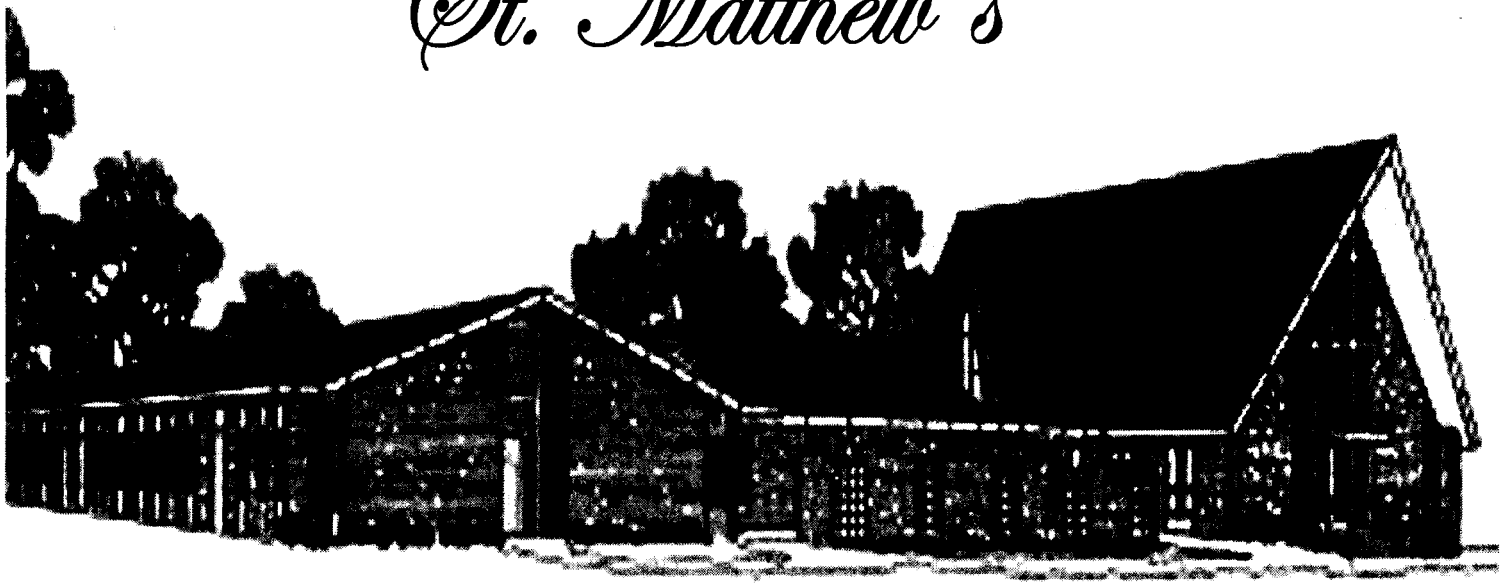


*St. Matthew's*



*A Place to Belong... A Place to Become...*  
*A Place to Belong... A Place to Become..*



April is such a beautiful month! The flowers begin to pop their array of colors through the earth; trees sprout a splash of color on the way to bright, new, green leaves; new life is seen everywhere we look. It is an exciting time of year, and we feel rejuvenated and ready to be a part of the new life springing up all around us.

My prayer this year is that we, as a Christian community, will spring forth with new life as well. I pray that the Holy Spirit becomes more active in our lives so that we will feel a new energy and enthusiasm for improving our relationship with our risen Lord. I ask for your prayers as well. Pray that we will become intentional in our spiritual growth this year. Pray that we (you) will experience Christ in a new way. Pray that we will step out of our comfort zones and try something new in order to have an opportunity to grow in our faith.

If we are going to intentionally grow in spirit, we need to stop doing what we've been doing and start doing something we haven't done before. If you've never gone to Sunday school – why not start going? If you've never been a part of a short term study group - what excuses can you get rid of in order to be a part of the next one? If you've never attended Tuesday evening worship – what is to keep you from giving it a try? Why not attend the next Fifth Sunday evening celebration – and bring a neighbor? See how many Sundays in a row you can be in worship. See how many old or new members you can encourage to come with you on your journey toward a closer relationship with Jesus.

I am sure that if you know God's love, you will want to spend more time with him and will know the joy of sharing that love with others.

*Marc*

## **GENERAL CONFERENCE LISTENING SESSION:**

When the General Conference of the UMC meets in Ft. Worth, TX in late April, many petitions and resolutions will be considered for approval and incorporation in our Book of Discipline. These resolutions have the potential to affect the way we relate to other faith groups, the qualifications required for ordination, and our Social Principles could be rewritten. A mission focus and a budget for the next 4 years will be adopted.

