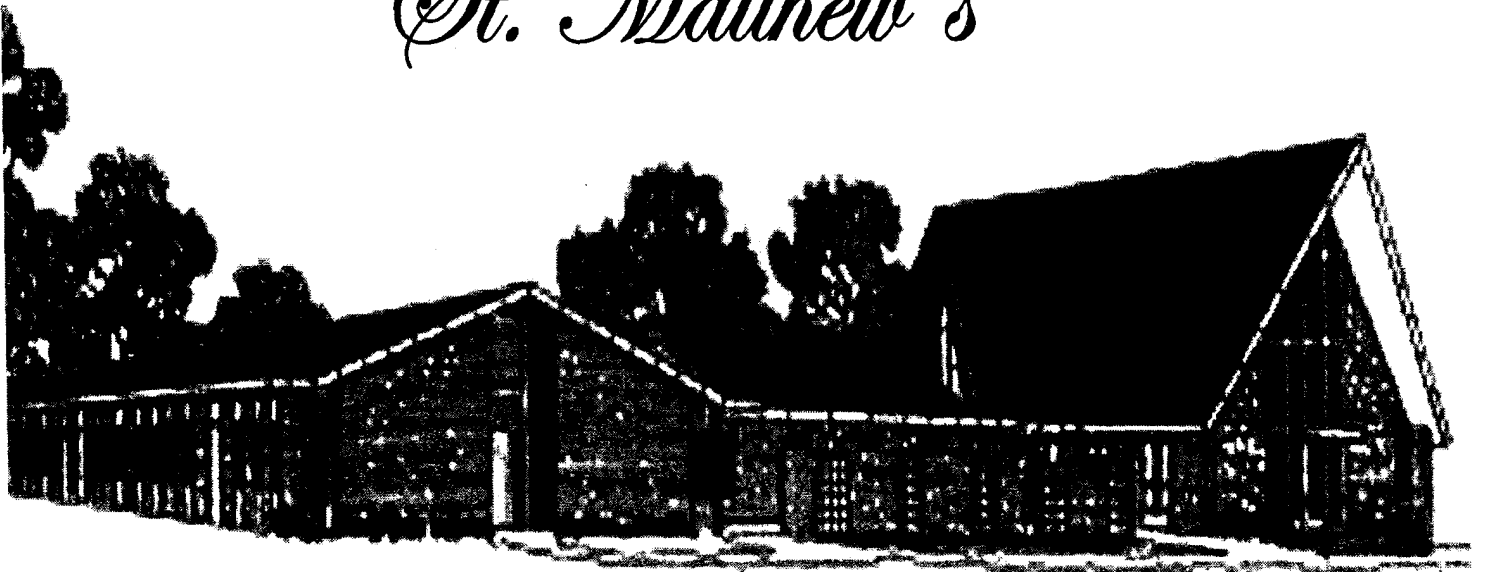


United Methodist Church  
202 Hope Mills Road  
Fayetteville, NC 28304  
910-425-0401

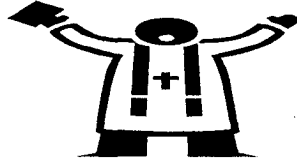
*St. Matthew's*



*St. Matthew's*



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



## THE MEANING OF LENT

Here we are again, at the season of Lent. What will I give up this year? I wonder if I'll have time to make it to some of those Lenten devotionals. It's time to start thinking about a new Easter outfit.

If those, or similar considerations of this glorious Christian season, are how you find yourself thinking about Lent, please keep reading. It may be time for a rebirth, revival, reawakening yes, a resurrection of your understanding of and appreciation for this important time in your Christian life. Lent is not a new, 20<sup>th</sup> century, Hallmark invention. But the 20<sup>th</sup> century hurry and scurry may have caused us to lose sight of what Lent can be for us. I want to explore with you the structure of Lent, and what we can do to enrich our spiritual lives in this season and throughout the year.

