

## ST. MATTHEW'S BELLWETHER

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VOL IV ISSUE V11

JULY

### IGNITING MINISTRY CAMPAIGN

*Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors*  
The People of The United Methodist Church

St. Matthew's, along with other local churches in the Fayetteville District has had the opportunity to send representatives to be trained for the *Igniting Ministry Media Campaign* held in our district on May 6 at Salem UMC. Dr. Hale, Ruth Caldwell, Calvin Rome and Cathleen Manship attended this training for St. Matthew's. Our two outstanding presenters Bill Norton, our Conference Director of Communications, and the Rev. Camille Yorkey conveyed what the campaign could do for our churches. The \$20,000,000 *Igniting Ministry Media Campaign* will launch commercials on national cable TV networks during back to school time

(August -

September), Advent (November - December) and Lent (March 2002). They will be aimed at persons (25 - 54) who have no immediate spiritual connections, but may be searching for something to believe in or for their children to believe in, and will issue an invitation to meet us at our churches.

We should reflect on what the *Igniting Ministry Media Campaign* could mean for our church, and try to answer the following questions. Are all the pews in our church filled on Sunday morning? Are we reaching young couples with children? Is our Sunday School packed on Sunday at full capacity? Do we have more children than we can handle in our Sunday School and Nursery? Do we have a large and active UMW, UMM, Elderly, Young

Adult, Youth and Children Ministry? Are we reaching outside the four walls of our church to win the unchurched within our community to the Lord Jesus Christ? Are our Church Officers, Lay Leaders and your Pastor working together to discover God's vision for our church and community? If the answer to any of these questions is no, our church should be involved in Igniting Ministries, the mission initiative approved by the 2000 General Conference.

Please be aware that September 2001 has been declared by the United Methodist Bishops as *Open House Month*, which presents a perfect opportunity for our churches to develop a welcoming climate, where signs of hospitality mirror God's grace. Our church has an *Igniting Ministries (Media) Planning Kit*. We are planning an ongoing *Hospitality Ministry* to attract, welcome and nurture those who visit our church. The average person makes up their mind about returning to a church in the first eleven (11) minutes of their visit. What message do we send in those precious eleven minutes? Jesus said; "When you welcome or receive the stranger, we welcome him" (Matthew 25).

On June 19th the Administrative Board approved moving forward with plans to implement this exciting ministry. They also approved an anonymous gift to rent billboard space on Raeford Road promoting our church.

### FAMILY FIRST MINISTRY

Did you know that lifetime rights no longer exist for individuals receiving Welfare Benefits? That may be a good thing. People need to learn to depend on themselves and others rather than the government for assistance. In 1996, Federal Standards mandated that no individual could receive cash assistance from the Department of Social Services for more than sixty (60) months in a lifetime.

North Carolina's *Work-First Clients* have up to 24 months to secure a job and become self-sufficient. Once the 24 months has been exhausted, clients are not eligible to receive additional cash assistance for 3 years. The average *Work-First Family* consists of a single Mother with 3 children; earns minimum wage at a part-time job, and receives less than \$500 a month in Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and Food Stamps combined.

*Family First* is a wonderful ministry to families who have been a part of the *Work-First Program*. Our church can enable families to overcome barriers that hinder self-sufficient lifestyles by promoting good work ethics, igniting hope and building friendships simply by using the mentoring resources within our church congregation. As a *Faith-Based Organization* (the governments name for churches, synagogues, mosques, non-profits) willing to embrace the multiple challenges inhibiting *Work-First Families* from securing and maintaining steady employment and a stable home life. It can make a difference.

St. Matthew's has been asked to be one of only three Churches in Cumberland County to pioneer this new ministry in cooperation with *Fayetteville Urban Ministry* and the *Department of Social Services (DSS)*. We will provide 4 to 8 Team Members dedicated to working with a low-income, culturally diverse family, that we will help select. The Team Members will attend *Family First Training Classes* offered by *Fayetteville Urban Ministry*, partner with a *Work-First Family* in a 12 month relationship, and assist the family in tackling issues such as Transportation, Childcare, Education, Employment, Budgeting, Health Care, Job Security, etc. Dr. Hale has been asked to serve on the *Leadership Training Team* for this County Wide Ministry.

