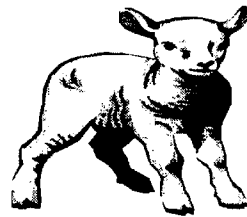


ST. MATTHEW'S BELLWETHER



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

The Apostle Paul tells us in the Letter to the Church at Rome, "And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed" (Romans 13:11).

For a child, time is forever. To wait twenty-four hours for a special treat such as a birthday party, Christmas, or a trip to Grandmother's seems impossible to a youngster.

To an adult, the time seems to fly (look how fast these seven months have already gone). In the early married years there are only the two newlyweds. Each exists for the other. There are no diapers to be folded (though that is an antiquated duty) or bottles to be fixed or car-pools to be run **RIGHT NOW, MOTHER!** A tremblingly beautiful world—full of adjustments and some tensions, true, as the couple begins the work of marriage—but life soon thrusts the two into further responsibility.

Where are the toddlers who were forever underfoot and so winsome in their mischief and perpetual need for care? They are teenagers now or maybe even adults with children of their own, and not underfoot often enough. Whatever happened to the long, golden spring afternoons when the children played as Mother worked a crossword puzzle or maybe she sat near the window sewing, glancing up every now and then to admire a particularly long baseball hit by brother or a more than perfect cartwheel by sister? These animated, tree-climbing youngsters are grown and are parents themselves now. Where did the time go?

As Christians, we have a responsibility to be aware of the moment in which we find ourselves. We are in the midst of a wonderful gift—that's why they call it the **PRESENT**. An attitude of joyous hope enhances the present moment. Take the time to make the most of your "present".

Your Friend & Pastor,

Larry



HELP'N HANDS

TWO BOXES

When we thank God (count our blessings) then we are focused on what God **HAS DONE**. When we complain (count our sorrows) then we are focused on what we think God **HAS NOT DONE**.

I have in my hands *two boxes*
which God gave me to hold.
He said, Put all your sorrows in the black,
and all your joys in the gold.
I heeded His words, and in the two boxes,
both my joys and sorrows I store.
But thought the gold became heavier each day,
the black was as light as before.

With curiosity, I opened the black.
I wanted to find out why.
And I saw, in the base of the box a hole.
Which my sorrows had fallen out.
I showed the hole to God, and mused aloud,
I wonder where my sorrows could be.
He smiled a gentle smile at me.
My child, they're all here with me.
I asked, God, why give me the boxes,
why the gold, and the black with the hole?
My child, the gold is for you to count your
blessings, the black is for you to let go.

We should consider all of our friends as blessings.

-copied-

Eva Smith,
Adult Coordinator



CHURCH-WIDE PICNIC

The United Methodist Men are sponsoring a Church-Wide Picnic on August 15th at 3:00 p.m. There will be games such as Horseshoes, Volleyball, Ring Toss and any others you wish to bring. We will have Hamburgers, Hot Dogs with all the trimmings, and Homemade Ice Cream. Everyone is invited to this annual event. Come out and enjoy good Christian Fellowship!

Any donations of Games and Food would be greatly appreciated!

Troy Willoughby



**THE
THRIFT
SHOP**

Did you notice the new paraments on the altar purchased by the Thrift Shop? Items such as this can only be done through the hard work and cooperation of all the workers and donations of items by you the church. We have had a good year so far and have done lots of community service work.

This is a copy of the letter that was written to Ms Rose of the Gospel Center Book Store on Bragg Blvd.

Dear Ms Rose:

Since September 1998, we have been searching every Avenue to find a way to purchase a set of paraments for our church that we could afford. With your help and sacrifice of part of your profit, we finally did come together on it. From the depth of our heart, we thank you. You have shown to us what it means to be a child of "The King".

We will be back to visit you.

Sincerely,
The Thrift Shop Committee

On tap are some more ideas for refurbishing the Sanctuary. Keep up the great work.

Eva Smith,

CARD MINISTRY

Once again, thanks to each of you who support our card ministry with your funding, your cards and your prayers.

We have received so many positive reactions from our card ministry that in appreciation of being remembered during the past two years, I chose to share this letter with our whole church family:

Dear Card Ministry Group,

For all the many and various kinds of cards you have sent our way, we are so grateful to you, and for the personal note each has conveyed, we thank you.

