

ST. MATTHEW'S BELLWETHER

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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

The marks of a good priest or minister according to God's word in Hebrews 5:1-4, are that he is called by God and does not take the honor upon himself. He is chosen from among men, is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God. He is constantly to be on the Godward side of his people. He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness.

Of one thing I am certain, I am beset with many weaknesses. In spite of the fact that I am a sinner, saved by grace, God has called me to serve him as a minister, of the Gospel. Because of my weakness, both past and present I am called to deal gently with the ignorant and wayward. I have also been ignorant and wayward in my own spiritual journey.

One of my great hopes for the Christian life is to enjoy all the blessings God has in store for me and every person who would claim the name Christian. I am convinced that one of the things which stood in my way of receiving all these blessings was my ignorance and waywardness in the area of tithing. God's word in Malachi 3:10 says, *"Bring the full tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house; and thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing."*

You wouldn't believe the excuses I had for not bringing the full tithe to God. I had bills to pay. God don't you want me to honor my obligations? Shouldn't I provide for my family; my children? Don't I deserve a decent house, car, clothes and a little fun? I am giving as much or more than most people in the church. I am giving my time and talents to the church. At least I attend church regularly. All excuses I made for not tithing.

But I always wondered why we had such a hard time financially and in other ways,

when Christianity promised so many blessings. Because I was weak I did not take God at his word. I didn't accept His challenge and put him to the test. So, I finally decided to put God to the test, and indeed he has opened the windows of heaven for us and poured down on us an overflowing blessing. I discovered that we cannot out give God. Paul tells us, there are two unchangeable things about God and his promises, (1) it is impossible that God should prove false, and (2) he is a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul through Jesus. (*Hebrews 6:17-20*)

Why then do we trust the world's promises more than God's promises. Our economy is always sensitive to "I promise to pay." The paper currency or money which we use in trade is, every piece of it, a promise by the government to pay up. All the savings accounts, all IRA's, all retirement plans, Social Security, all the life insurance policies, are simple promises. Every person does daily work, receives a daily wage, by faith in promises. Yet as Christians we still don't trust God's promise.

Our level of giving at St. Matthew's is a measure of our level of faith. Our budget is a promise to God and we are not honoring that promise. Jesus tells us, *"For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."* Matthew 6:21. How can we expect God to bless us individually and as a church when we are robbing God. That is what God's word says in Malachi, *"But you say, 'How are we robbing thee?' In your tithes and offerings."*

Accept God's challenge for the next ninety days and see if God honors his promise. *"Bring the full tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house; and thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing."*

Shalom,

Mike



HELP'N HANDS

A beautiful Spring day encouraged all of our Seniors out of the house for our monthly meeting on Thursday, March 22nd. A delicious lunch of Country Style Steak with Gravy, Hot Homemade Biscuits, Peach Cobbler and other Side Dishes was enjoyed by all. We had a wonderful time singing and practicing for our play which will be on April 29th at 6:00 p.m. We also played Bingo which was fun for all! If you have not joined our group, why not give it a try? You will enjoy it too!

From all the Grandma's & Grandpa's



THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF GRANDMOTHERS (Hallmark Publication)

A Grandmother is a lady who has no children of her own, so she likes other people's little girls.

A Grandfather is a "Man Grandmother". He goes for walks with boys, and they talk about fishing and tractors and things like that.

Grandma's don't have to do anything except be there. They are old, so they shouldn't play hard or run. It is enough if they drive us to the market where the "pretend horse" is, and have lots of dimes ready, or if they take us for walks, they slow down past things like pretty leaves or caterpillars. They should never say "hurry up".

Usually they are fat, but not too fat to tie the kids shoes. They wear glasses, and they can take their teeth and gums out.

It is better if they don't typewrite or play cards, except with us. They don't have to be smart, only answer questions like why dogs chase cats or how come God isn't married?

