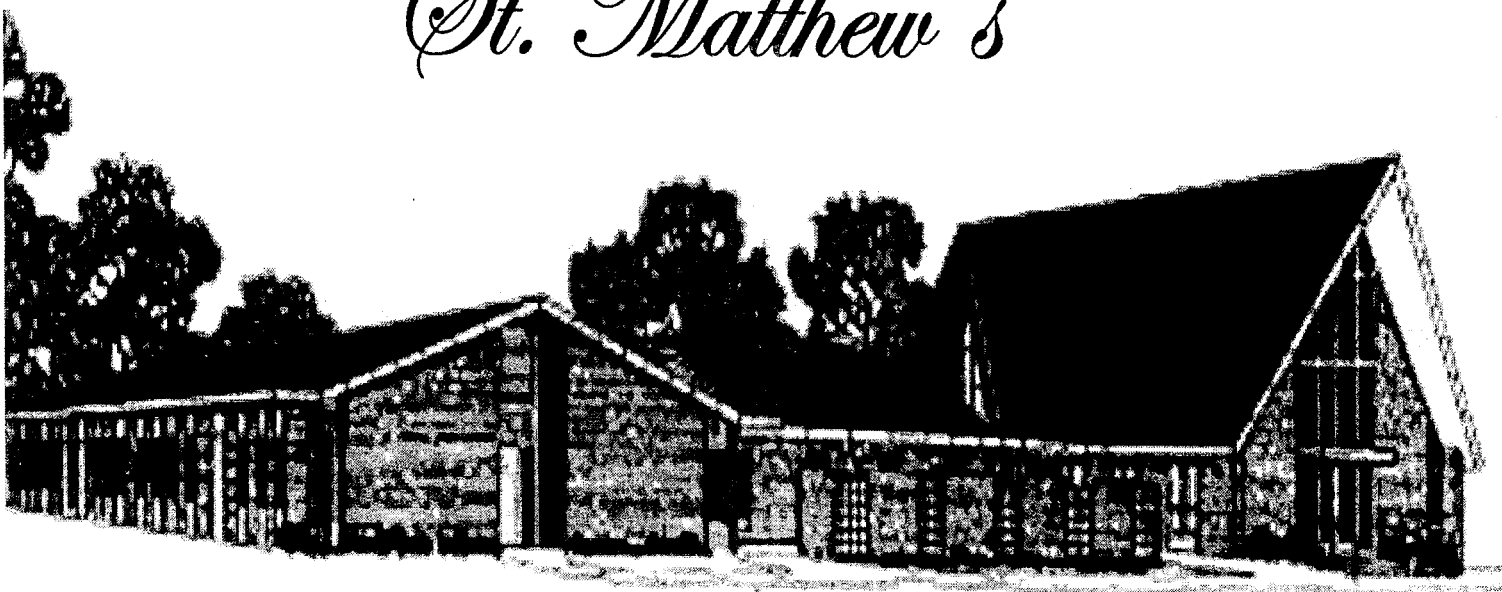


St. Matthew's
United Methodist Church
202 Hope Mills Road
Fayetteville, NC 28304
910-425-0401



St. Matthew's



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



Who are we? What do we believe? Are we really Christ like people trying to be like Christ? Do you believe that you can be transformed?

These are tough questions. They are especially tough if we haven't thought about them for a while. Have you taken time to really answer these questions? I've been talking about them for a couple of months now. Let me share with you my answers to these questions and invite you to finish reading this page and write down your answers to those questions.

Who am I? I am a sinner. I am loved by God. Saved by his grace through Jesus Christ, not by anything I can do to save myself.

What do I believe? I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth, and in his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; and will judge the quick (the living) and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. I believe that I, and all of humanity, are made in the image of God. That being so, we should look at each other as if we were looking into the eyes of God and treat each other with respect and love. I believe that Jesus came to make it possible for me to be reconciled to God so that I can enjoy abundant life now and for eternity worshipping God.

