

ST. MATTHEW'S BELLWETHER

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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

I am concerned that as Christians we spend so much money on ourselves. As a church, we seem to do the same thing. Most of our budget is for us, not others. When we don't raise money to cover our budget, the first thing to go is the money to help others. Right now we are paying almost nothing on our apportionments. Some view this as a tax on the local church. I view it as our outreach to others in the name of Jesus. The following is a great article from UMC Bishop Michael Coyner.

Someone recently suggested to me that we need to change the word "apportionment" because it doesn't describe what is done with these monies. It only describes how we divide the conference budget among the churches into fair shares.

I have been trying to think of a clearer way to describe our shared giving, because our unique apportionment system allows us to do many good things together.

However, instead of a new name, perhaps we should redefine "apportionment" as: "a portion meant for others." Our giving signifies our understanding that a portion of our blessings is meant for others. A portion of what God has given us is to be shared. A portion of our church budget is to be used in ministries beyond our local churches.

Our apportionment system allows local churches to extend their reach in ways that they could never do at home. It allows us to support ministries and missions locally and worldwide.

Much of our apportionment giving actually comes back to us. It is through apportionments that our pastors' pensions and medical insurance are paid. It is through apportionments that camps and other ministries are provided for our use. It is through apportionments that new pastors are trained in our seminaries. It is through apportionments that a comprehensive television and telecommunications ministry connects The United Methodist Church with the world.

It is through apportionments that a university in Africa provides postsecondary education for African students. It is through apportionments that 11 historically Black colleges, including a medical school, enrich lives. It is through apportionments that every four years, General Conference delegates from around

the world determine new directions and affirm existing ministries for our church. It is through apportionments that United Methodist have opportunities to participate in various ecumenical endeavors.

Much of the money that a local church sends "away" in apportionments actually comes back to that local church in eventual benefits. Isn't that part of our understanding of stewardship? When we willingly and joyfully share through our giving, we often discover that we are also recipients!

Maybe we still need a better word for "apportionments" but in the meantime it might help to know that it is "a portion meant for others." It clearly seems that most of our local United Methodist churches not only understand this concept, they also joyfully participate.

Shalom,
Mike

IGNITING MINISTRY TRAINING EVENT SUNDAY, MAY 6, 2:00 - 6:00 P.M. SALEM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastors are asked to bring four or five of their laity members to this training event. This intensive training event is meant to give the pastors and laity persons of each church the tools on how to be a more welcoming church. There will be national and local TV ads inviting persons to the United Methodist Church during the month of September. This training event will enable us to be fully prepared for those persons attracted by the TV ads who will come to visit our churches.

FAYETTEVILLE DISTRICT CHRISTIAN TRAINING EVENT SUNDAY, MAY 20, 3:00 - 5:00 P.M. HAY STREET UMC

The first hour we'll look at "Creative Prayer Ideas in the Classroom and Beyond." The second hour will be led by Laura Bailey, Director of Conference Media Center. She will give us an overview of the Conference Media Center and its video resources. We'll also have three display tables set up.

- (1) Conference Media Center Resources
- (2) Fayetteville District Resources
- (3) New Cokesbury Resources (all items for sale!)

Please encourage your Sunday School leaders and teachers to attend this event.

HELP'N HANDS



On Saturday, January 21st, we went to the Rudy Theatre in Selma, N.C. for the American Music Festival. We had a great time. Thanks to the church for providing the funds for a rental van and to Troy Willoughby and Cliff Morgan for driving.

April has been a busy month for us. We are all looking forward to entertaining you at 6:00 p.m. this evening with our play "Let's Have A Yard Sale". Come out and join us!

Eva Smith, Coordinator

*The Lord is my shepherd — That's Relationship
I shall not want — That's Supply*

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures — That's Rest

He leadeth me beside still waters — That's Refreshment

He restoreth my soul — That's Healing

He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness — That's Guidance

For his name sake — That's Purpose

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death — That's Challenge

I will fear no evil — That's Assurance

For thou art with me — That's Faithfulness

Thy rod and staff they comfort me — That's Shelter

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies — That's Hope

Thou anointest my head with oil — That's Consecration

My cup runneth over — That's Abundance

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life — That's Blessing

And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever — That's Security!

