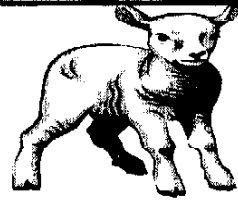


ST. MATTHEW'S BELLWETHER



VOL I ISSUE XI

NOVEMBER 1999

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

John Donne tells a parable of the mountain. A man is climbing a mountain, at the top of which he hopes to find God. By ascending the heights, the seeker expects to leave all the cares and miseries of life behind in the valley. But while he climbs, God is coming down the mountain into the toil and grief. When the man reaches the mountaintop, he finds nothing. God is not there. What then will he do? He knows the climbing was a mistake, but in agony of that recognition, will he fall down in despair, or turn to retrace his path through the mists and into the valley to where God has gone seeking Him?

The Christian thanksgiving transforms Thanksgiving Day from a mere self-gratulatory feasting to a time of humble gratitude of God—the God who is in the valley amidst the toil and grief. Instead of the fool's thought, "Soul, take thine ease; eat, drink, be merry," it whispers: "What shall I render unto God, and how can I share my blessing?" No, it is coming to ask, "How can I help to remove the world's burden of poverty and wretchedness?"

It was on the Mount of Transfiguration that Peter had left the grief and toil behind, to find what was to him, Utopia. In fact, he wanted to take up residence there. It was perfect. But God in Jesus Christ put his arm around him and said, "Peter, I'm going to the valley where life is, where toil and grief are; come go with me." So, Peter left the wonder of it all and retraced his steps to the valley. With Christ leading the way he was there to make a difference in the world. At some point we've all been to the mountaintop; maybe you're there now. As much as we would like to take up residence there, let us make this a memorable Thanksgiving season, let us leave the mountaintop and retrace our steps through the mists and go with Christ leading the way to the valley. It is there that we will make a difference in this world, and it is there, that we will be able to count our many blessings, and name them one by one. It will surprise us what the Lord has done.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

LARRY



WHAT IF GOD HAD VOICE MAIL??

Imagine praying and hearing this: "Thank you for calling my Creator's house. Please select one of the following four options":

- * Press 1 for requests
- * Press 2 for thanksgiving
- * Press 3 for complaints
- * Press 4 for all other inquiries

What if God used the familiar excuse: "All of the angels are helping other customers right now. Please stay on the line. Your call will be answered in the order it was received."

Can you imagine getting these kinds of responses as you call on God in prayer?

- * Press 1 if you would like to speak with Gabriel
- * Press 2 for Michael
- * Press 3 for any other angel
- * Press 4 if you want King David to sing you a Psalm

* For reservations at my Creator's House, simply press the letter J-O-H-N on the keypad, followed by the number 3-1-6.

* For answers to nagging questions about dinosaurs, the age of the earth and where Noah's Ark is, wait until you get here!

Thank God, you can't call our Creator too often! You only need to ring once and God hears you. Because of Jesus, you never get a busy signal. God takes each call and knows each caller personally. When you call, the Lord will answer; you will cry for help and God will say: "Here am I!"

Emergency Phone Numbers:

- * When in sorrow, call John 14
- * When people fail you, call Psalm 27
- * If you want to be fruitful, call John 15
- * When you have sinned, call Psalm 51
- * When you worry, call Matthew 6:19-34
- * When you are in danger, call Psalm 91
- * When God seems far away, call Psalm 139
- * When your faith needs stirring, call Hebrews 11
- * When you are lonely and fearful, call Psalm 23
- * When you grow bitter and critical, call I Cor. 13
- * For Paul's secret to happiness, call Col. 3:12-17
- * For idea of Christianity, call I Cor. 5:15-19
- * When you feel down and out, call Rom. 8:31-39
- * When you want peace and rest, call Matt. 11:25-30
- * When the world seems bigger than God, call Psalm 90
- * When you want Christian assurance, call Rom. 8:1-30
- * When you leave home for labor or travel, call Psalm 121
- * When your prayers grow narrow or selfish, call Psalm 67
- * For a great invention or opportunity, call Isaiah 55

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)



Thanks to everyone who helped in making this session of Wednesday Night Alive a success. We averaged eleven children each Wednesday and they had a great time learning about the Bible.