Lent is a 40-day period beginning with Ash Wednesday and ending with Holy Saturday, the day before Easter Sunday. Throughout Christian history, the number 40 keeps coming up. Noah knew what 40 meant – rain! Moses and Elijah dwelt at Horeb for 40 days. Jesus endured temptation in the wilderness for 40 days and was revealed to the disciples after the resurrection, for the same period. The Israelites wandered in the wilderness for 40 years. Forty days was the time deemed sufficient for converts to make their final preparation for baptism. A time for devotion and discipline. Christians have intentionally set aside this season for examination, instruction, penitence and prayer. A season of preparation for all the people of God.

Let's look at Lent as the beginning of a process of prayer and spiritual renewal. The beginning of a process that will last all through the year, from beginning to end, for the whole time, in everything we do. It's not only for those being baptized, but also for those active in the life of the church but have the need for reassessment and renewal, and of course also for those 'backsliders'. Typically, our Lenten discipline is demonstrated in either giving something up, or adding something to our usual life experience. And typically, these demonstrations end at Easter. Why? I would challenge each of us to begin a new and lasting process for this Lenten season. Let's take on a discipline of self-examination that seeks greater conformity to the mind of Christ, and more effective ministry on behalf of the world. What a difference we can make. What possibilities await us if we use this season for preparation, penitence and discipline to pray for spiritual renewal and growth? With that beginning, might it not be a natural continuation to live more Christ like lives throughout the rest of the year? Take this time to confront who you are by nature, who you are by God's purpose and redeeming action, and what you can become by divine grace.

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

*Marc*

## HAPPY FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

2-Linda Webb  
Sue Rutledge  
4-Mark Webb  
5-Cathy Edwards  
7-Lucille Cook  
8-Donna Werner  
10-Leigh Sibbett  
11-Patty Poche'  
12-Catherine Morgan  
Chris Watkins  
13-J.A. Sessoms  
14-Connie Knight  
20-Bob Probst  
Marty Webb  
Calvin Rome  
24-Glenn Griffith  
27-Raymond Gray



## FEBRUARY LAY READERS

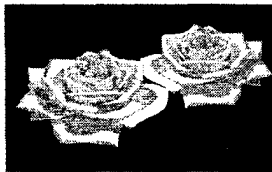
1-Gail Terwilliger  
8-Open  
15-Open  
22-Bill Stackhouse

## FEBRUARY USHERS

Bob Lambert  
James DeBruhl  
Kenneth Merritt  
Frank Bagley

## FEBRUARY FLOWERS

1-Donna Werner's Birthday  
by Marc Werner  
8-Leigh Sibbett's Birthday  
by Julie & Lynwood Griffin  
15-Hilda and Santos Pena's 55th Wed-  
ding Anniversary by Santos Pena  
22-Phillip Powell Jr's Birthday by  
Vickie Powell



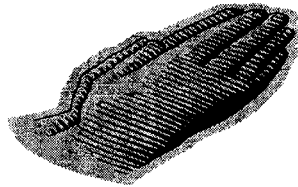
## HOW TO KEEP WARM IN CHURCH

1. Rush to the front of the sanctuary. That will warm you up and you'll avoid the draft in the back of the church.
2. Invite your neighbors and friends, and sit 12 people to a pew.
3. Seat yourself near the pulpit. Much hot air is emitted from that area.
4. Wear thermal underwear (in the appropriate liturgical colors, of course).
5. Wait for an unfamiliar hymn - and then watch the sparks fly!