Members of the General Conference Delegation from the NC Conference will be at Page Memorial UMC in Aberdeen on Sunday, April 13, at 4 p.m. They will listen to the hopes and concerns of any who wish to express them and they will offer guidance for understanding the proceedings of the conference. Delegates are called to a time of “holy conferencing” in Ft. Worth, from April 23 – May 2. In the Wesleyan spirit, “holy conferencing” means listening and speaking respectfully, seeking unity, and disagreeing, when necessary, in Christian love. It means seeking God’s will for the Body of Christ, rather than our own comfort or convenience.

This listening session is intended for the members of the Fayetteville District and the Sanford District, but others also are welcome.

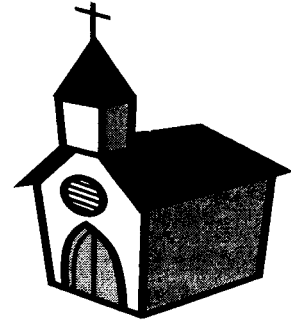
## **ANNUAL CONFERENCE BRIEFING SESSION AND REPORT ON RETIREE BENEFITS:**

**Not to be confused with the session announced above,** a briefing session will be held at St. Matthews UMC for lay and clergy members of the Annual Conference. The Conference meets in Greenville June 11-14, and the briefing session, on June 1, will prepare members for faithful participation in all the work of the Conference.

The Report on Retiree Benefits may be of interest to Active and Retired Clergy members of the NCC, to Pastor Parish Relations Committees, to Finance Committees and Lay Leaders, as well. All are welcome to attend to learn more about the changes in policy that could affect, if approved, the pastors of our North Carolina Conference. This presentation will begin at 3 p.m.

Following the Retiree Benefits presentation, around 3:45, the work of the Annual Conference will be reviewed. This is a very important orientation and all Lay Members of the Annual Conference, and especially new Lay representatives, are encouraged to attend. The session should last no more than one hour.

Basic Christian Affirmation  
From  
The United Methodist Book of Discipline



“We understand ourselves to be part of Christ’s universal church when by adoration, proclamation, and service we become conformed to Christ. We are initiated and incorporated into this community of faith by Baptism, receiving the promise of the Spirit that re-creates and transforms us. Through the regular celebration of Holy Communion, we participate in the risen presence of Jesus Christ and are thereby nourished for faithful discipleship.

We pray and work for the coming of God’s realm and reign to the world and rejoice in the promise of everlasting life that overcomes death and the forces of evil.

God is not disappointed when his servants fail.  
God is disappointed when his servants choose not to step out.



Our, SHAREHOUSE MINISTRY project is shaping up to be a great success! We have 38 people signed up to participate with us on April 12<sup>th</sup> to prepare and package 10,000 meals!! I would like to see 40 to 50 people there; just to be sure we have enough to cover the task to

be performed and cover for unexpected illness or absences. We’ll start at 9 a.m. and expect to be out by noon.

From a financial perspective, we have been putting aside \$.20 every time we ate a meal. We will need \$2,000 to cover replenishing the food supply and the cost of shipping and storing the meals. We are about half way there – which is a good thing because we are half way along the time we started working on the project. Great job, folks! Keep up the good work and we’ll not only have a great time in fellowship and work, but experience God’s grace as we work together to serve, “even the least of our brothers and sisters.”



## CALLING ALL UNITED METHODIST MEN!

We are looking for a few good men. Unless you all know something I don't know, I can see no reason why every man who is a member of or attends this church cannot come out for good fellowship, a great breakfast, and make themselves available to be of service to this church and our community.

We meet the third Sunday of every month at 8:30 in the morning. Come join us.

Help us help St. Matthews be all it can be. God has called us to this corner of his creation for a reason. Come be a part of the men in the church and help us discern what we can do to help implement God's plan for his creation. Come be a part of the men of the church. Come

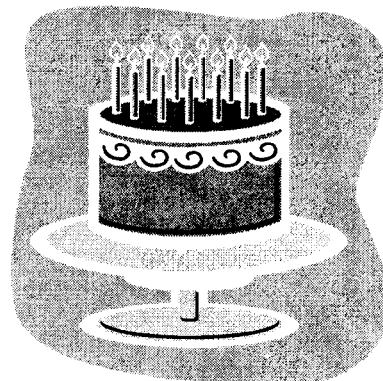
"If I understand God's love, why do I ever grumble and show discontent and resentment at the circumstances in which God has placed me? Why am I ever distrustful, fearful, or depressed? Why do I ever allow myself to grow cool, formal, and half-hearted in the service of the God who loves me so? Why do I ever allow my loyalty to be divided, so that God has not all my heart?"

