



## ST. MATTHEW'S BELLWETHER

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### FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Some years ago I had a friend who had bought a lawn mower ten years previous. He had one acre of ground and he usually saw it as an eight month a year cutting boundary, making spring early and fall late. He told me it would take two and one-half hours to cut the grass and that was a weekly ritual. He believed that if mowers go to heaven his would trim the grass along the golden streets.

I was visiting my friend one day and he was boasting of his lawn mowers life, how it had never had the oil changed, the carburetor cleaned, or a new spark plug. "It's a veritable mower miracle", he would say.

"You ought to get that thing serviced", I told him". "let someone clean the carburetor and check the compression. Give it a good checkup".

He told me later he had a queasy feeling his mower was pointed graveward. I gave him the name of a good mechanic and he took it to him. With reluctance, he left the second most precious thing in his life with whom he termed a "total stranger". His wife outranked the mower in terms of importance, but only by a small margin.

A week later he received a telephone call that his mower was ready and that it was "better than new". My friend took his mower home and started it up. Black smoke belched from the muffler, oil spewed from the air filter. The engine, as he put it had an irregular heart beat or rythym. "better than new...hack...cough...better than new", it seemed to say.

Saddened, he put it in his truck and off to the shop he went. The lady behind the counter was perplexed. She promised they would make it right. "We'll make it better than new", she yelled after my friend as he walked out the door.

That night at prayer meeting, I asked for intercessory prayer for my friend's lawn mower. The next Sunday I preached on advice giving and how it is not always welcome. I looked at my friend that Sunday as I preached and there I was, guilty as sin of mower malfeasance, and there he was, smiling big and nodding his head.

The lady called that week and told him his mower was ready. He brought it home, cranked it up, and gasoline poured out onto the garage floor. He turned it off and went for a walk. He came by my house where I was cutting grass. "thats my mower", I said, " you take care of them, they'll take care of you.How is your mower running? Aren't those people at the shop great"?

He went back home to his mower, sat down and paid homage to a fallen comrade.After a time of grieving, my friend rose and with all the faith he could muster, he pulled one last time on the rope. It purred to life."thank you, thank you, thank you", it called out. He mowed the lawn , then pushed it into the garage and wiped it clean. He had a little talk, his mower and he; from now on, there will be an oil change twice a year and premium gasoline. No more strangers pawing at it with dirty hands. A fine lesson. I am glad I learned it.

Sometimes we want the best from something while giving it our worst. Couples sit in my office and lament their stale marriage, then go home and spend the night in front of the television. I want my children to confide in me, but I expect them to do it without my showing an interest in their busy days. We want the stream to pour forth fresh water even as we liter its banks. We want god to be with us round-the-clock, but will not give him the time of day.

Starting now, I am going to pray while I mow, to see if God and I can forge a sweeter peace, one swathe at a time.

Larry

### The Real Thing

**Don't walk in front of me,  
I may not follow  
Don't walk behind me,  
I may not lead.  
Just walk beside me  
And be my friend.**

Author Unknown

## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

4	Shirley Dominic
9	Jonathan Hargraves
10	Dorothy Brackett
12	Mary Rozier Ruth Caldwell
14	Robin Lewis John Williams
15	Frank Bagley
17	Betty Probst Darren Snyder
19	Emma Spidle
22	Betty Gray
23	Lori Montague
26	Lee Anna Sproul
27	Rebecca Parker Amanda Hughes
30	Heidi Snyder



**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY  
EVERYONE**

### THE SENILITY PRAYER

God grant me the senility  
to forget the people I never liked anyway,  
the good fortune to run into the ones I do,  
and the eyesight to tell the difference.  
Now that I am older, here's what I have discovered:

1. I stated out with nothing, and I still have most of it.
2. My wild oats have turned into prunes and All Bran
3. I finally got my head together, now my body is falling apart.
4. Funny, I don't remember being absent minded.....
5. All reports are in; Life is now officially unfair.
6. If all is not lost, where is it?
7. It is easier to get older than it is to get wiser.
8. Some days your the dog, some days your the hydrant.
9. I wish the buck stopped here; I sure could use a few.....
10. Kids in the back seat cause accidents.
11. Accidents in the backseat - cause kids.
12. It's hard to make a comeback when you haven't been anywhere.
13. Only time the world beats a path to your door is when your in the Bathroom.
14. If God wanted me to touch my toes he would have put them on my knees.
15. When I'm finally holding all of the cards, why does everyone decide to play chess.
16. Its not hard to meet expences, they're everywhere.
17. The only difference between a nut and the grave is the depth.
18. These days I spend alot of time thinking about the hereafter  
I go somewhere to get something, and then wonder what I'm here after!