I would also like to say a special **THANK YOU** to the following:

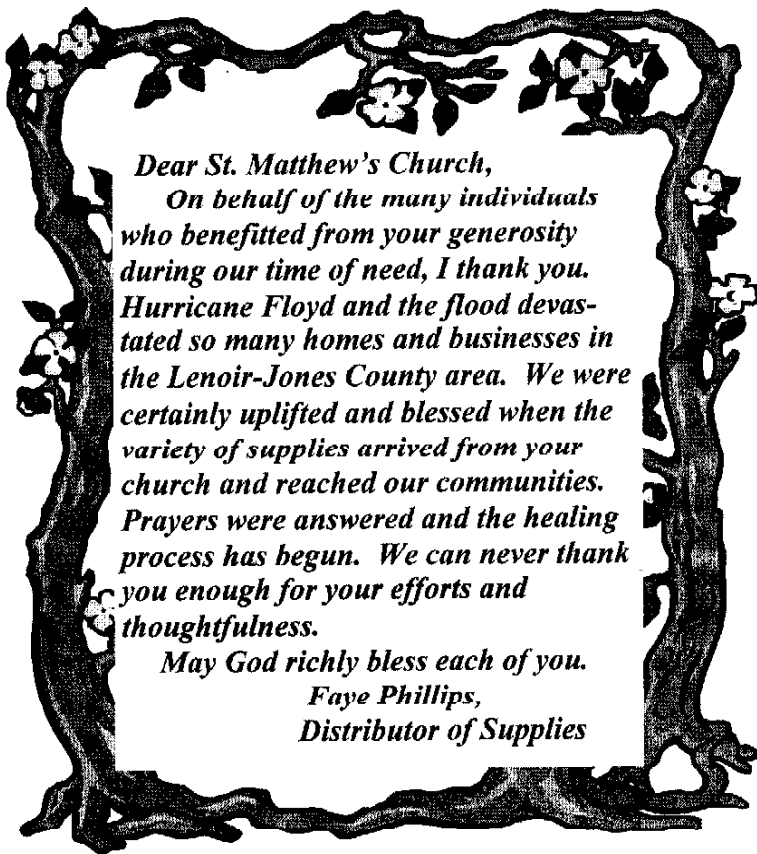
Amy Eberhardt and **Lorri Shackelford** for doing an outstanding job of teaching the children.

Terry Jordan for working with the children in music.

The **parents** for bringing your children every week.

Everyone who made this session a success for the children.

Candice Wagoner,
WNA Director



*Dear St. Matthew's Church,
On behalf of the many individuals who benefitted from your generosity during our time of need, I thank you. Hurricane Floyd and the flood devastated so many homes and businesses in the Lenoir-Jones County area. We were certainly uplifted and blessed when the variety of supplies arrived from your church and reached our communities. Prayers were answered and the healing process has begun. We can never thank you enough for your efforts and thoughtfulness.*

May God richly bless each of you.

*Faye Phillips,
Distributor of Supplies*

UNITED METHODIST MEN NEWS:

The United Methodist Men met on October 18th for our monthly fellowship. We had 16 members present.

A **SPECIAL THANKS** to everyone who helped with our annual Barbecue Sale. It was a very successful year for us, and the funds raised will go toward church projects.

A motion was made to help support the **SHOE-BOX MINISTRY** by placing \$5.00 in each shoe-box up to 100 boxes. We also made a motion to finance 1/3 of the renovations to the church grounds. Both motions were approved.

Our next Fellowship Breakfast will be on November 21st. We hope to see **all the men** of the church there.

Ken Manship,
UMM Secretary

YOUNG DISCIPLES CLUB

The Young Disciples Club welcomes children who are in grades 1-5. We meet for fun and Christianship fellowship two Sunday's a month from 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. A few of the projects we have planned are...

