
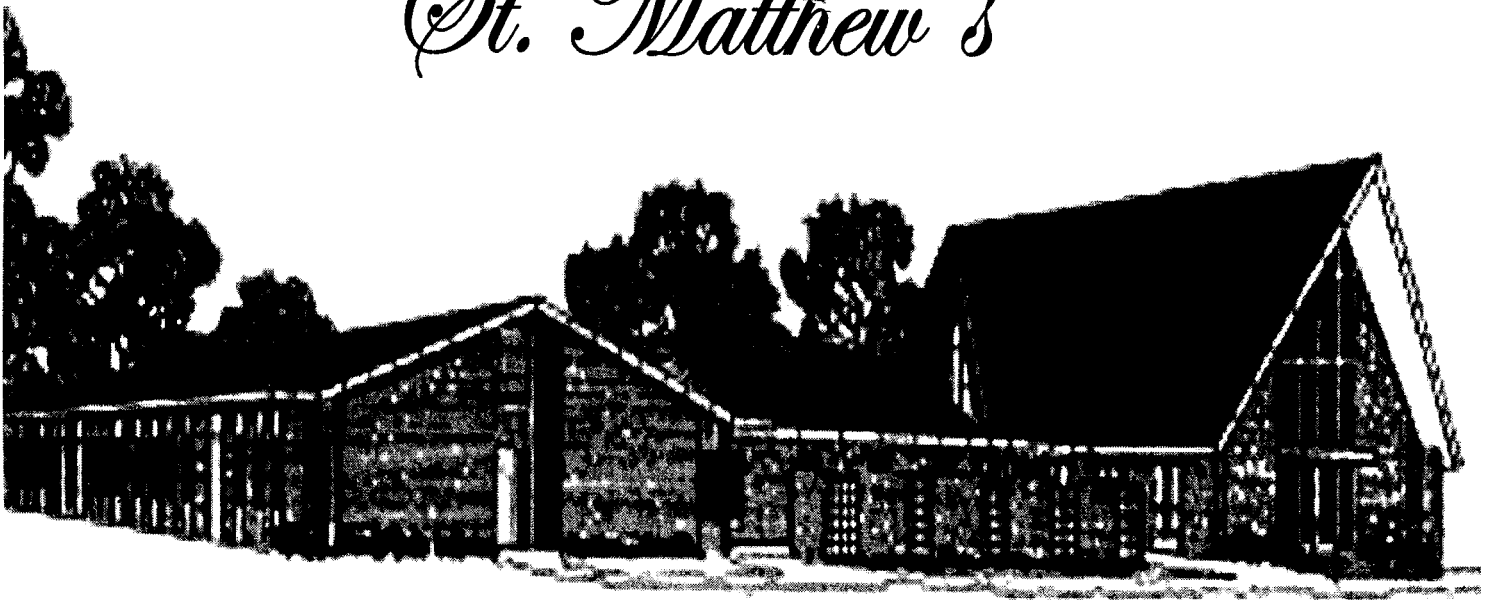


United Methodist Church
202 Hope Mills Road
Fayetteville, NC 28304
910-425-0401

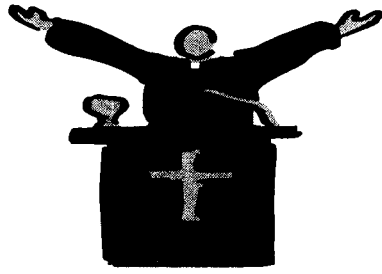
St. Matthew's



St. Matthew's



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



Whew! We made it. Christmas and all its busyness is over. Now we can catch our breath And get back to normal. Why is it that during the Christmas season, we seem to be so busy? Why is it that we find ourselves rushing around trying (and succeeding) to get everything done?

As I sit here and contemplate the New Year, it occurs to me that the Christmas season has really more to offer us and gives us more to take into the New Year than is, at first, obvious.

Here is what I mean. During the Christmas season there are people to see, appointments to keep, cards to write, notes to send, presents to buy, money to spend and money to give, prayers to pray, and love to share. We find time to care more about other people in this season more than any other – and it's the busiest season of the year. We pile all that activity up into a four or five week time - frame. And we go about our busyness with a smile on our face and lightness in our Attitude and a joy in our heart. Everybody likes Christmas.

Now here is the thought that is worth carrying into the New Year. Most of the year, we have so little time for others or serving because we are so busy—or so we believe. “Can you visit a shut-in once a month for three months?” “Oh, I’d love to, but...” “Can you help in the nursery 3 times a year?” “Well, I’d love to but let me get back to you when I have a little more time.” “Can you...?” “Well,...”