## 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?"

---



### February 1-7

Deuteronomy 18.15-20  
Jeremiah 6.1-16  
Matthew 1.25-30  
Psalm 116.1-7  
Isaiah 40.27-31  
Mark 6.30-42  
Hebrews 4.1-11

### February 15-21

2 Kings 5.1-14  
Mark 14.32-42  
Ezekiel 37.1-6  
Psalm 69.1-3  
Mark 15.25-32  
Matthew 28.1-10  
James 1.12-18

### February 8-14

Isaiah 58.1-12  
Luke 3.21-22  
2 Peter 1.16-21  
Psalm 18.1-6  
Psalm 18.17-19  
1 John 3.1-3  
Psalm 127.1-2

### February 22-28

Isaiah 43.18-25  
Matthew 4.1-11  
James 4.1-10  
Psalm 91.1-16  
Luke 22.24-30  
1 Corinthians 10.1-13  
Hebrews 4.14-16

////////////////////////////////////  
"In the faces of men and women I see God" //

By Walt Whitman (1819-92)

## THE BATTLE

As we all regret the holiday eating and  
the results this fits us all

**Eva Smith**

I love carbs, but they don't like me;  
Look at my thighs, so all can see—  
A curse that comes from too much pie,  
Snack cakes, sweet tea, ham or rye.

Go to gym four times per week,  
Dance class twice, stay with beat,  
Bend knees, side step, back once more,  
Hang tough, fall down, hit the floor.

Jump rope, bike hard, swim ten laps,  
Push up, pull back, walk real fast.  
Lean, mean shape and abs of steel,  
Less food in, needs good strong will.

Now, for you, this take is done;  
Look out, bake shop, here we come!

-Pam Capps, Celebration, Fla.

## RUTH/ETHEL SMITH CIRCLE

Circle met Wednesday, January 14,  
2009. Fifteen were in attendance, wel-  
comed everyone and recognized those un-  
able to attend.

Margaret Clyde read Power of Your  
Words by E. W Ceyland—Lou Gossit

Our mission for February; turbans for  
Cancer Center and discussed events for  
UMW. Five members attended workshop at  
Cotton UMC this past Saturday; was very  
helpful and informative. Please try to attend  
some that are coming-up.

We sang "Happy Birthday" and ad-  
journed the meeting with prayer and lunch.

See you soon!

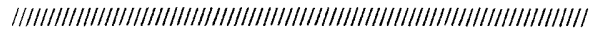
**Chairperson,  
Lola Smith**

.....  
"Don't worry about avoiding temptation.....As you grow older, it will avoid you."

Winston S. Churchill  
.....

## CHILDRENS CHURCH SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY

8-Megan Harrison  
15-Cindy Rogers  
22-Melanie Joes



Heaven knows no difference between Sun-  
day morning and Wednesday afternoon. God  
longs to speak clearly in the workplace as he  
does in the sanctuary. He longs to be wor-  
shipped when we sit at the dinner table and not  
just when we come to his communion table.

You may go days without thinking of him,  
but there's never a moment when he's not  
thinking of you.

(From "the Great House of God",  
by Max Lucado)

## DID YOU KNOW

After a sit-down with Mr. Zielinski, which was very comfortable and informative the outreach committee has the following information to talk about. Mr. Zielinski was born in Braddock, Pa., on Nov 11th 1928, so yes, Hank just turned "80", congratulations on this feat alone. Hank was happily married to Betty for 54 years, he met Betty while she was attending nursing school in his hometown of Braddock, PA., (named after Army General Braddock). Betty was from Fayetteville, NC. Hank has been attending St. Matthews since its original date in 1956 (He hopes the Thrift Shop stands forever) and is one of the three living chartered members (Adella Pray and Grover Green, being the other two) still in attendance.

Hank has three children whom he is very proud of, two boys and one girl, he also is the proud grandfather of one boy and two girls. Hank has worked in the mechanic field all his life and retired from the United States Postal Service in 1986 after twenty five years of service as an accident investigator supervisor. Hank loves his coffee and orange juice and loved bowling until his health would no longer allow (his average was 162).