Am I really a Christ like person trying to live like Christ? Others will have to affirm that. I try to live a life that serves others and is considerate of other's feelings and beliefs. Like Jesus I maintain a vital prayer life with the Father. In my prayer time, I am silent more than I am in conversation with God. I ask questions and listen for answers. Like Jesus, I do what I do for others, not for personal gain or recognition. I try to share God's love with everyone I see and let the light shine on them so they will want to enter into a more personal relationship with our Saviour.

Do I believe that I can be transformed? I truly do. I have experienced that transforming call on my life. I have seen others be transformed and live into a new, personal, and energetic relationship with Jesus. I know we can all be transformed from the "kingdom of me" to the Kingdom of God.

Come with me! St. Matthews is on the cusp, on the edge of a transformation that will make a difference in the world. St. Matthews is here today so that we can worship God, grow in spiritual maturity, and go out into the world to make disciples of all people. It will soon be Easter and we will celebrate the risen Christ. I believe that we will also soon be celebrating a time when St. Matthews rises up to the challenges of being Kingdom people and a Kingdom church.

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

Marc

.....**Justification and Assurance** – We believe God reaches out to the repentant believer in justifying grace with accepting and pardoning love. Wesleyan theology stresses that a decisive change in the human heart can and does occur under the prompting of grace and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

In justification we are, through faith, forgiven our sin and restored to God’s favor. This righting of relationships by God through Christ calls forth our faith and trust as we experience regeneration, by which we are made new creatures in Christ.

This process of justification and new birth is often referred to as a conversion. Such a change may be sudden and dramatic, or gradual and cumulative. It marks a new beginning, yet it is part of an ongoing process. Christian experience as personal transformation always expresses itself as faith working by love.

Our Wesleyan theology also embraces the scriptural promise that we can expect to receive assurance of our present salvation as the Spirit “bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.”

Leftovers

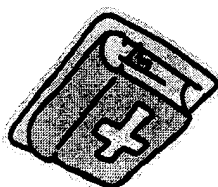
Leftovers are such humble things,
We would not serve them to a guest,
And yet we serve them to our Lord
Who deserves the very best.
We give to Him leftover time,
Stray minutes here and there,
Leftover cash we give to Him,
Such few coins as we can spare.
We give our youth unto the world,
To hatred, lust, and strife;
Then in declining years we give
To Him the remnant of our life.



.....

How can we defeat the temptation to become the “Summer Christian and the sunshine disciple” to, in this crisis, shrink from the call to sacrificial service and giving? What does the Lord require of us if we are to “stand it now,” to become creative renegades who embrace the present troubles as an opportunity for grace-filled living?

The Rev Anne Burkholder



.....
If your is Pastor is needed, please do call him at any time, day or night.
.....

APRIL HIGHLIGHTS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU

4-Steven Davis
8-Barry Gallimore
9-James DeBruhl
 Joe Bledsoe
13-Margaret Clyde
17-Joshua Hager
20-Clarice Edge
 Jennifer Larsen
21-Margaret Lewis
24-Bonnie Griffith
25-Lola Smith
27-Connie Miller
28-Jean Lambert
29-Edna Parker
 Amanda Call
30-John Williams, Jr
 Pegi Lineherger



USHERS

Robert Parker
Calvin Rome
Santos Pena
Jack Spakes

CHILDREN'S CHURCH SCHEDULE

12-Megan Harrison

19-Cindy Rogers

26-Lori Shackelford

LAY READERS

5- Gail Terwilliger

12- Open

19- Open

26-Native American Service

FLOWERS



5-In honor of Diana Bone and in
memory of Earl Wilson by
Ruth Caldwell.

12-Open

19-Open

26-In honor of Bobbie Jean Lambert's
birthday by her family

.....
Will you come and follow me if I but call your
name? Will you go where you don't know and
never be the same? Will you let my love be
shown, will you let my name be known, Will
you let my life be grown in you and you in me?
John Bell
.....

DID YOU KNOW

THIS MONTH THE OUTREACH COMMITTEE (ORC) SAT DOWN WITH MR. KENNETH MERRITT.

