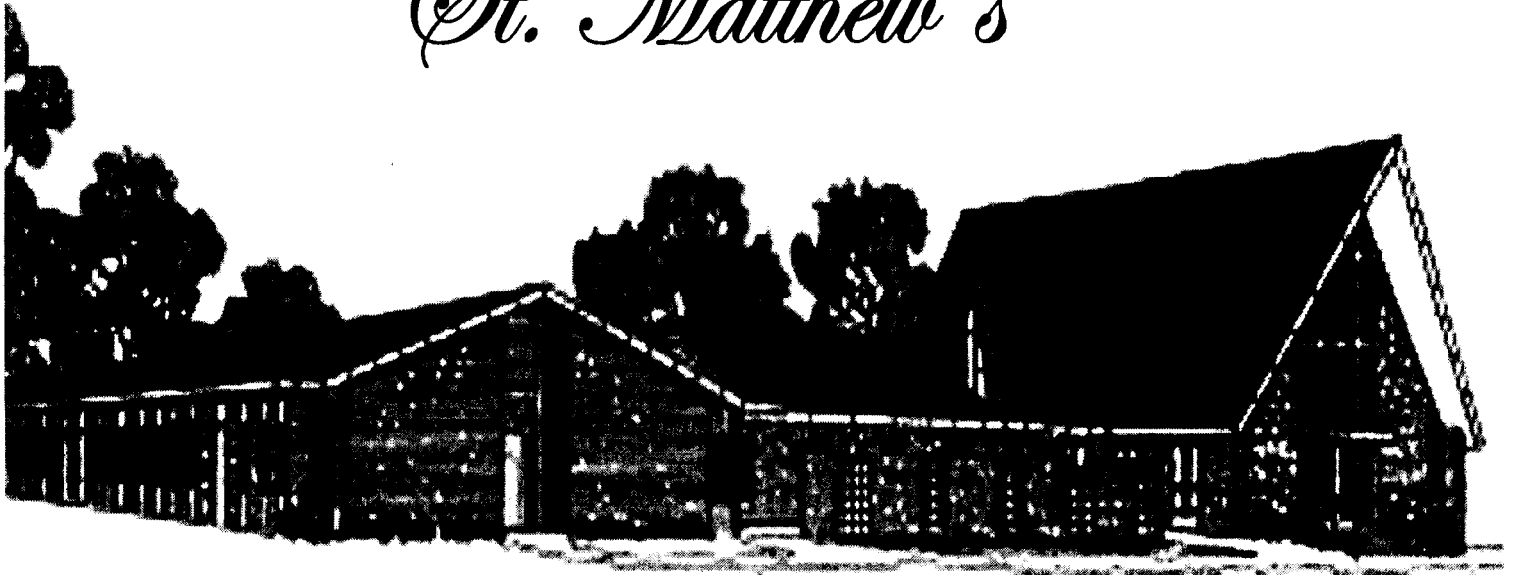
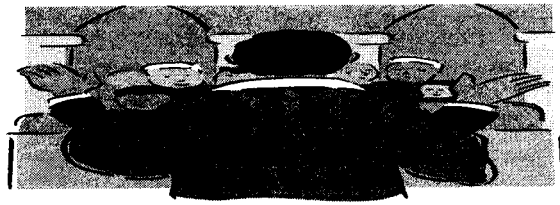


St. Matthew's



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



EX 8:20 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Get up early in the morning and confront Pharaoh as he goes to the water and say to him, 'This is what the LORD says: Let my people go, so that they may **worship** me."

Wow! God made a special effort for us to be able to worship him. He freed us from the tyranny of the world, so I can worship him. What love! I can't wait to go to worship and lift up my praise and thanksgiving with all those others who were made free to worship him.

While we are exhorted throughout the Bible to worship our God, we sometimes take it to be an option. "Well, if I'm not too busy, too tired, have too many people at my house, too into my vacation, I'll go to worship service this Sunday." Most of us cannot imagine a Sunday without being in church. While others are not so faithful.