Eva Smith  
Adult Coordinator.

**UNITED METHODIST MEN**

## SPECIAL OFFERINGS

### DONATIONS GIVEN TO:

- ◆ Emergency Fund...  
...from William & Gertrude Schultz (8-27)  
...from the Boyd Snyder Class (9-10)  
...Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle (9-13)  
...Paul & Jewel Sharpe (9-17)
- ◆ Power Bill from the Thrift Shop (9-3)
- ◆ Music Fund from Terry & Phyllis Jordan (8-27)

## ALERT

I hope you are as excited about the prospects of a revival as I am. We will host a revival beginning October 22, 2000 and concluding October 25, 2000.

October 22 begins with a covered - dish meal for everyone at 6:00 pm. We then will move to the sanctuary for some singing by the "Johnson Family" from here in Fayetteville. They will lead us in our first service. The Reverend Ken Hall will be the preacher for the week.

The choir will sing, there will be other special music as well. We hope you will make every effort to attend and support four days of renewal, revitalization, and just plain revival as we claim Jesus Christ as Lord.

See you there,

Larry

## ONE-BY-ONE

Praise the Lord! **One-By-One** has gotten off to a great start! Our last class for *First Session* will be October 9th. So much progress has been made. We have reached many who would not have had the opportunity to increase their reading skills. Our students, teachers, and parents are happy here at St. Matthew's. This unique program is being effective far and wide.

*There is a good possibility that we will be able to increase the number of students during Second Session.* The November "*Bellwether*" will have the next dates in it. We can grow. The Lord wants us to be all that we can. Once again, I ask you to search your hearts for a decision about whether you have an hour a week to devote to helping a student. If you can come up with a "yes", you will increase your spiritual growth enormously.

We wait patiently for new teachers. The children who need help are desperate. God continues to guide everyone towards His goals. We are content but we know that our church can do even more. If you are new to St. Matthew's, please find a teacher from **One-By-One** and ask some questions. Let them tell you all about "warm fuzzies."

May God bless you all,  
Amy Eberhardt



Things are going GREAT!!!!!!  
Come by and see us

**LOTS OF BARGAINS!!!!!!!**



Our October project is to support the upcoming Bazaar in every way possible. We are going to contribute items to sell, help set up, work on the 13th, help clean up and buy, buy, buy. Our October meeting date and place has been *changed*. We will meet October 5 at the home of Ruth Caldwell at 7:00 p.m. Please plan to attend.....we need you.

Rebecca Rameriz

Vice President

**RUTH - ETHEL SMITH CIRCLE**

On Sept. 13, the Ruth Ethel Smith Circle met in the fellowship hall. Our attendance was outstanding. We elected officers for 2001 and I want to extend my Heart felt thanks to those who have agreed to serve for another year. Working together can only make our circle bigger and better.

We had a great business meeting. I won't go into all of that. Just a couple of things need to be mentioned for the benefit of those who were unable to attend the meeting. We passed out tickets for the quilt, which will be raffled off at the Bazaar. Those who did not receive any, let me know or check with Bett. We will make sure you get them. Another thing we voted on and changed was, in the past we have been sending Campbell Soup Labels to Methodist College but after some discussion, we voted to collect the labels and give them to J.W. Coon Elementary School. So this plea is for the entire Church, rather than throw those Labels away with the can, please take them off and give them to me and I will be happy to forward them to the school. They help our kids with things the school can't afford.

Thanks to all for your help.

You still have time to get a craft ready for the Bazaar. Oct. 13th is the date. Bring your item on Thursday, already priced. That will help us out so much. If you have something and can't get out to bring it, please call me at 425-6207 and I will get it to the church. Don't forget we are having a White Elephant room and we can use just about anything.

We will meet again Oct. 11 in the fellowship hall. Don't forget to bring your WORLD THANK OFFERING and PENNY AND A PRAYER, PENNIES. ALSO, BINGO PRIZES FOR MENTAL HEALTH.

