
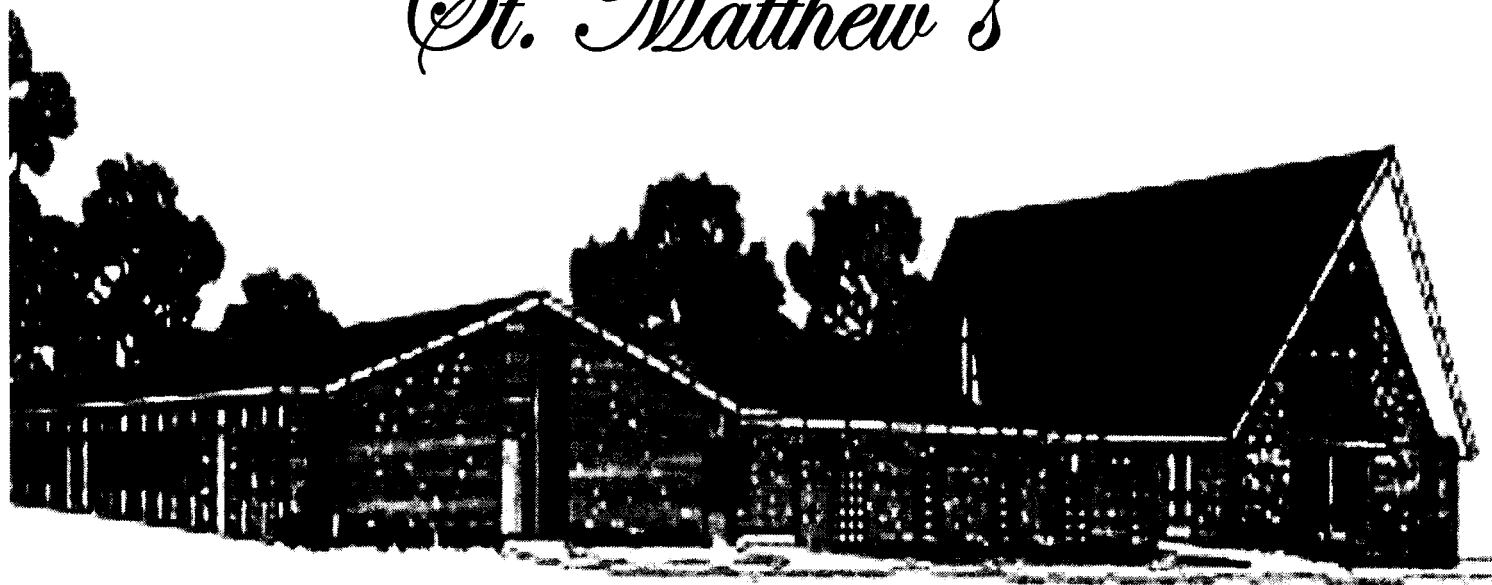


United Methodist Church
202 Hope Mills Road
Fayetteville, NC 28304
910-425-0401

St. Matthew's



St. Matthew's



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



December is both a wonderful and dreadful time of the year. It is wonderful in the anticipation of Christmas. We are excited about this holiday, like none other. People become sentimental, helpful, giving. And perhaps it is through the spirit of giving and helping others that we end up being excited and happy. But December is also a dreadful time. It is simply an exhausting month, full of things that must be done, places we must go. There seems little time for reflection.

Over the last several months emphasis has been made concerning our ability, our desire to see God working in our lives. This season of Advent and pre-Christmas rush gives us a wonderful opportunity to pay attention to God at work in our lives. While Christmas seems to be about Santa Clause, we have a better than average opportunity to put Jesus at the top of our consciousness. I used to be dismayed at the Christmas season beginning earlier and earlier every year, but now see it as a good thing -- if we keep Jesus in our hearts, on our minds, and on our lips throughout the season.

Call his name! That is the challenge always, but especially now. It is in His name that we become transformed and witness to the power of His grace in the daily triumphs of our lives. It is in Christ's name that we become alive in worship, faith, and service as vital Christians. The more we say His name, the more we become His followers, own up to His cause, and dare to speak His name even more. See Him in worship, in Holy Communion, in Baptism. See Him in the outreach of the Samaritan Purse project, in Matt's kitchen, in the Angel Food Ministry, in everyday things of our lives.