I think we look at worship like we do work or school. "I'd sure like a day off from work/school/worship." "Yeah, it's summer! I don't have to go to school/worship."

Ex 23:25 **Worship** the LORD your God, and his blessing will be on your food and water. I will take away sickness from among you, 26 and none will miscarry or be barren in your land. I will give you a full life span."

Oh, I do have so much to be thankful for. There are so many blessings in my daily life that I cannot wait to worship God and say, "Thank you." I count it a blessing to be able to go into his sanctuary and worship him.

PS 29:2 Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; **worship** the LORD in the splendor of his holiness.

Yes, Lord, your name is set above all others. You loved us so much you came down from heaven to show us your unconditional love. How can we thank you? How can we repay you for your constant interaction in our lives? I can't wait to go to worship, so that I can give to you all the glory you deserve.

REV 14:6 "Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth--to every nation, tribe, language and people. 7 He said in a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. **Worship** him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water."

From beginning to end, the Bible tells us to worship our LORD. Yes, Lord. I do hear you knocking. Yes Lord, I do hear you calling me by name. Come Lord Jesus. Come.

Come dear Christians. Come. Come worship your God. Don't be so busy or preoccupied or at rest that you fail to come to worship God.

Know God's love. Know the joy that comes from gathering the church together to worship him and to give him the glory he deserves. Know the joy that comes from sharing his love with all you meet.

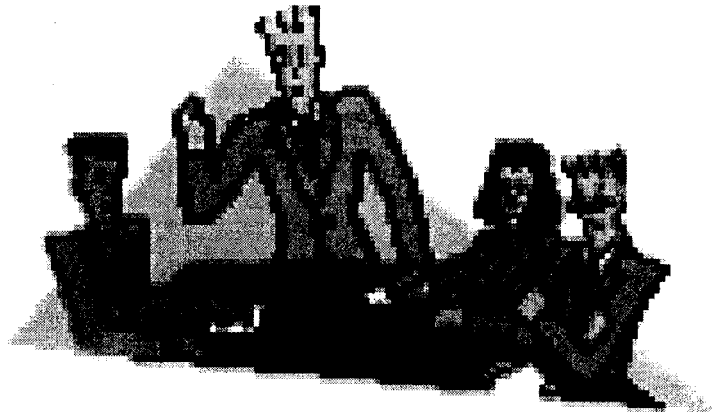
Marc

CALLING ALL UNITED METHODIST MEN!

The United Methodist Men are at the beginning of a campaign to improve its membership and attendance at the monthly fellowship breakfast by 20% by the end of the year. You can help us meet that goal.

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.



*"The fragrance always stays in the hand that gives the rose."
-Hada Bejar*

KNOW THE GOD YOU PRAY TO

May 1-3

Psalm 133
Acts 16.16-34
1 Peter 4.12-14

May 4-10

Psalm 68
Ephesians 4.1-16
Philemon
1 Corinthians 6.1-10
1 Corinthians 3.5-23
Romans 12.1-21
Colossians 3.5-17