Mr. Kenneth Merritt otherwise known as "ROCK" has attended St. Matthews UMC for about fifteen years and he has been a faithful attendee ever since. He stated that Jack and Dorothy Spakes invited him and his wife "Sally" one Sunday and the rest is history. Sadly, Rocks' wife passed away in 2004 of cancer and has been missed very much. Rock met Sally while in Oklahoma and the two were happily married for 62 years, WOW. Rock was part of the SC Camp while Sally was in the NYA, some of the older military veterans probably understand these groups more than others. Rock and Sally had 3 children, 2 boys and a girl and 6(six) wonderful grandchildren whom he is very proud of. Rock has a very extensive military career, (if I had to write all of it, we would need pages, so I will tell just a little of his 35 years. He retired as a CSM (Command Sergeant Major) from Ft. Bragg, where he was the 18th Airborne Corp, CSM. He has the distinct title of have being the only CSM to fill the top enlisted NCO position at Bragg, not once but twice. Rock is a WWII Veteran, Vietnam Veteran and served in the Dominic Republic during war time among many, many other assignments that Rock says has made him the good man he is today. By the way, a CSM gave Kenneth the name "ROCK" after dropping the first name "HARD" from his HARDCORE way he was as a soldier, as Rock says "you had to be hard to make it, in those days", you were hard or you were out. At the ripe age of ?? (I'll let Rock tell you), he still walks more than 2 miles a day and has a daily physical fitness routine that he contributes to his healthy longevity. He enjoys bicycling as well and just started a new route for this exercise (good luck with the bicycling, Rock), he still is a early bird and says he doesn't get up as early as he used to, instead of 0530hrs he now gets up @ 0630hrs. Rocks' favorite Hymn is "How Great thou Art" and loves his church congregation and as he says, "has many friends here". He says he always has diet pepsi in his fridge, so if you would like to sit down, enjoy a pleasant conversation and learn a lot of military history as well as a cold diet pepsi, stop by and have a chat with Mr. HARD ROCK Merritt, I know you will be enlightened and informed. So, Rock from all of us, We deeply appreciate you and all the sacrifices you made for our freedom. **Thank you, Soldier and God Bless.....Outreach**

OUTREACH

Happy Spring everyone! Hope this finds everyone well in health and spirit! The Outreach committee has been busy again! We have been planning for our annual Easter Egg Hunt, which will be held on Saturday, April 4, 2009 from 2-4 pm at the church. This event is for ages 0 years-5th grade. Please bring your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and all your neighborhood children for a fun filled time! We have also been busy letting our church and community know about all our upcoming events by newspaper and our church marquee. Thanks for all your help and great job to all of our "publicists".

The Outreach committee continues to do a great job with picking up the pew pads after our church services and contacting any visitors. Please make sure to sign the pew pads each week and notice any visitors who are sitting on your pew. Please make sure you take a few minutes after church to greet them and welcome them back. Contacting our visitors has been a blessing to me. It is a blessing to talk to them and hear all the nice things they say about our church and most of all the friendly people in our congregation. It makes me feel good to reach out to visitors who are looking for a place to call "home" in their Christian lives. Let's continue giving our visitors that "homey" feeling each and every Sunday!

I wish everyone a Happy April and a Happy Easter! Let's make this month a time of reflection on what our Lord Jesus did so you and I could be freed from our sins! I don't know about you, but that makes me thankful and happy! **In God's Love,...Amanda Call**

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?"

April 1-4

1 Peter 1.13-21
Hebrews 6.13-20
Galatians 5.2-6
Acts 23.6-11

April 5-11

Psalms 31.9-16
Mark 11.1-11
Zechariah 9.9-10
John 12.12-19
Isaiah 62.10-12
Matthew 21.1-11
Luke 19.29-39

April 12-18

Psalms 118.1-2
Matthew 28.1-10
Revelation 1.12-20
Luke 24.1-12
Acts 17.16-21
Luke 20.27-40
Philippians 3.7-11

April 19-25

Psalms 16
Luke 24.13-27
Luke 24.28-35
John 21.1-14
Matthew 28.16-20
Acts 2.22-36
Genesis 32.22-32

April 26-30

Psalms 116.1-4
John 20.19-23
Deuteronomy 31.7-8
Genesis 15.1-6
Matthew 10.26-31



//////////
Delight yourself in the LORD; and He will give you the desires of your
heart (Psalm 37:4).

