

# St. Matthew's United Methodist Church Bellwether



MARCH 1999

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

We are four days into Lent, a wonderful time of the year. Spring is closing in and we have just celebrated Ash Wednesday, which calls us to penitence. It is a time for giving up something we hold as pleasurable and dear. For some it is a time to pray more, to fast, or to reflect more. Whatever you choose, make sure you do it in the reverent, quiet fashion in which Jesus instructs.

As for me, I choose this day to reflect some. A scripture comes to mind from the Psalmist's pen; "Show me your ways, O Lord, teach me your paths" (Psalm 25:4). I want to share with you about **THREE ROADS**. A good deal of the gospel story has to do with roads, for Jesus in his ministry went from place to place in Galilee and later in Judea, preaching, teaching, and healing, never really staying very long in any single city, town or village. Much of his ministry, quite literally, took place on the road. It is also interesting the different roads people took to come to Jesus. Some took particular roads with the intent of finding Jesus. While others met Jesus along the road by accident, so to speak.

The first road that was taken intentionally was by men whose hope it was to journey to the place where Jesus was. **THIS IS THE ROAD OF HUMAN ASPIRATION**. These were the wise men, the sages, who set out on the only road they could take, the oldest road in the world, already ancient when the children of Israel followed it from Egypt in their flight from slavery northward to the promised land---better known as the King's Highway. If the wise men came to Jesus by a road that other men had made, so do we. I was shown the way to reach Jesus by my parents, teachers and friends.

The second road is the road from Jerusalem to Jericho. **THIS IS THE ROAD OF FORGIVENESS**. We know that this is the story of the Good Samaritan; how when certain religious figures had passed a wounded man by, a certain Samaritan offered love and compassion. That tiny masterpiece of storytelling was created by Jesus for an illustration of the second commandment of the two which Jesus based his teaching: "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." Jesus believed that love of neighbor was the key to the solution of the major problems that beset human society---injustice, inequality, discrimination, prejudice, and denial of human rights to life and liberty and the pursuit of happiness. He also believed that the brokenness of the human family could be restored by means of forgiveness.

The third road by which people come to Jesus is the road from Jerusalem to Emmaus. **THIS IS THE ROAD OF SHARING**. It was on this road that two men whose hearts were heavy from grief over Jesus' crucifixion, met and entertained a stranger. It was when they reached their village and invited the stranger in to sup with them---to share their evening meal---a practice they had learned from Jesus---they recognized the Living Lord.

This resurrection story tells us that when we, as Jesus' followers, continue to live the shared life of love as Jesus taught, we discover that his spirit is still present in our midst.

There you have it; the Three Roads. Shall we travel together?

Your Pastor,

*Larry*  
Larry

**The Best Is  
Yet To Be**



Amazing! The invitation to all older persons in our church brought out 24 men and ladies to our first meeting on January 25th. I was amazed, the pastor was amazed and we were all blessed with a good fellowship time together.

Imagine our surprise when the new N.C. Christian Advocate arrived with headlines "1999 Year of Older Persons". When the pastor and I met to establish a fellowship for seniors 60 and above in our church, we felt there was a definite need. Senior members have much to offer to all ages. We have much to learn and are interdependent upon persons of all ages. There are more older adults now than at any other time in the history of the world and in the membership of the United Methodist Church.

The mission of **HELP-N-HANDS** is to help each other stay in tune to the needs of all older persons in our church. Yes, we will have fun along the way and we invite all members 60 and above to be part of Help-N-Hands. There are infinite possibilities in small beginnings, if God is in it.

Eva Smith  
Older Adult Coordinator



*Towards a society for all ages*  
International Year of Older Persons 1999

#### THRIFT SHOP NEWS

Your Thrift Shop is alive and booming! The volunteers are numerous and dependable. Yes, the work is hard and unending, but so far we have made strides ahead and improvements.

Thanks for all the donations from everyone this year, our sales for January 1999 equaled January 1998 even though we are closed on Mondays. Below are some of the major areas that we contributed to:

- \$550.00 - For Computer Components and Desk for the church office.
- \$100.00 - Contribution to the American Red Cross for fire victims.
- \$135.00 - Picture by Bob Timberlake for the Pastor's office.
- \$33.00 - to the Card Ministry for stamps four times yearly.
- ...We gave 2 wedding gowns and 10 formal gowns to the Cape Fear Regional Theatre.
- ...Coats to Hope Mills Senior Center
- ...Sweaters & Pants to the Homeless Coalition
- ...Roasting Pan to the Church Kitchen
- ...Bags & Bags of clothing to the Community Services each week.

Only through the donations and sales, plus all the work done by the volunteers could this be done, and we **THANK YOU!!**

Eva Smith  
Thrift Shop Committee

#### WHOSE SHADOW ARE YOU WALKING IN?

He who dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. Psalms 91:1

As a child, have you ever tried to walk on your own shadow? It is impossible, isn't it? Others can and do walk in your shadow.