May 11-17

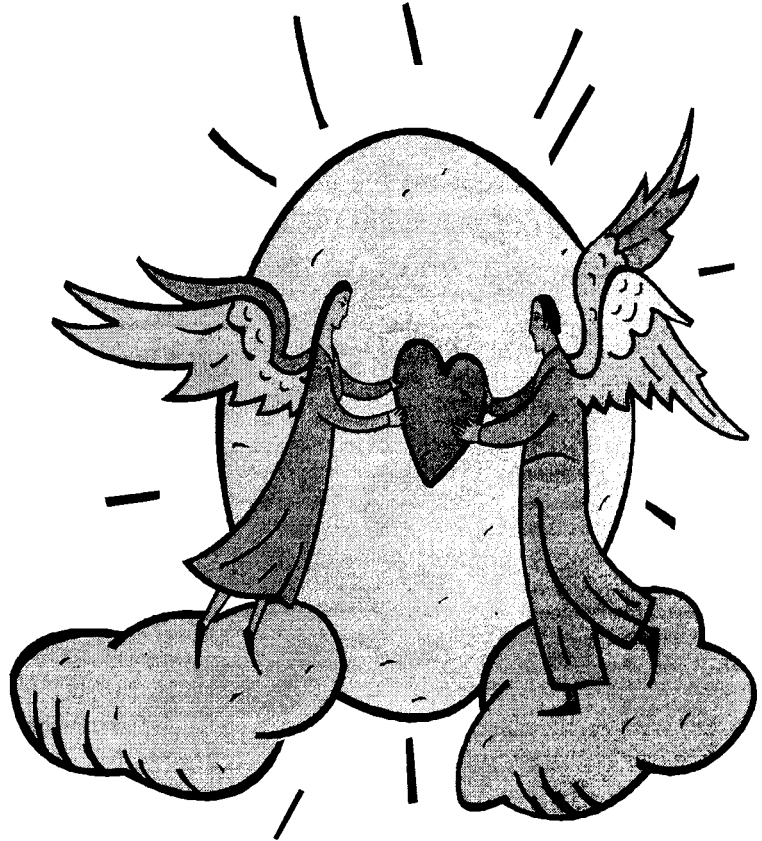
Psalm 107
Acts 2.43-47
Acts 3.1-10
Acts 4.32-37
Zechariah 4.1-10
Ephesians 4.17-5.2
Romans 8.1-17

May 18-24

Psalm 150
Deuteronomy 6.4-25
John 5.19-47
1 Corinthians 12.1-11
Ephesians 1.3-14
Ephesians 3.14-20
Colossians 2.1-15

May 25-31

Psalm 103
1 Peter 2.21-25
James 5.13-20
Acts 28.7-10
Acts 3.1-10
Acts 9.32-42
Acts 16.11-18



Thoughts for the day:

The greatest handicap – fear
The best day – today
The greatest mistake – giving up
Most disagreeable person – the complainer
Worst bankruptcy – loss of enthusiasm



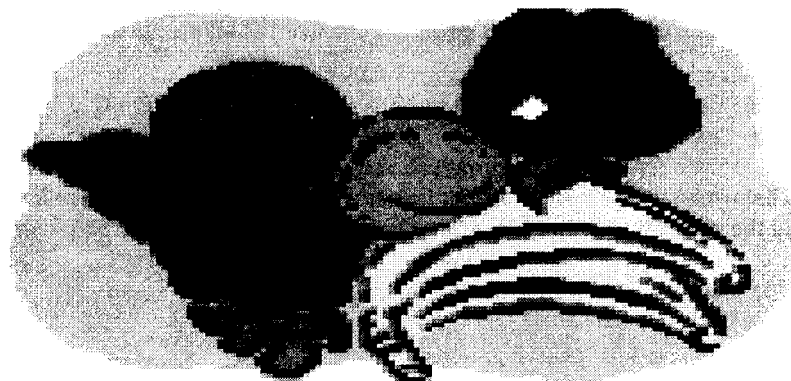
OPERATION SHAREHOUSE

Operation Sharehouse was a great and wonderful success! Thirty-eight people signed up to be a part of this ministry and 42 people actually showed up. Each person received a gift of fun fellowship, a worthy work experience, and a gross of God's grace as we prepared meals for underdeveloped countries and future disaster relief.

We met at 9 4a.m. and were briefed on the positive influence our efforts would have on the lives of people all over the world. We were instructed in the tasks that needed to be done; and we began our ministry. We prepared 10,000 meals, cleaned up our mess, loaded the truck with the packaged meals and the equipment we used and were on our way home by 11 a.m.! It was a fantastic morning. No one was ready to quit and most thought we ought to make this an annual event.

Thank you for a great job – serving the Lord as we provided for even the least of God's children.

