
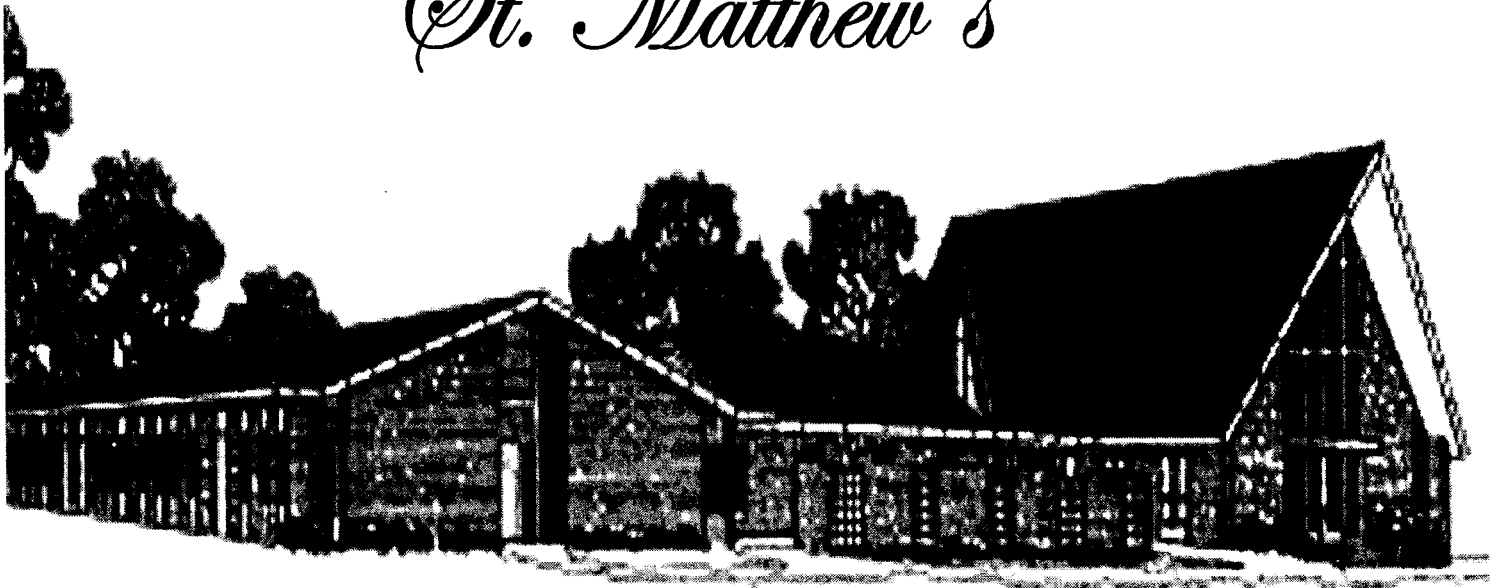


United Methodist Church
202 Hope Mills Road
Fayetteville, NC 28304
910-425-0401

St. Matthew's



St. Matthew's



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

Jesus' Hands Were Kind Hands

Jesus' hands were kind hands, doing good to all,
Healing pain and sickness, blessing children small,
Washing tired feet, and saving those who fall;
Jesus' hands were kind hands, doing good to all.

Take my hands, Lord Jesus, let them work for you;
Make them strong and gentle, kind in all I do.
Let me watch you, Jesus, till I'm gentle too,
Till my hands are kind hands, quick to work for you.

As we return from vacations and time apart, I call your attention to the words of this hymn, and offer them as our focus and prayer for the coming months. Committees have been meeting throughout the summer months and continue to develop some achievable goals to serve God in this community in the coming year. The only catch is that we need lots of hands like the hands of Jesus. The good news is that we have all the hand power we need to serve God. But right now those hands are in our pockets because we, 1. don't know what there is for us to do, and 2. because we are concerned that we have too much on our plate right now, or maybe we feel too old, or believe we've done our share. This year, we want to see 100% of our members in ministry.

The Council has set a goal to increase attendance by 20%. That is certainly a worthy goal and is very attainable. The Outreach Committee is committed to continue the Hand-in-Hand program. We will need at least 50 prayer partners this year. It would also be great if we had 10 or more volunteers to spend one hour a week helping a third or fourth grader reach their goals. Of course everyone can be a part of this ministry by praying daily for J.W.Coon Elementary School, its staff, and children. The Witness Committee plans to continue the "card ministry" and wants to begin doing something for feeding and fellowship with our neighbors. The Nurture Committee will continue working the Sunday school program, vacation Bible school, and all the other stuff we have come to expect from them.