They don't talk baby talk like visitors do, because it is hard to understand. When they read to us they don't skip words or mind if it is the same story again.

Everybody should have one, especially if you don't have television, because Grandmothers are the only "grown-ups" who have got time.

RUTH-ETHEL SMITH CIRCLE



Spring is upon us once again. Birds singing, flowers blooming and of course seasonal allergies. But, they're all part of God's great creation.

We have so much in our lives in spite of the downside of allergies which goes along with Spring. Let's keep focused on God and His wonders.

Our Circle met on March 14th in the fellowship hall. Dorothy Spakes and Jean Lambert were our hostess. They invited **Roberta Kishbaugh** from **Better Health of Cumberland County** as our guest speaker. She was very informative and brought a short film about what their organization does. They supply items for those who have little or no income to cope with an illness. People are referred to them from a Health or Human Service Agency. If you know of anyone who needs their help, please let them know.

We now have our "**Lenten Booklets**" for sale. If you would like one contact Mary Rozier, Rebecca Ramirez or me.

Our next meeting will be April 11th at 10:30 a.m. We would love to have all of you daytime ladies. Call me at 425-6207 if you need a ride.

God bless you all,
Catherine Morgan



The Thrift Shop made the following donations in March:

- * Emergency Fund
- * Care Clinic
- * Church Power Bill
- * Samaritans Purse
- * Church Office: A fax machine, chair mat, & new monitor for Doris' computer

We have had our Winter 1/2 price sale and are now stocked with Spring and Summer goods.

Thanks to everyone who participates in the Thrift Shop in any way.

Lee Anna Sproul,
Chairperson

CARD MINISTRY

The Card Ministry would like to make an appeal for all church members to check the latest Church Address List (Feb. 2001) and make sure your address and zip code is correct. If not, please call the church office and let Doris know **ASAP**. There are also several young adults whose addresses are still listed with parents. Once you have established your own address, please let Doris know. Young women may still want to include their maiden names to help those of us who knew you growing up, but please get us your current address. This will also help save on postage in those cases of returned mail. Thanks for your help!

Please continue to fill out the "**Prayer Concerns Card**" in the pew. We depend on your help to compile names and needs for our ministry. It would also help if you would **print** the names and addresses. Thanks as always for your continued support.

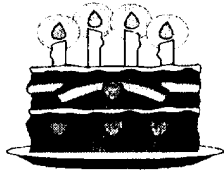


NIGHT OWL CIRCLE

Our next meeting will be **April 5th** at 7:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. **Shannon Gibson** will be in charge of the program, and **Betty Probst** will be the hostess. Our project is to bring an offering to buy cleaning supplies for our "**Clean-Up Day**" in the future to assist flood victims from Hurricane Floyd.

Rebecca Ramirez,
President

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

2	Shannon Gibson	
8	Barry Gallimore	
9	Joe Bledsoe	
	Mark Hawkins	
	James DeBruhl	
17	Joshua Hager	
19	Derek Webb	
20	Clarice Edge	
21	Margaret Lewis	
25	Lola Smith	
27	Connie Miller	HAPPY
28	Jean Lambert	BIRTHDAY
29	Edna Parker	
30	Mary Harfst	EVERYONE!
	John Williams, Jr.	
	Pegi Lineberger	

IN THE NEWS!!

Many of you know and love the ministry that Victoria Huggins has shared with our church in a variety of ways. She taped a "Kids at the Apollo" show in New York City last January and it will be shown Saturday, May 5th at 11:30 p.m.!! You will be invited to vote for the best performance by calling or by E-mail. Watch for more details in the May Bellwether. Victoria needs our continued support!

