

ST. MATTHEW'S BELLWETHER

PASTOR:
Rev. Larry G. Patrick
Home: 423-3739

202 Hope Mills Road (04)
Fax: 425-4830
Email: stmattume@fayetteville.net

SECRETARY:
Doris Miles
Office: 425-0401

VOL III ISSUE I

JANUARY 2001

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Wow! I have survived another mad rush of what we know and believe to be the "most wonderful time of the year." Now I can take a deep breath and a low-key sigh, then begin to look to 2001. Having received many precious gifts, I have discovered that the greatest Christmas present that one can receive is of course Jesus Christ, and the second is friendship.

Slowing down, from the hectic pace from which we have found ourselves for some time, can be difficult because life seems to be a full-time rush in our culture and we fail to realize what it truly means to slow down and enjoy a friend; for instance, as I take a measure of what kind of relationship I wish to have with Christ, the overriding thought is for it to be personal, in which I can tell Christ any and everything; then sometimes I want to spend quiet time with Him and say **NOTHING**.

I have discovered the best kind of friend is the kind that you can sit on the porch and swing with, never say a word, and then walk away feeling like it was the best conversation you have ever had. To have a relationship such as this requires slowing down and realizing how precious every moment is in this life. It is true that we do not know what we have until we lose it, but it is also true that we do not know what we have been missing until it arrives. I have come to realize that slowing is vital—for it is then you find what you have been missing.

I came across this poem and I thought it might have meaning for you as it has for me.

SLOW ME DOWN, LORD

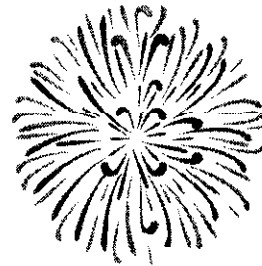
*Slow me down, Lord
Ease the pounding of my heart
by the quieting of my mind.
Give me, amid the confusion of the day,
the calmness of the everlasting hills.
Break the tensions of my nerves and
muscles with the soothing music of the
singing streams that live in my memory.
Help me to know the magical,
restoring power of sleep.
Teach me the art of taking minute
vacations—slowing down to look at a flower,
to chat with a friend, to pat a dog,
to read a few lines from a good book.*

*Slow me down, Lord, and inspire me
to send my roots deep into the soil of life's
enduring values that I may grow
toward the stars of my greater destiny.*

—Wilferd A. Peterson

I hope this can be a "slowing down" time in your life and your relationship with God and a best friend can really "speed up."

HAPPY NEW YEAR!
Larry



A SPECIAL THANKS!!

I would like to thank Patty Poche', Lola Smith, Dee Parker, Clarice Edge, Betty Jennings, Nan Blehi, Jewel Sharpe, Ginger Sessoms, Cathy Edwards, Sue Rutledge, Joyce Christian, Margaret King, Connie Knight, Jean Lambert and Vickie Powell for being so faithful in calling our church members when we have an emergency. This call let's you know what is going on within our church family. Please pray and do whatever the Holy Spirit leads you to do when you receive a call.

If you are not being called, let me know if we have your correct phone number.

Dorothy Taylor



THANK YOU!!!!

- Our list of thanks grows —
- Everyone who works
 - Everyone who donates
 - Everyone who receives
 - A very special **thanks** to everyone that participates in any way with the

Thrift Shop. This month we were able to provide items for at least two needy families. One family of five and one family of four. Ten families were helped with Thanksgiving dinners. This in addition to our regular giving and the refurbishing of the Pastor's office.

Thank you everyone for making this possible!

Lee Anna Sproul,
Chairperson

HELP'N HANDS



We will meet January 25, 2001 at 11:00 a.m. for a trip to the "Airborne & Special Operations Museum" in downtown Fayetteville. Afterwards we will have lunch.

