

# The Bellwether

## February, 2008

February is a great month. Some of the most wonderful people I know were born in this month. It brings us Valentines Day, Black History month, and Brotherhood/Sisterhood Week. Those are just the biggies, the “nationally” recognized busyness going on. Each of us has our own agenda, our own special events for February that will keep us busy.

Speaking of busy, don't be surprised if someone calls you and says, “We need your help...” Do one of two things right now. Either start praying to figure out what your excuse will be for not being able to help, or begin praying about how you can be a part of building and nurturing God's Kingdom, as you help in the ministry of our church. We will have lots of opportunities throughout the year for every member to become involved with some kind of service, stewardship, study, or fellowship. Your task is to discern how it is that you will become more involved with bringing the Kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven.

Speaking of study, I hope you won't be too busy to be a part of some Bible studies planned for this year. I'm thinking of some short duration studies that look at, “God is Closer Than You Think”, or “The Bible Jesus Read”, or an eight week study of Romans, or the book of John, or Revelation.

God is good. I hope each one of you are faithfully spreading the Good News and are telling someone everyday that, “Jesus loves you!” It is good to be in ministry with you and I look forward to an exciting year, serving with you.

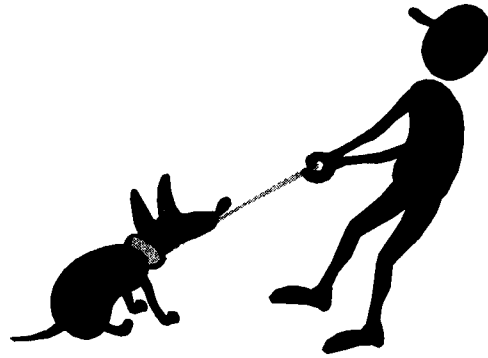
Know God's love, and the joy of sharing that love with others.

*Marc*

## Grandpa's "Drag" problem

My generation just might have been lucky,  
I had a "drag" problem when I was young,  
But I turned out all right any way.

- I was drug to church.
- I was drug to family reunions.
- I was drug out of bed in the early morning.
- I was drug by the ears when I was disrespectful.
- I was also drug to the woodshed when I disobeyed my parents.



Those "drugs" still run through my veins and they affect my behavior—everything I do, say,  
and think

Signed,  
Grandpa

### Outreach:

The first month of 2008 has already flown by! Have you thought of how you can make St. Matthew's "Great in 2008?" Well, there are lots of members in our church who are already making it great by outreaching their Christian love to the community. Did you know that St. Matthew's members volunteer by reading to blind citizens of our community? Did you know that St. Matthew's members assist in organizations for battered women? Did you know that St. Matthew's members donate fans in the summer and blankets in the winter to under privileged people? Did you know that Karen Ogden reads to students in the schools and visits residents in nursing homes with her therapy dog, Misty? And, did you know that members of St. Matthew's donated \$3,000 to 1 K for 1 Kid missions project to support 3 needy children? These are just a few of the examples of the different ways that members of St. Matthew's can participate in outreach of the church. You can do individual outreach activities or participate as a group. St. Matthew's next outreach activity for the community will be the annual Easter Egg Hunt. Please see me, Amanda Call, if you would like to participate in reaching out to the youngsters of our community. We will also be accepting donations of candy (no chocolate or other candies that may melt please) for stuffing the Easter eggs. Christian outreach is for all ages, so please pray about how you can contribute to St. Matthew's Christian outreach. If you need help finding your outreach ministry, please feel free to contact me, or if you would like more information concerning therapy dogs, please contact Karen Ogden. Let's make St. Matthew's "Great in 2008!"

In God's Love,  
Amanda Call





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

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations...” (Matthew 28:19)

How do we introduce others to Christ? To God? To the Holy Spirit? Why would we want to? Are we under some obligation to do so? How do we do that? I suggest that we want to introduce Christ to our friends, co-workers, schoolmates, neighbors, all people because the Bible tells me so.

I believe there are two things, as 21<sup>st</sup> Century Christians, that we must do in order to comply with Jesus’ command. First, we need to get over our natural aversion to share with people that we believe in Jesus. For example, every Sunday I invite you to “tell someone every day that Jesus loves them.” How many of you actually do that? How many really say those words? If you don’t, why don’t you? Let’s practice and get into the habit of talking about Jesus.