There has been many great men and women down through the ages that have cast the shadows of their life. Joshua walked in the shadow of Moses. Joshua 1:7-9. Elisha walked in the shadow of Elijah, so much that he asked for his mantle and for a double portion of its spirit to be upon him. 2 Kings 2:1-11. Ruth walked in the shadow of Naomi. Ruth 1:16-18. In Acts 5:15, people brought the sick into the street and laid them on beds and mats so that Peter's shadow might fall on them as he passed by in order to receive healing.

I have been thinking a lot lately of how our lives affect others. Our children, husbands or wives, the church and our community observe us. They are watching our action and reaction in every situation.

It has been said that in order to see a shadow, there has to be light. In the last few days, I am mindful of how the light of the Holy Spirit was so evident in the life of Linda Snyder. Only our Lord knows how many has walked in her shadow. She has touched so many lives.

I have walked many times in Linda's shadow, and I believe that I am a better person for it. "I am blessed."

So like Linda, if we want to cast a good shadow, we must walk in God's light. John 1:4.

Dorothy Taylor

#### AN ANGEL AMONG US

Have you ever seen an angel? Would you recognize one if you did? Have you ever been led by some inner spirit to reach out to someone for reassurance? Do you believe that there are unseen angels around?

I believe that angels among us leave their shadow to hover over us and guide us through the teachings that we have learned through their guidance. Wait on the Holy Spirit - Do not be anxious of today because the Lord will take care of it - Be loving and kind to all - Help the helpless - Lift up the down-trodden - Don't forget to Pray - He will answer - Watch over the sick - Pray for your Church, your Pastor, and all the members. These teachings I can hear coming from the shadow left by the Angel called **LINDA SNYDER**. How blessed I am for having the privilege to have been in her presence.

When you need to set your troubles aside,  
let your angel be your enlightening  
guide,  
If ever you are feeling blue,  
let heartfelt wishes comfort you,

(Continued on next page)

When you're feeling happy as can be,  
let your Angel share in all your glee!

In memory of Linda Snyder  
by Eva Smith

### MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- |                                    |                      |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 - Charles Lucas                  | 23 - Nicholas Norton |
| 3 - Stephanie Brackett             | 24 - Harold Taylor   |
| 6 - Gina Keller                    | 27 - DeAnn Trevathan |
| 12 - Jean Brown<br>- Dale Mitchell | 29 - Jay Jordan      |
| 13 - Ginger Sessoms                | 31 - Brandi Graham   |



### UNITED METHODIST MEN NEWS

On February 21st the United Methodist Men held their monthly Breakfast Meeting. There were 17 men in attendance. During this meeting, we decided to purchase a new Edger and Trimmer for the church to replace the equipment stolen from the storage shed. We also decided to make an open ended loan of \$500.00 to the Rental Account to help pay for repairs made to the Church Rental Property. Our next meeting will be held on March 20th, and would like to invite **ALL MEN** to attend and share in our fellowship.

Ken Manship,  
Secretary

### CARD MINISTRY NEWS

Please join us prior to Wednesday Night Alive at 5:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall to help in sending cards to members of our church and their friends and acquaintances who need remembering for a variety of reasons. If you are unable to be present, please give the names and addresses of anyone you would like for us to send a card to any of our regulars: Roberta Brown, Ruth Caldwell, Amy Eberhardt, Connie Knight, Gail Terwilliger or Mary Rozier.

Thanks to each of you and to the Thrift Shop for your support of cards, stamps and money. We are particularly in need of Thinking of You cards. Your continued prayers and support are continually appreciated.

### EASTER EGG HUNT

All children, grandchildren and friends are invited to attend an **EASTER EGG HUNT** which will be held on March 27, 1999 at St. Matthew's UMC. Single wrapped candy, cupcakes and cookies are needed. Anybody wishing to donate these items, please see Pam Thompson. She will be collecting candy every Sunday. Please let her know if you would like to help.

### FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

A special **THANKS** for the beautiful cards, flowers, candy, fruit basket, food, visits, phone calls and prayers during my recent accident. Thanks also to Bett, and Phyllis and anyone else who may have helped out in the office. God bless you!

Love,

Doris Miles

### UMYF NEWS

Our UMYF group has gone through some new changes. We would like to welcome our new UMYF leaders, **SCOTT** and **LEIGH THOMSON**. We would also like to thank Pastor Larry for working with us.

This month we are planning on going bowling on March 7th. Also, we might be selling T-Shirts this month as a fundraiser. So if you are approached by a youth, look at the shirts so we can raise money for future trips.