God Blessings to all,

**FYI**

The pastor will be preaching two revivals in October. October 1-4, Leslie U.M.C. and October 15-19 he will be at Sandy Grove U.M.C. October 7 he will be the Emcee of the Native American Beauty Pageant at the Indian Center. October the 22-25 he will be the host Pastor of St. Matthew's Revival. *Whew !!!*

LOOKING AHEAD

Thanks giving  
Harvest Night Dinner

6:00 pm  
November 19, 2000

Y'all Come !

# FIRE PREVENTION HISTORY

The history of National Fire Prevention Week has its roots in the **Great Chicago Fire**, which occurred on October 9, 1871. This tragedy killed some 300 people, left 100,000 homeless and destroyed more than 17,000 structures. The origin of the fire has generated speculation since its occurrence, with the fact and fiction becoming blurred over the years. One popular legend has it that Mrs. O'Leary was milking her cow when the animal kicked over a lamp, setting the O'Leary barn on fire and starting the spectacular blaze. However the massive fire began, it swiftly took its toll, burning more than 2000 acres in 27 hours.

President Calvin Coolidge proclaimed the first **National Fire Prevention Week, October 4-10, 1925**. In the previous year some 15,000 lives were lost to fire in the United States. Calling the loss "startling", President Coolidge's proclamation stated, "This waste results from the conditions which justify a sense of shame and horror; for the greater part of it could and ought to be prevented."

**NFPA** continues today to make **National Fire Prevention Week** a priority and counts on the participation and efforts of tens of thousands of fire and safety professionals, emergency volunteers, and other individuals working to reduce the risk of fire and the toll it takes on our society.

## FIRE SAFETY TIPS

### IN AN EMERGENCY CALL

- \* In case of fire go to your neighbor's home to call "911".
- \* Teach your children how to get emergency help.

### FIREWORKS ARE DANGEROUS!

- \* Even sparklers, which burn as hot as 1200 degrees F cause thousands of injuries to children each year.
- \* Attend professional displays and leave fireworks to the technicians who are trained to use them.

### PROTECT YOUR HOME FROM WILDFIRE

- \* Create a safety zone around your home by clearing flammable vegetation.
- \* Keep your roof clear of leaves and needles.
- \* Discuss community fire safety with your neighbors.

### USE ELECTRICITY SAFELY

- \* Don't overload extension cords or run them under rugs.
- \* Replace any cord that is cracked or frayed. If an appliance smokes or has an unusual smell, unplug it and have it repaired by a professional.

### STORE ONLY A SMALL AMOUNT OF GASOLINE IN AN APPROVED SAFETY CONTAINER OUTSIDE THE HOME

- \* Use it as a motor fuel only, not for cleaning.

### ENJOY A SAFE HOLIDAY

- \* Water your christmas tree daily and be sure it is placed away from exits and heat sources.
- \* Make sure holiday lights are labeled by an approved testing laboratory and in good condition.

### CRAWL LOW UNDER SMOKE

- \* If you encounter smoke on your way out of a fire, use your second way out instead.
- \* If you must escape through smoke, crawl low under the smoke to your exit.

### SECURITY BARS ON WINDOWS CAN TRAP YOU IN A FIRE

- \* Use bars which have a quick release mechanism that everyone in the family can operate.

### FIRE WON'T WAIT, PLAN YOUR ESCAPE

- \* Have an escape plan that includes two ways out of each room and a meeting place outside the home.
- \* Practice it with the whole family at least twice a year.

### STOP, DROP, AND ROLL

- \* If your clothes catch on fire, stop where you are, drop to the ground, cover your face with your hands and roll over and over to smother the flames.

### COOL A BURN

- \* If someone gets burned, place the wound in cool water for 10-15 minutes.
- \* If the burn blisters or chars, see a doctor immediately. Set the temperature of your hot water heater to 120 degrees F (49 C) or below.

### SPACE HEATERS NEED SPACE

- \* Keep portable and space heaters at least 3 feet from anything that can burn.
- \* Never leave heaters on when you leave home or go to bed and keep children and pets well away from them.

### WORKING SMOKE DETECTORS SAVE LIVES

- \* Install them on every level of your home and outside each sleeping area.
- \* Test them monthly and install new batteries at least twice a year, preferably when the time changes.

### MATCHES OR LIGHTERS CAN BE DEADLY IN THE HANDS OF A CHILD

- \* Use child resistant lighters.
- \* Store all matches and lighters up high, preferably in a locked cabinet.



