

St. Matthew's United Methodist Church Bellwether



JANUARY 1999

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PASTOR

We are starting a new year in the face and looking down the throat of a new millennium. As we do so let us remember what God has done for us here at St. Matthew's in 1998. God has given us growth in attendance, growth in our faith, growth in mission opportunities and growth in saying yes to the opportunities.

On the final page of the book, **THE HEART OF A GREAT PASTOR**, there is a quote from an anonymous writer who offers hope to those who have suffered the agony of broken hearts, hopes, and dreams. "We've dreamed many dreams that never came true. We've seen them vanish at dawn. But we've realized enough of our dreams, thank God, to make us want to dream on."

As I have observed people through the years, it has always been those who refuse to allow the "dream" to leave them that seem to press on in spite of the challenges they face. I believe the reason they are able to do this so successfully is because they honestly believe their dreams are the work of the Holy Spirit. As impossible as they may appear, these dreams are authored by our loving Lord.

For most of us, the size of our faith influences the size of our dreams, but the thing that I fear most for us is that we will look at the size and/or difficulty of the assignment, grow calloused, simply throw up our hands, and say, "What's the use? Who cares?"

God cares! And God has called you and me to "dream the impossible dream" with Him. The Bible says that if we delight ourselves in the Lord, He will give us the desires of our hearts (Psalm 37:4). Isn't that what dreams are--the desires God has placed in our hearts? Dare to dream big and watch God fulfill that dream in you, and watch St. Matthew's dream be fulfilled in the years to come.

Someone once said, "we grow by dreams." Let us, at St. Matthew's dream dreams together.

Yours in Christ,

Larry

EARLY WORSHIP SERVICE

I am excited to begin a brand new year with a brand new service starting Sunday, January 10, 1999, and each Sunday thereafter at 8:45 a.m.

Here is an outline of the new Order of Worship that you can expect for this service.

EARLY WORSHIP SERVICE - 8:45 A.M.

HYMN(S) OF PRAISE

SPECIAL MUSIC (Solos, Duets, Instrumentals, Children's Choir, etc.)

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

WELCOME & BRIEF ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN (Offering to be brought forward and placed on the offering table by individuals at this time)

DOXOLOGY

SCRIPTURE READING

CHORAL RESPONSE TO THE SCRIPTURES (Thy Word is a Lamp Unto My Feet)

SPECIAL MUSIC (Solo, duet, trio, Children's Choir, Instrumentals, etc.)

SERMON

COMMITMENT/INVITATIONAL HYMN

The Worship Committee and I hope this new service will open up new opportunities of worship for each of you.

Happy New Year



Happy New Year to everyone! We trust that you have had a holiday season in which the celebration of our Savior's birth renewed you with a passion to tell others about the unending love of Christ, God's gift to us so that we can embrace one another in love.

As the year begins, we want to invite all youth (ages 12-18) and parents in the church to our 1999 Planning Conference which will happen on Saturday, January 9th at 12:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We will be masterminding when we will go to Lake Junaluska for our mid-winter retreat, as well as scheduling other fun events, like bowling, visiting people in the hospital and participating in District Youth Rallies.

Also, we will have our traditional Super Bowl Sunday Party together--so remember to invite your friends!

We also want to thank the Church for helping us with our trip to Tennessee. We will be one of three Methodist Churches from Fayetteville at the Teen Celebration. Over 3500 youth will gather together to learn about Jesus Christ and how to be a Christian in our modern society that is trying to secularize everything. Please pray for us as we travel on the 28th of December and return on the first day of 1999.

Again, thanks for your support!

RUTH/ETHEL SMITH CIRCLE NEWS

Happy New Year from the Ruth/Ethel Smith Circle members! We feel that we have had a very productive year in our circle. We were sorry to lose 3 of our members, Norma Swan through death, Lois Lenahan, who moved back to her home up north, and Dawn Stone, who went back to work. We continue to be an active group of ladies. We have donated one day per month to work at the Food Bank, which we have enjoyed doing. We purchased food for Thanksgiving for a family of five. We have taken on the responsibility of helping the church secretary by folding and stuffing bulletins and stapling the monthly Bellwether. We also cleaned the church kitchen and fellowship hall from January through June.

For a Christmas project, we took a family with seven children to purchase shoes for each and furnished food. The day by day caring and support of each person in the circle, and the church are too numerous to realize.

The new officers for the circle will take over in January, and we wish them many blessings. May the Lord continue to watch over us all.

Eva Smith,
Outgoing Chairperson

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 - Karen Carosi-Hildreth
- 14 - Roxie Server
- Katrina Forgrave
- 15 - Joyce Christian
- 18 - Brad Everts
- 23 - Betty Willoughby
- 24 - Fred Rozier
- 25 - Eva Smith
- 27 - Dustin Graham
- 31 - Reed Rozier



THRIFT SHOP NEWS

We have had a good month, and have just finished a half-price sale. We will close for Christmas December 21, and re-open on Tuesday, January 5.

