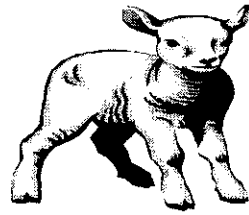


ST. MATTHEW'S BELLWETHER



VOLUME 1, ISSUE V

MAY 1999

Mom's Wisdom



Remember that wonderful song, *Jesus Loves The Little Children*? This saying, probably originated from a mom, the saying goes like this - "but He didn't have to put the little boogers to bed."

It is May and it is the time in which we celebrate *Mother's Day*. We honor and remember those who have meant or continue to have so much influence in our lives.

Allow me the time to share a story that might better explain the importance of "true" moms.

One Sunday, I was being entertained in the farm home of a member of a rural church. I was impressed by the intelligence and unusually good behavior of the only child in the home, a little four-year old boy. Then, I discovered one reason for the child's charm. The mother was at the kitchen sink, washing the intricate parts of the cream separator when the little fellow came to her with a magazine. "Mommy," he asked, "what is this man in the picture doing?" To my surprise, she dried her hands, sat down on a chair and taking the boy in her lap she spent fifteen minutes with him answering his questions. I just sat there, entertained by a "mommy" and her son, thinking of my mother and all the things she had taught me. One important lesson was that happiness comes from human relationships, not from anything else, and the only thing worth dying for is someone you love.

After the child left, I commented on her having interrupted her chores to answer the boy's questions, saying, "Most mother's wouldn't have bothered." "I expect to be washing cream separators for the rest of my life," she told me, "but never again will my son ask me that question.

This is what I believe Jesus meant when he said, "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever receives one little child like this in My name receives Me ("Matthew 18: 3-5). Happy Mother's Day - *moms*, and thanks for being a living example of God's word..

Your pastor,

Larry



HELP 'N HANDS

HUGS

It's wonderful what a hug can do; A hug can cheer you when you're blue

A hug can say I love you so, or gee, I hate to see you go

A hug says welcome back again, it's great to see you, where have you been?

A hug can soothe a small child's pain, and bring a rainbow after rain

A hug there's just no doubt about it, we scarcely could survive without it

A hug enchants and warms and charms, It must be why God gave us arms

A hug is great for fathers and mothers, sweet for sisters, swell for brothers

Chances are your favorite aunts, like them better than potted plants

Kittens crave them, puppies love them, heads of state are not above them

A hug can break the language barrier, and make your travels so much merrier

So stretch your arms without delay, and give someone a hug today!

Eva Smith
Senior Adult Coordinator

THE THRIFT SHOP



My! How we have been blessed! The Thrift Shop is a growing, thriving means of community help and service all over the world. We have been blessed, especially in dedicated workers. The Methodist Men work two Saturdays a month and they are: Troy Willoughby, Charles Lucas, Hank Zielinski, Rev. Larry, Jack Spakes, Ike Huffman, Fred Rozier and Raymond Gray. The shoppers look forward to the days they are working because the conversation is so popular. We appreciate these men and all they do for us and they are always ready to lend a helping hand on a heavy box or helping in some way to make the shop more productive and pleasant.

We have been fortunate so far that most of the Saturday workers only work every other month. Other workers are: Rebecca Fields & Joe, Christine Brackett and her fiancé, Cathy Edwards & Fran Lynn, Anne Alred & Betty