RUTH-ETHEL SMITH CIRCLE

We had a large attendance at our April meeting. Julie Griffin, our guest speaker, gave us an update on changes at Cumberland County Mental Health. She also presented information regarding "Stress In Later Life" and "Clinical Depression". Thanks Julie, for a great program.

For our May project, we voted to give money to **Massey Hill Classical School** to help a family with financial needs while their child was in the hospital in Georgia. We all wanted to reach out in some way to touch the lives of these children that God so graciously protected.

Our next meeting will be May 9th at 10:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Again, I extend a **WELCOME** to all of you ladies who are thinking about joining us. We would love to have you!

God's richest blessings to all!

Catherine Morgan, Chairperson

THANK YOU!

A special thanks to Cathleen Manship, Meghann Dominie, Lynwood Griffin and the Children's Choir for their Sunday morning specials. They have been great!!

Dorothy Taylor



The Thrift Shop made contributions to the St. Matthew's Emergency Fund, Samaritan's Purse, and the Care Clinic.

We are in need of some workers to assist us. If you would like to volunteer, please call Lee Anna Sproul at 425-7302. The Thrift Shop is open Tuesday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Lee Anna Sproul, Chairperson

WHAT IS SIN?

A number of years ago the Finnish Broadcasting Co. offered prizes to those listing the most synonyms for certain words. A working man in North Finland won an award for submitting 747 synonyms for drunkenness. A man serving a prison sentence came in second with 678. The same prisoner won a prize for listing 170 synonyms for stealing. Another man knew 203 for lying. This rich vocabulary for each of these sins may spring from man's tendency to avoid calling his misdeeds by the name **God** has put on them—**sin**.

The sociologist calls sin "cultural lag."

The psychiatrist terms it "emotional behavior."

The philosopher names it "irrational thinking."

The humanist excuses it as "human weakness."

The Marxist defines it as "class struggle."

The psychologist explains it in terms of a "psychophysical mechanism" which leaves the soul helpless, in the control of genes and gastric juices.

The Freudian speaks of the "id."

A Congressman refers to his immoral relationship with his secretary as "a bit of foolishness."

The layman says it's just plain "cussedness."

The criminologist writes it off as "antisocial conduct."

Some philosophers regard sin as the limitation of being—absolute evil is nothingness. But the **Bible** sees sin as a positive reality.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Forrest & Sandra Fowler

Jeff & Julie Anderson

CONFIRMATION:

Peter Rome

Ashley Stone

David Dominie

Justin Cole

Heather Shackelford

Melanie Jones

Dejah Anderson

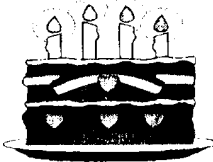


NIGHT OWL CIRCLE

Our last meeting was held at the church on April 5th at 7:00 p.m. We voted to donate \$61.00 to the Emergency Fund. Our next meeting will be May 10th at 7:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Mary Rozier will be our hostess and Karen Ogden will have the program. Bring a monetary gift to purchase needed supplies for J.W. Coon Elementary School.

Rebecca Ramirez,
President

MAY BIRTHDAYS

1	Mae Roberson	 <p style="text-align: center;">HAPPY BIRTHDAY EVERYONE!</p>
	Edgar Lineberger	
2	Jaime Alexander	
8	Thomas Gardiner	
9	Perry Smith	
10	Mary Couch	
12	April Lewis	
14	Nick Unruh	
	Heather Strub	
15	Ashton Scruggs	
16	Maria Strickland	
17	Lisa Gardiner	
18	Dawn Stone	
	Angie Norton	
19	Connie Williams	
20	Dorothy Spakes	
27	Robert Parker	
29	Julie Griffin	
30	Doris Miles	

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

DONATIONS GIVEN TO:

- ♦ **Emergency Fund from Betty Priest Night Owl Circle Sunday Morning Bible Study Class Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle Lola Smith's Secret Prayer Partner in honor of her birthday (April 25th)**
- ♦ **Building Maintenance Fund**
- ♦ **Power Bill from the Thrift Shop**
- ♦ **Camp Rockfish in honor of Hank & Betty Zielinski by Robert & Charlene Johnston**
- ♦ **Youth Choir from the Sunday Morning Bible Study Class**



ST. MATTHEW'S UMC WEB SITE UPDATES

Visit St. Matthew's UMC Web Site at URL:
<http://www.gbgm-umc.org/churches/St.MatthewUMCNC/>

There have been several updates recently. We have a church calendar online. The Youth page has photos of the Youth Choir practicing for and performing their "Fish Tales" skit. And several of the links have been updated or changed.