We gave cloth and crochet yarn to the Senior Center downtown, and we voted to give \$500.00 to the Church Scholarship Fund annually. We voted to increase our monthly donation to the Emergency Fund to \$150.00 from December through April. We also gave 3 "SHARE BASKETS" for Christmas. We voted to pay one-third of the cost of a new computer for the office, and we allocated funds of up to \$1,400.00 for the purchase of new Altar Paraments.

Eva Smith will be our new Thrift Shop Chairman, and Julie Agnew will be the Vice-Chairman as of January 1. Grateful appreciation from Lee Anna Sproul and Shirley Pitchford for all the help and support and hard work given by the volunteers in 1998. Please give Eva and Julie the same so that 1999 will be a wonderful year.

Lee Anna Sproul,
Chairperson

CARD MINISTRY NEWS

The following individuals have recently made contributions to the Card Ministry: Elinor Stewart, Lyle Spidle, Linda Snyder, Dorothy Spakes, and Lee Anna Sproul. Thanks to each of you for your support.

The Card Ministry sent holiday greetings to 228 members and others who were served by this mission in 1998.

Make a New Year's Resolution to support this vital ministry of St. Matthew's by (1) passing along the names and addresses of people you would like to have receive a card and prayers, (2) making a donation of support, or (3) joining us on Wednesday evenings to sign the cards!

For more information contact: Gail Terwilliger, Mary Rozier, Ruth Caldwell or Roberta Brown.

Thanks,
Gail Terwilliger

PRAYER CONCERNS

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| Annie Rue Hill | Dr. Phillip Rizzo | Kristen Miller |
| Dee Parker | Andy Edge | Mary Roth |
| Virginia Townsend | George Mauldin | Miles Thomas |
| Dorothy Clements | George Nichols | Marilyn Lipstruer |
| Katie Sandrock | Jacqueline Hafler | Alma Griffin |
| Unspoken Requests | Carley Harris | Our Country |
| Ginny Pitchford | Mary Visy | Susie Harding |
| Hazel Owen | Fran Lynn | Eva Bullard |
| Lonnie Hubbard | Helen Underwood | Melissa Thaler |
| Pegi Lineberger | Ruth Lance | Ronnie Combs |
| Christy Barber | Elinor Powell | Mark Jackson |
| Cathy Faircloth | Pauline Sprinkle | Lee Lowe |
| St. Matthew's Mission | | Pearl Howell |
| W.A. & Elinor Stewart | | Floyd Carpenter |
| Mayor J.L. Dawkins | | Charles Lucas' parents |
| Doris Miles (Not secretary) | | Frank & Frances Bagley |
| Una Bailey (Pegi Lineberger's Mother) | | Dr. & Mrs. Morrison |
| | | Carol Clark's Ex-Daughter-in-law |





The United Methodist Men met on December 20th at 8:00 a.m. for their regular meeting. Eleven men were in attendance for a shipwreck breakfast.

Business discussed was the completion of a storage barn at the parsonage. Only a few repairs are needed to finish the job.

Many thanks to our "SANTA" for distributing the treat bags and having an enjoyable time with the little people on December 13.

The Methodist Men have taken another Saturday to work at the Thrift Shop. We will be operating on the 3rd & 4th Saturday. J.A. Sessoms and Hank Zielinski will head the 3rd Saturday. If you are asked to help, please don't turn these men down.

Also discussed were the ushers for the January 10th Early Worship Service. Come to the Early Service and see the new concept.

The church office will soon have a new computer installed. This item was made possible by the United Methodist Men, United Methodist Women and the Thrift Shop. Our office work load should be made easier with this new addition.

Beginning January 17th, the United Methodist Men will meet at a new time, 7:30 a.m. to allow time for the Early Worship Service.

Fred Rozier, President

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN NEWS

As the UMW Unit of St. Matthew's Church looks eagerly to the new year of 1999, we hope it will be a time of sharing our good graces and talents together in a meaningful way. A way that will make a difference in the everyday lives of people around us.

The UMW will close out 1998 in a fine fashion with many good deeds accomplished and much given of ourselves and resources. We must not linger very long on these thoughts or the New Year will begin without us.

With good attendance, good communication, and good participation from us all, we will do even more in 1999. Many projects that have been chosen in the past required little effort on any one person, but the effort made such a contribution in someone's circumstances.

As we make "resolutions" for the New Year, let's resolve to be more available for the work of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, as well as our local unit.

In the weeks to come, I hope to have a bulletin board available for the UMW in order that the church as a whole may know of our plans and how we are progressing toward those goals. If you would like to help with this communication project, I welcome your suggestions.

Our first meeting in 1999 will be held January 4th at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of the church. This is a **GENERAL MEETING** where all circles will attend, and the business of the next few months will be discussed and approved. If you are in the Day Circle and do not drive at night, please call me (867-2529) and I will see that you have a ride to the **GENERAL MEETING**. The Night Owl Circle will be the host for this meeting; they will provide "finger-foods" for our refreshment time following the meeting. I will

have the program for the evening. Please bring a calendar or notepaper to make a few notes on upcoming dates and business matters.