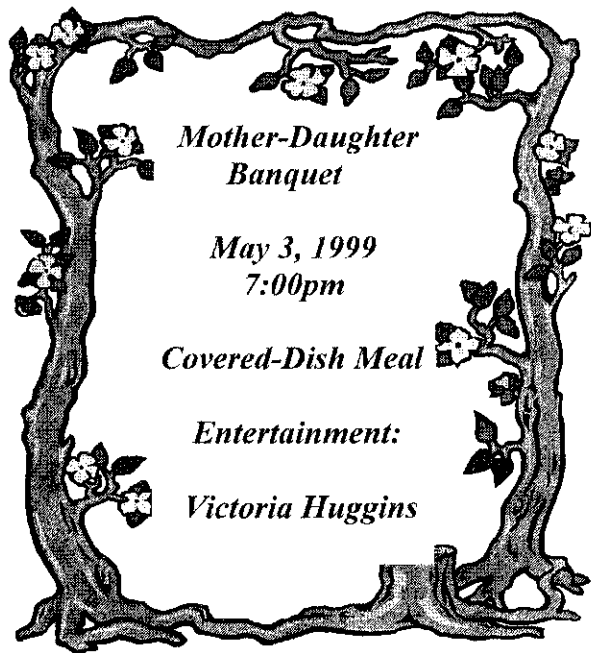
Jennings, Betty Probst & Roberta Brown, Mary Schneider and Lee Anna Sproul. Thanks to all!

The Thrift Shop has been so blessed this year that we have donated the following in community and world help for the month of April:

- ◆ \$500.00 St. Matthews Scholarship Fund
- ◆ 75.00 Sonshine Maternity Home in Hendersonville, North Carolina
- ◆ 500.00 UMCOR for Kosovo Refugees
- ◆ 100.00 Hinton Rural Center in the mountains of North Carolina
- ◆ Shirts to the Homeless Coalition for Honduras - to wear to church
- ◆ Community Services - bags of shoes and clothing each week

The By-Laws of the Thrift Shop states the purpose for which we were established is to help the community mission work, parsonage, church projects. These are the reasons we exist. With your continued contributions, service through work, and God's continued blessing, we are there to serve you.

Eva Smith, Chairperson



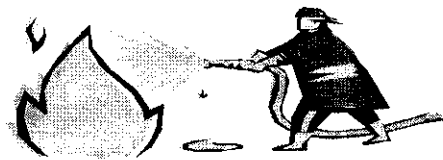
*Mother-Daughter
Banquet*

*May 3, 1999
7:00pm*

Covered-Dish Meal

Entertainment:

Victoria Huggins



Neighborhood:

The Auxiliary of Lafayette Village Volunteer Fire Department gives many thanks to St. Matthew's United Methodist Church. Our annual Spaghetti Dinner held on April 16 was a great success. Your patronage was much appreciated. We especially thank Lola Smith and Barbara Brookshire for volunteering to help us on the serving line.

The money we raised will help us help our firefighters with much-needed food and drink on long, bad fires. As our firefighters serve you by protecting your lives and property, they will directly benefit from your kindness.

Thank you,
Jessika Kivett,
Coordinator Auxiliary

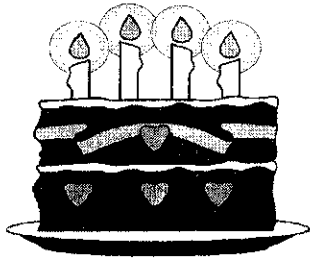
THE CARD MINISTRY

God continues to bless the Card Ministry. Thanks for your prayers, donations and never ending sources of names. Special thanks goes to Lyle Spidle and Connie Knight for their most recent contributions of cards, stamps and money. Continue to pray for our ministry and join us at Pizza Palace #2 on Hope Mills Road each Wednesday at 5:00pm.

See you there!
Mary Rozier

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Mae Roberson
Edgar Lineberger
- 9 Perry Smith
- 10 Mary Couch
- 11 Frances Bagley
Sarah Hawkins
- 12 April Lewis
- 14 Nick Unruh
Heather Strub
- 15 Ashton Scruggs
- 16 Maria Strickland
- 18 Angie Norton
- 19 Connie Williams
- 20 Dorothy Spakes
Madison Manship
- 27 Robert Parker
- 29 Julie Griffin
- 30 Kayla Forgrave
Doris Miles



**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

ONE-BY-ONE TUTORING:

(If you can read this article, then, PLEASE read it all)

God has blessed St. Matthew's with wonderful folks - YOU! Phase One of the ONE-BY-ONE Reading Ministry has begun with an explosion of love, caring and devotion. We wish you could see our students beginning to love to learn and to learn to love.