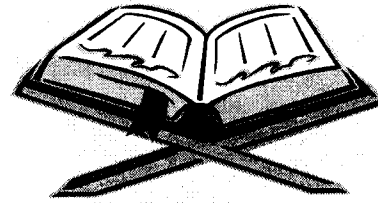
The next thing we can do is to begin to recognize when and how God is interacting in our personal lives. If you don’t see God’s hand in your life every day, you are missing out on his glory. Perhaps we will need to read our Bibles more to see how God interacted in others’ lives. Maybe we could spend more time in prayer, asking God to reveal to us each time that he is actively interacting in our personal life. Then, as we see/recognize the Holy Spirit working in your life, share that recognition with those around you. “That (whatever) is God working in my life.” The more pictures, examples, revelations we share with others about God working in our lives, the better picture, idea, awareness others will have of God working in their life.

In a senior high confirmation class, we got into a discussion about “sin against the Holy Spirit.” No one knew exactly what that was. As we talked about it we settled on what we understood “sin against the Holy Spirit” to be. I promised them I’d research the topic and get back with them the next week. As I consulted many books by many great theologians and other pastors, I was moved that our group definition/understanding was the same as those other great theologians. I reported back to the group what the “learned” people had to say. The first thing I said though was that “last week the power of the Holy Spirit was working in our discussion. He gave each of us a piece of understanding of what sin against the Holy Spirit was and helped us piece it together so that we could understand it.” Then I shared my research with them. Their reaction was the same as mine – “Wow!”

Can any of us tell, describe, explain, or diagram how God interacted in that discussion? No. But we all felt it. We knew what it meant to each of us. That is why it is important to share with others, “That was God interacting in...(whatever).” We may not be able to put it into words but those involved will know and understand what that interaction was for them. And the more times that process takes place, the unbeliever as well as the believer can begin to build a picture of what God is all about and understand for him/herself the beauty of being a Christian and knowing God’s love.

Tell somebody Jesus loves them. Recognize God’s interaction in your daily lives.  
Know God’s love, and know the joy of sharing that love with others.

Basic Christian Affirmation  
From  
The United Methodist Book of Discipline



We hold in common with all Christians a faith in the mystery of salvation in and through Jesus Christ. At the heart of the gospel of salvation is God's incarnation in Jesus of Nazareth. Scripture witnesses to the redeeming love of God in Jesus' life and teachings, his atoning death, his resurrection, his sovereign presence in history, his triumph over the powers of evil and death, and his promised return. Because God truly loves us in spite of our willful sin, God judges us, summons us to repentance, pardons us, receives us by that grace given to us in Jesus Christ, and gives us hope of life eternal.

## Family Weekend Marriage Retreat with Family Accommodations

One of the highlights of this year will be our upcoming marriage retreat weekend being held at Camp Rockfish on Friday, February 22- Sunday, February 24. A team of pastors from Solid Rock are leading the weekend with the assistance of Solid Rockers Dante and Anisa Poole.

Dante and Anisa moved to the area from New Jersey where they had been members of a 5,000-membership church. This couple has a dynamic ministry of modeling Christian faith in their relationship as a family. This weekend is billed as a family weekend.

Yes the children are going with us. On a marriage retreat? The parents will be engaged in the marriage retreat while the children will be engaged in camp activities. Staff from the camp and youth from Solid Rock who worked at camp will be taking care of the children. Our youth will volunteer their time to make this a weekend where the whole family gets something.

Space is limited so register early to ensure your space. There are only 24 rooms available for this event.

Accommodations include a private hotel quality room for you and your spouse for two nights and meals. The children will be staying in heated camp cabins. The cost per family is \$200 for a family of two adults and two children. Each additional child will cost \$25 more.

If you would like to register contact Solid Rock at 919-498-2139

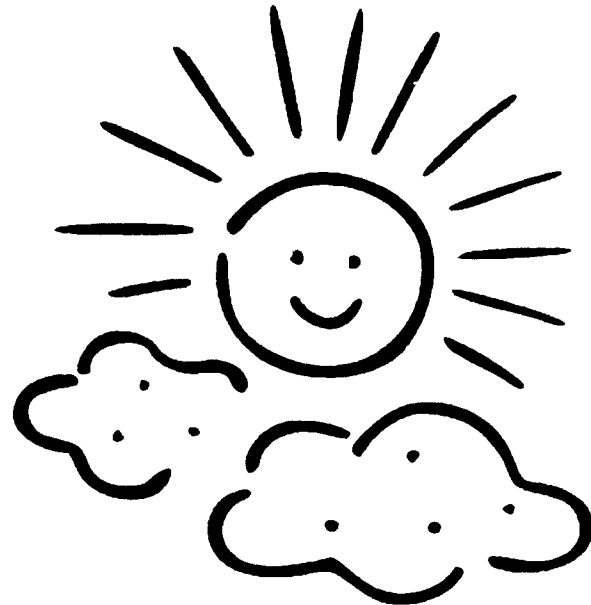


Not merely in the words you say,  
 Not only in your deeds confessed,  
 But in the most unconscious way  
 Is Christ expressed.

