
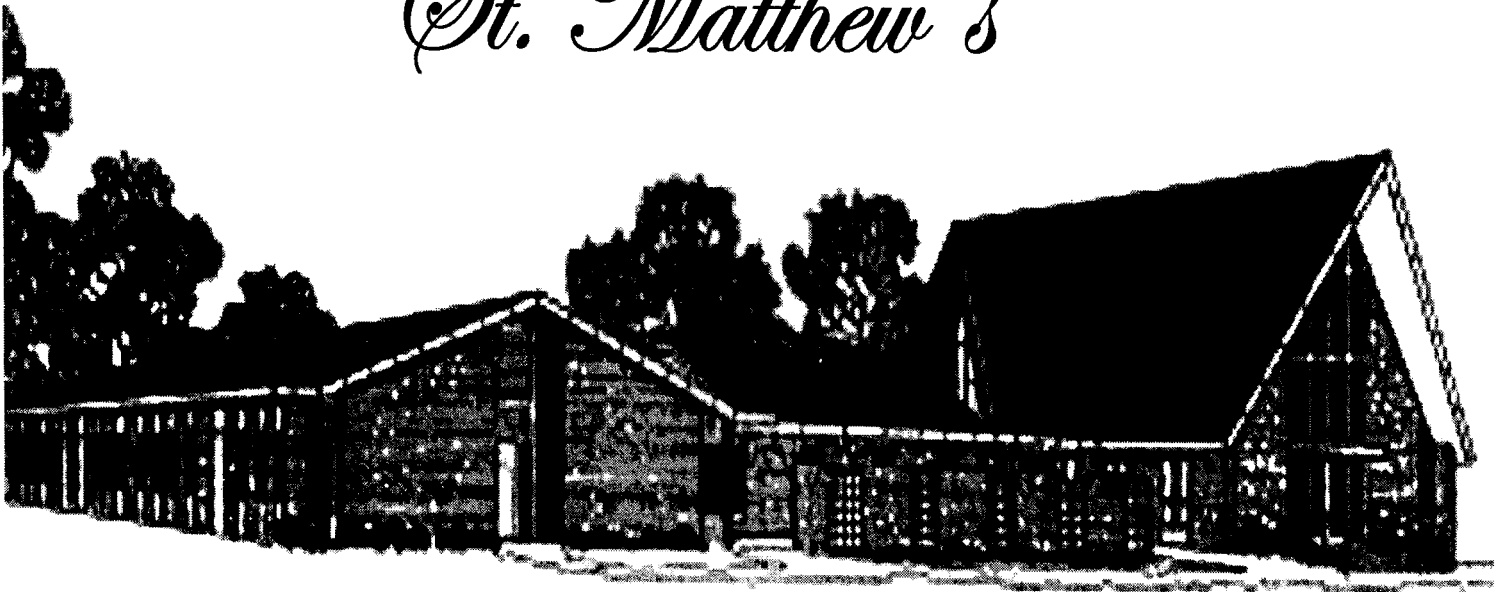
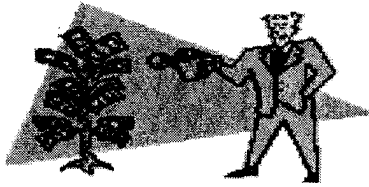


St. Matthew's 
United Methodist Church
202 Hope Mills Road
Fayetteville, NC 28304
910-425-0401

St. Matthew's



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



We are about one week into Lent. That means that spring is not far off. As we shrug off the cold, gray of winter and get ready to experience the warmth and newness of spring, I hope we can use this time of Lent to prepare for the coming of new life.

During these 40 days of Lent, we can 1) take time to probe and consider our human condition, including sin and its deadly consequences for both individuals and society, and 2) we can make time for an equally intense consideration of the new possibilities offered to us in Jesus Christ. Start the season out fully aware of our disobedience. Perhaps, the older we get, I think we sin more often in the acts of “omission” than by those acts of “commission”. There is so much more that we could do to share God’s love with others; but we are too busy, too tired, too unimaginative -- too separated from our Savior to reach out and serve Him.