We know God makes no mistakes and our faith and hope hasn't wavered. We are in the human flesh and sometimes we want to "ask God all the why's", but we claim His promises. He is still in control and is "the great Physician". We do ask for His relief from this horrible pain and to give us strength. We do know that in His time, He will answer.

I can't do anything - pray for Edgar - He has to be by my side right now and has had two heart spells, but thank God He brought him through. Thank you!

May God bless you and may His great love rest upon you always.

Our love,
Pegi & Edgar Lineberger

Thanks again for all you do...keep the names and prayers coming.

The Card Ministry Team



A SPECIAL THANKS:

Words cannot express how much we thank you for all the love and care given to Annie Rue during her time at St. Matthew's and throughout her illness. She could not understand what she did to deserve such love and kindness that was shown to her.

How gratifying to see her expression when she spoke of this to me and others. St. Matthew's was her second family.

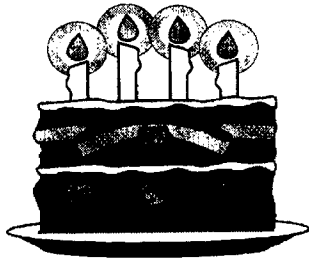
The family and I thank you so much and will treasure these kind deeds you so freely gave.

All Our Love,

Lola Smith

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Jeff Graham
Dave Dominie
- 5 Spencer Scruggs
- 6 Christy Rome
- 8 Marc Norton
Chris Strickland
- 9 David Dominie
- 10 Kenneth & Sally
Merritt
- 12 Ashley Stone
Roberta Brown
Lorri Shackelford
- 13 Joan Foster
- 16 Charles Couch
Jeanette Ward
- 17 Vince Lindenmeyer
- 18 Linda Strickland
- 19 Mary Byrne
Betty Huffman
- 20 Gladys Rice
Elinor & Tommy
Stewart
- 21 Betty Nalls
- 22 Mary Ann Mitchell
Joyce DeBruhl
- 23 Barbara Thompson
- 25 Cathleen Manship
Reena Stone
- 27 Gudrun McDuffie
- 28 Terry Jordan
- 30 April Smith
Katie Jordan



**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

ONE-BY-ONE TUTORING:

Thanks go out to all of you! Our *ONE-BY-ONE* program is in its summer session. We have nine students and ten teachers.

We have broken a major barrier! An adult has entered our

added remedial program. At last, our church can offer beginning reading skills to adults. If you know anyone who would like to be an adult reader, please let them know about us. Anyone and everyone in our congregation who is over 18 and would like to begin or improve their reading is **WELCOME!**

Our *SUMMER SESSION* is dedicated to carry-over skills and to the evaluation of students. *FALL SESSION* will begin September 13th. That gives us time to train new teachers and to accept and evaluate new students.

Have you looked deeply into your hearts? Can you give an hour a week to help in this program? God has blessed so many of us so richly. Can we give just a little back to Him? Your *"little time"* will mean a *"whole lot"* to someone. Please consider! Please pray! Please join us.

Through God's Blessings,

Amy Eberhardt

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

DONATIONS GIVEN TO:

- ◆ Music Fund
- ◆ Emergency Fund by Hazel Owen
- ◆ Emergency Fund by Paul & Jewel Sharpe
- ◆ Emergency Fund by the Boyd Snyder Sunday School Class
- ◆ Emergency Fund from the Thrift Shop
- ◆ Emergency Fund in honor of JPeggy William's birthday from her Secret Prayer Partner
- ◆ Conference Apportionment
- ◆ Emergency Fund in memory of Annie Rue Hill by Bobby & Oveida Allen, Julian Allen, Paul Allen, Michael & Lisa Allen, Mr & Mrs. Ben Gupton, Irene Tharrington, David & Kay Tharrington, Lynwood & Julie Griffin, Marian H. Furlough, Cliff & Catherine Morgan, James & Joyce DeBruhl, Robert O'Neal, Barbara Kent, Hank & Betty Zielinski
- ◆ Emergency Fund in memory of Lonnie Hubbard by Lynwood & Julie Griffin
- ◆ St. Matthew's in memory of Miles Thomas by J.W. & Mary Henderson
- ◆ Emergency Fund by Wayne & Debbie Hager