EASTER EGG HUNT

Children's Ministries is sponsoring an "Easter Egg Hunt" on Saturday, April 7th at 2:00 p.m. Everyone is invited, so bring a friend! Prizes will be awarded in each age level for **Coloring Contest**, **Most Eggs Found**, and **Lucky Eggs Found**. Refreshments will be served in the fellowship hall. Donations of **Plastic Eggs**, **Small Prizes**, and **Candy** may be given to Sandy Jones or the Church Office. **No chocolate please**, it melts and makes a mess! Adult volunteers are needed to hide eggs, serve refreshments, and clean-up. If you would like to help, call Sandy Jones at 867-5442.



ONE-BY-ONE

As our Christian Outreach in Reading continues, the Lord has sent us **19** students. We still have over **40** on the waiting list. Dear Friends in Christ, we need **more teachers!** Our facility has space for **26** students. **Seven more teachers** to give of their time and their talents would enable us to serve at maximum capacity. Let God move you! Your lives will be changed forever. Above that, you may be the one who changes another's life. Words cannot tell the love you will feel. Please pray about joining **ONE-BY-ONE**. You can make such a difference.

Our **Fourth Session** will be the last until school begins in August. Meeting dates for classes are **April 2, 9, 23, 30** and **May 7, 14 & 21**.

God bless you all,
Amy



SPECIAL OFFERINGS

DONATIONS GIVEN TO:

- ♦ **Emergency Fund from**
 - the Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle
 - the Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle & Sunday Morning Bible Study Class in memory of Mary Roth
 - Betty Priest
 - the Sunday Morning Bible Study Class
 - the Thrift Shop
 - the Peggy Pullman Class in memory of Ruth David, Joyce Christian's Mother
- ♦ **Building Maintenance Fund**
 - in memory of Joyce Christian's Mother from Paul & Jewel Sharpe
 - in memory of Mary Roth from James & Joyce DeBruhl and Elizabeth Smith & D.S. Whitaker
 - in memory of Mary Roth from Blanche B. Dugan
- ♦ **Power Bill from the Thrift Shop**
- ♦ **One-By-One from Robert & DeAnn Tre-vathan**
- ♦ **Choir Music from Phyllis Jordan**
- ♦ **Food Pantry from Dale & Mary Ann Mitchell**
- ♦ **Vacation Bible School from the United Methodist Women**



Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Proctor Hubbard

request the pleasure of your company

at the marriage of their daughter

Amanda Celeste

to

Mr. Mark Adam Yencsko

on Saturday, the twenty-first of April

Two thousand and one

at five o' clock in the evening

Hay Street United Methodist Church

320 Hay Street

Fayetteville, North Carolina

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Only nine months remaining to accomplish our mission as UMW in 2001. **Lenten Card Booklets** are in circulation among the circles. If you were not at your March meeting, please see someone who was, so you can pick up your booklets. We also hope to have some available after Worship Service outside the choir room.

We voted to assist the United Methodist Men with the "**Barbecue Sale**" during our "**Bazaar**" which will be **October 12 - 13**. We are looking forward to our "**Mother's Day Banquet**" on **May 5th** which will be hosted by Troy Willoughby.

A special thanks to Ruth Caldwell and Lola Smith for representing us at the "**Spiritual Day Apart**" which was held at Cokesbury UMC on March 17th.

Don't forget to shop at **Food Lion** on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday this week to help support our **United Methodist Home for Children**.

Mary Rozier, UMW President

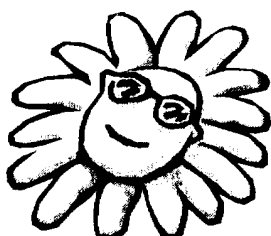
LOOKING AHEAD:

April - Lenten Card Booklet Sale
2-4 - Use Vouchers to Shop at Food Lion

May
5 - Mother's Day Banquet

June
4 - UMW General Mtg. with Glenda Chandler, guest speaker

October
12-13 - UMW Bazaar



RECIPE OF THE MONTH



TOPPING:

1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
2 1/2 Tbsp. granulated sugar
3/4 tsp. baking powder
1/4 tsp. baking soda
1/4 tsp. salt
3 Tbsp. canola oil
1 Tbsp. chilled butter, cut into small pieces