We have to recognize that sin and confront it if we are to be able to take time to consider new possibilities offered to us, yeah, divinely appointed for us, to experience our salvation and through the joy it brings, be able to be obedient to our Lord.

Enter this Lenten season repentant, expecting the celebration of the Passion and Resurrection. Christ died for us while we were yet sinners. That proves God’s love for us. We have hope. We are called to bring hope to others.

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

Marc

MARCH HIGHLIGHTS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU

- 1-Charles Lucas
- 13-Ginger Sessoms
- 14-Rev. Marc Werner
- 17-Robin Bodnar
- 19-Francisca Lashley
- 24-Harold Taylor
Wayne Hager
Crystal Kornegay
- 25-Carol Lytle
- 26-Sherrie Leggett
- 29-Carolyn Davis
- 31-Brandi Makarov



LAY READERS

- 1- Reena Stone
- 8- Ruby Lucas
- 15-Jacob Gallimore
- 22-Open
- 29-Old Fashioned

FLOWERS



USHERS

- Dave Norris
- Cliff Morgan
- Lee Mayle
- Bill Stackhouse
- Raymond Gray

1-In honor of Carolyn L. Davis by
Vickie Powell

8-In honor of Skeeter & Robert
Parker's Anniversary

15- Open

22- Open

29- In memory of Mrs. Rhoda Wil-
son and in honor of Jesse & Jayden
Caldwell's birthday by Ruth Cald-
well.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH SCHEDULE

- 8—Sandy Jones
- 15-Cheryle Cone
- 22-Jennifer Choate

.....

When Jesus Christ is the source of joy,
there are no words that can describe it. If the
heart has been attuned to God through faith

PRIMARY CHARACTERISTICS OF HEALTHY CONGREGATIONS

A healthy church in the North Carolina Conference is centered in Christ and shows evidence of making disciples of Jesus Christ, practicing focused spiritual formation, and engaging in risk-taking mission and ministry to the world.

CENTERED IN CHRIST

Healthy churches and its members are founded on the person, work, and example of Jesus Christ

FOCUSED SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Focused spiritual formation includes passionate worship, the development and support of lay leadership and stewardship of money, resources, and time.

MAKING DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST

Making disciples of Jesus Christ includes the practices of naming and communicating the vision of the local church, and radical hospitality.

RISK TAKING MISSION & MINISTRY TO THE WORLD

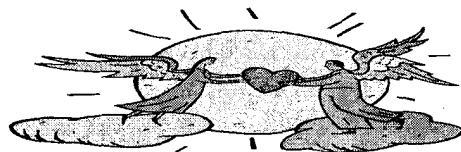
Risk-taking mission and ministry include interpreting and leading change and ability to grow through conflict.

.....

DO YOU KNOW!

What Sin is? Sin comes about because of its middle letter "I" it's the seeking our own will instead of **the will of God**

What Prayer is? Prayer is getting into a relationship with God. Prayer is about getting to know him, worshipping him, trusting him, and thanking 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?"

March 1-7

Genesis .15-17, 3.1-7
Luke 22.24-30
Isaiah 41.8-10
Luke 16.10-13
Matthew 12.15-21
1 Corinthians 4.1-5
John 15.12-16

March 8-14

Genesis 12.1-4; Psalm 121
Matthew 16.24-28
Acts 14.21-23
2 Timothy 2.8-13
Romans 6.5-11
1 Thessalonians 3.1-13
Luke 14.25-33

March 15-21

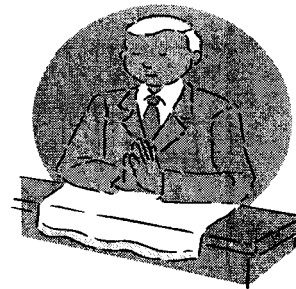
Exodus 20.1-17; Psalm 19
Matthew 5.13-16
2 Corinthians 4.16-18
2 Corinthians 5.1-10
Matthew 15.10-20
Philippians 3.1-11
John 16.25-33

March 22-28

Numbers 21.4-9; Psalm
107.1-3
James 1.12-16
Ezekiel 34.1-6
Galatians 5.8-20
1 Corinthians 11.17-22
Mark 6.1-6
3 John 2-12

March 29-31

Jeremiah 31.31-34; Psalm
51.1-12
John 1.1-5
Hebrews 11.1-3



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.

