,068. This does not include hours for preparation, evaluation, transportation, and organization.

As of March 20, we have 21 teachers for 21 students. Three students are adults. Projected for Session Three (only five classes) are 210 hours at the church only.

The Almighty is blessing so many. Would you like to be a part of this wonder?

With Christ's Love and Thanks,  
Amy Eberhardt, Director  
425-5115



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 Daylight Savings Time One Great Hour of Sharing	3 One-By-One-7pm	4 Prayer Mtg.-7pm	5 Card Ministry-5pm WNA & Bible Study-6:30pm Choir Practice-7:30pm	6 Bible Study-9:00am	7	1 The Zielinski's 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party---2pm in F.H. 8 UM Men Clean-Up Day-8:00am
9	10 One-By-One-7pm	11 Prayer Mtg.-7pm	12 Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle - 10:30am in F.H. Card Ministry-5pm WNA & Bible Study-6:30pm Choir Practice-7:30pm	13 Bible Study-9:00 am Night Owls Circle-7pm	14	15 Easter Egg Hunt 2:00pm
16 PALM SUNDAY UMM Breakfast-7:30am Communion - 11:00am Birthday Party for Ashworth Twins-2pm in F.H.	17 One-By-One-7pm	18 Prayer Mtg.-7pm	19 Home Extensions-9:30am Card Ministry-5pm WNA & Bible Study-6:30pm Choir Practice-7:30pm	20 Bible Study-9:00am Holy Thursday Communion Service- 7:30pm	21 GOOD FRIDAY	22
23 EASTER SUNDAY SUNRISE SERVICE - 6:30am CANTATA "HE LIVES"- 11:00 am	24	25 Prayer Mtg.-7pm	26 Card Ministry-5pm	27 Bible Study-9:00am Help'N Hands-11 am	28	29
30						

**EVERY  
SUNDAY  
SCHEDULE:**

**8:30AM  
EARLY  
WORSHIP  
SERVICE  
(NO)  
NURSERY  
PROVIDED**

**9:45AM  
SUNDAY  
SCHOOL  
(ALL AGES)**

**11:00AM  
WORSHIP  
SERVICE  
(NURSERY  
PROVIDED)**