- ...making Christmas cards for soldiers overseas*
- ...participating in the "Shoe Box Greetings" program*
- ...visiting shut-in's during the holiday season*

We have six members and we plan to grow in number and in spirit. If you would like to join our club, look for meeting times in the church bulletin or contact Sandy Jones at 867-5442.



RUTH-ETHEL SMITH CIRCLE NEWS

On October 13th, the Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle met in the fellowship hall. Attendance was good. We pledged for the year 2000 and selected a family of four out of our church family who will receive a Thanksgiving meal.

It's time again to prepare the **SHOE-BOXES**. The due date is no later than November 22nd. (If anyone cares to help, call Highland Presbyterian Church.)

At our next meeting bring a **PENNY-A-PRAYER** for the **WORLD THANK OFFERING**.

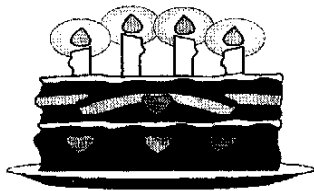
On behalf of all the members **THANK YOU** for your hard work and contributing to another successful Bazaar. I also want to thank Ruth Caldwell and Joann Terrier for helping pack up items that wasn't sold and taken to the Thrift Shop.

See you at our next meeting.

Lola Smith,
Chairperson

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS-

2	Amanda Colon
5	Justin Cole
6	Lynwood Griffin Tracy Scruggs
8	Lynn Graham
10	Tiffany Willis Jack Byrne Robert Bretz
11	Bob Pray
12	Cudrun Arnold Glyndetta Hubbard
14	Derrek Snyder
15	Hank Zielinski
17	Kristen Royal
19	Dee Parker Jessica Powell
23	Irma Evans
25	Mary Sue Grady Ike Huffman
28	Christopher Rome
30	Mandi Hubbard



**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

ONE-BY-ONE:

Our First Session was a great stride for Christian Outreach! God continues to give wonderful blessings to St. Matthew's and to our community. Eighteen students were helped by extra special teachers. Sadly, two of our teachers cannot return, so we really need for the Lord to touch two more hearts. (Just two more dedicated Christians willing to give six hours...one hour a week, for another one-by-one...)

Students and Teachers, please mark your calendar! Our second session begins November 15th. As always, we meet from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. on Monday nights. Classes continue through December 13th, then stop, and our last night will be January 10, 2000. After each six-week session, we take a three-week break for planning and student evaluation. The Christmas Holiday vacation is an exception. The Third Session will be announced.

We thank God for this opportunity He has given us.

THANKSGIVING IS ONE-BY-ONE GIVING THANKS!

This is in recognition and a special thank you to everyone who has given their time and talents so that through Christ, you have helped another to read better. You are the ones who reach out, one-by-one. You are truly special!

Co-Director: Linda Strickland; Teachers: Joe Bledsoe, Susan Brinson, Joyce Christian, Meghann Dominie, Shirley Dominie, Betty Gray, Glyndetta Hubbard, Ike Huffman, Jessika Kivett, Jean Lambert, Patrick McArdle, Karen Ogden, Patty Poche', Bob Pray, Mae Roberson, Donald Salada, Erika Sanchez, Lorri Shackelford, Dawn Stone, DeAnn Trevathan, Candace Wagoner, Linda Williams; Substitutes: Maureen Steward; Student Helpers: Heather Shackelford and Rhys Trevathan. You are all wonderful!

Thank you,

Amy Eberhardt



SPECIAL OFFERINGS

DONATIONS GIVEN TO:

- ◆ Emergency Fund in memory of Betty Huffman, Annie Rue Hill, & Lonnie Hubbard from the St. Matthew's Chancel Choir.
- ◆ Emergency Fund from the Boyd Snyder Class
- ◆ Emergency Fund & Power Bill by the Thrift Shop.
- ◆ Emergency Fund from Sam & Shirley Pitchford.
- ◆ Emergency Fund in honor of Hazel Owen's birthday by the Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle.
- ◆ Emergency Fund in memory of Annie Rue Hill & Betty Huffman by Bob & Betty Probst.
- ◆ St. Matthew's Budget in memory of Betty Huffman from Mr. & Mrs. W.E. Huffman & Mrs. Jerrie Monroe.
- ◆ St. Matthew's Budget in honor of Lyle Spidle from his daughter, Patti.
- ◆ Emergency Fund in memory of Irma Evan's brother from the Boyd Snyder Class.