May God bless you and keep you safe,

Dan Eberhardt,  
Disaster Response

The bud of a good desire, the blossom of a good resolution, and the fruit of a good action all come from God. (Banner of Truth).

Well, here we go again, and do we need people of action. It is time to get ready for our "Big" day this month – our Fall Bazaar. I know the Work Schedule Sheet has been around to both circles and I appreciate you signing up for the different hours you are willing to work that day. Please make every effort to be on time for your scheduled job; this will allow someone else to take a deserved break.

Our bazaar is only one day – Friday, October 13<sup>th</sup> from 8:00am until around 6:00pm. We want to invite the church congregation to come and join us anytime during those hours of the day. We will begin the day with hot coffee, sausage biscuits, ham biscuits, jelly, and good conversation. Come have breakfast with us, shop through our rooms of treasures.

This year we will have a Christmas Room, Crafts Room, White Elephant Room, Baked Goods Area, a beautiful quilt (\$1.00 donation), a porcelain doll (\$1.00 donation), - be sure and sell those tickets for the quilt and doll - and another room with a mixture of Christmas gifts and other treats. There will truly be something here for everyone.

At around 10:30am, we will have available a Hot Dog Meal with all the fixings. This will be a great lunch for only \$2.00 (one hot dog, chips, and drink); extra dogs are \$1.00 each. There will be homemade chili, relish, mayo, mustard, onions, and ketchup for your pleasure – umm – sounds good already!!!

Remember ladies, you will be contacted about baking something for the Baked Goods area – please do not refuse – help us out with this event. This plea for baked goods is for anyone in our church that would like to donate to our bazaar. Please do not wait for someone to call you, if you would like to bake for our bazaar, call Lee Anna Sproul (425-7302) and let her know what you can donate. If you can work during the day (Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>), help set-up, or help price items (on Thursday the 12<sup>th</sup>), please call me Bet Patrick (423-3739) and I discuss the work schedule with you.

Ladies, please remember our October UMW General Meeting, October 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00pm. The meal will be Soup 'n Sandwich or anything else you would like to bring. Just bring a little soup or some sandwiches and we will have a grand time. The tea and coffee will be provided. Desserts are optional – if you want to bring one- great. We will have a "fun time" as we have had in the past, we will have door prizes and of course our business meeting.

During the business portion of the meeting, we will elect our year 2001 officers, and approve our 2001 Budget. We will finalize some other items and we need you there to vote your choice on these items of business. We will again support the Shoebox Christmas Project – more information on this will follow soon. I really appreciate those in charge of making the Shoebox display.

I have so much more to tell you but I will have to wait for the general meeting – no more room here – ha ha! See you there.

## Bet's Pecan Pie

**Mix together:**

¾ cup white sugar  
3 T. Self-rising Flour  
5 whole eggs

**have ready:** two, defrosted regular (not deep dish) unbaked pie shells

Place 1 cup chopped pecans inside of each unbaked pie shell

**Add- to the above mixture:**

2 cups white Karo Syrup  
3 T. melted margarine

Pour mixture evenly over the two pie shells and place in the oven

Bake 425\* for 10 minutes, then 325\* until brown and set

# Sunday School

## The Lea Harper Men's Bible Study Class

President: W. A. Stewart

Teacher: Calvin Rome

**History:** The Lea Harper Men's Bible Study Class was formed some time around 1987 during the appointment of Rev. Ruth Harper as pastor to St. Matthew's. Lea Harper was the husband of Ruth and was also an ordained minister. He was not an active pastor or professor during this time because he was fighting cancer and was occasionally too sick to even come to church. Lea noticed that there were a significant number of men of the church who did not attend Sunday School although their wives attended. At the time there was no Sunday School class that consisted only of men. Therefore, Lea formed this class and contacted men of the church encouraging them to try the new class geared specifically toward men. The class was an immediate success through Lea's very capable leadership. He taught each class with enthusiasm and the class members became interested in studying the Bible even more. The class grew to an average of around 12 men under Lea's leadership and on some Sundays 15 or more. But the cancer was taking its toll on his health so Calvin Rome was asked to be a substitute teacher when Lea was out sick. After Rev. Ruth Harper's appointment was over, Calvin became the primary teacher. Lea had been selecting the course of study for the class but after his departure, the class began looking for a direction in Bible study. The class agreed that we should start on a journey through Bible from front to back, Genesis to Revelation. Calvin Rome has been the primary Sunday School teacher during this time except for a few months when he swapped places with Troy Willoughby who was teaching the high school class at the time.

