

ST. MATTHEW'S BELLWETHER

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VOL II ISSUE 9

SEPTEMBER 2000

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

(Matthew 13:9 "Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.")

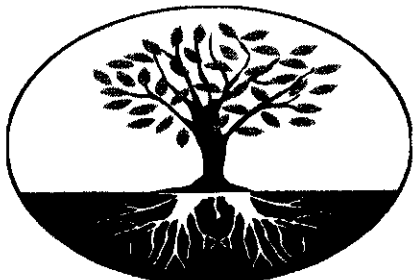
In the parable of the sower, Jesus said there were spiritually shallow people in every place where His Word is known; and every worker of God will find this is a fact.

Many years ago in a churchyard there was a tree which always bore fruit even when other trees around it failed. When the day came for builders to tear up the orchard, the minister of the church encouraged the excavators to trace the roots of the particular tree that it might be learned why it had always been so fruitful. They followed its tip root under a wall and into an old burial plot where they found it wrapped around the dusty remains of an old Puritan. This story constitutes a parable which is worthy of consideration by all those who are wondering how we may capture for ourselves some of the spiritual vitality which characterized our founding fathers. They were men who had spiritual backbone. They were singularly conscious of their dependence upon God. They recognized that spiritual forces are essential to life.

In this scriptural passage, Jesus refers to spiritually shallow people. The very kind that David meant when he said, "I was a brute before God."

Soil in a pathway across a field is no doubt as good as any other soil, but it has been pressed down and becomes hard and compact. The only way to make it become fruitful is to break it up with a plow. If we do not watch and pray, we will allow the cares of this life and the lust of other things to harden our hearts until we will be in no condition, after a time, to hear what God says. This is the condition that Jesus predicted for this present generation. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

Larry



Together with their parents

April Marie Smith

and

Donald Fred Norton, Jr.

request the honour

of your presence

at their marriage

To have and to hold

from this day, to eternity

Saturday, the ninth of

September two thousand

at two o'clock in the afternoon

St. Matthew's United Methodist Church

Reception to follow at

274 Deaton Road, Raeford, N.C.

ATTENTION!

If you have an Email Address and would like to have it listed along with your address in the St. Matthew's Membership List, please let us know by the following:

Email - st.mattumc@fayetteville.net

Office - 425-0401

Fax - 425-4830



Beginning September 5th, the Thrift Shop will have a "Fall and Winter" clothes sale. This will be a good time to shop for school clothes.

A big "thank you" to all of our volunteers, both women and men whose hard work makes all of this possible.

The Thrift Shop made donations to the following missions:

- * UMYF Day Camp
- * Salvation Army
- * Emergency Fund
- * Care Clinic
- * Samaritans Purse
- * Clothing to Community Services
- * Better Health of Cumberland County
- * Work Clothes, Shoes & Socks to the Homeless Coalition
- * Scholarship Fund
- * WFNC Fan Club
- * Card Ministry
- * Red Cross

Lee Anna Sproul,
Chairperson

RUTH-ETHEL SMITH CIRCLE

Well summer vacation is rapidly coming to a close. It is nearing the time for us all to focus on the many activities our circle and church has planned for the next few months. So, let's open our hearts and minds and do what we can to be a part of a successful year end, of "Praise and Fun" at St. Matthew's.

On September 13th, our circle will meet in the fellowship hall at 10:30 a.m. All ladies of the church are invited to join us for our monthly business meeting and lunch, and election of our officers for 2001.

Don't forget to bring your used **Medicine Bottles** with labels peeled off. Dorothy Spakes will be handling this project. Also, bring your "**Penny and a Prayer**" money.

I'm looking forward to the next 4 months of 2000. I hope you will join me with your enthusiasm for ending this year on a high note.

God bless everyone,

Catherine Morgan,
Chairperson

HELP'N HANDS

Uh-huh! Uh-huh! I like it! Have you heard that ad on TV? That's the way we feel about the Senior Adult Group meetings. We will begin again on September 28th at 11:00 a.m. with a Covered Dish Lunch.