As you can see, there will be lots of opportunities for all of God's children to serve him. So when someone speaks to you about helping them, say, "Yes." If you think your plate is too full now, pray that God will unload some of your busyness so you can experience the joy of ministry. Ask God to show you how you can have hands like the hands of Jesus – doing good to all.

What do we believe and are we living it out? Are we really Christ-like people trying to be like Jesus? Do we really believe that people can be transformed and changed?

Know God's love, and the joy that comes from sharing that love with others, and from serving him.

Marc

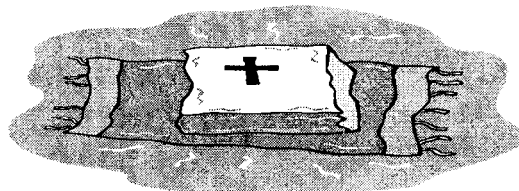
Happy Birthday to You



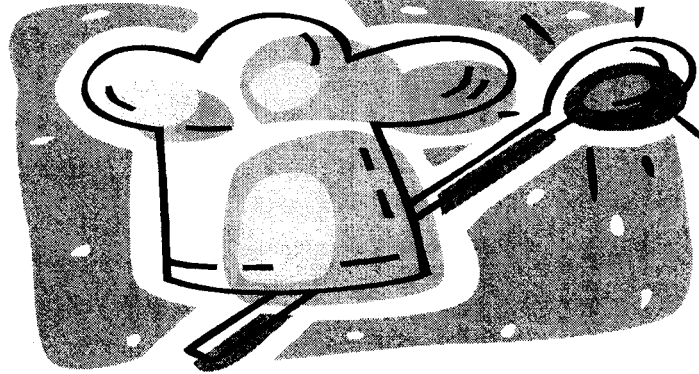
SEPTEMBER

1-Dorothy Taylor
Rebecca Causey
4-Lloyd Miller
6-Matt Unruh
Joann Terrier
7-Shawn Schultz
10-Hilda Parker
11-Kay Warbis
14-Phyllis Jordan
Dustin Powell
Sarah Hager
15-Karen Ogden
Melvin Lynn
17-Ruby Lucas
18-Laura Gallimore
20-Bob Lambert
24-Santos Pena
Pam Gallimore
Sam Hubbard
26-Anthony Cabeza
28-Kristine Lewis
30-Amanda Jones
Jerry Brown

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



PARTY DIP

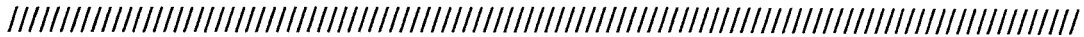


- 1lb. Ground Beef (lean)
- 1lb. Ground Sausage (your favor)
- 1pk, Cream Cheese (cubed)
- 1 12oz. Jar of Salsa
- 1lb. Velveeta Cheese (cubed)
- 1 bag Tostitos Chips

Combine ground beef and sausage over medium heat in pot, brown together and drain all fat. Reduce heat to low, add cream cheese and Velveeta cheese, mix until smooth and creamy. Finally, add salsa to taste. Add any spice or **Hot** peppers to your taste or liking.

Grab a chip; dip and enjoy.

**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.**



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

Theology or Religion?

Mr. Congregation said to me, “What we need around here, Preacher, is less of this theology stuff and more good old, Bible-based religion.” To which I replied, “You’re right. I agree that we need to know more about the Bible.” What I hear you saying is that we need to teach what the Bible says, learn more about what’s in there, and understand how it applies to us today. The congregation needs to get back to reading and studying the scripture. But can we stop there? Is that all there is? If we stop there, might we miss the treatise of our Methodist heritage? Of what value is knowledge without action? If we don’t use what we know what good is it to know? Would you agree that we need to take the Word out into the world through our everyday lives? Is it safe to say that the Bible tells us we need to go and spread the good news?

I believe that we are talking about the same concept. We are, indeed, on the same sheet of music. Let me share with you a clear and concise definition of theology. Theology is a religious belief system about God or ultimate reality. Theology commonly refers to the ordered, systematic study or interpretation of the Christian faith and experience of God based on God’s divine self-revelation. If you accept that definition, then theology and good old Bible-based religion get tied together rather nicely. When we mix in that religion part, that’s where Methodism, our religion, plays such an important role. As you combine the “good old Bible-based religion” and theology you come up with Methodism.