We are seeing a very precious process taking place - bonding. It is difficult to say whether the students or their teachers are enjoying the sessions more. Extraordinary motivation to learn is there and is difficult to explain. All of the students are experiencing good progress.

At present, we have eight students, grades three through twelve. We chose to eliminate the cap of six, because we could not turn away those that the Lord has sent to us. As we get a new student request, God keeps on sending us another teacher.

Our children are our future. We thank each of them for working so hard. They are doing great!

Our teachers are the best anywhere! Our teaching motto is "The Lord has blessed me with the ability to read. My thanks to God will be to help someone else to read."

Our teachers are Linda Strickland, Bob Pray, Jessika Kivett, Mae Roberson, Susan Brinson, Joe Bledsoe, Karen Ogden and Jean Lambert. Teachers, thank you. God bless you all!

Ask our tutors how they like being teachers. If you think you may be interested in participating in this growing ministry, please feel free to visit us any Monday at 7:00 p.m. or call me at 425-5115.

Blessings to you and Glory to God.

Amy Eberhardt

MEMORIALS:

DONATIONS GIVEN TO:

- ◆ Music Fund
- ◆ Garden Fund (for Scout project)
- ◆ Emergency Fund in memory of Virginia Townsend
- ◆ Emergency Fund in honor of Lola Smith's birthday
- ◆ for church apportionments
- ◆ the memory of Miles Thomas
- ◆ in memory of Collette Thomas
- ◆ Emergency Fund in memory of Linda Snyder
- ◆ Emergency Fund by individuals & the Boyd Snyder Sunday School Class
- ◆ UMCOR for Kosovo Relief Fund
- ◆ Hinton Rural Life Center
in memory of Floyd & Ethel Carpenter

PARENTING CLASS:

Parenting is one, if not the most important jobs you will ever have in your life.

This job requires no certification, no license, training, job resume or references. Like other jobs frustration often overwhelms us when we are not prepared. Unlike other jobs, we cannot walk-out, quit or resign!

Come join our parenting workshop each Wednesday night for the next 8 weeks. In this parenting class, you will develop skills, attitudes and abilities to reinforce your role as a parent. You will learn how to say NO - mean it and not feel guilty. (Invite grandparents also)

Give it a try, you might learn to smile and enjoy your teenager!

Workbooks will cost \$10.00; less than \$2.00 per week. Come learn how to love your child enough to say NO!

I am Julie Griffin your instructor for the next 8 weeks - for more information please call me 425-4269.

UNITED METHODIST MEN

The United Methodist Men held their monthly breakfast on Sunday, April 18. There were 21 members in attendance; this is the largest turnout I have seen. I would like to make a personal challenge to all the men of the church to top this next month. In addition to good fellowship among friends, we also enjoyed a great meal. Part of this month's business was passing a motion to make a three hundred dollar donation for the Garden Project which is being built by Brad Everts as his Eagle Scout project.

As a reminder, UMM meet every third Sunday of the month at 7:30am. We worship with each other and discuss issues within the church. All men are welcome to attend to share in the fellowship, the meal is just the bonus for attending.

Ken Manship
UMM Secretary

ST. MATTHEW'S UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Well, here we are; we are beginning the fifth month of the year. This month has us starting those lawn & yard projects that we've been planning all winter. It will mean lots of hard work, but when the project is completed - how satisfying it is to us.

There will be many fun places to go and interesting things to do as well. Those lazy summer days can get just a bit hectic if we aren't careful with planning our time.

We must not forget to save time for our church and our UMW planned events. Cultivating our spiritual lives should be in high gear as we have just come through the Easter Season - Bible Study, Prayer, Sunday School, Worship, and those meetings are the tools we use to shape and strengthen our spiritual lives - don't forget to save time for these this summer.