Is it a beautify smile?  
 A holy light upon your brow?  
 Oh, no! I felt his presence while  
 You laughed just now.

For me 'twas not the truth you taught.  
 To you so clear, to me so dim,  
 Gut when you came to me you brought  
 A sense of him.

And from your eyes he beckons me,  
 And from your heart his love is shed  
 Till I lose sight of you – and see  
 The Christ instead.



**February Birthdays**

2 – Linda Webb  
 Sue Rutledge

4 – Mark Webb

5 – Cathy Edwards

7 – Lucille Cook

8 – Donna Werner

10 – Leigh Sibbett

11 – Patty Poche'

12 – Catherine Morgan  
 Chris Watkins

13 – J.A. Sessoms

14 – Connie Knight

20 – Bob Probst

Marty Webb

Calvin Rome

24 – Glenn Griffith

25 – Edna Galliera

27 – Raymond Gray



**February Flowers**

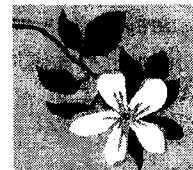
3rd- In Honor of Donna Birthday

10th– Santos and Hilda Pena's 57th Anniversary

17th– To the Glory of God in Honor of Linda,  
 Marty, and Mark Webb's

Birthdays

24th-



**March Flowers**

2nd

9th-In honor of Robert and Skeeter Parker's  
 40th Anniversary

16th– Griffins for Brandi's wedding

23rd-

30th– In memory of Mrs. Rhonda S. Wilson  
 and by Ruth Caldwell. Honor of Jesse  
 and Jayden Caldwell

Send down Your heavenly grace into my soul to enable me to worship and serve you as I ought.  
 Enable me to believe in you, to reverence you, and to love you with all my heart, mind, soul and strength,  
 so I may honor your holy name and Word and serve you truly today and all the days of my life. Amen.

John Wesley



## Valentine Muffins

### Ingredients:

2 cups all-purpose flour  
1/2 cup sugar  
1 tablespoon baking powder  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1 egg  
3/4 cup milk  
1/3 cup vegetable oil  
\*\* 1/2 cup sliced fresh strawberries  
1/2 cup sliced fresh rhubarb

### Directions:

In a large bowl, combine flour, sugar, baking powder, and salt. In another bowl, blend egg, milk, and oil until smooth. Stir into dry ingredients until moistened. Fold in \*\*strawberries and rhubarb. Fill paper-lined muffin cups 3/4 full. Bake at 375 degrees for 22-25 minutes, until they test done. Cool 5 minutes before removing from pan to cool further on a wire rack. Decorate with a \*\* strawberry half or small berry. **Yield: 1 dozen.**

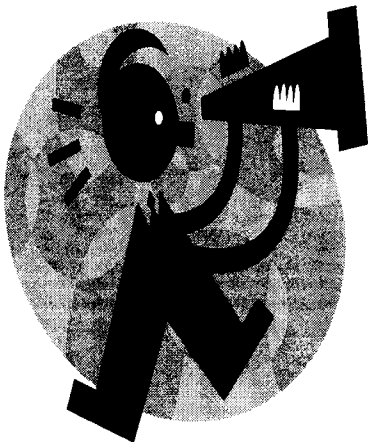
\*\* You can substitute the strawberries with nice raspberries or any red fruits

I would like to thank each and everyone that helped with District United Methodist Women Event. I'm so proud of you! Our guest speaker this month is from Battered Women. Our mission will go to this cause. Host this month Dorothy Spake and Jean Lambert. Please give some thought on mission for March. Hope to see all of you Feb 13, at 11:00 a.m.

Ruth Ethel Smith Circle  
Chairperson-Lola Smith

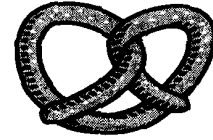


Thank  
You!



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

## Lenten Pretzels



Many years ago,  
An Italian monk made a simple bread to  
Remind his brother monks that Lent was a time of prayer.  
He rolled bread dough in strips and shaped them in the form of arms crossed over the  
heart in a prayerful gesture. These  
Little breads were called *bracellae*, the Latin word for  
“little arms.” From this word came the German word  
*bretzel*, and our word pretzel.  
Lord, may these pretzel snacks remind us to always turn to you in prayer.