Methodism is a great religion that takes the Christian from the Bible to the world around him. As Methodists, our theological explorations seek to give expression to the mysterious reality of God’s presence, peace, and power in the world. Methodists believe, like you, that the Bible is the primary source for the Word of God. The one place God reveals Himself to us. We believe that we should study the Bible and then relate that message to wider fields of knowledge. In other words, look for confirmation of the Word, in our human experiences. That is why we study the Bible, to relate God to our own lives, and so we’ll be able to understand how we can find and take advantage of opportunity to witness our faith to the unchurched or non-believer.

Thank you for bringing up this point. It is important, and we need to keep asking questions like this so we can keep vitality in our religion and a view of what we are all about. That is especially important as Methodists because our belief is to be Christians, socially involved in our witness for Christ. A desire for more good old, Bible-based religion does, in fact, require more, not less, of this theology stuff.



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

HAND-IN-HAND PROGRAM

I want to re-introduce you to the Hand-in-Hand Program! This is a three pronged approach to ministering to school children and school staff. The first phase is so easy that every single person in our congregation can and should be a participant. It requires only that they remember, in their **prayers**, on a frequent and regular basis, J. W. Coon Elementary School. Pray for the children that attend – for safety, for physical health, for mental capacity and desire to learn. Pray also for the teachers and staff – that they may have patience, that they be blessed for working with these children of God, that they may have the enthusiasm and energy and love to keep them motivated to provide the best opportunities possible for God’s children.

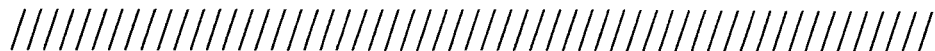
The second phase of the program is to be a **prayer partner**. This is an exciting commitment that will find our members being blessed as much as the one they are paired with. The idea here is to be a “secret pal” who is committed to praying for a specific teacher or staff person at J. W. Coon. Believe me; they can feel your prayers for them as they go through their days and weeks at school. Through our Hand-in-Hand Coordinator, there will be an opportunity for the teacher/staff person to send a note to identify a particular prayer request. What a wonderful ministry – praying for someone who doesn’t know who you are. At the end of the school year we will gather together for lunch so that the teachers and staff can look each other in the eye and say, “Thanks! I needed your prayers this year and I knew when you were praying for me.”

The third phase of Hand-in-Hand requires more commitment yet. Our congregation members can sign up to be a **volunteer** to go to the school an hour (or more) a week, to work with a child on a one on one basis, or to help the teacher in some other way, or even to help the office staff. There are lots of things that need to be done in a school to make things run smoothly. Mentoring an elementary age child is a blessing. Letting a child know that they mean enough that someone comes every week to work with them is a powerful affirmation of that child’s worth.

Are we really Christ-like people trying to live like Jesus? Caring with children is a means of grace, a vehicle through which God makes God’s self known to us and to them. In their care we experience grace; the movement of God in our lives that allows us to give to and receive from others. We commit ourselves to love.

Someone, from the last school I was involved in the Hand-in-Hand Program with mentioned to me that, “Each year we have been committed to the Hand-in-Hand ministry at this school, the end of year scores have gone up.” Some may say that that is just a coincident. But I say that is a God incident

Know God’s love and know the special joy that comes from sharing that love with others.



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

KNOW THE GOD YOU PRAY TO

Before you begin each day's reading of the Word, begin with prayer. You may find it necessary to read verses before and or after the selected verses so that you can understand what the scripture is saying. Ask questions of the text, i.e. "What does this say about God? What does it say about me? What does it say about my relationship with my God?"

September 1-6

Psalm 130
Acts 10.34-43
1 John 2.1-17
2 Corinthians 2.3
Luke 6.27-36
Luke 17.1-6

September 7-13

Psalm 141
John 5.1-15
John 8.1-11
Psalm 25
Ephesians 2
Romans 6.1-14
Romans 3.21-31

September 14-20

Psalm 3
Ecclesiastes 9.13-18
1 Kings 3.3-28
James 3.13-18
Ephesians 3.1-20
2 Corinthians 6.1-10
1 Corinthians 4.1-13

September 21-27

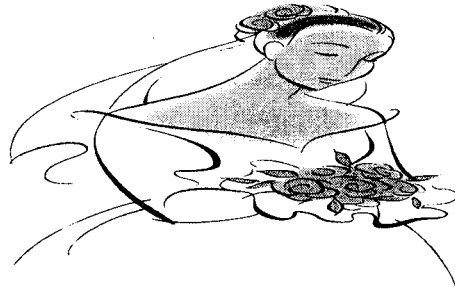
Psalm 86
1 Kings 17
Luke 12.1-21
Luke 12.22-32
1 Timothy 6.1-19
2 Corinthians 10.1-18
Philippians 4.10-19

September 28-30

Psalm 89
1 Samuel 2.27-36
Hebrews 11.1-31

When your faith gets ready, God is ready.