.....Heaven knows no difference between Sunday morning and Wednesday afternoon. God longs to speak clearly in the workplace as he does in the sanctuary. He longs to be worshiped 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).....

THE UNITED METHODIST MEN

The UMM of St. Matthews met on 15 February 2009 @ 0830 hrs in the fellowship hall. There were 23 men present. After our president Dave Norris opened the meeting, everyone thanked Bill and Demitries for a great, delicious breakfast. Next month Dave N., J.A. Sessoms, and Jimmy S. Gentleman, this is another great opportunity to share in Gods' love and show UMM support, you do not have to cook breakfast alone, someone (breakfast veteran) will gladly cook with you. Thanks guys, for always cooking a great, delicious and plentiful breakfast for our meeting.

Dave welcomed our visitors and thanked everyone for all their help doing the UMM Sweetheart Banquet, everyone had a good time, we had fellowship and delicious food, (A special thanks to the Lucas' for all their time in preparing the food) (Wow, 40 lbs of potatoes) Calvin gave the devotion: Unsinkable Man, Ephesians 2:1-10, thanks Calvin for the great words of guidance and for giving your time to prepare and share Gods' word with us.

Our treasurer, Troy Willoughby gave the financial report and the income and expenditures were approved. Bill S. read the minutes from last month.

OLD BUSINESS:

- 1) Thanks went out to Doug and everyone else involved for taking care of purchasing and installing the new blinds throughout the church, thanks guys, we appreciate it.
- 2) It seems like the new idea of having the pew pads passed out and collected by the outreach/witness committee is working. Thanks everyone for making this idea become a quick reality, now new visitors are being contacted in a timely manner. Anyone can assist in this ministry. please see Amanda Call to help out. Any and all help is appreciated.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1) The third Saturday in March (Mar 21st) has been set aside as UMM Bowl-a-Thon Day (The time has yet to be determined) We are asking that folks sign up for this event (a roster is on the UMM Bulletin Board) in advance, so we can arrange to reserve the bowling lanes/alley. Here is how it will work: If you wish to bowl, please sign up on the "WISH TO BOWL" Roster, If you wish to sponsor a bowler, please sign up on the "SPONSOR A BOWLER" Roster, we hope to bowl between 1 or 2 games (more or less, depending on time and how many sign up) Example if I (Bill) sign up to bowl and Maria sponsors me for \$0.03 (3 cents) a pin, and I knock down 250 pins total (of all games) Maria would owe \$7.50 in sponsor money. The UMM plans to send a certain percentage of profit made to outreach programs. (to be announced after Bowl-a-Thon) Even if you don't bowl, please sponsor someone or everyone that will bowl, please bring family and friends for support and fellowship. (you do not have to be a member or attend St. Matthews to participate and you will have to purchase your own refreshments, food, etc...) Also, you don't have to go to the bowling alley to sponsor a bowler. Thanks in advance for ALL who support this activity. Please contact Bill or Maria, 910-424-7333 if you need more info, etc... Also, you don't have to go to the bowling alley to sponsor a bowler. Thanks in advance for All who support this activity. Please contact Bill or Maria, 910-424-7333 if you need more information.
- 2) Lynwood spoke of the Angel Food Ministry and how this is growing each month. The cut-off date for March is 15 Mar 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 22 Mar 09.

MARCH USHERS: *Dave Norris March Communion Teams: Dave Norris & Scotty Clyde
*Head Usher Cliff Morgan Lloyd Miller & Troy Willoughby
 Lee Mayle Bill & Maria Stackhouse
 Raymond Gray
 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, 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 Mar 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. **"TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE"**

Respectfully submitted by Bill Stackhouse, UMM Secretary

YOUTH NEWS

Sorry we missed the deadline for last months newsletter but we have been so busy we lost track of time. We want to thank the Methodist Men for allowing us to serve all the Sweethearts on Valentines Day. We had a great time. Also we would like to welcome Ms. Dawn into our Youth Group. You are such a pleasure to teach us.