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



An Event is planned in has the potential to church. On Tuesday, mount UMC. Charlie of the Matter; Chang-will be the “learning years Charlie has been leadership for congre-member and external



the Fayetteville District that transform the pastor and the May 13 from 10—4, at Hay-Halley, author of *The Heart ing the World God’s Way*, leader” for the day. For 25 providing transformational gations, both as a staff consultant. As a seasoned

coach, he has equipped church leaders to understand the systemic issues of congregational effectiveness and provide them with the practical strategies to be faithful. His distinctive and biblical model for congregational transformation is the subject of his book. At the end of this workshop each participant will be able to: More fully grasp the spiritual nature of congregational transformation, Understand how this parallels our own discipleship journey Clearly see the contrast between equipping and institutional paradigms. Acknowledge how and why many churches have become consumer-driven

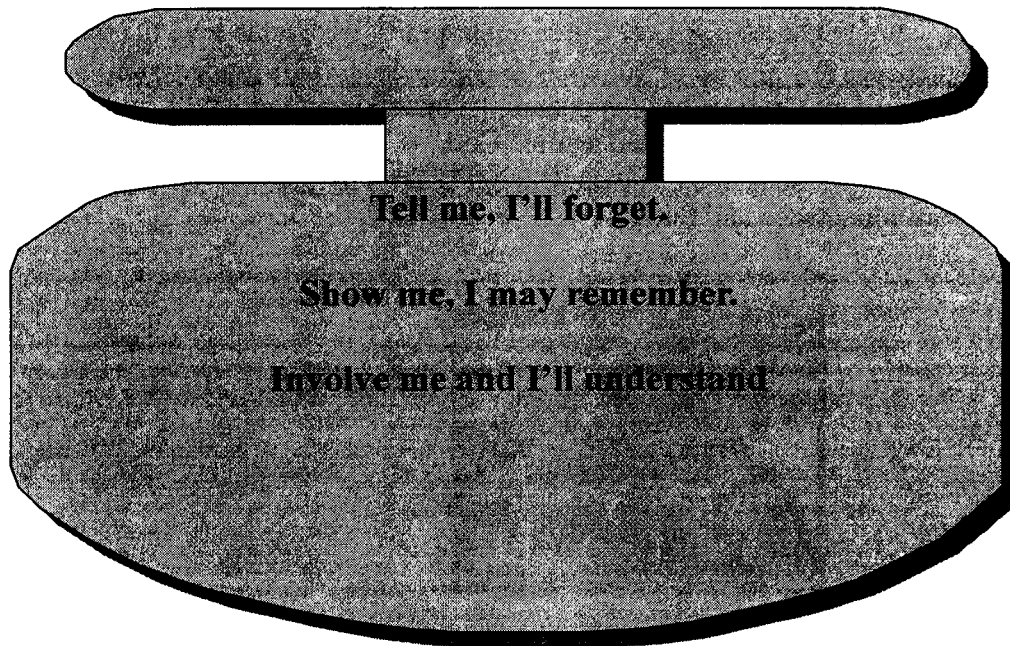
Appreciate how long it takes to facilitate community renewal, Walk away with a “game Plan” for ongoing transformation within the church. Lunch will be provided, as well as books for the workshop. Clergy and lay members of your church are invited to attend free of charge. **REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED!** To register for this event, please call the District Office at 910-485-2734 or email faydist@nccumc.org no later than 12:00 noon on Tuesday, May 6. This event has been opened up to the entire Conference, so don’t delay.