### A Recipe for Lenten Pretzels

1/2 tsp. salt  
4 1/2 to 5 cups flour  
1 beaten egg  
Coarse (kosher) salt  
1 1/2 cups warm water  
1 pkg. active dry yeast  
1/2 tsp. sugar

Pour water in bowl. Gently stir in yeast, salt, and sugar to dissolve. Mix in flour and form a ball. Knead dough, then let it rest one hour. Roll pieces of dough into strips about 1/2” thick and 6” long. Fold strips into pretzel shapes and place on a lightly greased cookie sheet. Brush lightly with egg and sprinkle with salt.

Bake at 425 degrees for 12-15 min.

Makes 2 1/2 dozen pretzels

From Creative Communications for the Parish

## KNOW THE GOD YOU PRAY TO

### February 1-9

Psalms 25  
John 13.1-20  
Matthew 10.16-42  
John 15.12-27  
Acts 6.8-15  
James 1.2-18  
1 Peter 4.12-19

### February 17-23

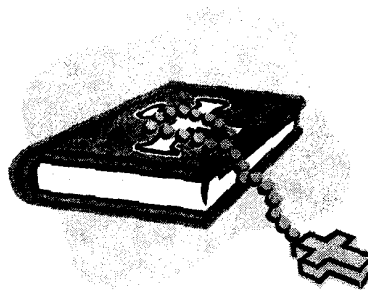
Micah 6. 1-8  
1 Corinthians 1. 18-31  
Psalm 9  
Genesis 1  
John 15. 1-11  
Acts 27. 21-26  
Acts 10. 1-43  
Luke 6. 17-45  
Luke 8. 40-56

### February 10-16

Psalms 42  
Psalm 63  
Isaiah 55  
John 7.37-44  
John 6.22-40  
Romans 8.18-25

### February 24-29

Psalms 15  
Isaiah 6  
Luke 9. 57-62  
Acts 9. 1-30  
Colossians 1. 24-29  
Galatians 1. 11-24  
2 Peter 1. 1-11



The UMM of St. Matthews met on 26 January @ 9:00 am in the fellowship hall at the church. There were 26 men present for this meeting. Pastor Marc blessed our breakfast as we enjoyed a great meal prepared by Calvin, Christy and Christopher. Thanks Rome family it was delicious and plentiful. We welcome all men (members or not) to join us every third Sunday at 0830 hrs for fun, fellowship and a great breakfast. Come as you are and share in the activities and ideas that the men of the church get together and discuss, bring a friend or neighbor, all men are welcome.

Our president, Andy Hewitt opened the meeting and welcomed everyone, he turned the meeting over to Calvin for devotion. This weeks devotion was "ONCE IN A LIFETIME", Luke 1:5-25. After devotion, old business was discussed as following:

- 1) The UMM sponsored ANNUAL SWEETHEART BANQUET will be held on 16 February 2008 at 5pm in the STMUC Fellowship hall. More information will be coming out real soon. There is no charge for this event, however we would like everyone desiring to participant to get a ticket so we can get approx. headcount. For tickets and/or more information, please call Bill or Maria Stackhouse (910-424-7333) or stop by the church office. (How do Baby Back Ribs sound?)
- 2) Dues for UMM Charter are being collected from each member, if you have not done so, please drop your membership dues by the church office or see Troy Willoughby.
- 3) Just a reminder, please drop your nomination card for UMM Lifetime Membership by the church office or give to Andy, Troy or Bill. We will announce the member who will receive this membership at our February meeting.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- 1) The screen door at the kitchen is in need of replacement. Mr. Charles Lucas volunteered to take care of this matter. Thanks Charles for volunteering, we appreciate you.
- 2) The treasurer, Troy Willoughby gave the financial report and discussed all expenditures and income. Financial report is in order, thanks Troy.
- 3) A special prayer was said for Mr. Dave Norris and family as well as Mr. Bob Pray and family. We send you all get well wishes and a speedy recovery. Also, it is great to see Troy up and about and doing better.
- 4) The UMM provide communion to the shut-ins of St. Matthews or to folks who just can't make communion. The feedback on this ministry has been positive and seems to have a great spiritual impact on all those involved.

It brings great pleasure to the UMM to provide this ministry, if you know of anyone desiring communion at home/residence, please notify Calvin Rome or the church office. FEBRUARY COMMUNION MEMBERS:

Bill and Maria Stackhouse    Santos and Hilda Pena  
Troy Willoughby                Charles Lucas  
Alt: Scotty Clyde

5) February Ushers:        \* Bob Lambert                James Debruhl  
   Ken Merritt                    Frank Bagley

Our cooks for February will be Brad Everts and Andy Hewitt, thanks guys for volunteering to make breakfast.