**CLASS CHATS:** Our new Sunday School teacher is Mrs. Betty Patrick, otherwise known as, "Ms Bett." Lately, we have been "Deep Thinking" concerning issues of the Bible. This requires an open mind and the ability to concentrate. We are asked questions and are to "think deeply", beyond our first impressions of the issues. Our question of the month for you is:

(Part 1) If God loved the angel Lucifer while Lucifer was in heaven, does he love him now as he prowls the Earth as Satan?

(Part 2) Has Satan gone too far for forgiveness?

For other information about the UMYF, look on our bulletin board in the hallway.

### SPECIAL GIFTS GIVEN

- ...in honor of Catherine Morgan's birthday by her Prayer Partner
- ...for the power bill by the Thrift Shop
- ...to the Building Maintenance Fund in memory of Linda Snyder
- ...to the Pipe Organ Fund
- ...to the Parsonage Fund
- ...in honor of Connie Knight for the Emergency fund by Peggy Williams
- ...to the Emergency Fund from the Ruth/Ethel Smith Circle
- ...to the Emergency fund from the Boyd Snyder Class

### ST. MATTHEW'S PRAYER CONCERNS

- |                             |                        |                        |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Annie Rue Hill              | Dr. Phillip Rizzo      | Kristen Miller         |
| Pegi Lineberger             | Andy Edge              | Mary Roth              |
| Virginia Townsend           | George Mauldin         | Miles Thomas           |
| Dorothy Clements            | Mary Visy              | Marilyn Lipstruer      |
| Katie Sandrock              | Jacqueline Hafler      | Alma Griffin           |
| Elsie Bullard               | Edgar Lineberger       | Our Country            |
| Fran Lynn                   | Unspoken Requests      | Susie Harding          |
| Betty Nalls                 | Betty Gray             | Eva Bullard            |
| Hazel Owen                  | Helen Underwood        | Melissa Thaler         |
| Lonnie Hubbard              | Mayor J.L. Dawkins     | Lee Lowe               |
| Christy Barber              | Ruth Lance             | Pearl Howell           |
| Cathy Faircloth             | Richard Douthet        | Joe Currie             |
| Paul Delph                  | Frank & Frances Bagley | David Powell           |
| Gail Yips                   | Carlton C. Knight      | Judi Lynn Knight       |
| Fred McNorton               | Joyce Christian        | Steve Bradford         |
| W.A. & Elinor Stewart       |                        | Charles Lucas' parents |
| Richard Odom family         |                        | Dr. & Mrs. Morrison    |
| Doris Miles (not secretary) |                        | Boyd Snyder family     |
| St. Matthew's Missions      |                        | Catherine Morgan       |
| J.A. Sessoms                |                        |                        |

### LOOKING AHEAD:

**Sunday, March 28 11:00 a.m. - New Member Sunday will be held on Palm Sunday**

**Thursday, April 1 7:30 p.m. - Holy Thursday**

**Sunday, April 4 8:45 & 11:00 a.m. - Easter Services**

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN NEWS

Where are the days going? Here we are already at the beginning of March. How will the month come in - like a lion or a lamb? However March makes its entrance, we should make the most of each day.

Both circles of St. Matthew's UMW Unit have been busy with their individual projects for the months of January and February. Plans are underway for March projects. Be sure and stop by our bulletin board for more information concerning UMW projects and events.

Listed below are some events of March to be observed by both circles:

- March 5 - World Day of Prayer (each member is encouraged to pause sometime during the day and pray for church, family, friends, and our country)
- March 10 - Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle - 11:00 a.m. - Fellowship Hall
- March 11 - Night Owl Circle - 7:00 p.m. - Fellowship Hall
- March 14 - District Lay Rally - Hay St. UMC - 2:30-4:30 p.m. (this is a district wide celebration of the successes of the past year from all churches and UMW members are urged to attend in support of your church)
- Mar. 22-24 - **FOOD LION COMMUNITY DAYS** - each member takes 2 vouchers to be used during these days at the Food Lion Supermarket. A portion of the money benefits the **METHODIST HOME FOR CHILDREN**. (Please follow the instructions on the back of the voucher.)
- March 24 - District **SPIRITUAL DAY APART** - Hopewell UMC. All officers of each circle and any members are urged to attend. Please let me know if you would like to go - I will need to arrange transportation.

It looks as though the month of March will be a busy one for all of us, so good attendance and participation is needed. Remember at our **UMW GENERAL MEETING** - April 5th - we will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 7:00 p.m. for a "covered dish dinner" before our meeting. Roberta Brown will have our program. Bread and drink will be provided. It won't take long to make one dish, so don't stay home because you don't want to cook!