//////////

THE UNITED METHODIST MEN

THE UMM OF ST. MATTHEWS' UMC MET @ 0830 ON 15 MARCH 2009 IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL, THERE WERE 19 MEN PRESENT. OUR PRESIDENT, DAVE NORRIS AND VICE-PRESIDENT, CHARLES LUCAS WERE OUT OF TOWN SO TROY WILLOUGHBY OPENED THE MEETING. DAVE AND CHARLES, WE WILL SEE YOU GUYS NEXT MONTH. TROY THANKED THE COOKS (J.A. SESSOMS, JIMMY SMITH, SANTOS & HILDA PENA) FOR A DELICIOUS BREAKFAST.

IT WAS GREAT HAVING PETER ROME VISITING US WHILE HE IS HOME. (GOOD LUCK P.J. IN ALL YOU DO) CALVIN GAVE THE DEVOTION, "APPROVAL" PROVERBS 8:22-36. CALVIN, WE APPRECIATE YOU TAKING THE TIME TO PREPARE AND SHARING THE "WORD" WITH US. YOUR TIME AND DEDICATION ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED.

OUR TREASURER, TROY GAVE THE FINANCIAL REPORT, THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURES WERE READ AND APPROVED. THE MINUTES FROM LAST MONTH WERE READ AND APPROVED.

OLD BUSINESS:

MEMBERSHIP DUES WERE DISCUSSED, IF YOU PAID YOUR DUES AND HAVE NOT HEARD FROM THE GENERAL UMM IN A TIMELY MANNER (4-6 WEEKS), PLEASE CONTACT BILL AND I WILL FIND OUT WHERE AND WHAT IS THE STATUS.

BY NOW, ANGEL FOOD MINISTRY RECIPIENTS HAVE RECEIVED THEIR FOOD FOR MARCH, THE CUT-OFF DATE FOR APRIL IS AROUND THE 12TH, IF YOU WISH TO PURCHASE A FOOD BOX, PLEASE SEE LYNWOOD OR CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE. PICK UP DATE IS TO BE DETERMINED. THANKS FOR EVERYONE'S SUPPORT OF THIS MINISTRY, THIS IS A GREAT WAY TO SHARE AND SAVE MONEY AT THE SAME TIME AND THE FOOD IS DELICIOUS AS WELL.

NEW BUSINESS:

A MOTION WAS MADE TO HELP SPONSOR THE OUTREACH COMMITTEE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$100.00 FOR THE UPCOMING EASTER EGG HUNT. BOB LAMBERT 2ND THE MOTION, AFTER DISCUSSION, THE MOTION PASSED.

A MOTION WAS MADE TO PROVIDE \$180.00 IN SUPPORT OF THE UMM BOWL-A-THON, BOB LAMBERT 2ND THE MOTION, AFTER DISCUSSION THE MOTION PASSED. BY THE TIME THIS NEWSLETTER COMES OUT, THE BOWL-A-THON WILL BE OVER. THE UMM WISH TO THANK EVERYONE FOR THEIR SUPPORT AND HOPES EVERYONE HAD A GOOD TIME, WE ARE GOING TO TRY AND MAKE THIS AN ANNUAL EVENT. IF YOU HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS, ETC... IN MAKING THIS EVENT BETTER, PLEASE LET US KNOW. THANKS AGAIN.

THE FOLLOWING FOLKS VOLUNTEERED TO COOK FOR APRIL: J.A. SESSOMS, DAVID ETTHINGTON & ROBIN THANKS FOR COOKING OUR BREAKFAST. IT IS ALWAYS DELICIOUS AND PLENTIFUL. IF YOU WANT TO HELP WITH BREAKFAST, PLEASE LET US KNOW AND A "BREAKFAST VETERAN" WILL BE GLAD TO COOK WITH YOU.