SEVEN KEYS TO SUCCESSFUL AGING

- 1. Start Where You Are.** Make the most of what you have. No matter where you are in life, you can build from there.
- 2. Take Responsibility.** Assume personal responsibility for your own physical and financial health.
- 3. Be Positive.** A positive attitude determines your quality of life more than your circumstances.
- 4. Stay Connected.** Remain actively involved with family and friends.
- 5. Give to Others.** Contributing to one's community provides personal enrichment.
- 6. Keep Growing and Learning.** Continue to take on new challenges and remain mentally active.
- 7. Be Open and Relax.** Be open to the unexpected and maintain a sense of humor.

Learn the secrets of aging well from those who have already walked that road and enjoyed the journey. Like so many things in life, the building blocks are simple - but the result is a rich, full life, to be enjoyed every day.

Eva Smith,

RUTH-ETHEL SMITH CIRCLE

My goodness, where has 2000 gone? I hope as we reflect on last year, we can honestly say that God was first in our lives and will continue right on through this New Year and always.

Our Circle met in the fellowship hall on December 13th. Eva Smith was our Hostess and as always, she did a superb job. Thanks, Eva!

Rev. Patrick and his wife Bett had the program. We can always look forward to both a spiritual and humorous time when they present the program. Our December meeting was blessed to have them.

I want to say a special "Thanks" for your continued support to our Circle. We have a great group of ladies. We are planning to make "2001" a far greater year than the one past. Reaching out and searching for ways to contact and help those who are less fortunate, and for those who may need some Spiritual Guidance in our Church and community.

I know there are so many ladies in our Church who would like to find out what we're all about. Just come to one of our meetings and you will know. We would love to see you there. Our next meeting is January 10, at 10:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall.

God's blessings on all of us. May we have a "Healthy and Safe New Year"!

Catherine Morgan, Chairperson

NIGHT OWLS CIRCLE

Happy New Year! I hope it will be a truly great one. We will have our first meeting on January 11th at the church, hosted by Shirley Dominie. The program will be presented by Mary Rozier. Our mission project is purchasing car seats and/or booster seats, so please remember your extra offering.

We invite all ladies of the church to join us. Let's start the year out right by each person doing their part.

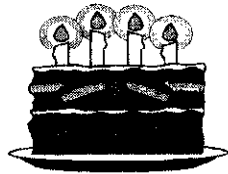
Officers for 2001 are President, Rebecca Ramirez, Vice-President, Roberta Brown, Treasurer, Karen Ogden and Secretary, Ruth Caldwell.

Rebecca Ramirez,
Vice-President



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

7	Cathy Collins
11	Emily Gardiner
14	Roxie Server
15	Joyce Christian
21	Mary Schneider
23	Nan Blehi Betty Willoughby
24	Fred Rozier
25	Eva Smith
27	Dustin Graham
31	Reed Rozier



**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY
EVERYONE**

ONE-BY-ONE

Dear Parents, Students, and Teachers,

Decisions have been made concerning classes for the remainder of the school year. We ask that you keep this letter posted so that you can refer to it in the future. Our last class for Second Session was December 11. There will be no make-up date for the class missed due to snow. Please remember that any time the local schools are closed due to bad weather, there will be no class.

Since the month of January has three holidays or days out of school scheduled, we are planning to skip that month. We strongly feel that the lack of continuity will not help the students.

Third Session will resume on the following dates: February 5, 12, 26, March 5, 12, and 19.

Fourth Session will run for seven weeks. We are attempting to help students do their best through Testing. Our last session will be held on the following dates: April 2, 9, 23, 30, and May 7, 14, and 21.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation. We try our best to do the best for the students. We pray for continued improvement.

Sincerely through Christ,
Amy Eberhardt, Director



UNITED METHODIST MEN

The St. Matthew's United Methodist Men met Sunday, December 17th at 7:30 a.m. for a delicious breakfast, a little business, and a lot of fellowship. There were 20 men present and we enjoyed a breakfast prepared by Matt Jamison, Lynwood Griffin, and Russ Kirven.

