



# ST. MATTHEW'S BELLWETHER

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Doris Miles  
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**FEBRUARY 2001**

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

It is with mixed emotions that I pen this last letter to all of you. Firstly, I must tell you that it has been a joy to be your pastor the past two and one half years. I have watched as some have grown spiritually and have taken on greater responsibility in the role of leader for St. Matthew's. Seeing this kind of spiritual maturity develop has been for me, and what is to most all pastors, a blessing in ministry.

Secondly, I have been at the hospital bedside of many in this church and we shared in the difficulties and struggles of physical ailments, surgeries, and yes, even death. It was in these settings we shared in prayer and asked God for the strength of the Holy Spirit during those trying times. It has been taxing during those moments and yet revitalizing to see the people of God draw strength from God.

I leave St. Matthew's UMC with fond memories of new ministries such as *Help'n Hands* and *One-By-One:READ* having such great beginnings and remarkable success. The *Harvest-Night Supper* will always be a special memory as I watched it grow in number each year. Ah, the *Black-Eyed Sunday*; was that not something special? I have seen many profess Jesus Christ as Savior and receive baptism; and I have seen the church reach a pinnacle in the way of financial giving in 1999 by paying 100% of apportionments to the conference. What a blessing to know that it can be done.

St. Matthew's is a special place; a place of warmth; a place of caring. Not only does St. Matthew's occupy a literal place at 202 Hope Mills Road, Fayetteville, N.C., it will occupy a special place in my heart due to the warmth and caring of the people.

I had better close now; I need to return to packing and boxing. Bet and I will pray for you often and we hope you will pray for us. Take care and may God richly bless you in all your endeavors.

Yours in Christ,

The Reverend Larry G. Patrick

## FAYETTEVILLE DISTRICT LAY RALLY SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 2001 10:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M. METHODIST COLLEGE

(The guest speaker will be Rev. Rosemary Brown from Nashville, Tn. Recognition will be given to the churches with the most in attendance. Come and support this event and let's bring back the attendance plaque in our church enrollment category.)

Roberta Brown,  
District Lay Leader

## ATTENTION PLEASE!

Thanks to each of you for continuing to submit names of people who are in need of **prayer, cards, etc.** It takes all of our church family to "**keep us supplied**" with these concerns.

At the present time, there are several names on our prayer list that we have been unable to determine their present status making our list quite long. We want to keep praying and remembering all who are in need however, we do need to keep a more updated list. Therefore, we will start with a "**clean slate**" the first week of February and compose a new list of those in need. Then on a quarterly basis starting in April we will drop the old list and start over every three months. It would also be helpful to know if the needs are short-term, long-term or undetermined.

If any of you wish to contact any member of our Prayer Group regarding additions deletions or updates, please let us know.

Lyle Spidle - 425-4942      Dorothy Taylor - 425-1378  
Gail Terwilliger - 485-2873      Connie Knight - 425-7003  
Amy Eberhardt - 425-5115      Ruth Caldwell - 867-5662  
Church Office - 425-0401

Thanks again to all of you who have supplied names, cards, stamps, etc. to help this mission in our church.

Prayerfully yours,  
Prayer Group & Card Ministry



## HELP'N HANDS



As I look back over last year, I realize that though the going has not been easy, the senior adult group had a great year. We have done many things and have enjoyed being together. I give the credit of our success to Rev. Patrick and Bett. They have been a great help in getting a variety of things going for the seniors.

In 2001, we have an idea of a play by the seniors that you will hear more about. So keep us all in your prayers.

