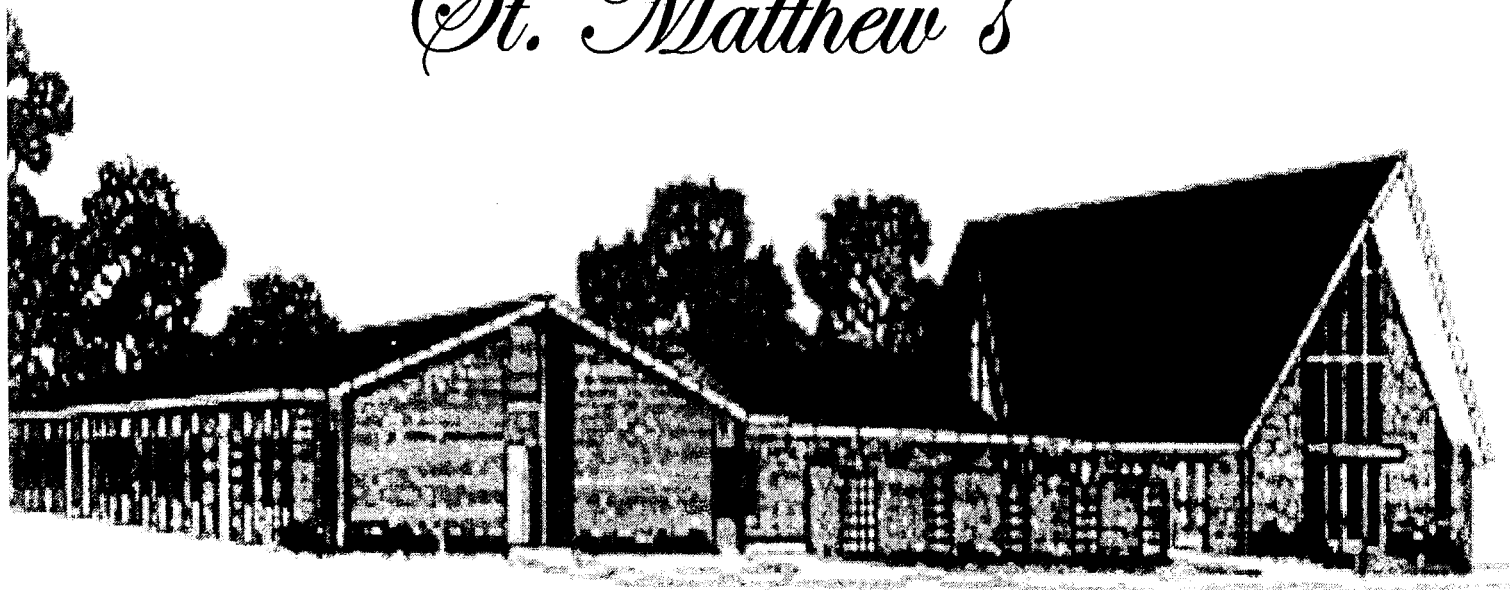


*St. Matthew's*  
United Methodist Church  
202 Hope Mills Road  
Fayetteville, NC 28304  
910-425-0401

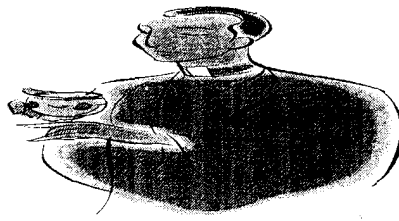


# *St. Matthew's*



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

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



What would it be like at St. Matthews if everyone on our roll was prayed for everyday? Can you imagine how that would feel? Can you even fathom the potential of such intercession? We know that nothing happens for the Kingdom of God that does not start with prayer. Prayer was a big part of Jesus' life. Shouldn't it be a big part of ours?

Most of us in the church will confess that too often we have busied ourselves at countless other points in our development. The mighty preacher, Thomas Chalmers, was once pondering over why, in spite of all his efforts and enormous popularity, there was not more spiritual outcome to show for it. He came to the conclusion that he was trusting his "own animal heat and activity" rather than the Holy Spirit.