The Administrative Board approved our involvement in the Family First Ministry. Anyone interested in joining this ministry team contact the Pastor.

Shalom, **Mike**

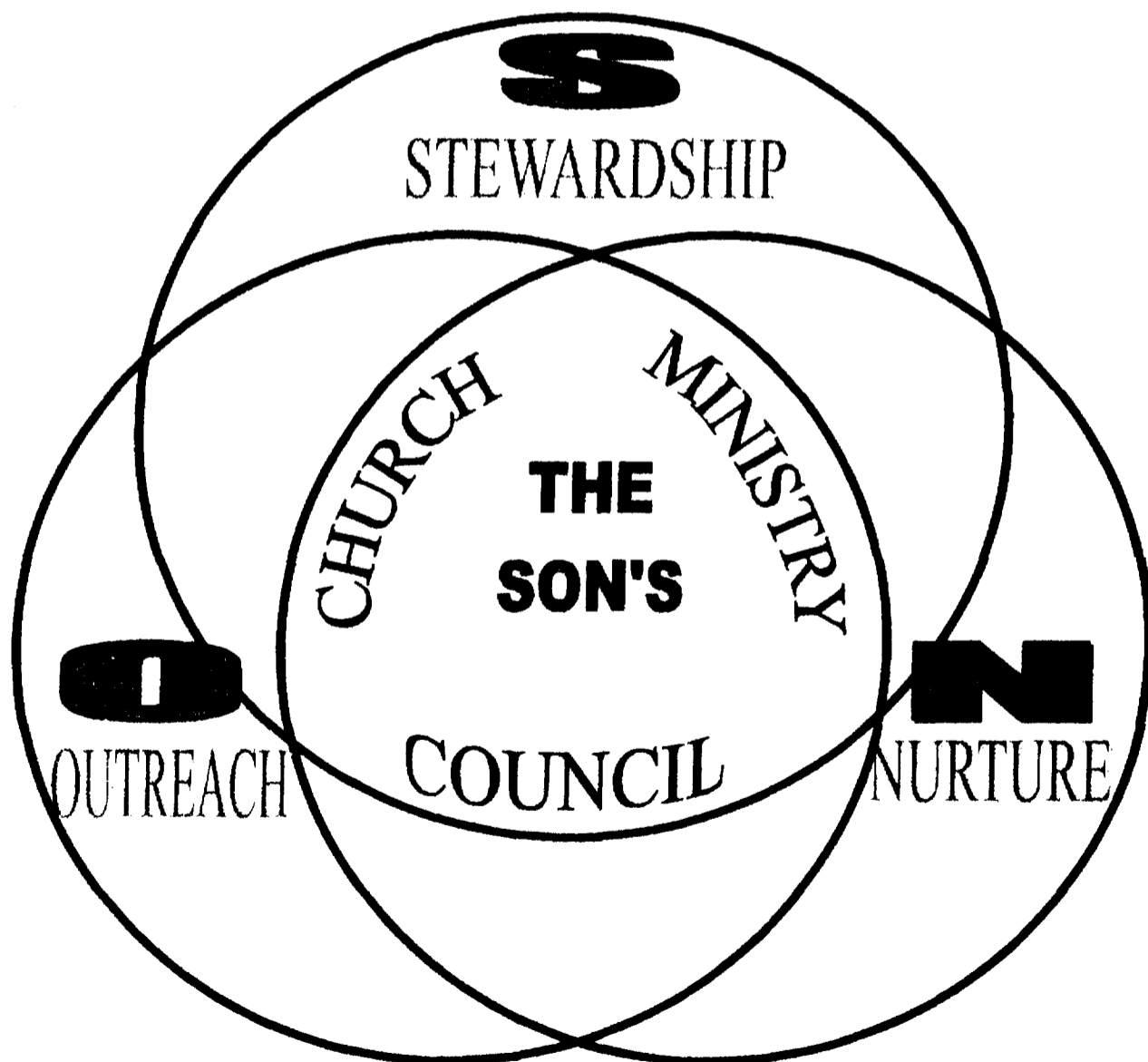


# NEW STRUCTURE

When the combined Council on Ministries and Administrative Board met June 19, 2001 we voted to try a new structure for doing ministry at St. Matthew's UMC. Year before last the Conference went to a new structure based on Circles of Ministry. Circles are a more appropriate symbol for the church than business-like organizational charts. The Discipline allows us to structure the local church in any way that best meets our needs.