OUTREACH

Happy spring time to all!! It’s hard to believe that the hot weather is right around the corner already! The nice weather will be a good time for all of us to reach out to the community! I was so happy to see our congregation come together for our annual St. Matthew’s Easter Egg Hunt. So many people donated candy, money, and their time to make it a successful event! We had over 60 children attend the hunt, that’s not counting the adults that accompanied the children. The weather was nice; we had lots of helpers; the children played, hunted, and ate; and everyone was happy! I would like to thank everyone who donated candy or money, and thank you to the circles who provided the cupcakes, snacks, and drinks. I want to give a big thanks to the youth group for filling the Easter eggs and helping with the activities the day of the hunt. Also, thank you to all the adults who donated their time and help at the hunt; they made the event run so smoothly! I can’t forget the Methodist men either! That was so gracious for them to cook breakfast after the Easter sunrise service! The breakfast was great! Thanks so much guys! This is just another instance on how awesome our church is on coming together and reaching out to the community. I was so proud of our church congregation again when we met for the Operation Sharehouse (putting together 10,000 meals). We had participants ranging from 12 years old to 95 years old there. It was such a blessing to see everyone working together no matter what their age or physical capabilities were. Just another way St. Matthew’s is reaching out! Our next event we are working on with the Nurture Committee is Vacation Bible School. It will be held June 16-20. We will need you to help by volunteering your time and spreading the word to all the children and adults you know!

April showers are bringing May flowers. That is kind of like God showers us with his blessings and love. We in turn need to shower the community with our Christian love to plant the seed and nurture it in non-Christians. Then we can see our Christian showers bring Christian flowers. Do you have a thunderstorm brewing, but don’t know how to let it shower? If so, please contact me and we can figure out a way to help you shower your Christian flowers! I would also be interested in hearing how others in the congregation are already showering the community. I wish everyone happing showering with an abundant amount of Christian flowers!!

In God’s Love,
Amanda Call



ANNUAL CONFERENCE BRIEFING SESSION AND REPORT ON RETIREE BENEFITS:

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.

Prevenient Grace – We acknowledge God’s prevenient grace, the divine love that surrounds all humanity and precedes any and all of our conscious impulses. This grace prompts our first wish to please God, our first glimmer of understanding concerning God’s will, and our “first slight transient conviction” of having sinned against God.

God’s grace also awakens in us an earnest longing for deliverance from sin and death and moves us toward repentance and faith.



You can give without loving, but you can't love without giving .

IT'S ONLY A QUARTER!

Several years ago a preacher moved to Houston, Texas. Some weeks after he arrived, he had occasion to ride the bus from his home to the downtown area. When he sat down, he discovered that the driver had accidentally given him a quarter too much change.

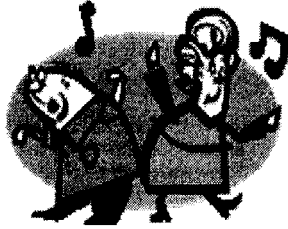
As he considered what to do, he thought to himself, you better give the quarter back. It would be wrong to keep it. Then he thought, "Oh, forget it, it's only a quarter. Who would worry about this little amount? Anyway the bus company already gets too much fare; they will never miss it. Accept it as a gift from God and keep quiet."

When his stop came, he paused momentarily at the door, then he handed the quarter to the driver and said, "Here, you gave me too much change."

The driver with a smile, replied, "Aren't you the new preacher in town? I have been thinking lately about going to worship somewhere. I just wanted to see what you would do if I gave you too much change."

When my friend stepped off the bus, he literally grabbed the nearest light pole, and held on, and said, "Oh, Heavenly Father, I almost sold your Son for a quarter."

Our lives are the only scriptures some people will ever read.



District United Methodist Women

By Joyce Herring

Since the beginning of 2008, Fayetteville District UMW has made exciting and informative events a priority. In January, the women of this district were trained to serve in each UMW office. In February, the 39 & Under women worshipped, sang, and learned more about how UMW serves God's people. In March at the Day Apart, we received inspiration from our District Superintendent, Rev. Carol Goehring, along with music that lifted our souls at the hands of Mr. Stan Benton. In April, we delved into the Mission Studies: Music and Mission, Israel/Palestine, and Globalization-Part II.

I am pleased to report excellent attendance at these events. Yet, several opportunities lie ahead for UMW units that are striving to meet their Mission Today goals for 2008. Just check the UMW Calendar Up-Dates for more information.

