

THE BELLWETHER

JANUARY, 2008

Let me start the New Year by thanking you for the gifts of love you shared with Donna and me at Christmas. Your love and generosity warmed my heart. Many thanks. This has been a wonderful six months for Donna and me.

It has been a wonderful time in our church as well! You have done a fantastic job sharing the love of Jesus. As we look back on our faithfulness throughout 2007, we see that our tithes and gifts have supported the mission of this church well. We met our commitment to the connectional church by paying our apportionments in full and meeting our district work fund commitment. Thank you for your faithfulness to the larger church.

We have also been generous with God's blessings as we have helped countless people in our community. The food pantry has provided food to over 200 families this year. The Pastor's Emergency Fund has used thousands of dollars to help people in our community with utility bills, rent, medication, and the list goes on. The thrift shop has contributed over \$5,000 to local charities, the pastor's emergency fund, UMCOR, the Salvation Army, and the Red Cross.

All of this was done while supporting a local church budget for mission work and utilities and staff. I've never been in a church that has been so faithful in sharing the blessings God has shared with them. Our stewardship, in every area (our presence, gifts, prayers, and service), reflects a healthy personal faith on the part of each member of the congregation.

We look forward to a new year. I know we will continue to provide ministry to our members, the local community, and the world. We do that through our intentional giving our Biblical tithe. If you are not returning 10% of all God has given you, work toward that goal this year. God has chosen St. Matthews to continue the work that Jesus started in the world. He has a plan for us. Through faithful worship attendance, participation in Bible study opportunities, prayer, and fellowship in the body of Christ, we will discern how it is that St. Matthews is to fit into God's plan.

Let us charge into the New Year refreshed in God's love, ready to do all we can to serve "even the least of his children."

Know God's love and the joy of sharing his love with others.

Marc



Healthy Congregations

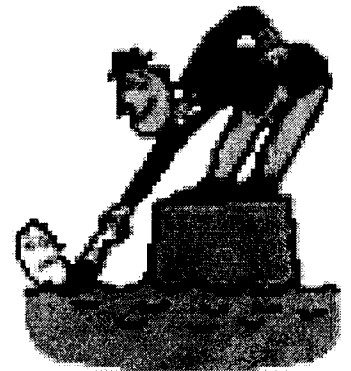
United Methodist congregations all over the US are asking, how can we become healthier? How can we become the faithful, fruitful congregations God is calling us to be? The NC Conference at its Annual Conference session in June,

2007, introduced an assessment tool to help congregations identify their strengths. In addition, a Bible Study is offered to allow church leaders to recall the marks of the 1st century church which modeled its ministry on Jesus' teaching and example. Still, there are questions about how we can fulfill his mission in the 21st century.

On Saturday, January 5, the Fayetteville District will present an overview of the Healthy Congregation Assessment, and real practices of healthy congregations. Join us at Lillington UMC, 9-11am. This is open to pastors and church leaders.

Outreach

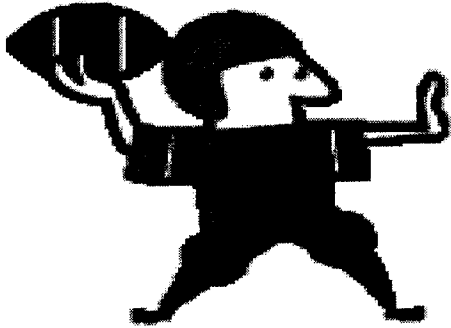
Hello again! Another month has flown by and it is already the New Year! Outreach of the church has been very busy this holiday season. I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the Angel tree. As every year, the Angel tree was a huge success. On Christmas morning, it made me feel happy thinking of the little girl opening her gift from me and knowing that I made her Christmas a little happier! A big thank you to all who participated in the canned food drive! The church met our goal by filling all the hallways. The pantry will be able to help even more needy people. But as always, please remember to contribute to the food pantry all year long. The outreach committee has decided that the community needs to be more aware of St. Matthew's. We have decided to place a weekly ad in the Fayetteville Observer under the Religion section with all our information. The ad will run for three months, so make sure you check it out! Our goal is to reach out to people of the community who are seeking a church to call home. Please keep this ministry in your prayers as we try to extend our Christian love. As the New Year falls upon us, think of how you can outreach to others in 2008. I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas, and have a safe and happy New Year! Let's make St. Matthew's great in 2008!