—J. I. Packer

---

## APRIL

- 4 – Steven Davis
- 8 – Barry Gallimore
- 9 – James DeBruhl  
Joe Bledsoe
- 17 – Joshua Hager
- 20 – Clarice Edge  
Jennifer Larsen
- 21 – Margaret Lewis
- 24 – Bonnie Griffith
- 25 – Lola Smith
- 27 – Connie Miller
- 28 – Jean Lambert
- 29 – Edna Parker

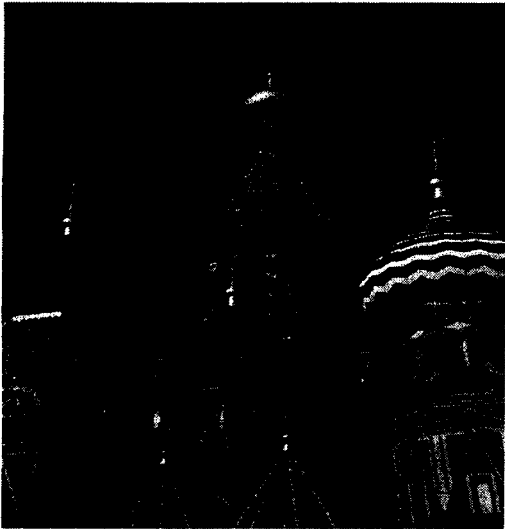


## R U Acts 2?

In his "state of the church" message to the 2006 session of the Annual Conference, Bishop Al Gwinn expressed the hope of identifying 200 churches in the North Carolina Conference that resemble the church described in the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter of Acts. Specifically, the church had vitality and quality in ministries of hospitality and spiritual formation. Their worship could be described as "passionate". The ministries of the church involved risk; no outcomes were certain and no consideration of cost deterred them.

Are you part of a church that matches that model? Please go to the Conference website and complete the Acts 2 form. Your participation in this will inspire the ministries of other congregations in the NC Conference. Your church will enjoy the recognition of their good and faithful service in the name of Jesus Christ.

Act 2 Forms must be submitted to the District Office by April 15.



A mission trip to Oryol, Russia (approximately 250 miles south of Moscow) is planned for June 19- July 2, 2008. The team will be staying at a small orphanage alongside 20-25 children, spending time playing with them, making small repairs, painting, purchasing needed clothing and other items, and helping in other miscellaneous ways.

The team must be fairly small because of limited accommodations, but there is room for five or six more participants. Even if you cannot make the trip, donations and prayers are gratefully requested. For more information, please contact Donna Fowler-Marchant at 910 488 8789 or Scott Marchant at 910 489 9749. You may also email them at [revdlf@aol.com](mailto:revdlf@aol.com) for details. Check out Scott's blog for pictures and an idea of day to day activities.

Tithe if you love Jesus. Anyone can honk.

---

The pastor was invited over for dinner and asked to lead in prayer for the meal. After a brief prayer, Little Fred said approvingly, "You don't pray so long when you're hungry, do you?"

KNOW THE GOD  
YOU PRAY TO

April 1-5

John 10.1-18  
2 Corinthians 5.1-10  
2 Corinthians 4  
1 John 3.11-24  
John 15.1-11

April 6-12

Psalm 121  
Acts 13.44-52  
Acts 18.5-11  
Romans 8.1-11  
Galatians 2.11-20  
Leviticus 26.1-13  
Acts 4.23-37

April 13-19

Psalm 131  
Jeremiah 23  
1 Peter 5.1-11  
Ezekiel 34.11-16  
Isaiah 40.9-11  
1 Timothy 3.1-13  
2 Corinthians 4



April 20-26

Psalm 136  
Galatians 5.13-24  
Romans 5.1-11  
Ephesians 5.1-20  
Hebrews 13.1-6  
Deuteronomy 7.6-16  
1 Corinthians 13.1-13

April 27-30

Psalm 126  
Isaiah 63.7-9  
Isaiah 45.1-8  
Genesis 9.8-17



The UMM met 0830 am on Sunday 16 Mar 08. Pastor Marc gave the invocation, and thanked everyone for joining in for Breakfast and being involved in such a great part of ministry at St. Matthews'. (there were 26 present) Troy, James and Dave thanks for a wonderful breakfast, it was delicious and plentiful. Bill and Calvin will be the chefs for April. Thanks to all those that volunteer to make the UMM breakfast, it is always delicious and plentiful. Your time and talent is appreciated from all.