The District Racial Justice workshop is set for 9:00 – 11:00 am on Saturday, May 3rd at Cokesbury UMC, Fuquay-Varina. Nancy Moose, the district Social Action Coordinator, has information to share on the topic of immigration. This is an excellent way for local units to check off their Charter for Racial Justice requirement for this year.

The red-letter event for 2008 is the Conference Spiritual Enrichment Retreat scheduled on Friday and Saturday, May 16 and 17, 2008. This is the first time the Fayetteville District has had the privilege of hosting this conference event. UMW from all across the conference will converge at **Hay Street UMC** on the afternoon of May 16th with Bibles in hand. We eagerly await the words of Rev. Dr. Laura Early, pastor of All God's Children UMC of Aulander, NC, as she brings us this word. Allow me to express my personal appreciation to the women of Hay Street UMC. They are planning to make this the most successful event of the year for our Conference UMW.

edition of KEDE-Fay. However, if a copy is needed, please contact me at:

joyce.herring@yahoo.com or by Your district UMW officers make ourselves available to serve the women of your church. Feel free to call on us when we can be of service.

UMW Calendar UP-Dates

May 3 District Racial Justice Workshop—9-11am @Cokesbury UMC, Fuquay-Varina

May 16-17 Conference Spiritual Enrichment Retreat—4pm Fri-4pm Saturday @ Hay Street UMC

June 7 Mission Encounter—9-noon @ Robeson County Church & Community Center, Lumberton, NC (Travel and lunch on your own)

July 23-26 Conference School of Christian Mission @ Methodist University, Fayetteville

UNITED METHODIST MEN

The UMM met 0830 am on Sunday 20 Apr 08. Pastor Marc gave the invocation, and thanked everyone for attending. (there were 24 present) Calvin, Christy and Christopher prepared a wonderful breakfast, thanks Rome family, it was delicious and plentiful. Thanks to all those that volunteer to make the UMM breakfast, I will be trying a new way to get our cooks for our next meeting, so please be a part of the "I'M CALLING ON YOU MINISTRY" and thanks in advance. Calvin gave the devotion: "HOW MUCH DO YOU LOVE GOD?", Deu 6: 4-9,13

After our great breakfast and devotion, Our vice-president, Dave Norris, opened the meeting in absence of our president, Andy Hewitt, who is recovering at home. Get well soon, Andy and know our prayers are with you and your family.

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 report was approved.

New Business:

- 1) A motion was made by Troy to supply 50 service booklets "Strength Thru Ministry" as needed on Fort Bragg at approx \$6.00 a copy. Motion was seconded by Frank. Motion Passed. Calvin will take care of this ministry and distribution @ Fort Bragg. Thanks Calvin. your time and talent is greatly appreciated.
- 2) A motion was made by Troy to assist Monasia Lashley in the amount of \$250.00 to attend the Junior National Young Leaders Conference to be held in Washington, D.C, summer 2008. Motion was seconded by Ralph Wright. Motion passed. More info is posted on the UMM Board, please read about this great opportunity for one of our youth of St. Matthew's.
- 3) A motion was made by Raymond Gray to donate \$1000.00 to assist in replacing the roof. These funds are set aside and will be disbursed when needed. Jack Spakes seconded the motion, Motion passed. Thanks Lynwood and all involved in getting the roof replaced. The presentation on our roof replacement was great.

Discussion was made in regard to Mothers' Day Service and the following events/activities will be arranged. Speaker be/provide - Lynwood, Lay Reader be/provide - Calvin. Children Moments - Bob, Usher(s) Christopher and.... By the next months' newsletter Mothers' Day Service will be over, so thanks everyone in advance. HAPPY MOTHERS DAY

Discussion was made in regards to Vacation Bible School coming June 2008, The UMM were asked and accepted to cook the meal that will be June 12 2008, between 4 & 5 pm.