Eva Smith,  
Adult Coordinator

### DRINKING FROM MY SAUCER

**I've never made a fortune  
And it's probably too late now.  
But I don't worry about that much,  
I'm happy anyhow.**

**And as I go along life's way,  
I'm reaping better than I sowed.  
I'm drinking from my saucer,  
'Cause my cup has overflowed.**

**Haven't got a lot of riches,  
And sometimes the going's tough.  
But I've got loving ones around me,  
And that makes me rich enough.**

**I thank God for His blessings,  
And the mercies He's bestowed.  
I'm drinking from my saucer,  
'Cause my cup has overflowed.**

**I remember times when things went wrong,  
My faith wore somewhat thin.  
But all at once the dark clouds broke,  
And the sun peeped through again.**

**So Lord, help me now not to gripe  
About the tough rows that I have hoed.  
I'm drinking from my saucer,  
'Cause my cup has overflowed.**

**If God gives me strength and courage,  
When the way grows steep and rough.  
I'll not ask for other blessings,  
I'm already blessed enough.**

**So may I never be too busy,  
To help others bear their loads.  
Then I'll keep drinking from my saucer,  
'Cause my cup has overflowed.**

Author Unknown



**THANK YOU** to everyone who has supported the Thrift Shop in any way during the past month.

We continue to do a booming business. Our sales have been great due to very good contributions. We have been able to help...*Better Health of Cumberland County...The Care Clinic...Salvation Army...Homeless Coalition...*as well as our regular donations. Without you these gifts would not have been possible.

If you are not familiar with the Thrift Shop and need information, call Adella Pray at 864-1207 or Lee Anna Sproul at 425-7302.

Lee Anna Sproul,  
Chairperson

### YOUNG TEEN BIBLE STUDY CLASS

A Young Teen Bible Study Class is now meeting on Wednesdays. It is led by **Amy Eberhardt**, but in her words, she only asks the questions.

We are looking for members to join our class. Right now, our topic of study is about understanding some things we do not understand about the Bible in general, such as the "*Ark of the Covenant*" and the ethics of today's scientific world as it relates to our faith. Soon we will begin studying each book of the Bible, as our faith continues to grow. This will take quite some time, but we are ready for the challenge.

Our meetings are held Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. in the church. If you need more information, please contact Amy Eberhardt. Young teens, be sure to come and be ready to think.

Josh Hager

### NIGHT OWL CIRCLE

The Night Owls met on January 11th in the fellowship hall. We had two new names to add to our membership roll, **Barbara Thompson** and **Shannon Gibson**. Our project for January was to obtain **Car and Booster Seats** for the Battered Women's Center. We received a \$50.00 Gift Certificate donated by Wal-Mart and \$75.00 from our circle to purchase these. Our project this month will be to re-stock the church's food pantry. Please remember to bring a bag full of groceries to our next meeting on February 8th. Roberta Brown will be presiding. Make plans now to attend!



Rebecca Ramirez  
President

## 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 Bob Probst  
21 Phillip Powell  
26 Bill Parker  
Al Hildreth  
27 Raymond Gray



**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY  
EVERYONE!**

### "THE SEEKERS"

This discussion-based class will be an exploration of our beliefs in how to get acquainted with and how to act upon our Christian faith. A most special invitation goes to those of you who have not been attending a Sunday School Class. Other factors are included: If you are new to our church family; if you have not thought much lately about what you believe about your faith; if you are curious about why Christians believe and act as they do; if you are new to the Christian faith; if you have questions about certain Christian beliefs; or, if you experience the need for self-examination within your own beliefs, then we are here, waiting for you.

PLEASE VISIT, ASK, SEEK, FIND...WELCOME TO ALL!!!

Class will begin on February 11th, from 9:45 - 10:30 a.m. in the Choir Room. We will have to be precise as to the time, because we will share the room.

Amy Eberhardt, Class Leader

### ONE-BY-ONE

We're ready to go again! Our reading ministry is still growing. We give thanks to God for one returning teacher and one new teacher. Now, we can add two more students. We serve 17 students at present, three of whom are adults. Our capacity allows us to serve 26, if we had more teachers. Folks, the students are out there, just waiting on a call.

We will be honored by visits of members of the Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle. God bless you ladies. We pray that you'll enjoy your first-hand visit so much that some may decide to join us. Most of all, thank you for your willingness to visit.