THANK YOU!

Many thanks to all of St. Matthew's for your loving and financial support in my final year of seminary at Duke Divinity School. You all raised \$1,000 last year which the United Methodist General Board of Higher Education and Ministry matched. Having \$2,000 reduced from school payment is a huge help and very much appreciated.

Vince and I also thank all of you for your kind words and beautiful gifts last month as we anticipate the birth of our first child. From car seats, to baskets, to clothes, St. Matthew's is already a huge part of this child's life. Thanks to all for your love and participation in this exciting time!

Vince & Cynthia Lindenmeyer

WHAT IF GOD HAD VOICE MAIL CONTINUED:

- * When you want courage for a task, call Joshua 1
 - * How to get along with fellowmen, call Rom. 12
 - * When you think of investments or returns, call Mark 10
 - * If you are depressed, call Psalm 27
 - * If your pocketbook is empty, call Psalm 37
 - * If you're losing confidence in people, call I Cor. 13
 - * If people seem unkind, call John 15
 - * If discouraged about your work, call Psalm 126
 - * If you find the world growing small, and yourself great, call Psalm 19
- Emergency numbers may be dialed direct. No operator assistance is necessary. All lines are open to Heaven 24 hours a day.

Have a Blessed Day!

Author Unknown

ST. MATTHEW'S UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

WOW!! What a bazaar day - Whew! Our "day" was a huge success because of the great effort of all. Our baked goods table was overflowing with wonderful breads, coffee cakes, cookies, dessert bars, muffins, pies, home grown honey and jars of Peppers in Olive Oil. Thank you for giving of your time to provide all those goodies and then turn around and buy some of those same goodies to take home with you - real commitment!!

Our special rooms: White Elephant, Youth, Christmas, Crafts, Porcelain Dolls turned out nicely and thanks to all who shopped with us. There were many bargains to be had for the early shopper. All the doorways into the special rooms were marked with signs and decorations; we especially liked the UMYF doorway with its sign of: H O W Bazaar - this was real "cool". Our Hot Dog lunch went over very well and thanks for all of those donations.

Our beautiful Quilt brought in many donations-a great way for the lucky winner to stay warm.

Candice Wagoner won the porcelain doll-boy-was Candice surprised!

We had a profit of around \$2,400.00 on this one day bazaar. Everyone worked hard for this final push and now we can relax a little before going into the holidays. Each circle has their November projects to concentrate on. Also, each circle will turn in their collections of **A Penny And A Prayer and their World Thank Offerings** at their November circle meetings.

At the October General Meeting, our officers for the year 2000 were elected as follows:

President - Betty Patrick
Vice-President - Dorothy Taylor
Secretary - Glyndetta Hubbard
Treasurer - Joann Terrier
Communications - Amy Eberhardt

The new circle leaders for 2000 are:

Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle - Catherine Morgan
The Night Owl Circle - Candice Wagoner

On November 7th, at 5:00 p.m., I need for Catherine Morgan, Candice Wagoner, Mary Rozier, Joann Terrier and Rev. Larry Patrick to meet with me in the church library for a committee meeting. DON'T FORGET!

Each circle should have their pledge cards filled out for the year 2000. If you have not filled out a card, let me encourage you to take care of this as soon as possible. These total amounts of pledges are needed to construct the 2000 Budget. Take care of this at your November meeting, please!

I am setting a General Meeting for December 6th in the fellowship hall for 7:00 p.m. This will be a time of goodies and punch for refreshments while we conclude the final business of the year. I think this time will be appropriate to finish our business and not take away from the Christmas Party we have at Roberta's on December 9th. Please make an effort to come and celebrate what a wonderful, missional year we have experienced this year!!