After our great breakfast, Andy introduced our guest speaker, Mrs. Sue Byrd from "Operation In As Much", Sue along with her Methodist Church is sponsoring this great ministry and they are having a "Blitz Day", April 19, 2008 at Holiday Park. If you would like to assist with Blitz Day, go and enjoy the fellowship or just need more information, please call Sue @ 910-433-2161. As Sue told us, everyone can do something, so please put your God given talents to use.

President Andy Hewitt opened the meeting by welcoming everyone.

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

#### New Business:

The meeting ran into overtime so just a few reminders for upcoming events coming from or sponsored by the St. Matthew UMM:

- 1) By the time you read this newsletter the Easter Sunrise Service will have passed, so this is a big "Thank You" to all those who attended the Sunrise Service and to all involved in helping with the UMM sponsored Sunrise Breakfast, especially the cooks. Your time and talent is greatly appreciated.
- 2) UMM sponsored Mothers' Day Service
- 3) Ideas to help raise the UMM attendance (We are trying to get attendance up 20%, about 5 new members is all that amounts to, so MEN of the church won't you consider having fun, fellowship and food by joining the UMM meeting that is held the 3rd Sunday of each month. NEXT MEETING 20 APRIL 2008.
- 4) A UMM notification roster was passed out. Please review the roster and report any necessary additions and/or changes to Bill. Suggestions on how to improve are always welcome. This roster will assist the UMM in notifying members with information, etc...in a timely manner.

#### Old Business:

- 1) Pastor Marc and Andy presented Calvin the UMM Life Membership Award, the award includes an Attractive Lifetime Certificate, Life Membership Card and a gold Life Membership Pin. Calvin, congratulations again,
- 2) Calvin provided information about the results he received regarding the "Strength thru Ministry" booklets. In a nutshell: Fort Bragg will be able to assist in helping get military service personnel these booklets donated by our church. More information is posted on the UMM board. Thanks Calvin for researching this and getting back to



Andy welcomes new and old ideas alike, if you need to speak with Andy you may call him at 910-717-5057.

**REMINDERS:**

April Communion members:     Bill & Maria Stackhouse     Lloyd Miller     Bob Lambert  
   Santos & Hilda Pena     Alt: Scotty Clyde

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.

April Ushers: \*Robert Parker     Santos Pena  
                         Calvin Rome     Jack Spakes

\*Head Usher

We hope to see all the men of the church at our next meeting, which will be Sunday, 20 April 2008 at 0830 am. We are trying to fill the fellowship hall with men for our UMM meeting next month so, 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.

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

\*\*\*Just a reminder, If you didn't give Troy your UMM Membership dues (\$30.00) you have to mail them yourself. Address/Info is available on the UMM Board. Having all Chartered members help show how strong we the UMM of the church and community really are, please, if you haven't, send your dues as soon as possible, thanks.

**REMEMBER:** God Loves You Respectfully submitted by Bill Stackhouse, UMM Secretary

## THRIFT SHOP

For the past month the Thrift Shop had a half price sale to reduce the winter merchandise in the shop. The workers have been extremely busy this past week pricing and replacing winter with spring and summer items. Come visit and see all the changes.

Your support of the Thrift Shop is vital to its operations. Without your donations, faithful volunteers and donations from the community we would not be able to enjoy the success we do.

The success being the ability to see the dollars earned in action! The Thrift shop has contributed to the church in many ways, the more recent is toward the replacing of the roof and to make repairs at the Thrift Shop. We will be replacing windows in the near future. If you have noticed we have recently replaced the aged back door.

The Thrift Shop has also made many contributions in the community which aid in the rehabilitation of those who are not able to afford medical or dental care. The Thrift Shop also paid for the shipping of the Christmas boxes. These are just a few of the ministries the Thrift Shop provides.

If you have a desire to be part of a growing mission in the church come join the mission team in the Thrift Shop. We minister to those who visit us by reduced prices, contribute clothes to a down town mission and provide clothing to those seeking assistance from the church, when provide with a letter.

The hours at the Thrift Shop are Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday 10:00 to 2:00 and Friday 10:00 to 4:00. Monday is a work day for the volunteers to add, m fold, change and replace stock . Come join us on these days we would love to get to know you!!!

Like the poster of Uncle Sam .....WE Need YOU.....

Please consider volunteering with us! The hours are short and the reward is great... You serve your church and your God.

Many thanks to the faithful who have served the Thrift Shop over the years. If the Lord speaks to your heart about being a part of this ministry please call Julie Griffin at 425-4269... Jesus Love you!!!

### GLASS OF MILK:

One day, a poor boy who was selling goods from door to door to pay his way through school, found he had only one thin dime left, and he was hungry.