When we quiet ourselves in our busyness, we sometimes hear what seems like groaning. Is this the Spirit of God tuning us in to the weary shuffle of non-spiritual programs in his church? Why is the church unable to influence society at the points where it needs Christ most? Can it be that we have been giving our energies to the wrong things? Have we so concerned ourselves with good works FOR God that we have too little left for communion WITH God?

Let's spend more energy and intentionality in communion with God. Prayer is for discovering God's will. We do not pray in order that we might get what we want. Prayer is for finding out what God wants from us. We pray in order that we might become instruments for his glory. The art of prayer is not learning how to switch God's goodness onto our little track. It is rather the art of turning our little engines onto the rails of the Lord whose road leads us by his route to his Kingdom.

The church does not expect perfection from its members. But it does expect growth from sincere surrender to the indwelling Christ. The church offers us one sure place to grow in inner relationship to a demanding Lord. Here are five disciplines that we can respond to the love of God. Each member of the church can be challenged to constantly check his churchmanship against these revealing disciplines: 1. Study Diligently 2. Worship Regularly 3. Pray Daily 4. Give Systematically. 5. Serve Faithfully.

It has been the church's experience that any church which can get any group within its membership praying for others is on its way to a growing prayer life. Word gets around. People Talk. Witness comes from unexpected places. Prayer does change things, and breakthrough is possible when even a few begin to care with the New Testament love which marked the early church. The promise still holds: "Call on me, and I will answer you and show you great and mighty things" (Jer. 33.3).

Let us hold the promise and call on our God. Let's begin a new effort in Prayer, communion with God.

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

*Marc*

## UNITED METHODIST MEN

The UMM met on Sunday, 19 April 2009 @ 0830hrs in the fellowship hall at St. Matthews. There were 19 men present and we had one new visitor, Mr. Steven Davis. Thanks, Steven for coming to the meeting, we look forward to seeing you again. If there are any men that would like to come and join in fun, fellowship and a business meeting for the men of the church, we welcome you. The UMM meeting is the 3rd Sunday of each month at 0830 hrs. Even if you have joined with us before and its been awhile, it would be great to see you again. **Our President**, Dave opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. After thanking our cooks for a great breakfast, Dave shared a card that Ms. Sue Rutledge sent to the UMM, thanking the men for home communion. The UMM provides communion for the members that are not able to attend service. Feedback from this ministry has been excellent. We appreciate all who are involved with this ministry. If you know of anyone wishing to have communion shared at their home/residence. please contact Bill or Maria @ 910-424-7333 or Mary at the church office. Also, we thank the communion teams for going out and serving communion, your time and service are greatly appreciated. **Bill S.** gave the devotion on being doers of the church. The minutes and treasures report were read from last months meeting and approved.

### OLD BUSINESS:

Regarding the first annual UMM Bowl-A-Thon, \$725.07 was raised thru pledges from congregation members after deducting the UMMs' percentage, \$580.05 was sent to the general UMM Foundation in support of scouting throughout the U.S. Again, THANKS to everyone for their support in making this event so successful. We are looking forward to this event again next year. Hope to see you there.

### NEW BUSINESS:

1) **Doug S.** made a motion to support Operation Sharehouse in the amount of \$150.00, Ralph W. seconded the motion, after discussion, the motion passed.

2) **Bill** made a motion for \$100.00 be used in support of UMM Bingo, Charles L. seconded the motion, after discussion, the motion passed. May 16, (3rd Saturday in May) @ 6:30 pm, the UMM will host a donation bingo in the fellowship hall. The donations received will go to support ministries at St. Matthews. Contact Bill or Maria, or Mary at the church office if you need more information. The UMM will be trying to host a monthly event in support of outreach ministries, so be sure and check the UMM Minutes and UMM bulletin board for future events. Any and all suggestion are welcome. Thanks in advance for supporting the UMM.