In God's love,
Amanda Call

Who gets Christmas cards each year? What do you do with them after the Christmas season? Try this. Keep them, and each night at the family supper table, take one card and pray for that family as a part of your table blessing. If your cards don't last all year, start over again. Here is a suggested prayer you might use:

“Father, God bless my friend, in whatever it is that You know they may be needing this day! And may their life be full of your peace, prosperity and power as he/she seeks to have a closer relationship with you. Amen”



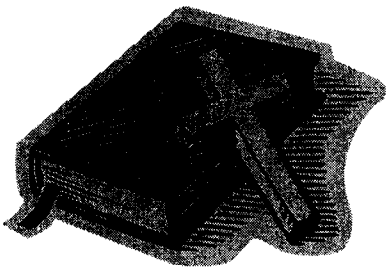
SOUPERBOWL SUNDAY

Sunday, Feb. 3rd

Thousands of youth from churches across the country will join in the fight against hunger and poverty on Super Bowl Sunday through our partner, Souper Bowl of Caring. While participating in this movement of grace, youth learn about the magnitude of domestic and international hunger, as well as recognize that God can use them to make a positive difference in the lives of others. No matter the size of your congregation or of your youth group, you can help provide shelter to the homeless, food to the hungry

and compassion to the needy. It's as simple as holding soup pots at church doors following worship on Feb. 3, 2008 and asking worshippers to drop in a dollar to help people who are hungry. Each participating church donates 100% of their collection to the charity of their choice. Souper Bowl of Caring provides everything you need to plan and promote your event. I urge you to act on Jesus' call to care for our neighbors. Go online today and register at www.souperbowl.org.

The Souper Bowl of Caring is a unique service opportunity empowering young people to fight hunger and poverty in their local communities. In 2007, youth in all 50 states generated over \$8 million for those in need, and more than 2,700 United Methodist Churches experienced the joy of serving God by serving others.



Basic Christian Affirmation From The United Methodist Book of Discipline

With Christians of other communions we confess belief in the triune God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This confession embraces the biblical witness to God's activity in creation, encompasses God's gracious self-involvement in the dramas of history, and anticipates the consummation of God's reign.

The created order is designed for the well-being of all creatures and as the place of human dwelling in covenant with God. As sinful creatures, however, we have broken that covenant, become estranged from God, wounded ourselves and one another, and wreaked havoc throughout the natural order. We stand in need of redemption.



MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE AND HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS!!!!!!!

God Loves You. Here are the minutes from the UMM Meeting that was held Sunday 16 December 2007, 0830 am, I hope I spell all the names correctly and thanks so much for formatting and editing the minutes.

The UMM met 0830 am on Sunday 16 Dec 07. Pastor Marc gave the invocation, wished everyone Happy Holidays, and thanked everyone for joining in for Breakfast and being involved in such a great part of ministry at St. Matthews'. (there were 32 present) Wayne, Elaine, Brad and Amy Jo thanks for a wonderful breakfast, it was delicious and plentiful. It was great seeing the Everts all together, thanks you all for volunteering your "family time" to feed the UMM. After breakfast, Calvin gave the devotion : "A TRAGEDY" Matthew 28:18-20.1 Thanks Calvin for the great devotional, we appreciate you and say thanks for all the time you dedicate to bring us the "message" each meeting.

REMEMBER: "Man, we are made more like God than any other creature" We must live and obey appropriately.

We hope to see all the men of the church at our next meeting, which will be Sunday, 20 Jan 07 at 0830 am. Bring a friend, neighbor, co-worker or even a stranger to share in a great breakfast and fun fellowship.

Just a reminder, we welcome the men of the church (member or not) to join us for United Methodist Men each month, even if it has been awhile since we have seen you, come, fellowship and break bread (or biscuit) with the other men of the church.

President Andy Hewitt opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and introducing Mr. Bob Lawrence, Vice-President, Fayetteville District UMM. Mr. Lawrence gave a great program topic "BECOMING A MAN OF INFLUENCE" Remember men "Paul", "Barnabas", "Timothy", we all need one in our life. Thanks, Bob, it was great sharing time with you and your family, thanks for "Breaking Bread" with us. We all at St. Matthews will keep you and your family in our prayers, God Bless.