As we put up the Christmas tree, and begin this Advent season, also put Jesus on our lips. Lift Him up so that others might know His power and grace.

Know God's love, and know the special joy of sharing that love (and His name) with others.

Marc

Happy December Birthday to You

2-Adella Pray
3-Najee Lashley
6-Mary Ussery
7-Phil Ogden
10-Christian Watkins
12-Robin Shields
 Tina Welch
13-Jay Thompson
14-Jose Pena
16-Heather Shackelford
18-Donna Dorwart
20-Elizabeth A. Davis
25-Lorene Biggs
30-Virginia Bachelor



What Can I Do?

“I do not see what I can do,”
A little snow-flake said,
“Upon this meadow, long and wide,
A covering to spread..”

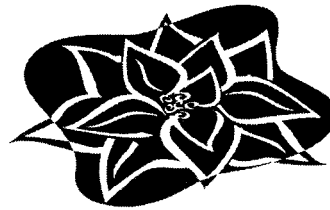
But quietly it kept its place,
Till, slowly falling round,
The other flakes came gently down,
And white was on the ground.

Oh, freely give, though little sums
Are all you can bestow:
Remember that of little flakes
Is formed the bed of snow.

Author Unknown

December Lay Readers

7-Gail Terwilliger
14-Bill Stackhouse
21-Laura Gallimore
28-Open



December Flowers

December Ushers

Robert Parker
Calvin Rome
Santos Pena
Jack Spakes

7- In Memory of Randy Caldwell by
 Ruth Caldwell
14- In Memory of Bill Knight by
 Connie Knight
21-Open
28-In honor of Maribel Morales
 Delgado's Birthday

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?"

December 1-6

Mark 1.1-8
Psalm 131
Zephaniah 3.14-17
Isaiah 40.1-5
Isaiah 40.6-11
Luke 12.35-38

December 7-13

Psalm 72.1-7
Luke 1.18-20
Isaiah 40.27-31
Luke 1.5-20
Luke 1.21-25
Romans 8.18-25
Galatians 5.2-6

December 14-20

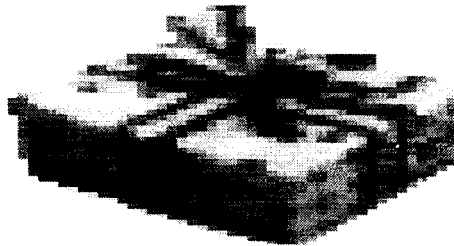
Isaiah 61.1-4
Luke 1.26-33
Job 33.29-33
1 Samuel 3.1-10
1 Samuel 3.11-18
Mark 9.2-8
John 10.1-6

December 21-27

2 Samuel 7.1-11
Luke 1.38
1 Samuel 3.1-14
1 Samuel 3.15-21
Psalm 10.12-18
Matthew 9.9-13
Acts 10.34-43

December 28-31

Isaiah 62.6-12
Luke 2.1-14
Isaiah 42.1-9
John 1.29-34



Suppose you could give a gift to Christ. What would it be? Are you the one who gives God 10% -- of what you should? What if God gave us only 10%? My thanks to you for being someone I can count on no matter what. When I tell you my dreams, you listen and I see them come true. If the only prayer you say in your whole life is "thank you", that would suffice.

Meister Eckhart

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You are one of the Lord's beloved ones, though perhaps you do not know it.

Elizabeth Prentiss

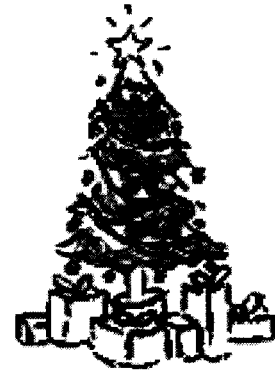
CHILDREN'S CHURCH SCHEDULE

FOR DECEMBER

14-Megan Harrison

21- Cindy Rogers

28-Melanie Jones



It is high time to stop and think. I have been like one running a race and am stopping to take a breath. I see that if I would be happy in God I must give Him all. And there is a wicked reluctance to do that. I want Him – but I want to have my own way, too. I want to walk humbly and softly before Him, and I want to go where I shall be admired and applauded. To whom shall I yield? To God? Or to myself?