The new structure consists of three circles forming an ancient Christian symbol called the trefoil, which represents the Holy Trinity. As you can see, there will be only three main ministry circles; Stewardship, Outreach and Nurture. Stewardship will combine all those areas of ministry which are responsible for our material (buildings, property), financial (giving, budget) and personal resources (staff and volunteers). Outreach deals with all the ministries that reach out beyond the church to the community and world. Nurture is the ministry area that cares for the people who are a part of our church who want to become faithful disciples.

The first letter in each Ministry Circle name spells SON. We should never forget that the Church is the Body of Christ and our Lord is head of the Church. Therefore the SON's Church Ministry Council will be the decision making body to guide these ministry areas. We believe this is a more simple structure and much more biblical.





## LOOKING AHEAD:

### JULY

16-20 - Camp Rockfish Day Camp

### SEPTEMBER

18 - Council on Ministries, 7:30 p.m.

23 - Homecoming

### OCTOBER

2 - Administrative Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

12-13 - UMM Barbeque Sale & UMW Bazaar

### DECEMBER

18 - Council on Ministries, 7:30 p.m.



Thanks for your continued support of the Thrift Shop. You made it possible for us to give to the following:

- ⇒ Salvation Army
- ⇒ Church Power Bill
- ⇒ Church Emergency Fund
- ⇒ Andean Rural Health Center
- ⇒ Hinton Rural Life Center
- ⇒ Medical Benevolence Foundation

We appreciate your help in any way. Also remember, if you would like to volunteer to work, please see or call Lee Anna Sproul at 425-7302.

Lee Anna Sproul,  
Chairperson



Day Camp is scheduled for July 16 - 20 for children 5 years - 6th grade. It is held at Rockfish Outdoor Center. Activities include canoeing, rafting, swimming, outdoor games, nature walks and crafts!

Camp is a great place to explore nature and make new friends! Each day we will meet at the church to ride to camp together, and we will return to the church each afternoon. Drivers and Adult & Junior Counselors are needed. If you can help, please call Sandy Jones at 867-5442.

Applications are available in the church office. Scholarships are also available. Camp is a great tradition here at St. Matthew's, and I look forward to a great week of fun!

Yours in Christ,  
Sandy Jones

## A SPECIAL THANKS!!

Friends,

Words cannot express my feelings of thanks and appreciation for all the church friends and neighbors have done to help me. Never have I been almost dependent on others to survive, and you all have come through with help, love and prayers. Perry and I feel very humble. I hope I am on the mend and will soon be able to get out to church. I miss it very much. Keep us in your prayers because you are always in ours.

Eva & Perry Smith

## "GOD SPEAKS" BILLBOARDS

- Let's meet at my house Sunday before the game.
- C'mon over and bring the kids.
- That "Love Thy Neighbor" thing...I meant it.
- Will the road you're on get to my place?
- Follow me.
- My way is the highway.
- You think it's hot here?
- Have you read my #1 best seller? There will be a test.
- Do you have any idea where you're going?
- Don't make me come down there!
- Give God what's right, not what's left.
- A lot of kneeling will keep you in good standing.
- He who kneels before God can stand before anyone.
- To be almost saved is to be totally lost.
- Are you wrinkled with burden? Come to church for a facelift.
- When praying, don't give God instructions, just report for duty.
- God doesn't want shares of your life, He wants controlling interest.
- We don't change God's message, His message changes us.
- The church is prayer-conditioned.
- When God ordains, He sustains.
- WARNING: Exposure to the SON may prevent burning.
- Plan ahead! It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark.
- Suffering with truth decay? Brush up on your Bible.
- Exercise daily - walk with the Lord.
- Never give the devil a ride - he will always want to drive.
- Give Satan an inch and he'll be a ruler.
- God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called.
- Read the Bible - It will scare the hell out of you.