In the very near future, I hope to have a UMW Directory for each of you. It will provide much of the information that you will need and desire for 1999. The United Methodist Women Organization is open to all the women of St. Matthew's Church whether or not you are a member of the church.

I look forward to seeing you **ALL** at our meeting on January 4th.

REMEMBER: To end a year in a great fashion, we must begin it in a great fashion.

Betty Patrick,
1999 UMW President

SUNDAY SCHOOL WORKSHOP

As St. Matthew's enters into the new year it is with a hopeful heart that I ask of the congregation some prayerful consideration. If you have been present at any of our church services or functions lately you are aware of the growing number of God's precious children in our midst. This is an exciting time in the life of our church to see these sweet little faces who will one day be our Christian leaders. As adults, it is our duty to teach these children God's stories, to pass on our love for Christ and to guide them as they learn how to be active, excited Christians.

All too well I remember being a child attending Sunday School in this very church, standing head high at her waist, hugging the smooth girdled hips of beloved Mrs. Bailey who would tell us all, "Remember, Jesus loves the little children". Then standing a little taller a couple of years later having been promoted to the most Christ loving Mrs. Snyder's classroom. She taught us to sing "Go tell it on the mountain", and she taught us The Lord's Prayer. She had such patience and such an ever sweet, caring smile. Next I was in Mrs. Rooney's (Eva Smith), class where I learned Psalm 23 which stays near to my heart today, then to Mrs. Bagley who taught me the Apostles Creed, I remember being so proud of myself when I could stand with the congregation and recite it from memory.

It is with great fondness that I remember each of these blessed women who gave so freely of their time and energy. As I mentioned earlier, now is the time to help our young people build a solid foundation of Christian education. On January 10 a Sunday School Teacher Workshop will be held for anyone who is interested in being a Sunday School Teacher or even a Substitute Teacher. This workshop is not only for potential teachers, but also for our existing teachers from every education age level (Adult Class Teachers this means you) for educational enrichment. There is a **NEED** in our growing church for teachers and substitutes. Please pray about this and seriously consider serving our Lord in this very rewarding manner. Please attend our workshop on January 10, we need you.

Leigh G. Thomson



January 1999

Call to Prayer and Self-Denial, January-March (Choose any period in these months.)

FEBRUARY						
1	2	3	4	5	6	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

SUNDAY SCHEDULE
 Early Worship Service - 8:45 a.m.
 Children's Choir - 9:30 a.m.
 Sunday School - 9:45 a.m.
 Worship Service - 11:00 a.m.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 2nd Sunday after Christmas STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY - 11:00 A.M.	4 Staff Mtg.-6:00 pm Girl Scouts-6:30 pm IMWomen - 7:00 pm (includes both Circles)	5 Cub Scouts-7:00 pm Prayer Mtg.-7:00 pm	6 Epiphany Bible Study-6:30 pm Choir Pract.-7:30pm	7 Pastor Consultation w/DS-10:00 am Girl Scouts-6:30 pm Scouts R.T.-7:00 pm Weigh Down-7:00 pm	8 New Year's Day	9 Council on Ministries-8:00 am at Glyndetta's Worship Com. Clean-Up Church-8:00 am 1999 Planning Conference - 12:00 pm
10 1st Sunday after Epiphany (Baptism of the Lord) EARLY WORSHIP SERVICE - 8:45 A.M. (Guest Speaker from Rockfish Outdoor Center) SS Teacher Training-4:30-6:30 pm	11 Girl Scouts-6:30 pm	12 Commission on Worship - 10:00 am Cub Scouts-7:00 pm Prayer Mtg.-7:00 pm Trustees Mtg.-7:30pm	13 Ruth/RS Circle - 10:30 am Bible Study-6:30 pm Choir Pract.-7:30pm	14 Girl Scouts-6:30 pm Weigh Down-7:00 pm No Nite Owl Meeting	15	16
17 2nd Sunday after Epiphany Human Relations Day (offering) United Meth. Men Breakfast-7:30 am	18 Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday Observance Girl Scouts-6:30 pm	19 Cub Scouts-7:00 pm Prayer Mtg.-7:00 pm Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Jan. 18-25	20 Home Ext.-9:30 am Bible Study-6:30 pm Choir Pract.-7:30pm	21 Girl Scouts-6:30 pm GS Leaders-6:30 pm Weigh Down-7:00 pm	22	23
24 3rd Sunday after Epiphany Ecumenical Sunday	25 Girl Scouts-6:30 pm	26 Dist. COM-10:00 am at Hopewell UMC Cub Scouts-7:00 pm Prayer Mtg.-7:00 pm Worship Com.-7:30 pm	27 Bible Study-6:30 pm Choir Pract.-7:30pm	28 Girl Scouts-6:30 pm Weigh Down-7:00 pm	29	30
31 4th Sunday after Epiphany						