Let’s carry the Christmas season into and through the New Year. Let’s commit to wake up every morning (that’s a good commitment) with a prayer; “Good morning Father. Thank you for this day. Thank you for sending us your Son, our Savior. Help me to be in the Christmas Spirit today, so that I will have time to serve you with a smile on my face, lightness in my attitude and a joy in my heart. Amen.”

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

Marc

Happy January Birthday to You!

- 8- Maria Stackhouse
- 14- Roxie Server
Lisa Rogers
- 15- Joyce Christian
Joseph Rogers Jr.
- 18- Brad Everts
Gidget Borst
- 21- Mary Schneider
- 23- Nan Blehi
Betty Willoughby
- 24- Fred Rozier
- 25- Eva Smith
- 27- Dustin Graham
Beverly Norris
- 31- Reed Rozier
Miyah Allen



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

January Lay Readers

- 4- Amanda Call
- 11-Open
- 18-Open
- 25-Open



January Ushers

- Troy Willoughby
- Charlie Lucas
- Lloyd Miller
- Billy Leggett

January Flowers

- 4- Open
- 11- Open
- 18- Open
- 25- Dustin Graham's Birthday by the Griffins

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?"

January 1-3

John 1.29-34
Matthew 1.18-25
Romans 1.1-7

January 4-10

Jeremiah 31.7-14
James 1.2-8
Isaiah 9.1-7
Matthew 16.1-4
Acts 2.22-24
1 Kings 3.1-9
Hebrews 5.11-14

January 11-17

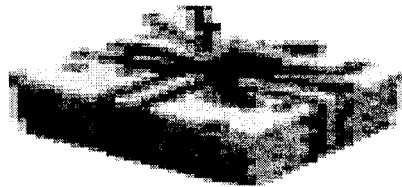
Genesis 1.1-5
Matthew 2.13-18
John 1.1-13
John 1.35-42
2 Corinthians 11.1-15
2 Corinthians 11.16-30
Matthew 10.34-39

January 18-24

1 Samuel 3.1-10
Psalm 63.1-8
Jeremiah 29.10-14; Isaiah 55.1-9
Matthew 5.1-11
John 8.12-20
Ephesians 1.15-23
Luke 19.1-10

January 25-31

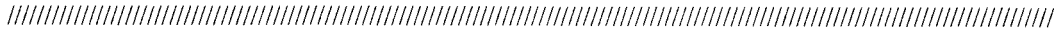
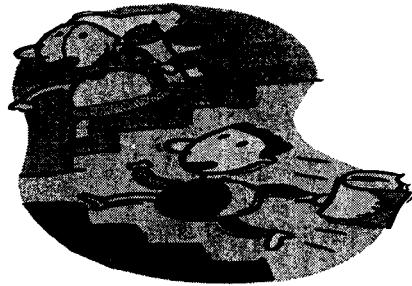
Jonah 3.1-5
Exodus 3.1-12
Jeremiah 1.1-10
1 Samuel 3.1-18
Acts 9.1-9
Acts 9.10-19



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

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



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?

UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan 11 Chilly Cook-off

Jan 28 Matt’s Kitchen

Feb 28 Pancake Breakfast

RUTH/ETHEL SMITH CIRCLE

We are coming to another year ending. We had good attendants and support from events and our mission. Can’t thank you enough and could not have done it without all of you!

Our next meeting is scheduled for 14 January 2009.

Wishing you a wonderful Holiday and a year of good health and much happiness in 2009.

Lola Smith

.....
OUR SPECIAL THANKS

During this past joyous Christmas Season once again we were reminded that is the love of God and love in the hearts of people, in caring for each other, which makes the season so special.

“God Bless” each one who reached out to us in love and for all the many ways you extended such love.

Our spirits were lifted and our hearts were filled with love and thanksgiving to God.

**Because He Lives,
Edger & Pegi Lineberger**

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.

THANKS:

For refreshments that were provided for Hanging of the Greens and the Church wide Christmas play, also **THANKS** for preparing dinner for the families of Andy Hewitt and Rebecca Causey. Once again you have come through with shining colors in your support for church families in their time of need.

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!!!!

DECEMBER OUTREACH

Happy New Year's to all!! I hope you and your family had a great Christmas season and a safe New Year's! The Outreach Committee took a break from meeting in the month of December, but we were still busy at work. The annual Angel Tree was a big success as always! I would like to thank everyone in the congregation who participated in purchasing gifts for these children. Also, I would like to thank Julie and Lynwood Griffin for all their hard work in getting this outreach project set up and delivering the gifts to the appropriate place. I was filled with joy when I saw all the presents under the tree on the 14th and thought about how these children will feel on Christmas morning when they receive your gift. Doesn't giving feel good?! Along with the Angel Tree the Outreach committee was busy getting the word out to the community. Calvin and I were busy communicating with the Fayetteville Observer and the Sandspur in placing all of our holiday events in the newspapers. Also, Bill Stackhouse did a great job posting all of our holiday events on our church marquee. Thanks guys and thank you to everyone who spread the word or invited people to our holiday events. Hopefully we reached at least one person with the gift of knowledge of the birth and love of our Lord.