We would like to thank the church for their support for our Krispy-Kreme fundraiser. We do have a few of the cards left over if anyone would like to purchase one. They are \$12.00 and you can purchase a dozen of doughnuts of any kind and get a 2nd dozen of glazed for free. This card can be used 10 times and there is no expiration date on the card. Just to let you all know we made a little over \$500.00. At our next meeting we will decide on where this money will best be used to serve the Lord. Thanks again!

The Youth are looking forward to their mission for the year which is Operation Sharehouse. We are raising \$2,500.00 to feed 10,000 people. We hope that the church will support us on this mission project. We are asking that you give twenty-five cents for every meal that you eat. If you would like to give more than that it would be greatly appreciated. Help us in doing this fantastic ministry, plus we really had a great time the last time we did this.

We will not be doing yard work for the time being since the leaves have all fallen. If their is work to be done we will do it before or during our scheduled youth meetings. We will be taken back up this service work when spring arrives and everything is in full bloom again. If there is any of the elderly in the church that would like the youth to do some cleaning, fell free to get up with us.

On March 6-7 we will be going to the District Lock-In at Methodist University from 7pm to 7am. There are lots of fun things going on during this time we will be going bowling and having pizza and going to Campground UMC for movies, games and other fun activities. What a great way to get to know some of the other youth in our area.

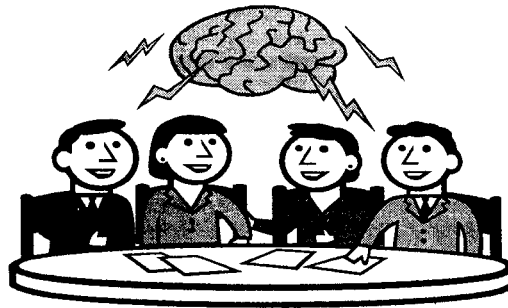
We are so excited that there are 7 youth members who will be going to Summer Breakaway this summer during the week of June 22-27.

We will be meeting on March 1, 15, and 29th and our times are 3:00-5:00. Hope to see all youth there that are in 6th through 12th grade.

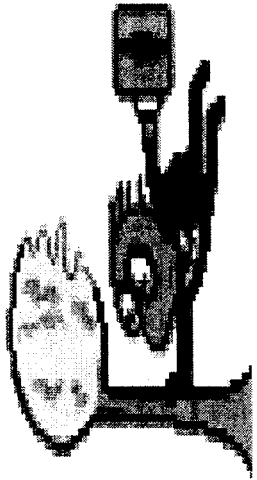
If you ever want to see what is going on in the district just go to this web site:

www.nccumc.org/youthministry

Doug Stone



Principal Rainy, of whom a child once remarked that she believed he went to heaven every night because he was so happy every day, once used a fine metaphor about a Christian's joy. "Joy," he said "is the flag which is flown from the castle of the heart when the King is in residence there."..... These words have been made into a popular chorus.



MARCH 2009

ST. MATTHEW'S UMC

A place to Belong...

202 Hope Mills Road
Fayetteville, NC 28304

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Children's Choir 9:30AM UMYF 3-5PM Witness 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	6	7
8 Children's Choir 9:30AM Choir Practice 12:15PM	9 Outreach 6:30PM	10 Prayer Ministry 6PM Worship Service 6:30PM Bible Study 7:15PM	11 Ruth/Ethel Smith 11AM Card Ministry 5PM Choir Practice 7:30PM	12 Night Owls 7PM	13	14
15 UMW 8:30AM Children's Choir 9:30AM UMYF 3-5PM	16 Nurture 5:30PM Finance 6PM	17 Prayer Ministry 6PM Worship Service 6:30PM Bible Study 7:15PM	18 Card Ministry 5PM Choir Practice 7:30PM	19	20	21
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 Card Ministry 5PM Choir Practice 7:30PM	26 Help-N-Hands 11AM	27	28 FFF 8:30AM Laity Day at St Matthews 9AM-3PM
29 Children's Choir 9:30AM 5TH SUNDAY UMYF 3-5PM	30	31 Prayer Ministry 6PM Worship Service 6:30PM Bible Study 7:15PM				

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