Our business began with our newly elected President, Dale Mitchell. We have set up a retreat at Camp Rockfish for February 10th. The retreat will be from 8:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m. with a delicious

(continued on next column)

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

DONATIONS GIVEN TO:

Emergency Fund

- ♦ from William & Gertrude Schultz
- ♦ in honor of Mary Schneider's birthday (Jan. 21) from her Secret Pal
- ♦ in honor of Dorothy Taylor for Christmas from the Boyd Snyder Class
- ♦ from the Peggy Pullman Class
- ♦ in memory of Linda Snyder from Roberta Randall
- ♦ from the Christmas Eve Service (\$184.00)

THANK YOU!

- ♦ from the Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle
- ♦ from the Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle in honor of Mary Roth's birthday (Dec. 19)

Power Bill from The Thrift Shop

One-By-One Tutoring in honor of Carly Lindenmeyer's 1st birthday from Gail Terwilliger (Carly's Godmother)

Music Fund in memory of Donald Biggs & Martin Webb, Sr. by Marty & Linda Webb

breakfast and lunch. This will be a great opportunity to enjoy some fellowship, get to know one another, do some Bible Study, and hear some testimony. We need at least 15 men to attend in order to keep our reservation. **All men** are welcome and encouraged to attend. Please see one of the ushers if you are interested in attending.

We learned during the meeting that a family was in desperate need of help during the holidays. The only money they had was stolen and they needed some help. The United Methodist Men gave a donation to the couple and their seven children so they could enjoy the holiday and get back on track. We are always pleased to help people. If you or someone you know needs help, please contact any of the Methodist Men.

We discussed the annual "**Sweetheart Dinner**" which will be held February 18th. It will be here in no time so Dale thought it best to begin our preparations. Troy Willoughby will plan the dinner and Lynwood Griffin will cook so it's sure to be a success. There will be plenty to do in the way of arrangements and they could use all the help they can get. If you would like to volunteer, please contact an usher or attend the next UMM meeting.

During the meeting we had a couple of volunteers. JA.....JA.....and JA. He will be the Thrift Shop worker for the 4th week in January, the Head Usher for January, and the cook at our next meeting. **Thanks JA!** Troy has stepped up to the plate as well. He will be in charge of our "**Black-Eyed Sunday Lunch**" on January 7th. The dinner is **FREE** and consists of Ham, Blackeye Peas, Greens, Turnips, Pinto Beans, Tea, Coffee and a whole lot more. Everyone is invited to attend so mark your calendar!

A special thanks to Jack Byrne for donating a second wheelchair which is located in front of the Sanctuary.

Our next meeting will be held January 21. All men are welcome to come and enjoy a delicious breakfast and great fellowship.

Matt Jamison, UMM Secretary

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 HAPPY NEW YEAR! (Office Closed)	2 DCOM – 10:00 am at Methodist College	3	4	5	6
7 Black-Eyed Sunday Lunch – 12:00 pm	8	9	10 Card Ministry-5pm WNA & Bible Study 11 Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle – 10:30am	11 NO Grace Bible Study 12 Pastor at District Day Apart – 8am-4pm	13	
14	15 UMW General Mtg.-7pm	16	17 Card Ministry-5pm WNA & Bible Study-6:30pm Choir Practice-7:30pm 18 Home Extensions-9:30am	18 Night Owl Circle & Grace Bible Study-7pm	19	20
21 UMW Men Breakfast-7:30am Administrative Board – 4pm Singing with Larry Chason – 6:00pm	22	23	24 Card Ministry-5pm WNA & Bible Study-6:30pm Choir Practice-7:30pm	25 Grace Bible Study-7pm	26	27
28	29	30	31 Card Ministry-5pm WNA & Bible Study-6:30pm Choir Practice-7:30pm	Grace Bible Study-7pm		

EVERY SUNDAY SCHEDULE:

9:45AM SUNDAY SCHOOL (ALL AGES)

11:00AM WORSHIP SERVICE (NURSERY PROVIDED)