"THE DASH"

I read of a man who stood to speak
at the funeral of a friend.
He referred to the dates on her tombstone
from the beginning...to the end.
He noted that first came her date of birth
and spoke the following date with tears,
but he said what mattered most of all
Was the dash between those years.(1900-1970)
For that dash represents all the time
that she spent alive on earth...
And now only those who loved her
know what that little line is worth.
For it matters not, how much we own;
the cars...the house...the cash,
What matters is how we live and love
and how we spend our dash.
So you think about this long and hard...
Are there things you'd like to change?
For you never know how much time is left,
that can still be rearranged.
If we could just slow down enough
to consider what's true and real,
and always try to understand
the way other people feel.
And be less quick to anger,
and show appreciation more
and love the people in our lives
like we've never loved before.
If we treat each other with respect,
and more often wear a smile...
Remembering that this special dash
Might only last a little while.
So, when your eulogy's being read
with your life's actions to rehash...
Would you be proud of the things they say
about how you spent your dash?

Author Unknown



ST. MATTHEW'S UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

WORDS TO PONDER:

Some people complain because God put thorns on roses, while others praise Him for putting roses among thorns. Into which group of people do you belong?

Our UMW CONFERENCE THEME FOR 1999 IS "Linked with Christ in Mission and Ministry-Through Growing." Ordinarily it is no trouble for us to come together as a UMW Unit and plan a "mission" project for some needy person or cause. It is always easier to extend the helping hand if it does not cause us to evaluate our own spiritual walk. Our theme encourages us to do "mission and ministry" while we ourselves are spiritually "growing." As children, mother would back us up to the door facing and make a new mark to check our height to see if we were growing taller. Sure would be easy if we could do that to check our spiritual growth, but spiritual growth marks are "marked" in our hearts and not on the door facing.

One way we grow spiritually is with our "Pledge" we pay each meeting. We commit ourselves to helping others who are in need. I commend each of you for continuing your Pledge commitment, because the more we raise for missions the more we can be in mission for Him!

TO THE CIRCLE LEADERS:

1. Please remember the names for "Candleburning" are to be sent to the District Treasurer by September 1st deadline. Have your circle members give your names (please specify IN HONOR OR IN MEMORY) they would like to include at this event. There is no limit on the number of names from a UMW Unit. Each circle, please type the names and give to Joann Terrier in order that she can attach our check and get the names and money in by the September 1st deadline.
2. Turn in your list of persons who participated in the UMW Reading Program to me. I must make a report and send it in by September 15th.
3. Each circle should be compiling a list of names from which two names will be chosen to receive the "Mission Recognition Pin" this fall. Each pin is \$30.00 and we have elected to provide two pins. Members should call your Circle Leader to give your suggestions of names.
4. We will have a Budget Planning Session the first of October to plan the budget for year 2000. Circle Leaders start making a list of budget recommendations from your group and turn this list in to me the first of October.
5. Our third quarterly pledge amount is due to the District Treasurer by September 1st.
6. If you do not desire to continue as your groups leader, please hold an election and give me the new Circle Leader name by October 1st as information to be included in the new 2000 UMW Directory.

Our UMW Nominations Committee has begun work on the officers for 2000. In keeping with the tenure of this UMW Unit, changing officers every year, the offices of: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Communications will all be available for nominations. If you have accepted a nomination from this committee, I thank you for your willingness to serve this local unit as an officer. When the list of officers has been completed, they will be posted on the UMW Bulletin Board for your consideration on election during our next General Meeting, October 4th at 7:00 p.m.

Our Fall Bazaar is approaching rapidly and anything that you make in the craft line will be much appreciated. If you bake cakes, cookies, or goodies of any sort, we thank you in advance for all that you do to insure success of this event. There will be more plans for the bazaar published in a later newsletter.

I hope you are trying the great recipes that have been published; they have been quick and easy and that is something we are all looking for during these hot summer days. Someone made a suggestion: If you cut the recipe out each month and tape it to an index card you could start an easy Recipe Box. Good idea!