“Stepping Heavenward” by Elizabeth Prentiss

THRIFT SHOP

The Thrift Shop is getting ready for Christmas, putting Christmas items out for sale, if you would like to help, call me (425-4269). We can always use volunteers! You may just like to visit and find a bargain for yourself. If you have never been in the Thrift Shop I invite you to come and see your fellow church member in ministry.

The women and men who work at the Thrift Shop are truly dedicated and provide a true ministry to the community.

Thanks!
Julie Griffin

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Dec 4 Helping Hands -Myrtle Beach Christmas Show
- Dec 11 Night Owls at Robert Browns
- Dec 13 People w/o Partners Dinner (RSVP to Mary)
- Dec 14 Birthday Party for Jesus 3PM
Program 6PM
- Dec 24 Christmas Eve Svc 7PM
- Dec 25 Christmas Worship Svc 9AM
- Dec 31 Matt's Kitchen
- Jan 11 Chilly Cook-Off
- Feb 28 Pancake Breakfast

WITNESS OPPORTUNITIES

MATT'S KITCHEN:

Our first meal was served on Wednesday Oct. 29, 2008. We served 19 non-church people and a total of 52 lunches. THANKS to everyone that participated in anyway to make this dream come true and a very special Thanks to God for allowing us to reach out to the community with this mission.

Wednesday Nov. 26 and Dec. 31 are our next two serving dates. Please extend the invitation to others for these dates and come to help work.

CARDS FOR CHURCH FOLKS:

Please take sometime to sign the cards on the bulletin board in the Education Wing. These cards are for active and non-active people in our church family. They will be mailed Thanksgiving week and then Christmas notes will replace them, so even with your busy schedule please take time to sign some of these.

THANKS:

For supporting Samaritans Purse, also remember that you can collect items for these boxes year round so that we can try to fill 100 boxes next year to top this years number.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN:

The three groups (circles) - The Night Owls meet at night, the Ruth/Ethel Smith Circle meets in the morning and the FFF meets with book club once a month and also meets to cook as needed for Matt's Kitchen and others. If you are not a member of one of these groups, please consider becoming a part of a group. They all meet to serve missions both locally and world-wide. **Adella Pray**

YOUTH NEWS

Another month has quickly come to an end, but we can say we all had a great time this past month. One of the most anticipated events in which us youth get to participate in finally came "PILGRIMAGE 2008". WOW we had an Awesome time and we can say we were a part of the second largest turnout in the history of the event. Over 6,000 youth coming from over 250 churches and from every district in the conference. The theme this year was "Pass It On". God truly blessed us by giving us the opportunity to attend and we all hope that we can bring to St. Matthews some of the love and togetherness that we were able to receive there. We would like to thank our youth leaders, and Ashley Stone for giving up their weekend so we could attend Pilgrimage. We would like to thank Ms. Dawn and Mr. Kevin for filling in on two of the days.

We have also finished up our fundraiser of selling cookbooks and want to thank everyone that supported this. We sold over \$400.00 and are planning on donating a part of it to the purchase of the church van. Also we would like to recognize Ryan Rogers as our top seller. Good Job Dude!

We are going to start having our youth meetings on the **first** and **third** Sunday from 4:00 - 6:00 starting in December. So if you are in the 6th through 12th grade you are welcome to join us. All we ask is that you bring an open heart and be willing to serve our Lord. And be able to have some fun!

As you awake every morning remember that Jesus Loves You!!!!