All Senior Adults are invited to join us as we plan our activities for the fall.



Eva Smith,
Coordinator



I hope everyone had a great Summer and ready to get back to our Mission work. Please remember our meeting on Thursday, September 14th at 7:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

Our project is the "Migrant Children's School Kits". A list of the items needed is printed below:

- * 2 pads 8 1/2 X 11 inch ruled paper
- * 1 pair blunt scissors
- * 1 ruler
- * 1 pencil sharpener
- * 6 unsharpened pencils with eraser
- * 1 2 1/2 inch eraser
- * 12 sheets construction paper
- * 1 box crayons
- * 1 box markers
- * 1 12 x 14 inch cloth bag with cloth handles

Rebecca Fields Ramirez,
Vice Chairperson

A SPECIAL THANKS!

WOW! What a collection of eyewear. The eyeglass collection project was a **HUGE** success. We had **75** pair of eyeglasses donated. What a collection of frames; some of those same styles are in the shops even as I type this note. I just bought some new eyeglasses and I saw some of the same styles there in the store. Somewhere in a third world country there will be a light turned on for some person due to your generosity. Thanks church for your support.

Betty Patrick,
UMW President

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Thank you to **Calvin & Christy Rome** for the "**Beginners Bible**" set of movies they donated to the "Children's Church" ministry.

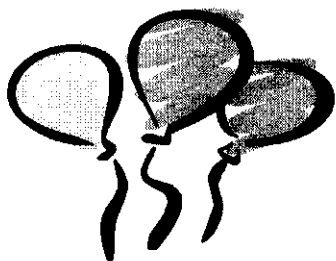
Many thanks to **Christy Rome & Dawn Stone** for their time, talents and love they donate to teach "Children's Church".

If you would like to become part of this important ministry in the lives of the children here at St. Matthew's, please contact me. It will bless your life as well as the lives of our precious children.

God bless all,
Lorri Shackelford

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Dorothy Taylor
- 6 Matt Unruh
Joann Terrier
- 7 Shawn Schultz
- 8 Rev. Larry Patrick
- 10 Skeeter Parker
- 11 Kay Warbis
- 14 Phyllis Jordan
Dustin Powell
Sarah Hager
- 15 Karen Ogden
Melvin Lynn
- 17 Ruby Lucas
- 18 Lyle Spidle
Laura Gallimore
- 20 Bob Lambert
Scott Wagoner
- 21 Julia Agnew
- 22 Betty Zielinski
- 23 Mary Kate Hawkins
- 24 Sam Hubbard
Pam Thompson
- 26 Greg Brown
Lucky Cabeza
- 27 Andy Edge
- 28 Kristine Lewis



**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**



ST. MATTHEW'S AUCTION

Make plans to attend the "Second Annual Auction" here at St. Matthew's on September 30th from 5:00-8:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. A preview will be held from 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. and the auction will be at 6:00 p.m. Each member of the church family is asked to donate one item for the auction.

Example: A gift you received last Christmas that you will not use, a professional service such as a beautician, mechanic, babysitter, housecleaner, etc. Be creative.

Last year I bid on talents donated by Sandy Jones which was 4 hours of gift wrapping including gift wrap. I gave that as a gift to my daughter, what a lifesaver! Every family has a talent or at least one thing sitting around the house gathering dust or hiding away in a cabinet...Look high and low! All items must be given to me no later than **September 15th**.

Hot dogs will be available during the auction preview from 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. Look out Bett, you and I seem to have the same taste in items so save your dollars because I am not going to let you out bid me this year!

If you would like to help with the auction, I would love to have you. Call me at 425-4269 after 5:30 p.m. or at work at 323-0601 ext. 4122, or see me at church. I look forward to hearing from you. Lola has already signed up to cook hot dogs, YEA! LOLA!! All proceeds from the auction will be applied to the Church Building Fund or Budget.

Julie Griffin, Stewardship Chairperson

UNITED METHODIST MEN

The United Methodist Men held its regular monthly meeting August 20th at 7:30 a.m. There were 18 men present and all enjoyed a delicious breakfast prepared by Raymond Gray and Jack Spakes.