Remember! Fertilize and water that spiritual life for good growth! Until next month,
Your UMW President,
Betty Patrick



RECIPE OF THE MONTH

ONION CASSEROLE

8 oz. Cheddar Cheese, shredded
1/2 Stick Margarine, melted
3/4 roll Ritz Crackers, crushed
4 large Onions, sliced
1 can Cream of Chicken Soup

Slice onions in a greased (8X8) Casserole dish. Mix together soup & water & pour over. Add crushed crackers on top of onion & soup mixture. Drizzle melted margarine over the crackers. Top with cheese. Cover casserole with Aluminum foil & bake 350 degrees for 45 minutes.

(GOOD!)

YOUTH NEWS

Our Youth Group would like to thank everyone who supported us at our Car Wash and Bake Sale on July 10th. We would also like to thank everyone who has bought a license plate and also remind those of you who haven't bought one that we are selling license plates for only \$10.00 They say: "We attend St. Matthew's United Methodist Church Fayetteville, N.C." Thanks again and please continue to support us.

We are having Pastor Larry's old youth group from Bethel UMC come down for a day of fun on August 22nd. It is going to be at Lynwood and Julie Griffin's home.

We are going to meet on August 1, 8, and 15 at 4:00 p.m. The meeting on the 15th is mandatory for all youth because this is Promotion Sunday, and we will be getting new members.

Since Pastor Larry took on another church, Grace UMC, and Ms Bett is playing the piano for their worship service, we needed a new Sunday School teacher. So our youth leaders, Leigh and Scott Thomson, took the job. We would like to thank Leigh, Scott, and Ms Bett for being great Sunday School teachers.

Yours in Christ,

Meghann Dominic
UMYF Secretary

UNITED METHODIST MEN NEWS:

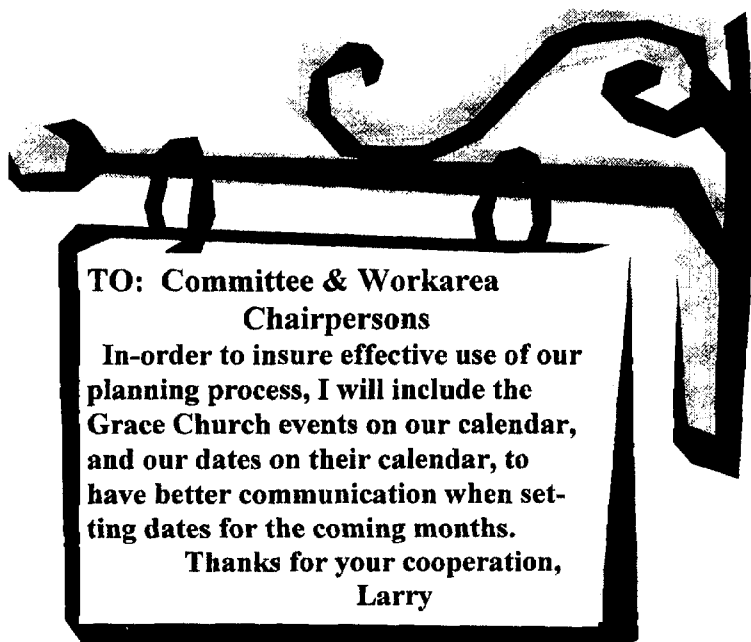
The United Methodist Men held their monthly Fellowship Breakfast on July 18th with 15 members in attendance. After our delicious meal and conversation among our peers, we decided to get down to business. Troy started us out by bringing up the idea of sponsoring a Church-Wide Picnic. We all thought that this would be a nice way to spend time with our church families, so after a motion by Jack and a second by Ike, we unanimously decided to host this picnic.

The picnic will be held August 15th with a Game Day theme. We plan on having ring toss, horseshoes, badminton and other games. There will be no charge for the meal, but we do ask that everyone sign-up by August 10th, so that we will know how many burgers to prepare. The meal will be served around 5:00 p.m., but everyone should come around 3:00 p.m. for the games.

We also discussed plans for the Homecoming dinner to be held on September 26th and the Harvest Day dinner to be held on November 21st. The Council on Ministries approached the UMM about providing the Ham and Turkey for the meals again this year, and of course we all agreed that we would. It has been an ongoing tradition for the UMM to provide the meat for the meals and we are honored to be able to continue this tradition. The UMM were also asked to help with Christmas Treat Bags again this year. We have already started to accumulate some gift treats for this purpose, so naturally we agreed.