## JULY BIRTHDAYS

2 - W.A. Stewart	15 - Eric Snyder
4 - Jacob Gallimore	20 - Jack Spakes
5 - Marie Parker	21 - Margaret King
6 - Gail Terwilliger	Carter
Manship	
7 - Peggy Williams	Lisa James
Danny Colon	25 - Kenneth Manship
10 - Gertrude Schultz	27 - Kristen Morgan
Rhys Trevathan	29 - Juli Pray
Elizabeth Gibson	Wendy Johnson
11 - Christy Barber	30 - Vicki Powell
14 - Dawn Shepard	



## UNITED METHODIST MEN

The United Methodist Men met Sunday, June 17th at 8:30 a.m. There were 18 men in attendance for a special **"FATHER'S DAY"** breakfast prepared by J.A. Sessoms and James DeBruhl. While J.A. and James were busy in the kitchen, a crowd of men gathered around a newspaper clipping posted on the wall. Seems our own Perry Smith made the Saturday edition of the Fayetteville Observer Times. No, he didn't do anything wrong! In fact, the article reported the life and times of Perry as he worked at Able Plumbing. After all the commotion settled, J.A. and James served sausage, grits, toast and eggs. A special **THANKS** goes to these two fellows for coming in early to prepare this great breakfast.

We began the meeting with a review of our previous meeting and some old business, and then went into current and future events. It was Father's Day, of course, and the Men had sponsored the **FATHER'S DAY BOOKLET** that was distributed in church that day. It was announced that all the proceeds from the sale of the booklet would be used to sponsor 5 children to Camp Rockfish this summer. There was plenty of demand for name placement in the booklet, which allowed us to achieve the sorts of figures that will make a wonderful memory for the children. The Men extend their **THANKS** to Ruby Lucas and Doris Miles for all their help in organizing and publishing the booklet.

Well, it wasn't long before we started talking food again. We have planned a **CHURCH-WIDE FAMILY PICNIC** for Saturday, August 25th. We're still looking for a chairman to plan and organize this event. If you are interested, please contact any of the Ushers. We also discussed the **ANNUAL BARBEQUE SALE** which will be in October during the **BAZAAR**. Troy Willoughby and Fred Rozier will head up the project. More information will follow.

Dr. Hale talked about a Memorial Service that was held in our church. A minister couple, from Ohio approached him about conducting the service. After some conversation, Dr. Hale said the couple were ministers of a Methodist Church, and his sister passed away. About 250 people attended the memorial service, and the couple were very appreciative of letting them use our church. The husband, Stephen Harper sent a donation in memory of his wife, Virginia. Dr. Hale asked the Men to consider having a plate with **"SANCTUARY"** placed on the back of the church. Some folks were entering the church through the doors located near the kitchen. It would be helpful in directing folks especially when they're grieving.

**HEAR YE! HEAR YE! HEAR YE!** These individuals have volunteered for the following events in July: J.A. will be Head Usher and Matt Jamison will be the Cook. If you are interested in doing some volunteer work, the Men meet every Saturday at 8:00 a.m. to do yard work on the church grounds. Our next meeting will be on July 15th at 8:30 a.m. All men are invited to attend. Come out and enjoy a delicious breakfast along with great fellowship!

Matt Jamison,



UMM Secretary

## SPECIAL OFFERINGS

### DONATIONS GIVEN TO:

- ♦ **Emergency Fund**
- in honor of Jewel Sharpe's birthday by her Secret Pal
- from the Sunday Morning Bible Study Class
- from Paul & Jewel Sharpe
- St. Matthew's UMC
- Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle (June, July & August)
- in memory of Virginia Harper from Stephen Harper
- in memory of Janice Rudd by Joyce Christian
- ♦ **Power Bill & UMCOR from the Thrift Shop**

## CARD

## MINISTRY



Please continue updating addresses and completing prayer request cards in the pews each Sunday. **Thanks** to W.A. for the roll of stamps and to Spike who continually gives us financial support. **Thanks** to everyone for your prayers. We will meet every other week during July and August starting with no meeting on July 4th. We will resume meeting each week following Labor Day on Wednesday, September 5th. Watch the bulletins for meeting dates in July and August. God bless!