Items discussed were the annual "Church-Wide Picnic" which will be held this year on Saturday, September 16th from 2:00 - 6:00 p.m. There will be games for all ages and food beginning at 5:00 p.m. As usual, we are seeking donations of Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Buns & Rolls, Slaw, (continued next column)

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

DONATIONS GIVEN TO:

- ◆ Emergency Fund...
...from William & Gertrude Schultz
...in honor of Gladys Rice's birthday (Aug. 20)
from her Secret Pal
...from James & Joyce DeBruhl
...from Paul & Jewel Sharpe
...from Connie Knight in memory of Carlton C. Knight's birthday
...in memory of Betty Huffman by Joyce Christian
- ◆ Organ Fund from Terry & Phyllis Jordan
- ◆ Building Maintenance Fund...
...from Perry Smith
...James & Joyce DeBruhl
- ◆ Power Bill from the Thrift Shop
- ◆ Music Fund from Terry & Phyllis Jordan

Onions, Chips, and any other Picnic items. Also we want 5 Ice Cream Freezers with Ice Cream Inside. We will furnish the ice and salt. Again, we will be having a "BARBECUE SALE" on October 13th from 11:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. Cost is still only \$5.00, and there will not be any chicken. Chicken failed to be productive; too dry and too many man hours of which we do not have to spare. Tickets will be on sale soon. We will be preparing 100 extra pounds of barbecue. Any man who will help in this project is urged to do so. Contact Charles Lucas at 424-0756 or Troy Willoughby at 424-6913. **WE NEED YOU!** Along with our other business, there was none.

Troy Willoughby, President UMM

(Matt Jamison, who usually writes this column is on assignment.)

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

"Texas Chili"

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 2 lbs Round Steak (cut in 1" cubes) | Dash Tabasco |
| 1 med. onion (chopped) | 1 tsp. Cumin Powder |
| 1 med. green pepper (chopped) | 1 can Kidney or chill beans |
| 2 cloves garlic (sliced fine) | 1 can Campbells Beef Broth |
| 1 can Tomatoes (with liquid) | 1/4 Longhorn Cheese (grated) |
| 2 Chili Mix Packets | Salt & Pepper |

(Brown first four ingredients, add all other ingredients except beans & cheese, simmer 45 minutes, adding a sprinkle of cheese every 5-10 minutes. Add beans & simmer for 25 more minutes.)

ONE-BY-ONE

Praise the Lord! We have begun our first session with sixteen students, two of whom are adults. If more teachers volunteer, we could reach 24 people who desperately need our help.

Class nights are Mondays. If you have been praying about helping, please join us. The children need you. We also need substitutes. If you can be with us in any capacity, the Lord will surely bless you.

First Session is off to a good start. We look forward to what this year will bring. Already, our program is being shared with other churches. The majority of our students come from within our own congregation. We serve J.W. Coon Elementary School as a part of the Partnership in Education. We have other students from most areas of the county. At present, our students range from second graders through adults.

God just keeps on being the Guide. The rest of us are here to do His bidding. Thanks to each student and teacher, He will keep us keeping on.

With the Love of Christ,
Amy Eberhardt, Director

Well, is it September already? Time to get ready for the big push through the last four months of the year 2000. This summer has been a good one with good rains coming at just the right time for our gardens and our lawns. We have worked hard to make our flower gardens beautiful and colorful and our vegetable gardens have given us many good meals to enjoy.

Now is the time to do some good planning for our big project "The Fall Bazaar." I hope you will have a donation or donations to make to the different areas of the bazaar. We will need all sorts of baked goods, some ham & sausage biscuits for our **Baked Goods** table. Also, we will have a **Craft Room** where you may donate your handmade items and there will be a **White Elephant Room** where there is always a good bargain to be found. Ladies, begin to save your plastic food sacks to use for customer purchases on bazaar day. There will be a **quilt** on display that you can make a donation to and maybe win to take home with you. The UMW will sell a hot-dog meal with all the fixings that day. There will be other rooms with many other items to purchase. All UMW ladies please plan to make a donation or donations to our good cause. We also encourage anyone in our church to make a donation; we would appreciate it very much. Come to the bazaar after work for your meal and some good Christmas shopping. Remember, our bazaar will be on Friday, October 13th from 8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. The drawings for our quilt and any other items will be at the end of the day.