The Youth of St. Matthews

November Outreach Article:

Wow! Another month has flown by! Now that our bellies are full from Thanksgiving turkey, it is time to turn our hearts and minds to the holiday season of giving. The Outreach committee has been doing just that. We kicked off St. Matthew's annual angel tree ministry on Sunday, November 23. The angel tree is a tree full of paper angels that represent a needy child in our community. On each angel, there is information for that child and any requests, sizes, etc. for possible gifts. All angel tree gifts will be due back to the church no later than Sunday, December 14. Why not bless a child this Christmas and support an angel tree child while you are out doing the rest of your Christmas shopping? Just knowing how that child will feel having a nice gift to open on Christmas Day is a blessing to me! Isn't that what Christmas and Christianity is all about...giving to others without expecting anything in return. But actually, you do get something in return! You receive that warm, fuzzy feeling inside knowing that you made joy in someone else's life, and on top of that you'll receive many blessings! I hope everyone has a safe and very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

**In God's Love,
Amanda Call**



**St. Matthews UMC
2009 Budget**

NURTURE

Adult Ministries	\$100
Children's Music	\$100
Children's Ministries	\$300
Church School	\$2,500
Education	\$500
Kitchen Supplies	\$700
Miscellaneous	\$100
Worship	\$300
Copyright Fees	\$400
Flowers	\$200
Altar Flowers	\$420
Music	\$800
Young Adult Ministries	\$100
Youth Ministries	\$200
Camp Scholarships	\$500
Total	\$7,220

OUTREACH

Conference Apportionment	\$27,108
District Work Fund	\$2,210
Evangelism	\$500
VBS	\$350
Missions	\$500
	\$30,668

WITNESS

\$250

FINANCE

\$200

STAFF

Pastor	
Salary	\$44,804
Travel	\$5,367
Utilities	\$4,308
Housing	\$13,316
Insurance	\$11,016
life ins	\$225
Pension & Disability	\$10,440
Continuing Education	\$657

Annual Conference expenses (l:	\$360
Choir Director	\$6,705
Administrative Assistant	\$7,296
Janitor	\$5,959
Guest Musician	\$500
Guest Speaker	\$100
Nursery Worker	\$1,681
Total Tax - church match	\$1,644
	\$114,378

OFFICE EXPENSES

Supplies	\$1,700
Postage	\$1,400
Embarq	\$2,100
Copier	\$1,920
Total	\$7,120

TRUSTEES

Utilities	\$9,400
Trash Service	\$200
Repair fund	\$2,500
Exterminator	\$250
Janitorial Supplies	\$600
Insurance	\$3,500
Total	\$16,450

TOTAL BUDGET

\$176,036

Deviation from 2008	-\$1,313	-0.01
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DECEMBER 2008

ST. MATTHEW'S UMC

A place to Belong...

202 Hope Mills Road
Fayetteville, NC 28304

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 UMW 6:15PM	2 Prayer Ministry 6PM Worship Service 6:30PM Bible Study 7:15PM The Bible Jesus Read 7:15PM	3 Card Ministry 5PM Choir Practice 7:30PM	4 Help-N-Hands Myrtle Beach Christmas Show Leave Church at 9AM	5	6
7 Children's Choir 9:30AM Confirmation Classes 2:30PM UMYF 4-6PM Witness 5PM	8	9 Prayer Ministry 6PM Worship Service 6:30PM Bible Study 7:15PM The Bible Jesus Read 7:15PM	10 Ruth/Ethel Smith Circle 11AM Card Ministry 5PM Choir Practice 7:30PM	11 Night Owls 6PM at Roberta Browns	12	13 People w/o Partners Dinner 4PM RSVP TO Mary. Program Practice 8AM
14 Children's Choir 9:30AM Choir Practice 12:15PM UMYF 4-6PM Birthday Party for Jesus 3PM Program 5PM	15	16 Prayer Ministry 6PM Worship Service 6:30PM Bible Study 7:15PM The Bible Jesus Read 7:15PM	17 Card Ministry 5PM Choir Practice 7:30PM	18	19	20
21 UMW 8:30AM Children's Choir 12:15PM UMYF 4-6PM	22	23 Prayer Ministry 6PM Bible Study 7:15PM	24 Christmas Eve Svc 7PM	25 Christmas Wor- ship Service 9AM 	26	27
28 Children's Choir 9:30AM Choir Practice 12:15PM UMYF 4-6PM	29	30 Prayer Ministry 6PM Worship Service 6:30PM Bible Study 7:15PM The Bible Jesus Read 7:15PM	31 Matt's Kirchen 11AM Card Ministry 5PM Choir Practice 7:30PM			

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 E-mail: stmatumc@embarqmail.com
 Web address: <http://stmattncc.org>