**Just a reminder that Angel Food Ministry cut-off date will be approx.** Sunday, 17 May, with a pick up date of Saturday, 23 May, (9:15-10:30am) please see Lynwood or contact the church office if you would like to purchase any of the food specials. Remember, this is a great way of saying thanks to that special person(s) and a way to save money while enjoying delicious food.

### The Usher schedule for May is as follows:

\*Charles Lucas - Head Usher

Troy Willoughby

Lloyd Miller

Bill Leggett

Thanks, gentlemen for volunteering to Usher and ensuring that we all enjoy a safe, secure service.

### The communion teams for May are:

Troy W. & Lloyd M.

J.A. Sessoms & Raymanod G.

Bill & Maria S.

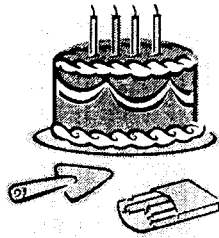
\*Alt: Charles L.

We appreciate everyones help with communion ministry, again, if you would like to become a part of this wonderful service, contact Bill - Maria or the church office. **Bill S., Demietries** and the boys will cook breakfast for next months meeting. THAT IS ALL, UNTIL NEXT MONTH, TAKE CARE AND KNOW THAT GOD LOVES YOU AND SO DO WE. THE NEXT MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR 17 MAY 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. **ESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY: Bill Stackhouse, UMM Secretary**

# MAY HIGHLIGHTS

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU

1-Mae Robinson  
2-Edgar Lineberger  
4-Bill Stackhouse  
10-Mary Couch  
    Scotty Clyde  
12-April Gunter  
14-Heather Watkins  
16-Maria Strickland  
18-Dawn Stone  
19-Connie Williams  
20-Dorothy Spakes  
24-Taylor Ramos  
27-Robert Parker  
29-Julie Griffin  
    Melanie Jones



## USHERS

Charlie Lucas  
Troy Willoughby  
Lloyd Miller  
Billy Leggett

## CHILDREN'S CHURCH SCHEDULE

10-Lori Shackelford  
17-Cheryl Cone  
24-Jennifer Choate  
31-Robyn Shields

## LAY READERS

3- Bill Stackhouse  
10- Mother's Day—UMM  
17- Lori Shackelford  
24- Open  
31- Old Fashion Sunday

## FLOWERS



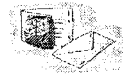
3-In memory of Perry's birthday  
by Eva and Sharon

10-In honor of Jean Rozier and in  
memory of Helen Underwood  
by Fred and Mary Rozier.

17-Open.

24-In honor of Taylor Ramos' 12th  
birthday.

31-In honor of Julie Griffin's birthday  
by Lynwood



## CARD OF THANKS

**Special Thanks** for all the prayers, cards, and telephone calls regarding the death of my sister, they meant so much to me. **Marie Parker**

**Special Thanks to the** W.A. Steward Bible Class for the \$180.83 gift to the Emergency Fund.

## DID YOU KNOW

This month the Outreach Committee (ORC) had a sit down with Mr. Lloyd Miller to learn a little bit about him and his family. Lloyd and his wife, Claudette became members at St. Matthews UMC in 2005 via Jamaica and New York. Claudette lost her battle with bladder cancer and God called her home in June of 2007, Claudette is surely missed by all. Lloyd and Claudette grew up in Kingston Jamaica, on the same street and knew each other all their lives. Their young adult lives sent them both in different directions, but as God would have it, they would meet again in New York, where they got married, they were happily married for over 30 years. They have 6 wonderful children (5 girls and 1 boy), 16 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren, just talking about them, you will see Lloyd's face light up like a bright Christmas tree. You can tell Lloyd is very proud of his family. I could write a few pages on their accomplishments, but I will leave that to Lloyd to talk to you about. He retired from the flooring industry after 25 years of working with I.J. Pfizer Company in New York.