By the time you read this article, the UMW Mother/Daughter Banquet will be upon us. This annual event is a covered dish meal with entertainment provided. The Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle will decorate the Fellowship Hall in an array of Spring colors that should be truly beautiful. All UMW ladies attending the banquet should plan to stay and help with the cleanup afterwards.

On May 9th our Mother's Day Booklet will be given out. We have had a good response for this endeavor. If you want to add a name, check with Mary Rozier.

Our UMW Study for this year is the Bible-Part I - It's Formation & Origin. This study is open to all that would like to attend. The pastor will teach this study and all of his regular Bible Study members will enjoy how this fits in with what they have already studied. The study will last from 6:30pm - 7:30pm on Wednesdays, May 12, 19, 26 & June 2.

The Nite Owl Circle elected to buy "white socks" for the nursing home for their May project. Please buy MEN'S size 10-13, white socks - not much elastic in the tops of the socks. These are for both men and women. Please bring your sock donations to the night circle meeting on May 13th at Ginger Sessoms home at 7:00pm.

The Nominations Committee should be planning to hold their first meeting in June. It is time to discuss the officers to be replaced for the year 2000.

Keep collecting your money for your "World Thank Offering" and your "Penny And A Prayer Offering."

We need three ladies and the circle leader from the Day Circle also, three ladies and the circle leader from the night circle to participate in a planning event for the fall bazaar. Please have these ladies selected from your May meetings. October will be here before we know it - let's get prepared for our big fund-raiser of the year.

We will attempt to publish a favorite recipe each month. This is a great way to try dishes from our cooks at St. Matthew's. I will start off this month with a recipe several of you have asked for.

Betty Patrick - UMW President

CORN CASSEROLE

1 lge can cream style corn
1 lge can niblet style corn
(do not drain)
1 stick margarine
1 (8oz.) sour cream
1 box Jiffy Cornbread Mix

Melt the margarine in your casserole dish, then, add remaining ingredients, stirring well after each.

Cook on 350 for about 45 minutes or until brown and the cornbread is done.

CIRCLE NEWS

- The Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle have several activities that take place each month:
- We give \$10.00 to the Emergency Fund
- We take Bingo gifts to Mental Health
- We take cookies, candy, drinks four times a year to Mental Health
- Several of our group take part in SHARE program each month on Monday mornings
- We have just recently placed a plaque on Linda Snyder's Sunday School Room door in her honor and in loving memory of her
- Occasionally, we also put Health Kits together for the migrant workers

Jewel Sharpe, Vice-Chairperson

ST. MATTHEW'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

May

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	EVERY SUNDAY SCHEDULE: 8:45am Early Worship Service (NO Nursery Provided)
						1	9:45am Sunday School (all ages)
2 One-By-One 7pm	3 Mother-Daughter Banquet - 7pm	4 Prayer Group 7pm	5 NO BIBLE STUDY Chancel Choir 7:30pm	6	7	8	
9 Mother's Day	10 One-By-One 7pm	11 Prayer Group 7pm Trustee Mtg 7:30pm	12 Day Circle - 10:30am Bible Study 6:30pm Chancel Choir 7:30pm	13 Nite Circle 7pm	14 Gideon Dinner - Pastor attending 7pm	15 UMYF Car Wash 9:00am - Donations	
16 UMM & Breakfast 7:30am UMYF - 11am at Bethel UMC in Burlington, NC Gideon Guest Speaker Today	17 One-By-One 7pm	18 Prayer Group 7pm	19 Home Ext. 9:30am Card Ministry 5pm Bible Study 6:30pm Chancel Choir 7:30pm	20	21	22	
23 Donation Luncheon (Noon)	24 One-By-One 7pm (last mtg. of session)	25 Prayer Group 7pm	26 Card Ministry 5pm Bible Study 6:30pm Chancel Choir 7:30pm	27 Help N' Hands 11:30am Council On Ministries 7pm - Fellowship Hall	28	29	11:00am Worship Service (Nursery Provided)
30	31						
1999							