The owner of **Lafayette Business Machines** has offered to donate two computers to ONE-BY-ONE. One will be used for program administration, and one will be used by our adult students in order for them to advance their skills. Thanks, Custis Estep!

Our schedule for Session Three is as follows: (Monday nights, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.) February 5, 12, 16 and March 5, 12, 19. Child care will still be provided. Reminder: If the public schools are closed due to bad weather, so are we.

We are really excited about this new session! Our dream and our prayers continue to be blessed by the Lord. For this, we give our utmost thanks.

In Christ Name,  
Amy Eberhardt, Director



## SPECIAL OFFERINGS DONATIONS GIVEN TO:

- ◆ **Emergency Fund**
  - in honor of Eva Smith's birthday (Jan. 25) from her Secret Pal
  - from the Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle
  - in honor of Catherine Morgan from her Secret Prayer Partner
  - in honor of Joyce Christian from her Secret Prayer Partner
  - in memory of John Williams by the Peggy Pullman Class, Karen & Phillip Ogden, & Boyd Snyder Class
- ◆ **Food Pantry**
- ◆ **Power Bill from The Thrift Shop**
- ◆ **Memorial Fund in memory of John Williams by James & Joyce DeBruhl, Ralph & Verena Wright, James C. & Vikk G. Bul-lard, Donald & Florence Tesch, & Lovell Casiero**
- ◆ **ICard Ministry by Wayne & Debbie Hager**
- ◆ **Choir by James & Joyce DeBruhl**

### RUTH-ETHEL SMITH CIRCLE

Our meeting was held on January 10th in the Fellowship Hall. We had a wonderful time and got off to a great start in planning our projects for this year.

Our January, February and March project is to help newborn babies through the "**Operation Blessings Program**" on Ramsey St. These babies were born to unwed mothers. Of course, we do not praise the Mothers actions, but at the same time we can't punish these babies. We will be donating supplies such as washcloths, blankets, powder, clothes and anything a baby needs to get started.

So many times I have suggested that we all bind together and have a great year. I think we are well on our way. We were saddened by the announcement that our Beloved Pastor, Rev. Larry Patrick and his wonderful wife, Bett, were leaving us. We hate to see them go, but you know God has a plan for all of us so, let's remember that we have been so blessed to have had them come into our lives for the past 2 1/2 years. Again I say, let's bind together and welcome our new Minister and his family into our church, community, and homes.

Larry and Bett, you have been so special to all of us, and we wish you health, happiness and God's Grace. We will truly miss you. Please keep in touch.

Catherine Morgan,  
Chairperson



**UNITED  
METHODIST  
WOMEN**  
*February*

*Oops! Where did January go? There are only eleven months for us as St. Matthew's United Methodist Women to further our mission in 2001. We'll start by saying a great big thank you to Bett Patrick for her strong leadership as our UMW President for the past 2 1/2 years. Thanks to her fellow officers and thanks in advance to the 2001 Officers for assuming or continuing the jobs they have this year. Please do all in your power to support them. Pray for our mission.*

*Another thanks to Bett for again preparing the 2001 UMW Directories. Please refer to them often. Thanks to the Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle for being in charge of kitchen clean-up for January through June.*

*Think about bringing someone to our next UMW meeting who is the age you were when you joined!*

**LOOKING AHEAD:**

*March 4 - World Day of Prayer*

*5 - UMW General Meeting - 7:00 pm (Soup & Sandwich)  
Dorothy Taylor, program - Call to Prayer and Self-Denial (Please be prepared for an offering.)*

*April 5 - Lenten "Card" sale*

*May - Mother/Daughter Banquet*

*October - Fall Bazaar (Early planning will make for greater success!)*

*Mary Rozier,  
UMW President*

**RECIPE OF THE MONTH  
"SHIPWRECK CASSEROLE"**

<b>1/2 to 3/4 lb. Hamburger</b>	<b>6 med. Potatoes (peeled)</b>
<b>1 can Tomato Soup or canned Tomatoes</b>	<b>1 can Pork-N-Beans</b>
<b>Salt/Pepper to taste</b>	<b>1 large Onion</b>