He decided he would ask for a meal at the next house. However, he lost his nerve when a lovely young woman opened the door.

Instead of a meal he asked for a drink of water. She thought he looked hungry so brought him a large glass of milk. He drank it so slowly, and then asked, 'How much do I owe you?'

'You don't owe me anything,' she replied. 'Mother has taught us never to accept pay for a kindness.'

He said ... 'Then I thank you from the bottom of my heart.'

As Howard Kelly left that house, he not only felt stronger physically, but his faith in God and man was strong also. He had been ready to give up and quit.

Many years later that same young woman became critically ill. The local doctors were baffled. They finally sent her to the big city, where they called in specialists to study her rare disease.

Dr. Howard Kelly was called in for the consultation. When he heard the name of the town she came from, a strange light filled his eyes. Immediately he rose and went down the hall of the hospital to her room.

Dressed in his doctor's gown he went in to see her. He recognized her at once.

He went back to the consultation room determined to do his best to save her life. From that day he gave special attention to her case.

After a long struggle, the battle was won.

Dr. Kelly requested the business office to pass the final bill to him for approval. He looked at it, then wrote something on the edge and the bill was sent to her room. She feared to open it, for she was sure it would take the rest of her life to pay for it all. Finally she looked, and something caught her attention on the side of the bill. She read these words .. 'Paid in full with one glass of milk'

(Signed) Dr. Howard Kelly.

Tears of joy flooded her eyes as her happy heart prayed: 'Thank You God, that Your love has spread broad through human hearts and hands.'

There's a saying which goes something like this: 'Bread cast on the waters comes back to you. The good deed you do today may benefit you or someone you love at the least expected time. If you never see the deed again at least you will have made the world a better place - And, after all, isn't that what life is all about?!



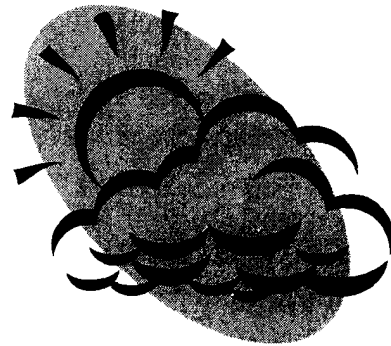


## APRIL FLOWERS

9th - Ruth Caldwell

13th - Scotty Clyde

Do you remember the first time  
you thought about Jesus?  
When was that?  
What was the thought?



## LAY READERS FOR APRIL

1 - Roberta Brown  
8 - Marty Webb  
15 - Ruby Lucas  
22 - Native American Service  
29 - Old Fashion Service

## USHERS FOR APRIL

**HEAD - Robert Parker**  
Calvin Rome  
Santos Pena  
Jack Spakes



# APRIL

ST. MATTHEWS UMC

A place to Belong...

# 2008

202 Hope Mills Road  
Fayetteville, NC 28304

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> Prayer Ministry 6 PM Worship 6:30 PM Bible Study 7:15 PM Disciple 7:15 PM	<b>2</b> Card Ministry 5 PM Disciple 6 PM Choir 7:30 PM	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> Witness 5 PM	<b>7</b> UMW 6:15 PM	<b>8</b> Prayer Ministry 6 PM Worship 6:30 PM Bible Study 7:15 PM Disciple 7:15 PM	<b>9</b> Ruth Ethel Smith 11 AM Card Ministry 5 PM Disciple 6 PM Choir 7:30 PM	<b>10</b> Night Owls 6:30 PM Choir 7:30 PM	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Operation Sharehouse 9:00 AM
<b>13</b> Finance . 8:30 AM Outreach 9 AM	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Prayer Ministry 6 PM Worship 6:30 PM Bible Study 7:15 PM Disciple 7:15 PM	<b>16</b> Card Ministry 5 PM Disciple 6 PM Choir 7:30 PM	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> UMM 8:30 AM	<b>21</b> Nurture 6:30 PM	<b>22</b> Prayer Ministry 6 PM Worship 6:30 PM Bible Study 7:15 PM Disciple 7:15 PM	<b>23</b> Card Ministry 5 PM Disciple 6 PM Choir 7:30 PM	<b>24</b> Help-N-Hands 11 PM	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> FFF Book Club 8:30
<b>27</b> Council Meeting 8:30 AM	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Prayer Ministry 6 PM Worship 6:30 PM Bible Study 7:15 PM Disciple 7:15 PM	<b>30</b> Card Ministry 5 PM Disciple 6 PM Choir 7:30 PM			

Phone: 910-425-0401

Fax: 910-425-9393

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

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