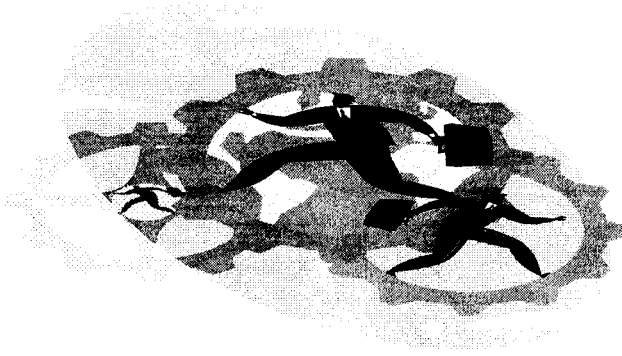
Old Business:

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. Thanks for all the input as we finalize this roster.

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

REMINDERS:

May Communion members: Lloyd Miller & Troy Willoughby
Raymond Gray & Dave Norris
Santos & Hilda Pena



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.

May Ushers: *Troy Willoughby Charles Lucas
 Fred Rozier William Legget
*Head Usher

We hope to see all the men of the church at our next meeting, which will be Sunday, 18 May 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.

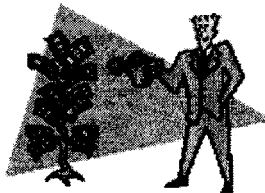
Please check out the UMM Board located in the front hallway for valuable information, upcoming events and member information.

REMEMBER: God Loves You. Talk with you soon,

Respectfully submitted by Bill Stackhouse, UMM Secretary

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 1- Mae Roberson
- 2- Edgar Lineberger
- 4- Bill Stackhouse
- 10- Mary Couch
- 12- April Gunter
- 14- Heather Watkins
- 16- Maria Strickland
- 18- Dawn Stone
- 19- Connie Williams
- 20- Dorothy Spakes
- 24- Taylor Ramos
- 27- Robert Parker
- 29- Julie Griffin
- Melanie Jones



Do you give to the Lord's work weekly -- or weakly?

**Its that time again to meet for Ruth/Ethel Smith Circle,
14 May 08 at 11:00.** Please think about a mission for **June**. Our
hosts this month are Connie Knight and Dorothy Taylor. Please try
to attend.

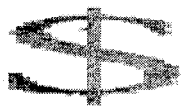
**Lola Smith,
Chairperson**

YOU CALL ME MASTER

You call me master and obey me not.
You call me light and see me not.
You call me way and walk me not.
You call me life and choose me not.
You call me wise and follow me not.
You call me fair and love me not.
You call me rich and ask me not.
You call me eternal and seek me not.
You call me noble and serve me not.
You call me gracious and trust me not.
You call me mighty and honor me not.
You call me just and fear me not.
If I condemn you, blame me not

(Inscription on the Cathedral
In Lubeck, Germany)

Money doesn't go as far as it used to, but at least it goes faster.



**This...is...the...way...the...church...sometimes...looks...to...the...pastor...
when...he...goes...to...the...pulpit.**

BUT

**The church would look like this if everybody brought somebody else to
church with them.**

FLOWERS FOR MAY



4 MAY In memory of Perry Smith

By: Eva Smith

**11 MAY In honor Jack Johnson's
2nd birthday**

18 MAY

**25 MAY In honor of Julie Griffin's
birthday**

USHERS FOR MAY

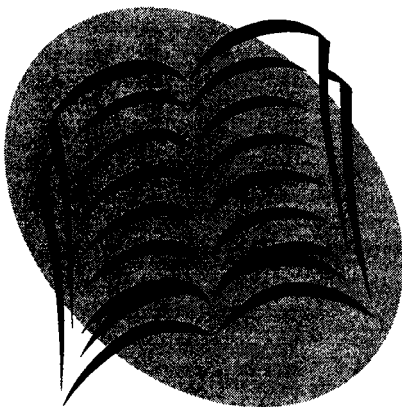
Troy Willoughby

Charles Lucas

Fred Rozier

William Leggett

LAY READERS FOR MAY



4- Gail Terwillger

11- Mother's Day (UMM)

18- Calvin Rome

25- Ruby Lucas

Who Loves You? JESUS and the Youth Group of St. Matthews.