As a final thought, I just want to remind all men that the Fellowship Breakfast is always held on the third Sunday of the month. We would really like to have all men of the church attend if you can. The breakfasts are a way to get to know the others in the church, share in some great fellowship (and a few fish stories) as well as discussing issues within the church and how we can help. The UMM do a lot of things behind the scenes, and we can always use help from others. If you are a man of the church, we would love to see you in August.

Ken Manship - UMM Secretary



Although the Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle is taking a break from our regular meeting schedule, let our thoughts be on the projects for the upcoming fall and winter and especially for the bazaar. Hopefully, everyone will participate in making this bazaar one of our best! So get to work!

Circle Leader,
Lola Smith

AUGUST

ST. MATTHEW'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1999

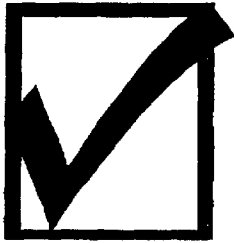
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
UMYF-4:00 pm	One-By-One-7pm	Wedding Counseling 9am Prayer Group-7pm	Card Ministry-5:00pm <u>NO BIBLE STUDY</u> Choir Rehearsal-7:30pm	Grace Bible Study 7pm		Grace Church UMM & UMW Breakfast 8am
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
UMYF-4:00 pm	Staff Mtg.-6pm One-By-One-7pm	Pastor Leadership Mtg. 10am Methodist College Prayer Group-7pm	<u>NO DAY CIRCLE</u> Card Ministry-5:00pm <u>NO BIBLE STUDY</u> <u>NO CHOIR REHEARSAL</u>	Grace Bible Study 7pm <u>NO NIGHT CIRCLE</u>		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
UMM Breakfast-7:30am CHURCH-WIDE PICNIC - 3:00pm UMYF-4:00pm		Prayer Group-7pm	Home Extensions-9:30am Card Ministry-5:00pm <u>NO BIBLE STUDY</u> Choir Rehearsal-7:30pm	D.C.E. meeting with The D.S. Grace Bible Study 7pm		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
CHURCH VISION TEAM MEETING 4:00pm		Prayer Group-7pm	Card Ministry-5:00pm <u>NO BIBLE STUDY</u> <u>No Choir Practice</u>	<u>NO HELP'N HANDS</u> Grace Bible Study 7pm		Amero Wedding 11:00am Botanical Gardens
29	30	31				
Grace Church Fifth Sunday Night Singing 6:30pm		Prayer Group-7pm				

**EVERY
SUNDAY
SCHEDULE:**

**8:30AM
EARLY
WORSHIP
SERVICE
(NO)
NURSERY
PROVIDED**

**9:45AM
SUNDAY
SCHOOL
(ALL AGES)**

**11:00AM
WORSHIP
SERVICE
(NURSERY
PROVIDED)**



INFORMATION SHEET

The "old" copier in the church office is for copying jobs up to 30 copies per job. If you have a need for larger amounts of copies to be made, they **MUST** be handed by our secretary, Doris, on the new Risograph Duplicator.

You **MUST** get this work to her in a timely manner. Do not expect to walk in the office and get your job done immediately. She has her daily work schedule and these jobs should be given to her so she has at least a week to include your request in her work load.

Don't wait to the last minute to plan and implement your project. It will be at the discretion of the secretary how fast your project can be completed in the weeks schedule. Church work has first priority. Please follow these guidelines.

The ST. MATTHEW'S BELLWETHER provides information to our church members in a timely fashion in-order that all might be kept informed.

The articles, that are submitted, are under the editing of the secretary for availability of space each month. The newsletter will remain three full pages, front & back, so space may be an issue for some months.

Your article may not get included that month if this is the problem. Your article will be included in the next possible issue. Church information and articles will have first priority. Thanks for your cooperation.



**I WILL ATTEND THE FIRST-ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC
FOR THE _____ MEAL, JUST FOR GAMES _____
ON AUGUST 15TH. (Please check the boxes there are appropriate, tear
off this Ticket and place in the church offering or church office.)**

NAME: _____ TOTAL ADULTS: _____

TOTAL CHILDREN: _____