APRIL USHERS: ROBERT PARKER, SANTOS PENA, JACK SPAKES , & CALVIN ROME

CALVIN SPOKE OF THE COMMUNION MINISTRY AND HOW GREAT THIS MINISTRY HAS BEEN OVER THE PAST 31/2 YEARS. THANKS CALVIN FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK AND DEDICATION TO ENSURE THIS MINISTRY IS PROVIDED EACH MONTH TO OUR SHUT-INS, EVERYONE INVOLVED, WHETHER IT BE PROVIDING OR RECEIVING COMMUNION MINISTRY HAS SPOKEN OF HOW THEY ARE TOUCHED AND BLESSED BY THIS MINISTRY. GUYS (&GALS) THANKS FOR VOLUNTEERING EACH MONTH TO TAKE COMMUNION TO THE COMMUNITY. THE COMMUNION TEAMS FOR APRIL: LLOYD MILLER, TROY WILLOUGHBY, SANTOS & HILDA PENA, BILL & MARIA STACKHOUSE AND *ALT: RAYMOND GRAY.

WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE DIFFERENT MEN INVOLVED IN HELPING WITH COMMUNION MINISTRY, IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO TAKE PART, WE WILL GLADLY SHOW YOU HOW, IT IS NOT DIFFICULT, ALL IT TAKES IS A LITTLE TIME AFTER COMMUNION SUNDAY EACH MONTH, WE ARE SURE YOU WOULD ENJOY IT, THE SMILES AND FEEDBACK FROM THE RECIPIENTS ARE WONDERFUL, PLEASE SEE BILL OR CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE A PART OF THIS MINISTRY OR IF YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE COMMUNION FOR APRIL 5TH 2009. THANKS AGAIN.

THAT IS ALL, UNTIL NEXT MONTH, TAKE CARE AND KNOW THAT GOD LOVES YOU AND SO DO WE. THE NEXT MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR 19 APRIL 2009, 0830 HRS. IT WOULD BE GREAT TO SEE ALL MEN OF THE CHURCH. COME OUT AND ENJOY A GREAT BREAKFAST AND FUN FELLOWSHIP AS WE DO GODS' WORK.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY: **Bill Stackhouse, UMM Secretary**



APRIL 2009

ST. MATTHEW'S UMC

A place to Belong...

202 Hope Muns Road
Fayetteville, NC 28304

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Card Ministry 5PM Choir Practice 7:30PM	2		4
5 Children's Choir 9:30AM Palm Sunday Youth Rally 12:30-7:00 Old Fashioned Box Supper 6PM	6 UMW 6:15PM	7 Prayer Ministry 6PM Worship Service 6:30PM Bible Study 7:15PM	8 Ruth/Ethel Smith 11AM Card Ministry 5PM Choir Practice 7:30PM	9 Passover Service 7PM Night Owls 7PM	10 24-Hour Prayer Vigil Goody Friday Service 7PM	11
12 Easter Sunrise Service 6:30AM & Breakfast Children's Choir 9:30AM Choir Practice 12:15PM UMYF 3-5PM	13 Outreach 6:30PM	14 Prayer Ministry 6PM Worship Service 6:30PM Bible Study 7:15PM	15 Card Ministry 5PM Choir Practice 7:30PM	16	17	18
19 UMM 8:30AM Children's Choir 9:30AM	20 Nurture 5:30PM Finance 6PM	21 Prayer Ministry 6PM Worship Service 6:30PM Bible Study 7:15PM	22 Card Ministry 5PM Choir Practice 7:30PM	23 Help-N-Hands 11AM	24	25 FTF 8:30AM Operation Sharehouse 9:00AM
26 Children's Choir 9:30AM Choir Practice 12:15PM UMYF 3-5PM	27 Council 6PM	28 Prayer Ministry 6PM Worship Service 6:30PM Bible Study 7:15PM	29 Matt's Kitchen Card Ministry 5PM Choir Practice 7:30PM	30		

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