Lloyd has been an active member of the United Methodist Church for many years and was awarded a lifetime membership in the United Methodist Men Association. One of Lloyd's favorite pastimes is cooking, which he is very good at, his favorite is Jamaican foods. You will always find Guava Mango Juice in his fridge. Lloyd enjoys walking (he has a weekly routine) and says daily exercise with the Lord has kept him young. By the way he is ?? years young. He also enjoys all kinds of sports, his favorite Hymn is #368 "Blessed Assurance".

After spending this short time with Lloyd you can tell he is a very loving and kind person, he says he is a easy going guy and used to worry about things, now he prays about them and turns his "concerns" over to God and lets Him handle them. His life philosophy is that of many, "treat people like you want to be treated". Thank you Lloyd for all you do at St. Matthews, (anytime we call on you, you are there) we surely have been blessed to have you and your family a part of our family. May God continue to bless you.

.....



*Lord, arm me with Your Spirit's might,  
Since I am called by Your great name;  
In You my wandering thoughts unite,  
Of all my works be You the aim.  
Your love attend me all my days,  
And my sole business by Your praise.  
Amen.*

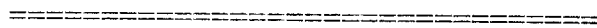
*John Wesley*



## OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Happy May everyone! Boy is this year going fast!! It is almost summer time! The Outreach committee was very busy in April! We sponsored St. Matthew's annual Easter Egg hunt for the community on April 4, 2009 from 2-4 pm. We had a great turn out! There were about 60 participants that day, including adults. The children had a great time finding Easter eggs, playing games, participating in a coloring contest, and eating yummy cupcakes. I want to thank everyone who graciously helped to make our Easter egg hunt a success! Thank you to the Methodist Men for donating money for prizes, candy, and any other supplies we needed. Thank you to the Ruth Ethel Smith Circle, the Night Owls, the FFF group, and the Methodist Women for making over 100 cupcakes. They were very yummy!! Thank you to the Outreach committee for all of your hard work and assistance. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped with the games, coloring contest, egg hunt, preparation, and clean-up. Thank you to everyone in the congregation who donated candy. And last but not least, I want to thank my daughters Alix and Makenzie for helping me fill 800 Easter eggs. I just want everyone to know how appreciative I am for all your help, and if I left someone out, I apologize! As you can see, a lot of work goes into planning and hosting an event like this. I want St. Matthew's to see all the great team work that goes on in our church, and I thank God everyday that I can call St. Matthew's my church home.

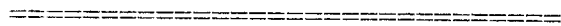
The Outreach committee was also busy letting the community know about our Easter activities/services, Matt's Kitchen, and our Operation Sharehouse project through the local newspapers and our marquee. A big thanks to Bill Stackhouse for all your hard work. Did you see that we made the newspaper this month?! We are so excited to see that our hard work pays off! That is the Outreach committee's goal is that our community will see our activities and want to join us. Please keep our church and Outreach committee in your prayers, so that we may reach the "spiritual needy" and show them a place they can call home! May God Bless you in every way! **Amanda Call**



**Sanctification and Perfection** – We hold that the wonder of God's acceptance and pardon does not end God's saving work, which continues to nurture our growth in grace. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we are enabled to increase in the knowledge and love of God and in love for our neighbor.

New birth is the first step in this process of sanctification. Sanctifying grace draws us toward the gift of Christian perfection, which Wesley described as a heart "habitually filled with the love of God and neighbor" and as "having the mind of Christ and walking as he walked."

This gracious gift of God's power and love, the hope and expectation of the faithful, is neither warranted by our efforts nor limited by our frailties.



**Welcome to St. Matthews UMC. You aren't too bad to come, nor too good to stay out.**

## YOUTH NEWS

WOW! If the month of April wasn't busy I am not sure what busy is. We thank the Lord for all he has done for us this past month and really hope that we can continue being a part of his plan. We started out the month by going to the Fayetteville District Spring Rally Day at Salem UMC. We had a great time meeting other youth from our District and where a part of electing our new officers for the upcoming year. We spent a part of the time in small groups working ourselves of a disaster scenarios. It was a lot of fun and gave us all a chance to a little problem solving. It was also a little funny listening to some peoples ideas of how to get out of a terrible situation.