We have been up and running since late March when Ms. Amanda and Mr. Doug became our new Youth Leaders. We Thank You both for your leap of faith and taking over the Youth Group

Our first outing was at Cokesbury UMC in Stedman on April 6th, where we participated in our District Youth Rally. We had so much fun meeting youth from other churches, playing games and also just the fellowship time with each other and getting a chance to get to know our new leaders. Before we finished, we all had a chance to vote in our District Officers for the upcoming year.

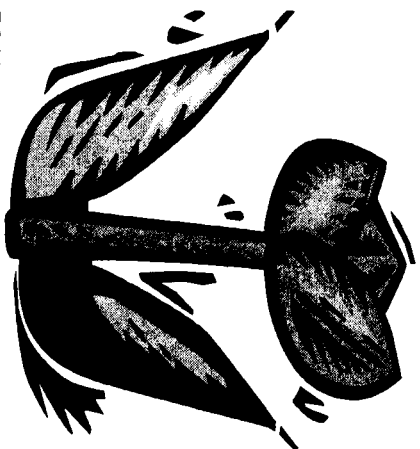
On April 11th, we had our first lock-in of the year. With the help of Ashley Stone and Kevin Call we had an awesome time. We had dinner and played volleyball Sonic, had a Scavenger Hunt at 3 local Wal-Mart's, made new Youth T-shirts to wear and boy are they cool, played an hour of Guitar Hero, fellowshipped and had a devotion from Ashley about friendship. Just as the night was slowing down it was off to the Preacher's house. We got rid of about 50 pink flamingos and a few rolls of toilet paper to help beautify his yard. The local community watch stopped by during our decorating, but THANKS to Mr. Doug, he made them understand what we were doing. After being up all night, over half of the group stayed and helped to make meals for Operation Sharehouse, then it was home to SLEEP.

To finish the month of we took a trip north to Rocky Mount on April 27th for a Conference Youth Rally at Wesleyan College. Again we had an awesome time with all the activities and a chance to fellowship with other youth.

In the near future, we will be working on some fundraisers and also recruiting of new youth members.

Reena Stone





MAY

2008

ST. MATTHEW'S UMC

A place to Belong...

202 Hope Mills Road
Fayetteville, NC 28304

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
4 Council 8:30 AM UMYF 4 PM Witness 5 PM Men's Choir 12:15 AM	5 UMW 6:15 PM	6 Prayer Ministry 6 PM Worship 6:30 PM Bible Study 7:15 PM Disciple 7:15 PM	7 Card Ministry 5 PM Disciple 6 PM Men's Choir 7:30 PM	1	2	3
11 Pentecost Finance . 8:30 AM Outreach 9 AM/Mother's Day Choir Practice 12:15 AM	12	13 Prayer Ministry 6 PM Worship 6:30 PM Bible Study 7:15 PM Disciple 7:15 PM	14 Ruth /Ethel Smith Circle 11 AM Card Ministry 5 PM Disciple 6 PM Choir 7:30	15	16	17
18 UMM 8:30 AM	19 Nurture 5:30 PM	20 Prayer Ministry 6 PM Worship 6:30 PM Bible Study 7:15 PM Disciple 7:15 PM	21 Card Ministry 5 PM Disciple 6 PM	22 Help-N-Hands 11 AM	23	24 TFF Book Club 8:30
25 Choir Practice 12:15 AM	26	27 Prayer Ministry 6 PM Worship 6:30 PM Bible Study 7:15 PM Disciple 7:15 PM	28 Card Ministry 5 PM Disciple 6 PM Choir 7:30 PM	29	30	31

Phone: 910-425-0401

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E-mail: stmatthnc@embarrqmail.com

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