Life is not measured
by the number of breaths
we take, but by moments that
take our breath away.

Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Melvin
request the pleasure of your company
at the marriage of their daughter.

Stacey Marie
to
Justin Lee Cole

Saturday, the thirteenth day of September
Two thousand and eight
at half past five o'clock to the evening
Cape Fear Botanical Garden
Fayetteville, NC

Reception to follow
at the
Hope Mills Shrine Club

RSVP to Pam (910) 425-3643
By September 4, 2008

HOW BALANCED IS YOUR LIFE

Rate how balanced your life is on a scale from 1 to 10, with 10 being a fully balanced life. What is something about your lifestyle that contributes to balance and something that detracts from it? This is just the beginning of the new book, Balance: Living with Life's Demands, that our newest Sunday School class has been discussing. Now, take this short quiz, rate your lifestyle using the questions below.

A=Agree, D=Disagree

1. ___ ___ I wish I had more time for myself.
2. ___ ___ I wish I had more time with my family and friends.
3. ___ ___ It seems like my life is all work and no play
4. ___ ___ My work is so stressful that it's taking a toll on my health.
5. ___ ___ Sometimes pursuing my desires gets in me into trouble.

This is just another topic for discussion in the chapter. In our small group, discussion based class, we talk about current events and daily life in relation to the Bible. We are beginning the second book now, we just completed Mystery, and there are a few more books in the series. The book is made up of short, easy to read chapters that include different people's views on the topics. The chapters in this book touch on being in a rush, it's not fair, I'm so busy, and Lord, where are you? Just to name a few.

If this is something you may be interested in, please join us on Sunday mornings at 9:45. Feel free to bring a friend! Hope to see you there!

You are invited to join us on

Sunday. September 7

at Haymount UMC at 3 pm

for a

Welcome and Blessing

For our District Superintendent,

Sam Wynn

The service will be in the Sanctuary with a
Reception to follow in the Family Life Center

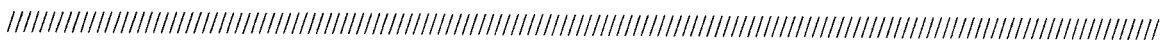
YOUTH NEWS

It is hard to believe that the summer has come and gone already. Luckily we have been able to find the time to get everything accomplished that we had made plans for. It was a little difficult trying to have meetings with everyone gone on vacations at different times, but we managed to still have a good time together.

Before I forget I would like to put out a very warm "Thank You" to several people of the church who have helped the youth out this summer. (Calvin and Christy Rome, Kevin Call) These people stepped up to the plate when we needed help and gave up there time. May the lord's blessing be returned to you all.

When we left off back in July the youth where just finishing up there auction work which had to be done, that fund raiser even though it was a lot of work paid off quite well in the end. Thank you all who donated money to our cause. To get the summer moving we moved our meeting to 9 July at Ci Ci's pizza and then went to Round-about for skating. We had a really good time and attempted to work out plans for the summers events. The biggest decision we made was to accept the offer from the Trustee's to clean up the church yard. Hopefully this will help us raise money for our trips, help us build up responsibility and help in keeping our church yard beautiful. So if you get a chance early on a Saturday morning swing by the church and you will see the youth hard at work. If you notice that all the youth where missing from church on Aug. 17th that was because after many months of planning we finally got to go to Myrtle Beach for our trip. I believe everyone that went had an Awesome time. We left on the evening of the 15th with 8 youth and brought 8 youth back on the 17th. The trip was definitely an experience starting off with Mr. Doug and Ms. Amanda changing a flat tire on the side of the highway in the middle of the night and then forgetting the directions to the campgrounds we arrived around 10:30 pm to unpack, set up tents by flashlights and try to start a campfire. We had a chance around midnight to go to the beach and find a couple of crabs feeding and listen to the tide roll in. On Saturday we had a great breakfast of bacon, eggs and pancakes then took off to the Myrtle Waves Water Park. It was a very fun time for the young and old but after 7 hours of climbing stairs it was time to go back to camp. We had hotdog's and later that night made roasted marshmallows and made smores. We cheated Sunday for breakfast by having Krispy Creame doughnuts, but we went to the beach and had a bible lesson about Forgiveness and then we all wrote something in the sand that we wanted to let go and watched as the waves helped wash it away. We then tore down camp and spent the day swimming in the ocean, bogey boarding, skim boarding and just soaking up the sun. Then it was time to leave when people on the pier said that there was a shark in the water. After we left we stopped by Broadway at the Beach for some Ice Cream and then headed for home. I truly believe we have the best group of youth anywhere. Parents you need to be recognized for raising your kids the way you did. Not once all weekend did I see or hear any of the youth complain or argue with one another.