Also, there are now audio archives of Dr. Hale's recent sermons. If you missed church one of the recent Sundays, you can now listen to Dr. Hale's sermon from St. Matthew's web site using the RealPlayer program. If possible, sermons will be posted by 6:00 p.m. each Sunday. If you do not have RealPlayer installed on your computer, it is a free download. A link to the free RealPlayer program is on the Audio Sermon web page.

Our web site is currently located on the General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM) web server. The GBGM provides 5MB of free web space for churches desiring to create a web presence. However, we are now exceeding our 5MB limit. Within the next month, the St. Matthew's web site will be moving to another web server with more available space. After the move, we will have a shorter and easier to remember web address. However, the current web address will continue to function for the near future even after the move.

If you have any questions or suggestions concerning the St. Matthew's web site Contact:

Calvin Rome, St. Matthew's Webmaster
Home: (910) 867-8031 romcc@nc.rr.com
Work: (910) 432-1471 romec@soc.mil

WE NEED AN HOUR OF YOUR TIME!



We are in need of more teachers for "Children's Church". We need volunteers for once a month or once every two months (not one person for every Sunday). We need a variety of people bring a variety of talents to volunteer to help out with our "Children's Church". We provide the material in several formats from simple crafts, movies, and discussions. If you would like to volunteer to spend time with our children and be a part of their spiritual growth, please contact Sandy Jones or Lorri Shackelford. Please search your hearts prayerfully.

ATTENTION GRADUATES!

If you will be graduating this June, or there about, or know of a church member who will be, please give their name and the school they are graduating from to Dr. Hale, Doris, or Lorri Shackelford. Graduates will be recognized on **JUNE 3**. So mark your calendar!



HONORING MOTHER'S

Have you placed a name(s) in honor or memory of a woman you love for the "Mother's Day Booklet" yet? The deadline is tomorrow, April 30th. Please get your name(s) and \$1.00 for each name to Mary Rozier or Glyndetta Hubbard **ASAP**.

MOTHER-DAUGHTER BANQUET

Have you made reservations to attend our annual **Mother-Daughter Banquet**? The deadline is also Monday, April 30th! The banquet will be Saturday, May 5th at 6:00 p.m. You may either call the church office or use the tear out in the church bulletin to make your reservations.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT!

As you shop for groceries, please remember our church Food Pantry. We need the following: **Jelly, Peanut Butter, Canned Meat, and Canned Fruits**. We have plenty of Cereal, Rice, Green Beans and Corn. We are very thorough and give out food to the very needy. We also keep a record to make sure the same person is not given food repeatedly. Thanks to everyone for supporting our Food Pantry!

Eva Smith,
Pantry Keeper



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Only eight months are left for us as UMW to accomplish our goals in the year 2001. How do we rate at this point?

- ◆ Have you attended your 4 Circle Meetings and participated in the projects?
- ◆ Have you supported St. Matthew's UMC with your attendance to the 2 General Meetings?
- ◆ Did you participate in the Lenten Booklet project? (If you still need to pay for your booklets, please do so ASAP. See Circle leaders or Joann Terrier.)
- ◆ Have you started your "Penny For A Prayer" jar?
- ◆ Have you started making crafts for the Bazaar?
- ◆ Have you helped Dorothy Taylor with an idea or resources for a program?
- ◆ Have you made or paid your pledge?

THINK....PRAY....ACT

We are looking forward to our "**Mother-Daughter Banquet**" which will be hosted by Troy Willoughby. The menu includes Chicken Breasts, Baked Potatoes and other fixings that I know we will enjoy! Entertainment will follow featuring "Angela Jenness Brady".