The minutes were read and approved from last month. The treasure, Troy Willoughby gave the financial report and went over the income/expenditures regarding the UMM account. The minutes were approved.

Thanks, Troy for keeping our "Checkbook" balanced.

New Business:

By now, everyone should notice that the house directly behind the fellowship hall is gone. We will be looking for volunteers to help clean/clear this lot, as we get ready to expand the parking lot, Isn't that great, what a great reflection on how God has shown his love on St. Matthews, WAY TO GROW!!!!!!!!!!

Brad reminded everyone to be thinking about the Annual Sweetheart Banquet hosted by the UMM coming in February. More information will be available soon, if you would like to be chairperson of this event please contact the UMM at the church office.

Old Business:

UMM Lifetime membership ballots will be mailed out soon, if you do not receive a ballot, nominate your choice and drop it by the church office. This is a great opportunity to nominate a UMM of your choice to receive a lifetime membership courtesy of the St Matthew UMM Fund.

***Just a reminder, If possible, bring your UMM Membership dues (\$30.00) to the January Meeting. It is great to have so many chartered members from our church, as Mr. Lawrence stated, this speaks volumes of how strong we are as a team and how through God our ministry is working, thank you.

Andy welcomes new and old ideas alike and is looking forward to serving as the UMM President, if you need to speak with Andy you may call him at 910-323-4444.

January Communion members: Dave Norris Wayne Everts Santos & Hilda Pena
Calvin Rome Brad Everts *Alt: Bob Lambert

Thanks UMM for volunteering for this great ministry, the feedback that is being received in regards to the Communion Ministry is overwhelmingly positive and it brings the UMM great joy in being able to provide this ministry) If you know of anyone who would like to take part in this ministry, please contact Calvin Rome or the church office.

January Cooks: Bill Stackhouse, Calvin Rome & Friends

January Ushers: *Troy Willoughby Charles Lucas
Fred Rozier William Leggett
*Head Usher

Please check out the UMM Board located in the front hallway for valuable information, upcoming events and member information.

REMEMBER: WORRY DOES NOT EMPTY TOMORROW OF ITS TROUBLES,
IT EMPTIES TODAY OF ITS STRENGTH !!
Don't worry, PRAY

Respectfully submitted by Bill Stackhouse, UMM Secretary



“Mother, tell me who is God
That makes the congregation nod
That never lets them sneeze or sigh,
Just cross-their-heart-and –hope-to-die.

And can we find God if we search
Or does he always stay in church?”

My Baby, God is near to all,
And sometimes not in church at all,
(Especially if the doors are wide
And many shiny hats inside.)

God leaves the chants and flags unfurled

To guide the workings of His world –

To stain the peach its rosy hue

And scatter diamonds on the dew,

To fill the rich veins of the earth

And blow the gentle winds to birth,

To wrap the young corn in the husk,

To close the curtains of the dusk,

To sow the seed, to swell the pod –

This, little son of mine, is God.”

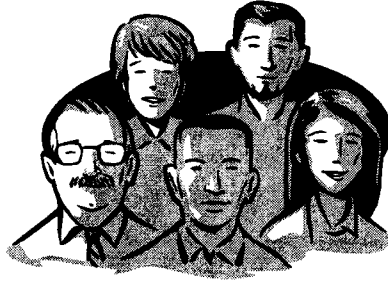
Lysbeth Boyd Borie



Nurture

Happy New Year to all! The nurture team has been very busy this holiday season. I would like to thank everyone who helped make our Christmas Cantata a huge success. It was so nice to be able to have snacks and fellowship after this special event. I would also like to thank everyone who contributed to the church canned food drive. We reached our goal and filled the halls! Please remember to continue this ministry, and give to the food pantry all year long! I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and I wish everyone a safe and Happy New Year! I wish peace and health to all in 2008.