**Present:** We are currently in "The Second Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians". The Bible study started with the Cokesbury "Genesis to Revelation" series. About the time we were finishing our study of the Old Testament, Cokesbury discontinued the series and replaced it with the "Journey through the Bible" series. Both series cover only selected portions of each book of the Bible. The way we are using the series is as a sort of supplement. The class has read and discussed each verse of the Bible from Genesis to present, filling in the holes that the Cokesbury series have left. We do not have a specific number of chapters or verses that we cover each Sunday. We go just as fast or as slow as we feel like it each class period. Some Sundays we may cover two or three verses and some Sundays two or three chapters. You have to be there each Sunday to know where the class will pickup the following Sunday but you would not be lost if you visited for just one Sunday. We try to make each class both a building block on previously covered scripture and a lesson that can stand on it own.

**Typical Sunday:** Sunday School officially starts at 9:45 a.m. Men wander in between 9:45 and 10:00. We use the first 15 minutes of the class in general discussion. We talk about our aches and pains, doctor visits, deaths and births, politics and church business. Almost anything is open for discussion. W.A. collects a dollar for each member's "ticket". Sometime during the first 15 minutes of the class Elinor Stewart comes in and gives each of us a sticker (usually a smiley face) and a hug and picks up our offering. Around 10:00 W.A. calls us to order telling us we need to get down to the business that we are here for, Sunday School. Calvin opens with a prayer and we dive into the scriptures for the class. Calvin reads a short, manageable section of scripture, gives a brief commentary on it, then opens it for discussion. During the discussions, we cover our own experiences, our observations, our opinions, the relationships to other scripture, application and relevancy of the scripture to today, etc. After we are satisfied with our discussion, we move to the next portion of scripture, and so on until the end of the class. Elinor usually brings us some candy at the end of the class. And we close with a prayer.

**Invitation:** We invite any man (or woman) in the church to the class. We have too many open seats. On a typical Sunday we have been having 4-5 men in the class. This is just too few for this class, the more we have the more interesting discussions we have. We meet each Sunday in the church library, across the hall from the choir room and next to the church office. Come help us grow in numbers and in the Spirit.

CALVIN ROME

Matthew 18:20 - For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 - All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

**OCTOBER**

**ST. MATTHEW'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**2000**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
<b>1</b> (pastor preaching revival @ Leslie UMC Oct. 2 - 4	<b>2</b> General Mtg. United Methodist Women - 7pm (soup & sandwich) <b>One-By-One 7pm</b>	<b>3</b> Prayer Group - 7pm	<b>4</b> Card Ministry - 5pm WNA - 6:30pm Bible Study - 6:30pm	<b>5</b> Bible Study 9am Night Owl Mtg. 7pm (Caldwell home) Grace Bible Study 7pm	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>EVERY SUNDAY SCHEDULE:</b>  <b>8:30AM EARLY WORSHIP SERVICE (NO) NURSERY PROVIDED</b>  <b>9:45AM SUNDAY SCHOOL (ALL AGES)</b>  <b>11:00AM WORSHIP SERVICE (NURSERY PROVIDED)</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> One-by-One 7pm	<b>10</b> Prayer Group 7pm	<b>11</b> Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle 10:30am Card Ministry - 5pm WNA - 6:30pm Bible Study - 6:30pm	<b>12</b> Bible Study 9am Bazaar Set-up Day Grace Bible Study 7pm	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Grace UMC UMM & UMW Breakfast 8am	
<b>15</b> Pastor in revival Sandy Grove UMC Oct. 22 - 25 UMM Meeting 7:30am	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Pastor's Mtg. -- Coats UMC 10am Prayer Group 7pm	<b>18</b> Card Ministry - 5pm WNA - 6:30pm Bible Study - 6:30pm	<b>19</b> Bible Study 9am	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	
<b>22</b> Revival Begins at St. Matt's Oct 22 -25 (Rev. Ken Hall speaker) <u>Covered-dish revival supper 6:00pm</u>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <u>NO Prayer Group</u>	<b>25</b> <u>No Bible Study</u> <u>No WNA</u>	<b>26</b> Grace Bible Study 7pm Bible Study 9am Grace Bible Study 7pm	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Prayer Group 7pm					