As we move into the New Year, let us think about how St. Matthew's will reach out to the non-Christians and bring them to the house of God this year. St. Matthew's will be divine in 2009! Happy New Year!!!

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



WORSHIP COMMITTEE

November and December was a busy time for the Worship Committee and we would like to say THANK YOU to all of you for your support and help through it all. Starting with the can food drive, your donations and response was wonderful, the Thanksgiving Eve Service; we had a turn out of around 45, the Hanging of the Greens Service; we had around 30 and we would like to give a special THANK YOU to Heather Shackelford and Marc Werner for presenting it to us, and with your help we were able to continue to decorate the sanctuary with the order of 40 poinsettias. And a large THANK YOU to everybody that took part in the "Christmas Program" and making it an evening of fun and laughter. We had a wonderful and peaceful Christmas Eve Service followed by a Christmas Day Service to celebrate Jesus' birthday.

The new year is starting and I know we all have very busy lives, but we want to put this out there for you to think about. If you were not apart of any of the above activities try to find a way to become more involved in the church. You may not think it will make a difference in your life but we encourage you to try it and feel the wonderful, blessed, and complete feeling you will receive and carry it through out the new year.

Happy New Year and God Bless You!

Pam & Berry Gallimore

UNITED METHODIST MEN

The UMM Met on 21 December 2008 @ 0830hrs in the fellowship hall. There were 26 Men present for the meeting. Calvin gave the program topic of the month which was: "WE DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER" JOB 13: 15-21, thanks Calvin for the great words "to Live by".

Since Our President and his wife were on a trip, the vice-president, Charles Lucas opened the meeting after a great breakfast prepared by the Everts' family, thanks Wayne, Elaine, Brad and Amy-Jo. (You all can fly home and make breakfast every month if it will be that delicious and filling, ha ha, but for real, it was great seeing you all and having you at "home" for the holidays. It also was great having Peter Rome "home" for the holidays. The treasurer, Troy Willoughby gave the treasurers' report, which was approved. UMM Membership fees (\$45.00) were collected, if you have not paid Troy for your yearly dues, please do so by Jan. 1 09, or you will have to mail them in yourself.

The UMM roster was passed around for corrections, please notify Bill if there are any changes to be made to this informative roster. The NEW roster will be posted on the UMM Board soon. If you wish to request any food boxes from the Angel Food Ministry, please contact Mary or Lynwood Griffin prior to Jan 9,09 as this is the deadline. This is a very good way of saying thanks to someone or a group of folks just for doing a good job, cheap prices, great food and plenty. Our next meeting will be 18 January 2009, 0830 hrs, same place.

Thanks guys for being ushers, we all appreciate the job you do and for showing up early to ensure our worship service runs so smoothly. The 2009 Usher Roster will be posted on the UMM Board soon.

Communion Members for January 2009: Santos and Hilda Pena, Charles Lucas, Bill and Maria Stackhouse, Troy Willoughby, and alternate; Calvin Rome.

Thanks for volunteering for this great ministry, the feedback has been excellent. If you wish to help out with this wonderful ministry, please contact Calvin or the church office. This is a great way of sharing Gods' Love and visiting our shut-ins as well. Thanks again.

Calvin and his family has volunteered to make breakfast (again) next month. Here is another opportunity to share in a wonderful ministry, we will gladly assist anyone who would like to make breakfast for us guys. Please check out the UMM Board located across from the secretary's office for NEW news and upcoming events.

Pastor Marc closed the meeting with prayer and wished everyone a wonderful holiday season. FROM THE UMM FAMILY. WE WISH EVERYONE A GREAT, SAFE HOLIDAY SEASON AND A VERY HAPPY, HEALTHY NEW YEAR. AS PASTOR MARC would say; KNOW GODS' LOVE AND THE JOY OF SHARING GODS' LOVE WITH OTHERS.

**Joyfully submitted by William "Bill" Stackhouse
UMM Secretary**

**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



North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church
RALEIGH AREA

Alfred Wesley Gwinn, Jr., Resident Bishop

1307 Glenwood Avenue; P.O. Box 10955

Raleigh, North Carolina 27605

1-800-849-4433 or 919-832-9560 • FAX 919-834-7989

December 9, 2008

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Grace and Peace to you from our Lord Jesus Christ! I trust you are rejoicing in this blessed season of expectancy.