God Bless,
Elaine Everts



“In the Spirit of Fellowship”

Sunday, January 27, 2008 Hay Street UMC
2:30-3:30 PM Assembling 3:30-5:00 PM
Workshops

Ms. Gail Terwilliger, Preaching

Welcome: Rev. Dr. John Tyson

Pastor: Hay Street UMC

Liturgist: Rev. Kong Namkung

Pastor: Cornerstone UMC

Preaching: Ms. Gail Terwilliger

Lay Speaker: St. Matthew UMC

Announcements: Mrs. Colleen Astrike

District Lay Leader

Benediction: Rev. Dwayne Alston

Pastor: John Wesley UMC

9 Ministry to the Military-Rev John Oliver, Chaplain:
Veterans

Hospital, Durham

Rev. Adam Seate, Pastor: Trinity UMC

10 Ministry in the Age of the YouTube-

Rev. Mary Frances McClure

Associate Pastor: Salem UMC

11 PPRC/SPRC-Rev. Carol Goehring

Fayetteville District Superintendent

12 Children's Ministry-

Ms. Dorothy Funkhouser

Christian Education: Haymount UMC

13 Spiritual Gifts-Mrs. Sue Fann

Lay Speaker: Beulah UMC

1 Men in Fellowship-

2 Building Blocks for a Healthy Sunday School-

Ms. Sue Ellen Nicholson, Conference Dir.
Children and Youth Ministries

3 Stewardship: It's More than Money-

Rev. Robert Flynn, Pastor: Swansboro UMC

4 Irresistible Evangelism:

“Real Evangelism that Works”

Rev. Dr. Ed Gunter, Rev. Marc Werner,
Rev. Melinda Ivey, and Rev. Craig Ham
Pastors of the Fayetteville District

5 Radical Hospitality-Rev. Randy Innes

Pastor: Millbrook UMC, Raleigh

6 Passionate Worship-Rev. Bruce Stanley,

Methodist Home for Children

Rev. Bob Burgland, Pastor: 1st UMC, Rocky Mount

7 Intentional Spiritual Formation-

Rev. Dr. Gerry Davis

Pastor: St. Andrews UMC

8 Risk-Taking Mission & Ministry-Rev. Gil Wise

Pastor: Solid Rock UMC

God is preparing us for
What God is preparing for us.

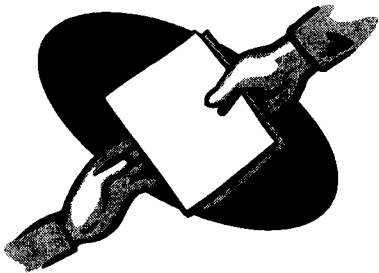
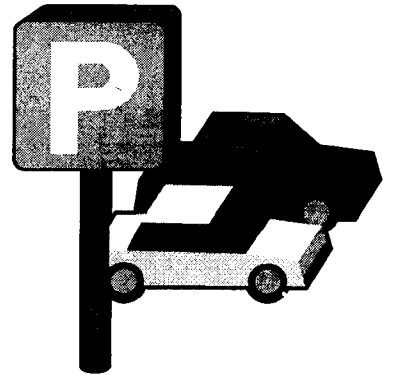
God has a brand new future
for us, we need to keep moving forward.

You Took My Parking Space at Church

One day, a man went to visit a church, He got there early, parked his car and got out. Another car pulled up near the driver got out and said, " I always park there! You took my place!" The visitor went inside for Sunday School, found an empty seat and sat down. A young lady from the church approached him and stated, "That's my seat! You took my place!" The visitor was somewhat distressed by this rude welcome, but said nothing.

After Sunday School, the visitor went into the sanctuary and sat down. Another member walked up to him and said, " That's where I always sit! You took my place!" The visitor was even more troubled by this treatment, but still He said nothing. Later as the congregation was praying for Christ to dwell among them, the visitor stood up, and his appearance began to change. Horrible scars became visible on his hands and on his sandaled feet. Someone from the congregation noticed him and called out, "What happened to you?" The visitor replied, as his hat became a crown of thorns, and a tear fell from his eye, "I took your place."

When you receive this, say a prayer. That's all you have to do. There is nothing attached. This is powerful. Just send this to four people and see what happens. Maybe, just maybe, we can get the world to start thinking of who took our place. Do not break this, please. -- Author Unknown



SACRIFICIAL GIVING

Does anyone remember the spring of 1973? I was just graduating from pilot training as an Air Force officer. While waiting for the official graduation day so I could move on to my next assignment, I remember watching the Vietnam Prisoners of War returning to American soil. It was a sad day for me, thinking what these men had endured, had sacrificed for their country. It was also an emotional day. I remember standing up as those POWs marched off that airplane, saluted the American Flag, and shook the hands of those gathered and embraced their families. With tears streaming down my cheeks I prayed that I would be able to, could if asked, do the same for my country and those who enjoy it, if I was called upon.