2/3 cup buttermilk

1 egg, lightly beaten, for glazing

FILLING:

3/4 cup sugar
2 1/2 Tbsp. cornstarch
1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon
3 1/2 cups blueberries
3 1/2 cups strawberries

In a large saucepan, combine all filling ingredients. Bring to a simmer over medium heat; cook, stirring, until sauce is slightly thickened and translucent, about 2 minutes. Transfer to a shallow 2 to 3 quart baking dish which has been lightly oiled or coated with nonstick spray and set aside. In a medium bowl, combine flour, 1 1/2 Tbsp. sugar, baking powder, baking soda and salt. Work in oil and butter with your fingers until coarse crumbs form. Add buttermilk and stir with a fork just until a dough forms. Let stand for 5 minutes. On a sheet of wax paper, dust dough with flour and pat into a disk. Cover with another sheet of wax paper and roll out 1/2 inch smaller than the baking dish. Peel off top sheet of paper. Invert dough onto filling. Peel off paper. Cut several slashes in dough to vent steam. Brush top lightly with egg and sprinkle with remaining 1 Tbsp. sugar. Bake in a preheated 375 degree oven for 30 to 40 minutes, or until top is browned, filling is bubbling and a toothpick inserted in the center of the topping comes out clean. Cool for at least 10 minutes. Serve warm. **NOTE:** Any kind or combination of berries can be used in this recipe. **YIELD:** 8 servings

UNITED METHODIST MEN

The St. Matthew's United Methodist Men met Sunday, March 18th at 8:30 a.m. for a delicious breakfast prepared by Dale Mitchell. There were 24 men present. and about 10 cooks in the kitchen all helping out...so hats off to all of them!

Our guest speaker was Mr. Roy Hill who delivered an exceptional message on *Judging Others*. It seemed to have all the men talking after the meeting. *A special thanks* goes to Charles Lucas for arranging Mr. Hill's visit. If you know of someone who would like to speak at our meeting, please let our men know.

Dan Eberhardt gave us an update on the volunteer work Down East. Looks like it will be postponed for the time being. We are still very much interested in gathering volunteers to help these people. If you would like to donate some time, please let us know. We intend to do about a days work. There are still several families trying to recover from Hurricane Floyd.

Dale announced that the United Methodist Women will be helping out with the annual *Barbecue Sale* at our *Bazaar* in October. A portion of the profits will be distributed to each party. It sounds like it is going to bigger and better than ever, and we are going to have a great time. Congratulations to both parties on the agreement!

The men will get together on April 7th at 8:00 a.m. to do some work on the church grounds. They will assemble behind the church. Volunteers are encouraged to bring their own rake, tools, etc. as we have a limited supply in our shed. This project will greatly improve the appearance of the church ground after the construction on Hope Mills Road and in preparation of Easter. The next Methodist Men's Breakfast is not scheduled until the May 20th at 8:30 a.m. A breakfast will be served after the *Easter Sunrise Service* on April 15th.



Matt Jamison, UMM Secretary

IT'S THUNDERSTORM SEASON AGAIN!!!

It's that time of the year when the words "WATCH" and "WARNING" have special meaning. These words should key special reactions by you as they flash across your television screen, interrupting your favorite soap or in the middle of your favorite song on the radio. Let's refresh:

A severe thunderstorm **WATCH** is issued when the weather conditions are such that a severe thunderstorm (damaging winds 58 miles per hour or more, or hail three-fourths of an inch in diameter or greater) is likely to develop. This is the time to locate a safe place in the home and tell family members to watch the sky and listen to the radio or TV for more information.

A severe thunderstorm **WARNING** is issued when a severe thunderstorm has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. At this point, the danger is very serious and everybody should go to a safe place, turn on your battery-operated radio, and wait for additional information.

The same principal applies to tornadoes. A **TORNADO WATCH** means a tornado is possible in your area, A **TORNADO WARNING** means a tornado has been sighted and may be headed for your area.