Now that school is getting ready to start back up, the youth will be meeting regularly at 4:00pm every Sunday beginning 7 September. This will be our first meeting and would like to invite anyone new who would like to join the youth group. The ONLY requirements is to be in grade 6 - 12, want to learn about the Lord and be able to have a good time. If you know anyone interested in joining please call Mr Doug 391-0104 or Ms Amanda 977-0205.



Why is it that we rejoice at a birth and grieve at a funeral?
Is it because we are not the person involved?



FUN FUN FUN

Where can you go get great food, fellowship and fun?

The church wide picnic on Saturday, September 27th!!
Our marvelous Methodist men will be providing the hamburgers and hotdogs, so we need everyone else to bring side dishes to go along with these. There will be fellowship opportunities and fun for all ages! Come out and celebrate homecoming with others!

If you are in need of a ride, please let the office know, we don't want anyone to miss this wonderful event.

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

.....
**Do all the good you can, by all the means
you can.....as long
As ever you can. ——— John Wesley.**

.....
By being happy, we sow anonymous benefits upon the world—

Robert L. Stevenson



OUTREACH NEWS

What can we do for you? That is what the Outreach committee discussed at our August meeting. We have been focusing on how to extend our Christian love to the community, but what about our own family at St. Matthew's? As we compiled our thoughts for our mission statement, we realized we were overlooking one of our important duties—outreaching to the congregation of St. Matthew's.

We have begun reaching out to St. Matthew's by kicking off a commitment drive to not park in the main parking lot. Have you ever driven in to our parking lot on a Sunday morning and either there is no place to park or you see someone walking all the way from the end of the parking lot who is having a hard time walking to the church? We have pledged that we will leave the front spaces of the parking lot open to our visitors and those who have a difficult time walking extended distances.

We ask that more people will start parking in the newly renovated parking lot where the house behind the church used to be. Thanks to Lynwood and the trustees, this area is becoming more beautified and now has a purpose. There is no money involved, just the pledge of your heart that you will help out our visitors and physically challenged friends by parking further away on Sunday mornings. I would like to thank Calvin Rome for suggesting this idea and kicking off the pledge drive!

We have a few more ideas up our sleeves on how to outreach to our congregation, but these ideas are still in the works. You will be notified as they are kicked off! As summer wraps up and fall is right around the corner, let's think how we can spread our Christian love to not only the community, but even our friends/family that sit right next to us every Sunday.

In God's Love,
Amanda Call

The UMM met 0830 am on Sunday 17Aug 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 17 present) Dave E. and Bill thanks for a wonderful breakfast. The Rome Family will be the chefs for September. 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, Dave Norris opened the meeting by welcoming everyone. Prayers go out to our President, Andy Hewitt, Get Well Soon. Dave read a thank you card from the Cox family (Wayne & Elaine's' Parents)

Calvin gave the devotion: "Trusting Your Own Instincts" 1 Samuel 8: 1-21, thanks for the devotion, Calvin.

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:

(Tabled from last month) The annual men's Bar-B-Q- will be coming in October, (Yes, it's right around the corner) the 3rd Friday (17 Oct) Charles Lucas will be the chairperson for this years' UMM Bar-B-Q Plate Sale. (Thanks for chairing this event, Charles) If you would like to help with the Bar-B-Q please contact Mr. Lucas. Plates will sell for \$6.00 each (They are big plates) This would be a great way to say thank you to friend, family, co-workers or even a stranger. Just purchase a few tickets and pass them out to complete strangers, oh, what a great feeling it will give you. The hours will be from 11am-7pm, so you can help out a loved one by them not cooking on that Friday evening. (They'll love you for it) Thanks in advance for all your support!!!!!!!!!!!!

This motion was voted on, seconded and passed.

Old Business

Church wide Picnic, 27 Sep 08 will be hosted/cooked by the UMM, thanks to everyone who has volunteered already to set up the picnic and to those that will help out at the picnic, your help is always appreciated.