Remember our October 2nd General Meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the church fellowship hall with a soup and sandwich meal. Please plan to bring your favorite soup or a few sandwiches and join us for our business meeting and fellowship. We will elect our new officers for the year 2001 and also approve our 2001 Budget. We will have a fun time and door prizes at the end of the evening. Plan to mark your calendar for this special time for business and final preparations for our bazaar. The Night Owl Circle will furnish the ice and will setup for this meeting. I need a Hooter to call me and volunteer to chair the setup for this meeting.

The Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle and the Night Owl Circle will each resume their monthly meetings in September. If your attendance has been off, try to make your circle's meeting starting in September; it will make a great addition to your week. Night Owl Circle has kitchen cleanup for September.

I went to the Thursday, August 3rd session (9am - 5pm), at the **Christian School of Mission** for the lecture on First and Second Corinthians by Dr. Mickey Efird. Dr. Efird teaches courses on the Old and New Testaments at Duke Divinity School. It was very informative and I learned a great deal from his teachings. The school is open to anyone that would like to attend and there usually is something offered during one of the three days that would interest you. Think about attending next year at Methodist College.

Start buying your items for your **Christmas Shoebox** because that time will be here before you know it. Also, I still need volunteers to make the display for the Shoebox donations.

A special thought: I would like for each of you to think about your role in our ladies organization and how you respond when asked to participate. If you have refused to hold an office, or to work on any decorations, or help with displays, or provide food at a given event, I want you to ask yourself - "**How am I being a part of this organization when I don't participate?**" We all have to be givers as well as takers; you never get to the time when you can say "**I have done all that I am supposed to do - let someone else do something.**" If we all do a little, then no one has to do a lot. Our organization is a group of ladies working together, not just a few ladies carrying the load. Everyone can do something to help - whether it is done while sitting down or standing up - everyone can be a part and do something worthwhile. Think about where your area might be and let's get started!

Betty Patrick,
UMW President

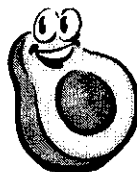
**RECIPE OF THE MONTH
"STUFFED PEAR SALAD"**

1 (8 oz.) package cream cheese
2 tablespoons mayonnaise
18 ginger snaps, crushed
1/2 cup crushed pineapple
1 (29 oz.) can Bartlett pears

(Mix cream cheese, mayonnaise, ginger snaps and pineapple. Make into balls and put between two pear halves.)

SAUCE:

1 egg
1/2 cup sugar
1/2 cup orange juice
1 cup whipped cream

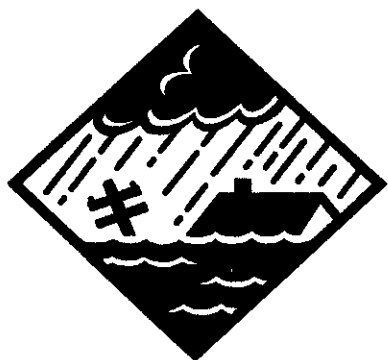


(Combine egg, sugar & juice in top of double boiler and cook until thick. Add whipped cream just before serving. Place pear on lettuce leaf. Top with sauce before serving.)

IT HAPPENED...NOW WHAT?...AND WHY?

Well, it really happened. A category 3 hurricane slammed into the coast near Wilmington and moved inland. Hurricane winds of 88 miles per hour pounded the Fayetteville area throughout the night. Tornadoes spawned from these winds raked the Western portion of Cumberland county. Damage from the storm has been heavy. Power and telephone lines are down, toppled trees cover streets and houses, debris from damaged houses and other buildings have clogged all major roads leading into and out of major subdivisions throughout the area. Some roads are flooded due to the extremely heavy rainfall. Weather personnel said an additional four to five inches of rain is possible by nightfall creating additional flooding conditions for the next few days.