Some items on the agenda will be: Setting our 1999 Budget (we are way behind on this item); making plans for the Mother-Daughter Banquet for May; Mother's Day Booklets; electing representatives from each circle to work on the October Bazaar. You see we have many things to discuss, please don't miss out. Also, after this meeting, the Night Owl Circle will assemble **HEALTH KITS** for migrant workers. Look in your UMW Directory on a back page and there you will find the list of needed items. The toothbrushes have been donated, so don't buy any

of those. The plastic bags will need to be gallon size zip-lock types. If any one from the Day Circle would like to participate in this project - you are welcome.

Whew!!! Lots to say, but much more to do and get accomplished. Let's **ROAR** into March with energy and enthusiasm to have a good month. If there is any lady in our church that does not know about United Methodist Women and would like to find out more, we invite you to come to our April General Meeting, enjoy a meal with us and let us fill you in as to what we are all about. If I can answer any questions before that time, please call me (Betty Patrick - 867-2529) and I will try to be of help. Until next month - keep **ROARING!!**

## RUTH-ETHEL SMITH CIRCLE NEWS

The Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle canceled the February meeting due to the passing of our beloved Linda Snyder, who was an inspiration and blessing to us all. She will be missed.

Books for the Library have been ordered and will soon be here for our enjoyment.

Lola Smith,  
Chairperson

## PASTOR-PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE NEWS

Our newest staff member is **JESSIKA KIVETT**. We welcome her as our Nursery Attendant. If you go by the Nursery, look in quietly and see new little Christians developing. Also, notice the changes in the Nursery and welcome Jessika to our staff and church.

Doris Miles returned to work on February 8th after being out for 2 weeks with a broken wrist. She is quickly learning to use the new computer.

Seen at the church on occasion working with Doris on the computer is Alan Womack. If you see him, let him know that you appreciate his services. If you need computers, equipment or services remember him.

Terry Jordan is continuing to provide music for two services, plus Children's Choir practice. We appreciate all that he does, and look forward to hearing from the young folks soon. Thank you for all that you do.

Phyllis Jordan is also continuing to help us do special music. We appreciate all that you do for us. Thank you! Thank you for everything.

Isiah McKoy continues to clean for us, and is trying to get on a set schedule.

We thank each of you for your help in making our job easier.

Adella Pray,  
Chairperson



# March 1999

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

Women's History Month—March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																												
<p><b>SUNDAY SCHEDULE</b></p> <p>Early Worship Service - 8:45 am                      Children's Choir Practice - 9:30 am                      Sunday School - 9:45 am                      Regular Worship Service - 11:00 am                      UM Youth Fellowship - 4:00 pm</p>	<p>1                      Pastor at "Bishop's Day Apart" at Wesleyan College in Rocky Mount ALL DAY</p>	<p>2                      Prayer Mtg.-7:00 pm</p>	<p>3                      WED. NIGHT ALIVE                      Supper-5:30 pm                      Classes-6:30 pm                      Choir Pract.-7:30pm</p>	<p>4                      Nite Owls Circle - 7:00 pm in F.H.</p>	<p>5                      World Day of Prayer                      (UMW LADIES PAUSE TO PRAY)</p>	<p>6                      27 UMW SPIRITUAL DAY APART AT HOPEWELL UMC                      Easter Eggs Hunt-2:00 pm</p>																												
<p>7 3rd Sunday in Lent                      UMYF Go Bowling - 4:00 pm</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9                      Prayer Mtg.-7:00 pm                      Trustees Mtg.-7:30pm</p>	<p>10                      Ruth/Ethel Smith Circle-11:00 am                      WED. NIGHT ALIVE                      Supper-5:30 pm                      Classes-6:30 pm                      Choir Pract.-7:30pm</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>																												
<p>14 4th Sunday in Lent                      One Great Hour of Sharing (offering)                      District Lay Rally at Hay St. UMC - 2:30-4:00 pm</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16                      Prayer Mtg.-7:00 pm</p>	<p>17                      Home Ext.-9:30 am                      WED. NIGHT ALIVE                      Supper-5:30 pm                      Classes-6:30 pm                      Choir Pract.-7:30pm</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>																												
<p>21 5th Sunday in Lent                      UMen's Breakfast - 7:30 am</p>	<p>22                      FOOD LION</p>	<p>23                      COMMUNITY                      Prayer Mtg.-7:00 pm</p>	<p>24                      DAVIS                      WED. NIGHT ALIVE                      Supper-5:30 pm                      Classes-6:30 pm                      Choir Pract.-7:30pm</p>	<p>25                      Help-N-Hands Group - 11:30 am</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>																												
<p>28 Passion/Palm Sunday  <b>NEW MEMBER SUNDAY</b>                      Council on Ministries Mtg. - 2:00 pm</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30                      Prayer Mtg.-7:00 pm</p>	<p>31                      WED. NIGHT ALIVE                      Supper-5:30 pm                      Classes-6:30 pm                      Choir Pract.-7:30pm</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>APRIL 1999</p> <table style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td> </tr> </table> </div>			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	29	30	
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Holy Week, March 28 - April 4