Calvin closed our meeting with prayer. We hope to see all men of the church at the next UMM meeting, 17 February 2008, 0830 hrs. See you there!!!!!!

WHO LOVES YOU? OF COURSE, JESUS DOES

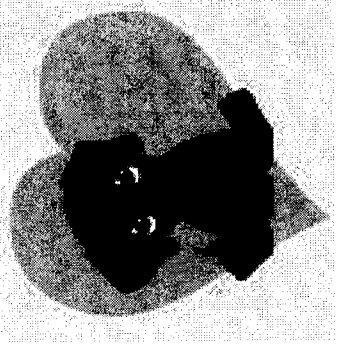
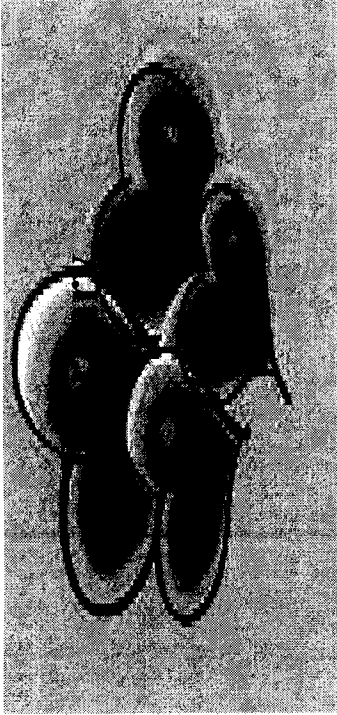
Respectfully submitted by Bill Stackhouse, UMM Secretary



WE HOPE YOU HAVE OBSERVED THAT THE HOUSE AT 207 EUCALYPTUS HAS BEEN REMOVED FROM THE LOT TO MAKE ROOM FOR MORE PARKING . WE HOPE TO TIE THE PARKING LOT TO THE VACANT LOT SO THAT WE WILL HAVE A ENTRANCE AND EXIT AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH . LOOK FOR THE FENCES TO BE MOVED TO ALLOW MORE PARKING AND A CLEANER LOOK . WE ARE REPLACING THE HEATING AND AIR CONDITIONING IN THE ADMINISTRATION AND EDUCATION WING . THESE UNITS ARE OVER THIRTY FIVE YEARS OLD AND HAVE SERVED US WELL. WE HOPE THE NEW UNITS WILL BE MORE EFFICIENT AND COST EFFECTIVE .

"THE ROOF" , "THE ROOF" , "THE ROOF" OUR NEXT LARGE PROJECT . WE ARE STUDYING THE BEST WAY TO HANDLE THIS PROJECT TO GET THE MOST FOR THE DOLLAR AND BEST JOB POSSIBLE . WE DESPERATELY NEED YOUR HELP AND SUPPORT. WE CAN'T WAIT ANY LONGER . THE LONGER WE WAIT THE MORE OUR COST WILL BE

CHAIRPERSON TRUSTEE'S



**ST. MATTHEWS UMC**

A place to Belong...

202 Hope Mills Road  
Fayetteville, NC 28304

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 Witness 5 PM	4 Disciple 10 AM UMW 6:15 PM	5 Prayer Ministry 6 PM Worship 6:30 PM Bible Study 7:15 PM Disciple 7:15 PM	6 Ash Wednesday Service 6 PM Card Ministry 5 PM Disciple 6 PM Choir 7:30 PM	7	8	9
10 Finance Cmt. 8:30 AM Outreach 9 AM	11 Disciple 10 AM	12 Prayer Ministry 6 PM Worship 6:30 PM Bible Study 7:15 PM Disciple 7:15 PM	13 Card Ministry 5 PM Disciple 6 PM Choir 7:30 PM	14 Night Owls 6:30 PM	15	16 Lay Speaker Training
17 UMM 8:30 AM	18 Disciple 10 AM Nurture 6:30 PM	19 Prayer Ministry 6 PM Worship 6:30 PM Bible Study 7:15 PM Disciple 7:15 PM	20 Card Ministry 5 PM Disciple 6 PM Choir 7:30 PM	21	22	23 Book Club 8:30 FFF
24 Council Meeting 8:30 AM	25 Disciple 10 AM	26 Prayer Ministry 6 PM Worship 6:30 PM Bible Study 7:15 PM Disciple 7:15 PM	27 Card Ministry 5 PM Disciple 6 PM Choir 7:30 PM	28 Help-N-Hands 11 PM	29	

Phone: 910-425-0401

Fax: 910-425-9393

E-mail: [stmattumc@embarqmail.com](mailto:stmattumc@embarqmail.com)

Web address: <http://stmattnc.org>