NOW WHAT? What do YOU do now? Hopefully you have prepared your family disaster plan for just such a situation. You posted emergency telephone numbers. You taught your children how to call 911. Everyone knows how to turn off the gas, water, and power supply to your house. You taught your family how to use the fire extinguisher and where it's stored. You've already stocked emergency supplies and assembled a Disaster Supply Kit. You and your wife took a Red Cross First-Aid and CPR course last spring. You determined the best escape routes from your house, you know, the "find two ways out" thing. It's not just for fires, it's for any type emergency. You and your family have practiced and maintained these plans for months, you can do this in your sleep. You checked and replaced all the batteries in the flashlights and radios. You were ready. **OR, HAVE YOU DONE ANY OF THESE THINGS?**



Why is all this necessary? Is there a fire in your house? Can you call 911? Is someone hurt? Do you smell gas in the area? Is someone missing? Who is going to help you with any of these situations? Can a fire truck or ambulance reach your house? Who's going to remove all the trees and debris from the roads? Let's face it folks, they can't even remove a little ice and snow from the roads, much less hundreds of trees and limbs. You know things are bad when the pizza delivery truck can't even reach you. It's then you may realize you are really **ON YOUR OWN!**

SO, WHAT DO I DO NOW? First, remain calm and patient. Put your plan into action. Check for injuries and give first aid if needed. Try to get help for seriously injured. Listen to your battery powered radio for news and instructions. Evacuate, if advised to do so. Wear protective clothing and sturdy shoes or boots. Check for damage. Check for fires, fire hazards and other household hazards. Sniff for gas leaks, starting at the hot water heater. If you smell gas or suspect a leak, turn off the main gas valve, open windows, and get everyone outside quickly. Shut off any other damaged utilities. Clean up spilled medicines, bleaches, gasoline and other flammable liquids immediately. Remember to confine or secure your pet. If possible, call a family contact to let them know your situation. Check on your neighbors, especially elderly or disabled persons. Make sure you have an adequate water supply in case service is cut off. Stay away from downed lines. You don't know if it's power, telephone, or cable lines. Touch the wrong one and it may really light up your life.

It really could happen. Make your plans and preparations for a hurricane emergency the subject of a family discussion. Share your family's plans with friends and relatives. Hurricane preparation is a team effort for everyone in the neighborhood and community. Try it, you may like it!

May God bless you and keep you safe,

Dan Eberhardt,
Disaster Response

Web Corner

Calvin Rome, Email: romec@nc.rr.com

The Internet, the World Wide Web and Personal Computers are getting ever more popular. It is getting to where some things can be best done or only done on the Web. Think back to the beginning days of the telephone, television then color television and even cellular phones. The beginning days of the home computer are past. Now home computers are becoming less of a luxury and more of a standard home appliance.

The Connected UMC

Churches are also using computers to reach out over the Web to minister to a wide range of the churched and unchurched. St. Matthew's UMC has had a web site [<http://www.gbgn-umc.org/churches/StMatthewUMCNC/>] since 1996. Our web site has been instrumental in attracting a few visitors and members that may not have otherwise known of St. Matthew's UMC. Several other churches in our district also have web sites [<http://www.gbgn-umc.org/faydist/faydistw.htm>]. The Fayetteville District [<http://www.gbgn-umc.org/faydist/>] has had a web site since December 1999. It contains many of the happenings in the District and minutes of the District Council on Ministries. The North Carolina Conference of the UMC [<http://nccumc.org/>] recently moved many church administrative tasks to the Web requiring churches to be connected to the Internet. As a result, St. Matthew's again has an Internet account. The church's email address is: stmattumc@fayetteville.net

Getting Connected

If you have been thinking about buying a computer or getting an Internet account, there has never been a better time. Home computers can be purchased for less than \$1000.00 and Internet accounts have never been cheaper or faster. A 56K modem dial-up Internet account typically costs around \$20/month. The newest and fastest Internet account in town is the Time-Warner Roadrunner cable modem service. It is at least 10 times faster than a 56K modem and costs \$40/month in addition to your normal cable subscription cost.