Your President - Betty Patrick

CHOCOLATE CREAM DESSERT

3 cups crushed vanilla wafers
2/3 cup butter or margarine melted
1/4 cup sugar
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon

FILLING:

1 milk chocolate candy bar (7 ounces)
plain or with almonds, broken into pieces
1 package (10 ounces) large marshmallows
1 cup milk
2 cups whipping cream, whipped
1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
Sliced almonds, toasted, optional



In a bowl, combine wafer crumbs, butter, sugar and cinnamon; mix well. Set aside 1/3 cup for topping. Press remaining crumb mixture into a greased 13 X 9 X 2 inch pan; refrigerate until firm. In a saucepan, heat the candy bar, marshmallows and milk over medium-low heat until chocolate and marshmallows are melted, stirring often. Remove from heat; cool to room temperature. Fold in whipped cream and vanilla; pour over crust. Chill for 3-4 hours. Sprinkle with reserved crumb mixture and almonds if desired.

Yield: 12-16 servings



FAYETTEVILLE DISTRICT
LEADERSHIP EVENT
November 14, 1999
3:00-6:00 p.m.
Methodist College
Reeves Auditorium



Course	Content	Instructor(s)
1. Organizing the Work of the Church	Administrative Beard, Council, COM	Hugh Cameron and Frank Daniels
2. Guiding Age-Level Ministries	Older Adults and Family	Fandy Autry Nan Eubanks, Helen Knox
3. Lay Leaders	The Lay Leader's Role in the Local Church	Roberta Brown and Linda Harris
4. Leading as Pastor Mobilizing the Small Church for Ministry	Leadership in the Small Church	David Malloy
5. Managing your Church's Finances	Finance and Stewardship	Bill Williams
6. Managing your Church's Assets	Trustees: Insurance, Fire Inspections, Accessibility	Richard Vaughan
7. Communicating your Message	Evangelism in the Local Church	Barry Drum and Carl Frazier
8. Music Ministry	Creative Use of Music in the Local Church	Eddie Hill and Adam Seate
9. Ministry with Youth	Leading Youth Groups in the Local Church for Youth Leaders and UMYF Officers	Andrew Bullard, Rod Cooper, Ken Hall
10. Ministry with Children	Creative Ways to Work with Children in the Local Church Ministry	Ian Hill
11. Christian Education	Creative Use of Resources in Christian Education	Cynthia Powell
12. Missions	Opportunities for Home and Foreign Missions	Ray Wittman (Foreign Mission), Donald Shields (Habitat), Rusty Long (Fayetteville Urban Ministry)
13. Disaster Response	Preparing and Responding to a Disaster	Jay Bissett

NOVEMBER

ST. MATTHEW'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1999

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		Prayer Mtg.-7pm	Card Ministry-5pm Bible Study-6:30pm Choir Practice-7:30pm	District Council on Ministries Mtg.-11am Grace Bible Study-7pm		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
UMYF-5pm Grace UMYF-5pm	Church Staff-6pm	Prayer Mtg.-7pm Trustees Mtg.-7:30pm	Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle - 10:30am Card Ministry-5pm Bible Study-6:30pm Choir Practice-7:30pm	Help 'N Hands-10am (Seagrove Pottery) Night Owls meet at Linda Webb's - 7pm Grace Bible Study-7pm		Grace Spaghetti Dinner-4pm
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
District Leadership Event at Methodist College-3-6pm UMYF-5pm Grace UMYF-5PM	One-By-One-7pm	Prayer Mtg.-7pm	Hone Extensions-9:30am Card Ministry-5pm Bible Study-6:30pm Choir Practice-7:30pm	Grace Bible Study-7pm		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
UMM Breakfast-7:30am UMYF-5pm Grace UMYF-5pm Harvest Day Covered Dish Supper-6pm	One-By-One-7pm	Worship Com.-7pm Prayer Mtg.-7pm	Thanksgiving Eve Service - 7pm	THANKSGIVING DAY		Worship Committee -10am
28	29	30				
UMYF-5pm Grace UMYF-5pm Christmas Service-7pm (refreshments to follow)	One-By-One-7pm	Prayer Meeting-7pm				

**EVERY
SUNDAY
SCHEDULE:**

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

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

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