Hank would like all of us to know that he treats people as he would like to be treated and has never met a stranger. He loves the Lord and life in general. So if you never took the time to chat with Mr. Zielinski (or not in awhile), take a few minutes of your time, you will be entertained and informed. Hank is a great guy and still has the "handshake" of a 20 year old. (ouch Hank, my hand is still numb). Thanks Mr. Zielinski for all you do and have done to make our church and community a great place. God Loves You. **The Outreach Committee**

## OUTREACH COMMITTEE MEETING

Hello to all! 2009 has come in and one month has already flown by! Where does the time go? The Outreach committee met in January and discussed how we can make St. Matthew's more appealing. We are teaming up with the Witness Committee on being more consistent with follow-up with visitors to our Sunday morning worship services. You will see a change in how we "pass the pew pads". There will be a time set aside during the service that the ushers will pass out the pew pads, so that all who are present are more aware to fill-out the pew pads. Please be sure to greet any visitors who may be sitting by you and make sure they put some contact information down. The Outreach and Witness committees will be responsible for getting the visitors' information and following-up with them with a phone call and a visit to their house. Calvin shared with our group what impressed him the most about St. Matthew's, when he was a first time visitor. He was impressed that the preacher was at his doorstep visiting that Sunday afternoon, before he and his family had eaten lunch. It's those little acts of kindness and Christian love that attract people to our church. I have heard several people say they picked St. Matthew's because the people were friendly and inviting.

It was also brought to the Outreach committee's attention that the St. Matthew's webpage is not very appealing and looks outdated. The Outreach committee has decided to "Overhaul" the St. Matthew's webpage! We would like to put specific links and information for all the groups that are involved in St. Matthew's. We would also like to put pictures of activities that are going on in our church. We will also have an updated calendar of events on our page, and we are even exploring a new webpage layout. A big thanks to Calvin Rome for offering to continue to update our webpage and accepting to "overhaul" it. If you have any suggestions, ideas, or information from your group to place on the website, please e-mail Calvin at [romecb@earthlink.net](mailto:romecb@earthlink.net). A more appealing website may help us reach out to the community and bring in ones who are looking for a church to call home. Isn't that how you feel about our church, it is a second home with a second family—our St. Matthew's family! I hope everyone has a great February! God Bless each and every one of you! **Amanda Call**

## THE UNITED METHODIST MEN

**The UMM of St. Matthews** met on 18 January 2009 at 0830 hrs in the fellowship hall. There were 28 men present. After our president Dave Norris opened the meeting, everyone thanked Calvin, Christy and Christopher for a great, delicious breakfast. Next month Bill S. and the boys will cook breakfast. (Rome family you are a hard act to follow)

Dave welcomed our visitors and turned the meeting over to Calvin for the devotion: Different Views from Different Pews, Ephesians 4:22-32, thanks Calvin for the great words of direction.

Our treasurer, Troy Willoughby gave the financial report and the income and expenditures were approved. Bill S. read the minutes from last month and we went right into old business. The only old business was the purchase of the blinds for the church, thanks Doug and everyone else involved for taking care of this, we appreciate it.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Bob Lambert made a motion to adopt a practice of a UMM Team to visit church members and/or family when a death occurs. Bill Stackhouse seconded the motion, after discussion, the motion passed. What this ministry will consist of is a 2 to 3 man team to pay "respects" to members of our church in the event a death occurs. Contact will be made thru the family and appropriate measures will be taken to ensure flowers, plaques, etc.. will be presented from the UMM. More information is available from Dave Norris.

A motion was made by Bob Lambert to host the UMM annual "SWEETHEART BANQUET" on Feb 14th 2009. Charles Lucas seconded the motion, after discussion, the motion passed. The POC for this event is Dave Norris, time and more information is available from Dave. The youth have already volunteered to help usher/help with this event (Thanks Doug and Youth).

Pastor Marc spoke about the new way to help recognize and appreciate new/visiting members by having the ushers pass out the pew pads and the outreach committee will assist in identifying these visitors. If more information is needed, please see the head Usher for the month (Bob Lambert).