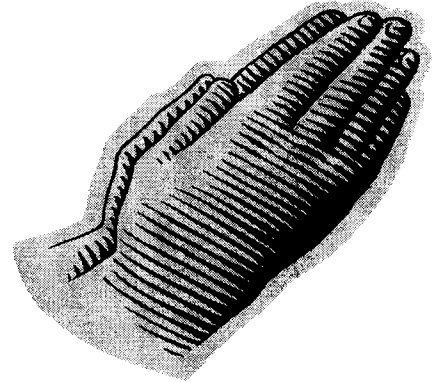
We at St. Matthews have an opportunity to stand up for what we believe in and also do some sacrificial giving. We are embarking on a capital campaign that will allow us to do some needed repairs to our roof and the heating and air conditioning units. Those who founded this church over 50 years ago sacrificed to bring Jesus Christ into this community. They struggled with how to build new missions and programs and buildings.

Do some simple math. Envision, what a great impact you could make on the future of this church if you gave up buying one music CD each month, or did not take the family out to dinner once during the month, or skipped the family vacation one summer over the next three years, or put the 75 cents for the soft drink in a jar instead of the machine, and then committed those dollars to continuing our vision. There are many ways that we can come up with a little extra, if only we gave it some thought. Pray for discernment. Pray that you will be able to find ways to insure that St. Matthews continues to serve Christ in this community. It is not about equal "giving", it is about equal "sacrifice".

Know God's love. Know the joy of sharing that love with others.

Marc

KNOW THE GOD YOU PRAY TO



January 6-12

January 1-5

Galatians 3.23-4.7
2 Corinthians 5.16-21
Ephesians 4.17-32
John 3.1-8
Revelation 21.1-7

Psalm 146
John 15.12-17
2 Peter 1.3-11
Isaiah 55.1-5
Ezekiel 34.25-31
Romans 8
1 Peter 2.1-10

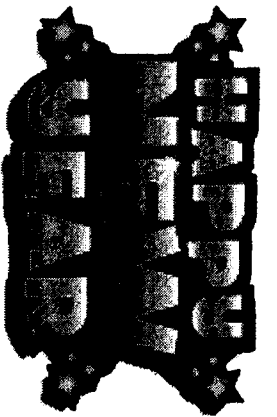
January 13-19

Psalm 93
Mark 1.21-28
John 1.35-42
John 5.19-24
Hebrews 1.1-12
1 John 4

January 20-26

Psalm 128
John 1.35-51
Matthew 4.17-22
Luke 9.23-27, 57-62
Matthew 10.34-42
Matthew 11.25-





ST. MATTHEWS UMC

A place to Belong...

202 Hope Mills Road
Fayetteville, NC 28304

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 HAPPY NEW YEAR!	2	3	4	5
6 Outreach - 9:00 Black eyed Pea Lunch Witness - 5:00	7 Disciple - 10:00 UMW-6:30	8 Prayer Ministry 6:00 Worship - 6:30 Bible Study - 7:00 Disciple - 7:15	9 Card Ministry 5:00 Disciple - 6:00 Choir - 7:30	10 Night Owls - 6:30	11	12
13	14 Disciple - 10:00	15 Prayer Ministry 6:00 Worship - 6:30 Bible Study - 7:00 Disciple - 7:15	16 Card Ministry - 5:00 Disciple - 6:00 Choir - 7:30	17	18	19
20 UMM Breakfast - 8:30	21 Disciple - 10:00 Nurture 6:30	22 Prayer Ministry 6:00 Worship - 6:30 Bible Study - 7:00 Disciple - 7:15	23 Card Ministry - 5:00 Disciple - 6:00 Choir - 7:30	24 Help-N-Hands - 11:00	25	26
27 Council Meeting - 8:30 am	28 Disciple - 10:00	29 Prayer Ministry 6:00 Worship - 6:30 Bible Study - 7:00 Disciple - 7:15	30 Card Ministry - 5:00 Disciple - 6:00 Choir - 7:30	31		

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