**Brown hamburger, then place a layer of sliced potatoes in bottom of casserole dish. Layer on onions and pork-n-beans. Crumble hamburger on top. Salt & pepper, then pour tomato soup or canned tomatoes over top. Bake at 300 degrees for 1 1/2 hours.**

**Joyce Christian**



## UNITED METHODIST MEN

The United Methodist Men met on Sunday, January 21st at 7:30 a.m. We had **24** men in attendance and enjoyed a delicious breakfast prepared by J.A. **Thanks J.A.!** We also discussed a little business and enjoyed a lot of fellowship.

As most have heard, we have set up a retreat at **Camp Rockfish** for Saturday, February 10th. It will be from 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. with breakfast and lunch provided. This will be a great opportunity to meet our new Pastor, enjoy some Fellowship, Bible Study and Testimony. We've committed to the retreat and will make the deposit soon. Only 10 men have signed up, and we sure would like to maximize our attendance. All men are welcome and encouraged to attend. Please see one of the ushers if you are interested.

Dale read a letter of appreciation that we received from the Cumberland County Mental Health Center. In December, the UM Men donated money to a needy family that the Center recommended and it was greatly appreciated. If you need help, or know someone who does, please contact any of the UM Men.

Don't forget to mark your calendar for the "**Sweetheart Banquet**" which will be February 18th at 6:00 p.m. Lynwood Griffin will do the cooking and Troy Willoughby will do the planning. I know it's going to be good!

A proposal was made to move the time of our monthly meeting from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.. The motion was met with unanimous approval. This will allow the men to go directly to Sunday School afterwards. We hope the new time will cause an increase in attendance.

The UM Men have decided to host a "**Spaghetti Dinner**" Sunday, February 4th at 6:00 p.m. All members of the church are invited to attend. A Nursery will be provided free of charge, so bring the entire family. The cost of the meal is by donation only, and the menu consists of Spaghetti, Tossed Salad, etc.

Our Thrift Shop worker for the week of February 4th will be Charles Lucas, and the cooks for our next meeting will be Wayne and Troy. The Head Usher for February is Lynwood Griffin. One last note, Troy wanted to extend a **THANK YOU** to all the **120** folks who showed up for the Black-Eyed Sunday Dinner. **Thank you** Troy, for your generosity!

Our next meeting will be held February 18th at 8:30 a.m. All men are welcome to come and enjoy a delicious breakfast and great fellowship.

Matt Jamison, UMM Secretary



## COUNTY of CUMBERLAND

### *Mental Health Center*

Telephone: (910) 323-0601  
Fax: (910) 323-0096

THOMAS F. MIRIELLO CCAS  
AREA DIRECTOR

January 2, 2001

Dear St. Matthews,

Through your act of caring, the "Spirit of Christmas" has been delivered and has given depressed and neglected hearts reason to smile. Thank you for keeping that "Spirit" alive through your gifts.

Thank you for choosing to share your bounty this holiday season with those who need the most. I hope your holidays were as happy as the one you made for others and you have a wonderful, prosperous New Year. May God bless this act and the giver!

Sincerely,

Julie Griffin

## Review of St. Matthew's Giving

The Financial Secretary at St. Matthew's counts the weekly offerings and maintains the records of individual giving. I, Calvin Rome, have been the Financial Secretary for the past year. I also served as the Financial Secretary from 1994-1996. I am honored that the church has allowed me to fill this position of trust.

When I first took the job as Financial Secretary in 1994, it was a totally new experience for me. I felt rather strange knowing to what extent each member supported the church financially. This is of course one of those jobs in the church where details are not discussed. In 1994, it took me about six months to get accustomed to the responsibilities. It takes most of Sunday afternoon each week to count the offering, record the individual giving, make the weekly report and prepare the bank deposit. And then on Monday, the deposit must be made promptly so that the church treasurer can begin paying the many bills and making the payroll for the pastor and church employees.