We hope everyone that is able to attend - will. Come out and have a great time of fun, fellowship and enjoy our guest speaker, (Ch) Neil Smith.

HOME COMING WILL BE SEPTEMBER 28TH.... C U THERE

REMEMBER: A great ABILITY we all have to offer GOD - is availability!!!

REMINDERS:

September Communion members: Troy Willoughby Raymond Gray
Jack Spakes Dave Norris Charles Lucas
Alt: Bill Stackhouse

Calvin spoke of the great feedback that is being received on the communion ministry and thanked everyone that participates in this great ministry. UMM, if you haven't tried this ministry, give it a try, you will enjoy the spiritual feeling it bestows upon you. Who knows, you might like it.

If you know of anyone who would like to take part in this ministry, please contact Calvin Rome or the church office.

September Ushers: *Troy Willoughby Charles Lucas
Fred Rozier William Leggett

*Head Usher

We hope to see all the men of the church at our next meeting, which will be Sunday, 21 September 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.

Pastor Marc gave the benediction and wished everyone a great week.

REMEMBER: God Loves You Bill Stackhouse, UMM Secretary

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Max Lucado wrote.....A good gardener will do what it takes to help a vine bear fruit. What does God want? Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Gal. 5:22-23). These are the fruits of the spirit, and this is what God longs to see in us. Like a careful gardener, he will clip and cut away anything that interferes.

As I attempt to get back in the grove after almost a year, I need to say thanks to everyone for all the support that you have given during the last year "almost". My job has been filled and done by many different people during this time and you have been extremely supportive of anything I asked help with regardless of how short a notice I gave you or how difficult the task. You have prayed for us and with us. You have set at the hospital for hours with us, called to check on everyone and continued to reach out to do the things for missions that needed to be done in the local area, district, and conference. I thank you for this and say to you that I am looking forward to reaching out and growing even more during this coming year. May God be with each and everyone of us as we undertake new projects and continue to work on existing projects.

Dates to Remember: Samaritans Purse, boxes are not here but start to gather your goods and let us work to do **100** boxes this year. They will need to be ready in early November.

Matt's Kitchen will hopefully get off to a running start in October and we will need help with serving, cleaning, visiting with those folks who come to eat and visit. Will you volunteer? Please call me to let me know if you are available to help in any way with this project as we reach out into our neighborhood and community to witness to those who will join us for a light lunch and a short time to fellowship. This project has been funded by memorial to Claudette Miller and was a very special wish of hers before her death.

Circles begin meeting again on a regular schedule this month and you will be doing mission projects each month.

Please check the bulleting board for notices from the District on workshops and meetings and REMEMBER to READ>>>READ>>>READ. New books should be available soon. They will be in the library. Be sure to sign the inside cover as you read so that we can be sure to give credit where credit is due.

Again I say a special Thanks to a Wonderful God and to each of you for your help during the last year. THANKS, THANKS, AND MORE THANKS!

ADELLA PRAY
President UMW

September

2008



ST. MATTHEW'S UMC

A place to Belong...

202 Hope Mills Road
Fayetteville, NC 28304

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Labor Day	2 Charge Conference 7PM	3 Card Ministry 5PM Choir Practice 7:30PM	4	5	6
7 Children's Choir 9:30AM DS Wynn Reception Haymount UMC 3PM Witness 5PM	8 UMW 6:15PM Outreach 6:30PM	9 Prayer Ministry 6PM Worship Service 6:30PM Bible Study 7:15PM	10 Ruth/Ethel Smith Circle 11AM Card Ministry 5PM Choir Practice 7:30PM	11 Night Owls 7PM	12	13
14 Choir Practice 12:15PM Confirmation Classes 3PM(6weeks) UMYF 4PM	15 Finance 6PM Nurture 7PM	16 Prayer Ministry 6PM Worship Service 6:30PM Bible Study 7:15PM	17 Card Ministry 5PM Choir Practice 7:30PM	18	19	20
21 UMM 8:30AM	22 Council 6PM The Heart of the Matter 6PM	23 Prayer Ministry 6PM Worship Service 6:30PM Bible Study 7:15PM	24 Card Ministry 5PM Choir Practice 7:30PM	25 Help-N-Hands 11AM	26	27 FFF Book Club 8:30AM Church wide picnic
28 Choir Practice 12:15PM Homecoming (covered dish)	29	30 Prayer Ministry 6PM Worship Service 6:30PM Bible Study 7:15PM				

Phone: 910-425-0401

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