Card Ministry

Dear Church Family,

*As most of you know, I was chosen to represent our church on a Mission trip entitled "Appalachia Service Project" (ASP). ASP is focused on helping those who are less fortunate by repairing their homes. The group I worked with had the privilege of removing and replacing the bathroom of a house which was badly damaged by a leaky hot water heater which we also fixed. It was amazing for me to see how this family welcomed six complete strangers. It took us five days to replace the floor, repair the plumbing and put everything in the house. The work was hard, but I got so much more out of it than I put in. On Friday, the last day there, we gave the family a new shower curtain, floor mat, towels and toilet seat cover. They were so excited. That night, we had a closing ceremony at the school where we stayed and had to tell what we learned from ASP. I learned that one person can make a difference by seeing the smile on the mothers face knowing she had a safe bathroom. So thanks to those who supported me with your money and prayers. It not only helped me, it helped a family in Robbins, Tn.*

Sincerely,  
Meghann Dominie

# UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

**Halfway there...that is half the year behind us and half the year ahead. Thank you to everyone who has made the first half of our year a success. Let us focus now on our mission...to produce the resources that will allow us to continue to serve our church, our community and our world. Much of that will be through the funds we generate during our fall bazaar. Continue to work on your donations and pray for our days ahead.**

## **LOOKING AHEAD:**

**July, August, September - Crafts for the Bazaar/Ticket Sales**

**September 9 - UMW Sunday Evening Bible Study of Corinthians, 4:00 pm  
(light supper at 6:00 pm)**

**October 1 - UMW General Meeting, 7:00 pm**

**October 12 & 13 - UMW Bazaar in conjunction with UMM Barbecue Sale**

**Please accept the following as a “recipe” to feed your mind, rather than your body.**  
**Mary Rozier, UMW President**

## **IF I HAD MY LIFE TO LIVE OVER**

by: Erma Bombeck

I would have gone to bed when I was sick instead of pretending the earth would go into a holding pattern if I weren't there for the day. I would have burned the pink candle sculpted like a rose before it melted in storage. I would have talked less and listened more. I would have invited friends over to dinner even if the carpet was stained or the sofa faded. I would have eaten the popcorn in the 'good' living room and worried much less about the dirt when someone wanted to light a fire in the fireplace. I would have taken the time to listen to my grandfather ramble about his youth. I would never have insisted the car windows be rolled up on a summer day because my hair had just been teased and sprayed. I would have sat on the lawn with my children and not worried about grass stains. I would have cried and laughed less while watching television and more while watching life. I would never have bought anything just because it was practical, wouldn't show soil, or was guaranteed to last a lifetime. Instead of wishing away nine months of pregnancy, I'd have cherished every moment and realized that the wonderment growing inside me was the only chance in life to assist God in a miracle. When my kids kissed me impetuously, I would never have said, "Later, now go get washed up for dinner." There would have been more "I love you's." More "I'm sorry's." But mostly, given another shot at life, I would seize every minute, look at it and really see it, live it and never give it back.



**JULY****ST. MATTHEW'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH****2001**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 PRE-JULY 4TH COOKOUT SPONSORED BY UMYF – 12 P.M.	2	3 Prayer Group – 7pm	4 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED  NO Card Ministry NO Young Teen Bible Study NO Choir Practice	5	6	7
8	9	10 Prayer Group – 7pm	11  Card Ministry – 5pm Young Teen Bible Study- 6:30pm Choir Practice – 7:30pm	12	13	14
15 UMM Breakfast Mtg. – 8:30am	16 CAMP	17 ROCKFISH  Prayer Group – 7pm	18  NO Card Ministry NO Teen Bible Study NO Choir Practice	19 DAY	20 CAMP	21
22	23	24 Prayer Group – 7pm	25 Card Ministry – 5pm Young Teen Bible Study – 6:30pm Choir Practice – 7:30pm	26 Bob & Betty Probst 60 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party 6:00 pm Fellowship Hall	27	28
29	30	31 Prayer Group – 7pm				

**EVERY  
SUNDAY  
SCHEDULE:****9:30 AM  
YOUTH  
CHOIR****9:45AM  
SUNDAY  
SCHOOL  
(ALL AGES)****11:00AM  
WORSHIP  
SERVICE  
(NURSERY  
PROVIDED)**