Our next meeting was on Easter where we cooked a delicious breakfast after the Easter Sunrise service. We raised around \$200.00 and contributed it to Operation Share house.

Then on the 19th we met at our normal time and we had a quick meeting then we broke into a couple of small groups and the older youth helped the younger ones with some school work which they where having trouble in. If you guessed MATH you would be right. We probably all need some help in that subject. Then the meeting turned sad when we had to say our good-byes to Hayle. She moved to Maine and we will all miss her.

On the 25th we had a really good turn out for Operation Share house event ( 46 people). With the support from everyone in the congregation we where able to raise the \$2500.00 and package 10,008 meals in under 2 hours. Our meals are being sent to Kenya and will hopefully help out in stopping hunger. We thank everyone for their support.

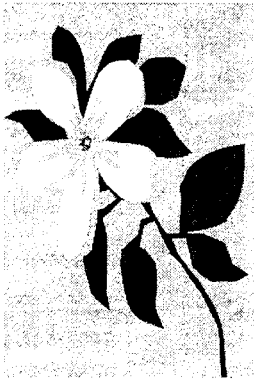
We then finished the month by going to the Wesleyan College in Rocky Mount for our Annual conference rally day. Besides it being very hot we had a lot of fun playing games, singing songs with the band and watching a couple of the youth groups dance.

Again we just want to thank everyone for supporting the youth ministries. God Loves Us All!! **Doug Stone**



## **Benevolence Stories**

Mrs. “Y” is a life-long United Methodist lay woman who has been a resident in two of the retirement communities for about 7 years. She was a nurse and homemaker by profession and spent her life caring for other people. Late in life she became partially disabled due to illness and required assistance from others. Her husband was not able to care for her in the home. She entered our retirement community as an independent living resident, but her illness has progressed to the point that she requires assisted living. Her minimal assets have long since been exhausted, and her care is covered by the benevolent funds of The United Methodist Retirement Homes. She is well cared for and very happy in her home in the retirement community. She is greatly loved by staff and other residents, and expresses her caring sensitivity in many ways to those with whom she lives. Your gifts to The United Methodist Retirement Homes enable us to care for Mrs. “Y”.



# MAY 2009

ST. MATTHEW'S UMC

A place to Belong...

202 Hope Mills Road  
Fayetteville, NC 28304

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1		2
3 Children's Choir 9:30AM Choir Practice 12:15PM	4 UMW 6:15PM	5 Prayer Ministry 6PM Worship Service 6:30PM Bible Study 7:15PM	6 Card Ministry 5PM Praise Team Practice 6:30 Choir Practice 7:30PM	7	8	9 Mother-Child Banquet 6PM
10 Mother's Day Children's Choir 9:30AM Choir Practice 12:15	11 Outreach 6:30PM	12 Prayer Ministry 6PM Worship Service 6:30PM Bible Study 7:15PM	13 Ruth/Ethel Smith 11AM Card Ministry 5PM Praise Team Practice 6:30	14 Night Owls 7PM	15	16
17 UMM 8:30AM Children's Choir 9:30AM	18 Nurture 5:30PM Finance 6PM	19 Prayer Ministry 6PM Worship Service 6:30PM Bible Study 7:15PM	20 Card Ministry 5PM Praise Team Practice 6:30 Choir Practice 7:30PM	22	23	23 FFF 8:30AM
24 Children's Choir 9:30AM Choir Practice 12:15	25 Council 6PM Memorial Day Observed	26 Prayer Ministry 6PM Worship Service 6:30PM Bible Study 7:15PM	27 Matt's Kitchen 11AM Card Ministry 5PM Praise Team Practice 6:30	28 Help-N-Hands 11AM	29	30 Memorial Day
31 Old Fashion Sunday Fellowship Dinner 6PM						

Phone: 910-425-0401 9.

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