I try to be meticulous about recording and reporting everything correctly. But after closing the books on Sunday afternoon, if you asked me how much you had given that Sunday, I doubt if I could tell you. I just record it and forget it; I like it that way. However, once a year I am forced to take a closer look at individual giving, when I total the annual giving and prepare the receipts for mailing. I cannot help but make some observations on individual giving at St. Matthew's UMC...

### Table of Members Giving

6820	1680	1065	535
6450	1630	1030	480
4700	1539	1000	475
4263	1500	987	470
3909	1500	960	455
3805	1500	925	450
3748	1477	890	445
3291	1466	860	423
3247	1458	856	400
3200	1418	855	300
3150	1400	782	280
2958	1371	770	255
2715	1325	764	220
2625	1285	735	216
2355	1215	705	200
2330	1200	691	191
2200	1200	690	180
2196	1200	623	175
2060	1164	600	160
1820	1107	550	160
1743	1100	550	110
1740	1084	540	100

Some gave substantially to the church; others gave little or nothing. It makes one wonder. Some made pledges at the beginning of the year; others did not. Some gave more than their pledge, others fulfilled their pledge exactly, and still others fell short of their pledge. It makes one wonder. Some gave generously at the beginning of the year; then less toward year's end. While some who were consistent givers at the beginning of the year, increased their giving toward the end of the year. It makes one wonder if the consistent givers saw the deficit increasing and prayerfully reconsidered their giving. Some gave throughout the year without specifically designating any amount; others made each offering a designated offering, for flowers, in memory/honor of, for the emergency fund or a specific project. It makes one wonder. Some have increased their giving a percentage each year; others have been giving the same weekly or monthly amount for the last 5-10 years. It makes one wonder. Some gave a large amount once or twice during the year, then less or sporadically the rest of the year. Some gave once a month; others gave each week. You could tell with some people when they were out of town or sick; there would be a missing entry that week in their record of giving. But then, some of those would double their giving the next week to make up for the lost Sunday, even placing

two checks in the offering plate with one dated the previous week; others would not. It makes one wonder.

Now I know why the Apostle Paul advised the Corinthians that: **"On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper..."** (1Cor16:2). It was to help the financial secretary! On some records of giving I just multiplied the weekly amount by 52 weeks and the individual record of giving was totaled. On others I could multiply the monthly amount by 12 and I was finished.

When we joined the United Methodist Church, we promised to **"faithfully participate in its ministries by our prayers, our presence, our gifts and our service."** The table above represents the giving of 88 individuals or family units who are members of St. Matthew's UMC. Another 19 members gave less than \$100 and another 84 members gave nothing. Of course, some of those members have moved away, no longer attend church, or are in hospitals or care facilities. And then there are some members who live out of state but regularly mail their offerings.

After counting the first Sunday's offering of the year, we were in the black. It makes one wonder if New Year resolutions were made concerning this year's giving.

I ask that you prayerfully consider your giving for this new year of 2001.

CALVIN ROME  
FINANCIAL SECRETARY

**FEBRUARY**

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

**2001**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
				Grace Bible Study-7pm		
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
Spaghetti Dinner-6pm (Sponsored by UMM)	One-By-One-7pm	Prayer Group-7pm	Card Ministry-5pm WNA & Bible Study-6:30pm Choir Practice-7:30pm	Night Owl Circle & Grace Bible Study-7pm		
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
	One-By-One-7pm	Prayer Group-7pm	Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle - 10:30am	Grace Bible Study-7pm		
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
UM Men's Breakfast - 8:30am	NO One-By-One	Prayer Group-7pm	Home Extensions-9:30am	Help'N Hands-11:00am		
Sweetheart Banquet - 6pm (Sponsored by UMM)	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	Grace Bible Study-7pm		
<b>25</b>	One-By-One-7pm	Prayer Group-7pm	Card Ministry-5pm WNA & Bible Study-6:30pm Choir Practice-7:30pm			

**EVERY  
SUNDAY  
SCHEDULE:**

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

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