The news that the National Bureau of Economic Research announced on Monday that the United States has been in an economic recession for about a year comes as no surprise to us. We have seen and felt the pain that the current economic conditions have had on every aspect of our lives. The only reassurance in which we can genuinely trust is found in the same words we turn to for reassurance throughout all other times in our lives, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear." (Ps. 46:1-2) It is in times of great stress and uncertainty that we need to center our thoughts around the One that is in charge and the One who has all things under control.

However difficult, we must remind ourselves of the covenant we have with God, our Provider; and, the trust he has placed in us to be faithful in all times. Remember, hope is the spirit that binds us together as people of faith – hope in a faithful God and a commitment to instill that same hope in others. Our North Carolina Annual Conference maintains an optimistic outlook throughout these trying economic times and will monitor closely any condition that will need our special attention as we move forward in the vision of this conference. We maintain a firm conviction that our churches will rise up in faithfulness to the work God has laid out for us to do.

We are thankful for the response we are receiving on apportioned giving from all churches! And, we continue to encourage faithful commitments to these first mile givings. In a world facing these economic challenges, there are tremendous opportunities for ministry as we reach out to those around us who are searching for meaning in their struggles. Our connectional giving allows our denomination to continue to reach out to those searching and to show them The Way to real peace!

As we live into this Advent season, may we all take time to remember how truly blessed we are as people of faith – and share freely out of His generosity! May we pray incessantly for those searching for that hope and comfort that is so desperately needed in their lives. Finally, know that you are in our prayers as you lead your people to "look up" in this wonderful season of expectancy! May hope, love, joy and peace light the way for us!

Faithfully,

Al Gwinn

P.S "Indeed, you will receive a full measure, a generous helping, poured into your hands, All that you can hold. The measure you use for others is the one that God will use for you." (Luke 6:38)

Cleaning House

Last week I threw out **WORRYING**, it was old and in the way.
It kept me from being me; I couldn't do things **God's Way**.

I threw out a book on **MY PAST**, I didn't have time to read it anyway.
Replaced it with **NEW GOALS**, started reading it today.

I threw out hate and bad memories, remember how I treasured them so?
Got me a **NEW PHILOSOPHY** too, threw out the one from long ago.

Brought in some new books too, called **I CAN, I WILL, AND I MUST**.
Threw out I might, I think, and I ought. **WOW** you should've seen the dust.

I ran across and **OLD FRIEND**, haven't seen him in a while.
I believe his name is **GOD**, yes I really like His Style.

He helped me to do some cleaning and add something's himself!
Like **PRAYER, HOPE, and FAITH**, yes I placed them right on the shelf.

I picked up this special thing and placed it at the front door,
I found it, it's called **PEACE, NO THING** gets me down anymore.

YES, I've got my house looking nice
Looks good around the place
For things like **WORRY and TROUBLE**, there just isn't any space.

Its good to do a little house cleaning, get rid of the things on the shelf.
It sure makes things brighter; maybe you should **TRY IT YOURSELF!**
BE BLESSED AND BE A BLESSING TO SOMEONE ELSE!!!

May the Lord open the windows of Heaven and pour you out a blessing that you will
not have enough room to receive it all. Malachi 3:10




JANUARY 2009

ST. MATTHEW'S UMC

A place to Belong...

202 Hope Mills Road
Fayetteville, NC 28304

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Happy New Year 	2	3
4 Children's Choir 9:30AM UMYF 4-6PM Witness 5PM	5 UMW 6:15PM	6 Prayer Ministry 6PM Worship Service 6:30PM Bible Study 7:15PM The Bible Jesus Read 7:15PM	7 Card Ministry 5PM Choir Practice 7:30PM PPRC 6:30PM	8 Night Owls 7PM	9	10
11 Children's Choir 9:30AM Choir Practice 12:15PM	12 Outreach 6:30PM	13 Prayer Ministry 6PM Worship Service 6:30PM Bible Study 7:15PM	14 Ruth/Ethel Smith Circle 11AM Card Ministry 5PM Choir Practice 7:30PM	15	16	17
18UMM 8:30AM Children's Choir 12:15PM UMYF 4-6PM	19 Finance 6PM Nurture 7PM	20 Prayer Ministry 6PM Worship Service 6:30PM Bible Study 7:15PM	21 Card Ministry 5PM Choir Practice 7:30PM	22 Help-N-Hands 11AM	23	24 FFF 8:30AM
25 Children's Choir 9:30AM Choir Practice 12:15PM	26 Council	27Prayer Ministry 6PM Worship Service 6:30PM Bible Study 7:15PM	28 Matt's Kitchen 11AM Card Ministry 5PM Choir Practice 7:30PM	29	30	31

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