Lynwood spoke of the Angel Food Ministry and how this is growing each month. The cut-off date for February is 15 Feb 09, if you wish to purchase a box for yourself or a friend, please see Lynwood or contact the church office. This is a great way to save money and enjoy great food. Pick up date is 21 Feb 09.

By the time this newsletter comes out, Matt's Kitchen will be done for January, this ministry is a great way to help support the church and get a free meal. Matt's Kitchen is usually held the last Wednesday of the month at 1100 am. in the fellowship hall, for more information, please contact the FFF committee. Come, we need your support.

**Feb. Ushers:** \*Bob Lambert (head usher)  
James DeBruhl  
Kenneth Merritt  
Frank Bagley

**Feb. Communion Teams:** Dave Norris & Scotty Clyde;  
Lloyd Miller & Calvin Rome; Bob Lambert & Charles Lucas  
**Alt: Bill Stackhouse**

If you would like to be a part of this great communion ministry, please contact Calvin Rome or the church office. The feedback has been outstanding and everyone that is involved seems to enjoy this ministry. If you have never been a part of this, we would gladly have an experienced member go along with you and "show you the ropes", we know you can do it and would enjoy helping our shut-ins. Thank you in advance to everyone that participates in communion ministry.

Until next month, everyone have a great time at the SWEETHEART BANQUET and know GOD LOVES YOU.

Please check out the UMM Bulletin Board for news and information concerning the UMM, and remember if you have not paid your dues for 2009, they are DUE, the address is on the bulletin board or see Bill if you need further information, Dues this year are \$45.00.

Our next meeting will be Feb 15th 2009, 0830 hrs, hope to see ALL the men of the church. It was great seeing everyone old and new at this meeting. Remember, even if it has been awhile since you have attended or are new, we would love to have you join us and share in making St. Matthews UMM the best it can be, we cannot do it alone or without you. "UNITY MAKES STRENGTH"

Respectfully submitted by Bill Stackhouse, UMM Secretary




ST. MATTHEW'S UMC

A place to Belong...

202 Hope Mills Road  
Fayetteville, NC 28304

# FEBRUARY 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Children's Choir 9:30AM Witness 5PM UMYF 3-5PM	2 UMW 6:15PM	3 Prayer Ministry 6PM Worship Service 6:30PM Bible Study 7:15PM	4 Card Ministry 5PM Choir Practice 7:30PM	5 4 Card Ministry 5PM Choir Practice 7:30PM	6 4 Card Ministry 5PM Choir Practice 7:30PM	7 14 HAPPY VALEN- TINE'S DAY 
8 Children's Choir 9:30AM Choir Practice 12:15PM		10 Prayer Ministry 6PM Worship Service 6:30PM Bible Study 7:15PM	11 Ruth/Ethel Smith Circle 11AM Card Ministry 5PM Choir Practice 7:30PM	12 Night Owls 7PM	13 12 Night Owls 7PM	14 District Lay Speaker Tng at St. Matthews
15 UMM 8:30AM Children's Choir 12:15PM UMYF 3-5PM	16 Finance 6PM Nurture 5:30PM	17 Prayer Ministry 6PM Worship Service 6:30PM Bible Study 7:15PM	18 Card Ministry 5PM Choir Practice 7:30PM	19 18 Card Ministry 5PM Choir Practice 7:30PM	20 18 Card Ministry 5PM Choir Practice 7:30PM	21 District Lay Speaker Tng at St. Matthews
22 Children's Choir 9:30AM Choir Practice 12:15PM	23 Council 6PM	24 Prayer Ministry 6PM Worship Service 6:30PM Bible Study 7:15PM	25 Matt's Kitchen 11AM Card Ministry 5PM Ash Wed Service 7PM Choir Practice 7:30PM	26 Help-N-Hands 11AM	27 26 Help-N-Hands 11AM	28 FTT 8:30AM Pancake Breakfast 7-9-AM

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