Let's take a look at **LIGHTNING**. Thunderstorms and lightning just seem to hang around with each other. If you have one, you're stuck with the other one. Here are some interesting facts:

- * Average lightning stroke is 6 miles long
- * The temperature of lightning's return stroke can reach 50,000 degrees fahrenheit.
- * The average thunderstorm is 6 - 10 miles wide.
- * If you are within 10 miles of an approaching storm you are within range of a lightning strike.
- * Lightning can strike you with clear skies directly overhead.



Precautions you should take:

- * Stay indoors.
 - * Stay away from open doors and windows, fireplaces, stoves, metal pipes, and plug-in appliances.
 - * Don't use the telephone during a storm.
 - * Don't take laundry off the clothesline.
 - * Don't use metal objects like fishing poles or golf clubs (that's really hitting below the belt).
 - * Get out of the water and off small boats.
 - * Stay in your automobile if you are traveling. It offers excellent lightning protection.
 - * If outside, avoid the highest object in the area, open spaces, and hilltops
- * If you feel an electrical charge - if your hair stands on end or your skin tingles - lightning may be about to strike you. Drop to the ground immediately.

This would be a good time to up-grade your emergency home disaster kit. Check your first-aid kit, battery-powered NOAA radio and extra batteries, canned food and bottled water, medications, and an up-to-date family notification list. Don't get caught short!

Dan Eberhardt,
Disaster Response

YOUNG TEEN BIBLE STUDY



We are discussing our concerns. Most of our concerns have been about science and the way the world was formed. We've also talked about the **Tower of Babel**, the **Egyptians** and the **Ark of the Covenant**.

We are glad that the Lord answered our prayer and brought us together. Learning the **BIBLE** will help us learn more about **God**. As we learn more about **God**, we will become better stewards of the Lord. The main thing that we are learning is that we want to learn about the **BIBLE**, so that one day our mission will be completed. That will be when we can form a unit that will be our future congregation.

We began with two students. Now there are ten of us. Our goal is to have at least twelve young teen followers of Jesus by July 11, 2001.

- Contributed by Group -

APRIL

ST. MATTHEW'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

2001

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Daylight Saving Time begins Youth Rally	2	3 Prayer Group-7pm Administrative Board Mtg. - 7:30pm	4 Card Ministry-5pm WNA & Bible Study-6:30pm Choir Practice-7:30pm	5	6 Confirmation - 7-9pm	7 UMM Clean-Up-8am Confirmation -9am - 4pm Easter Egg Hunt - 2:00 pm
8 Passion/Palm Sunday	9 One-By-One-7pm	10 Prayer Group-7pm	11 Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle - 10:30am Card Ministry-5pm WNA & Bible Study-6:30pm Choir Practice-7:30pm	12 Holy Thursday Service - 7:00pm at Grace UMC	13 Good Friday	14 Town Amanda Celeste & Mark Venesko Wedding at Hay St. UMC -- 5:00pm
15 Easter Sunday Sunrise Service - 6:00am followed by Breakfast in fellowship hall	16 NO One-By-One	17 Prayer Group-7pm	18 Home Extensions-9:30am Card Ministry-5pm WNA & Bible Study-6:30pm Choir Practice-7:30pm	19 Pastor _____	20 Out of _____	21
22	23 One-By-One-7pm	24 Continuing Education Workshop (Wendell Small) -- 9:30am - 4:30pm Prayer Group-7pm	25 Card Ministry-5pm WNA & Bible Study-6:30pm Choir Practice-7:30pm	26 Help 'n Hands-11:00am	27	28
29 Help 'n Hands Program-6pm	30 One-By-One-7pm					

EVERY
SUNDAY
SCHEDULE:

9:45AM
SUNDAY
SCHOOL
(ALL AGES)

11:00AM
WORSHIP
SERVICE
(NURSERY
PROVIDED)