Angela is a minister of the gospel of her Lord Jesus Christ. She travels throughout the U.S. and shares her testimony through music, ventriloquism, ladies retreats, seminars, rallies and concerts. She teaches as well as sings and has encouraged churches to continue their walk and work for Christ everywhere she ministers. Angela is the wife of Todd L. Brady, Pastor of Lebanon Baptist Church here in Fayetteville. She has two children, Joshua 8 and Rebecca 5. She has accomplished many things, but the gifts that have brought her the greatest joy in life are her family. Angela's accomplishments are:

- * 2000 - Released Recording - "For Such A Time As This"
- * 1999 - NAMB Vocational Evangelist
- * 1997 - South Carolina Music Evangelist
- * 1989 - "Outstanding Young Woman of America"
- * 1988 - Acted in Numerous Music Videos
- * 1985-1989 - Acted in Numerous Movies & CBS Mini-Series "Windmills of the God"
- * 1987 - "Miss Wilmington, NC"
- * 1985 - "Miss Spivey's Corner, NC"
- * 1985 & 1987 - Contestant in Miss North Carolina Pageant
- * 1982-1985 - Professional Model & Spokesperson for TV Stations WJKA, WWAY & WECT

Deadline for names to be put in the "Mother's Day Booklet" is tomorrow, April 30th. Get your names and money to Mary Rozier or Glyndetta Hubbard. OOPS! The name of last months recipe was "Berry Cobbler". I hope you enjoyed it.

LOOKING AHEAD:

- May 5 - Mother-Daughter Banquet, 6:00 p.m.
- 13 - Mother's Day Booklets
- 18-19 - Spiritual Enrichment Retreat at Louisburg College (Deadline for pre-registration is May 10th. See Mary Rozier for more information.)
- June 4 - UMW General Mtg. Glenda Chandler, guest speaker (Salad Supper)
- Oct. 12 & 13 - UMW Bazaar

VICTORIA UPDATE:

- Who: Victoria Huggins, 7 yr. old gospel singer
- What: Kids Talent Competition at Apollo
- When: Saturday, May 5th at 11:30 p.m.
- Where: Apollo Theatre, N.Y. (TV Channel 13)
- How: Vote for Victoria by going to the web site: apolloshowtime.com click on: NEW FOR APOLLO KIDS (You may view an excerpt at this site as well)

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

"Coconut Pecan Cookies"

2 1/2 cups flour
1/2 tspn baking soda
1 cup butter
1/2 cup brown sugar
1/4 tspn vanilla extract
2 cups shredded coconut



1 tspn baking powder
1/2 tspn salt
1/2 cup sugar
1 egg
1/4 tspn almond extract
1/2 cup chopped pecans

Combine flour, baking powder, soda and salt; set aside. Cream butter and sugars. Beat in egg and flavorings until light and fluffy. Stir in flour mixture, coconut and pecans just until blended. Shape into two 8-inch rolls. If dough is too soft, chill slightly before rolling. Wrap in waxed paper or plastic wrap and over wrap with aluminum foil. Chill several hours or overnight. Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Cut rolls into 1/4 inch slices with sharp knife. Bake on ungreased baking sheet 8 to 10 minutes. Cool on wire rack. Makes about 5 dozen.

CARD MINISTRY

Our Card Ministry continues to meet, eat, pray and send cards each Wednesday evening from 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. at the "Pizza Palace" across from the church. Please join us and continue to update addresses with Doris for our church directory. Keep our ministry in your prayers.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 National Day of Prayer	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Igniting Ministry Training Event at Salem UMC 2:00 – 6:00pm			Card Ministry-5pm WNA & Bible Study-6:30pm Choir Practice-7:30pm	Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle – 10:30am		Mother/Daughter Banquet – 6:00pm
	One-By-One-7pm	Prayer Group-7pm	Card Ministry-5pm WNA & Bible Study-6:30pm Choir Practice-7:30pm	Night Owl Circle-7pm		Acolyte Training Session – 10am – 12pm
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Mother's Day			Home Extensions-9:30am		UMW Spiritual Louisburg	Enrichment Retreat College
	One-By-One-7pm	Prayer Group-7pm	Card Ministry-5pm WNA & Bible Study-6:30pm Choir Practice-7:30pm			
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
UMM Breakfast Mtg. – 8:30am Fayetteville District Christian Training Event At Hay St. UMC – 3-5pm	Last One-By-One - 7:00pm	Prayer Group-7pm	Card Ministry-5pm WNA & Bible Study-6:30pm Choir Practice-7:30pm	Help'n Hands-11:00am Wedding Rehearsal		
	28 Memorial Day	29	30	31		
27	Church Office Closed	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)