Free Internet Service Providers (ISP)

You may find one of the following free ISPs will provide a satisfactory Internet connection if you are on a tight budget. Most of these ISPs provide their own free email accounts also. Usually, the user must provide some basic personal demographic information and areas of interest in exchange for the free ISP account. When connected, the ISP places rotating advertisements in your web browser window and/or requires you to use their home page when you initially connect to the Internet. Lycos, AltaVista and FreeLane have the smaller downloads for setup, about 600K. For the others, the download size is 1-5MB. All offer 56K modem connectivity and phone numbers in major cities. Be careful... for rural areas, there may not be a local telephone number.

| ISP (Size) Phone | Web Address |
|--|---|
| NetZero (4.7MB) 1-800-333-3633 | - http://www.netzero.com/ |
| Lycos (.6MB) 1-877-592-6748 | - http://free.lycos.com/ |
| Bluelight (3.9MB) 1-888-945-9255 | - http://www.bluelight.com/ |
| 1stUp 1-415-293-4700 | - http://www.1stup.com |
| DotNow (3.2MB) 1-515-288-1300 | - http://my.dotnow.com/ |
| AltaVista (.6MB) 1-877-584-5551 | - http://www.zdnet.com/downloads/altavista/index.html |
| FreeInternet (1.0MB) 1-901-259-6600 | - http://www.freeinternet.com/ |
| HiFusion (2.4MB) 1-877-450-8645 | - http://www.hifusion.com/ |
| Juno (4.9MB) 1-888-839-5866 | - http://dl.www.juno.com/get/web |
| FreeLane (.6MB) 1-888-826-4412 | - http://freelane.excite.com/ |

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | EVERY SUNDAY SCHEDULE: |
|---|------------------------------------|--|--|---|---|--|--|
| 3 COMMUNION | 4 LABOR DAY OFFICE CLOSED | 5 Prayer Mtg. - 7pm | 6 Card Ministry - 5pm WNA - 6:30pm Choir Practice - 7:30pm | 7 Bible Study - 9:00am | 8 Smith/Norton Wedding Rehearsal - 7:00pm Rehearsal Dinner in F.H. - 8:00pm | 9 April Smith/Donald Norton Wedding - 2:00pm Reception to follow 274 Deaton Rd., Raeford, NC | 8:30AM EARLY WORSHIP SERVICE (NO) NURSERY PROVIDED |
| 10 GRACE HOMECOMING Administrative Board Mtg. - 7:00pm | 11 One-By-One-7pm | 12 Prayer Mtg. - 7pm Trustee's Mtg.-7:30pm | 13 Ruth/Ethel Smith Circle - 10:30am Card Ministry - 5pm WNA - 6:30pm Choir Practice - 7:30pm | 14 Bible Study - 9:00am Night Owls Circle - 7:00pm | 15 | 16 CHURCH PICNIC 2:00pm | 9:45AM SUNDAY SCHOOL (ALL AGES) |
| 17 PROMOTION SUNDAY UMMen Breakfast-7:30am | 18 | 19 Prayer Mtg. - 7pm | 20 Home Extensions - 9:30am Card Ministry - 5pm WNA - 6:30pm Choir Practice - 7:30pm | 21 Bible Study - 9:00am | 22 | 23 | 11:00AM WORSHIP SERVICE (NURSERY PROVIDED) |
| 24 HOMECOMING Dr. Tryon Lancaster, guest speaker | 25 One-By-One-7pm | 26 Worship Com.-7pm Prayer Mtg. - 7pm | 27 Card Ministry - 5pm WNA - 6:30pm Choir Practice - 7:30pm | 28 Bible Study - 9:00am Help'N Hands - 11:00am | 29 Harvey/Mathes Wedding Rehearsal - 5:00pm | 30 Harvey/Mathes Wedding - 3:00pm Church Auction 5:00-8:00pm | |