

ST. MATTHEW'S BELLWETHER



VOL I ISSUE XII

DECEMBER 1999

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

A young Christian in New Guinea was asked to describe Advent. His explanation was simple and to the point: "At Advent we should try the key to our heart's door. It may have gathered rust. If so, this is the time to oil it in order that the heart's door may open more easily when the Lord Jesus wants to enter at Christmastime."

Did you think the star was meant just for the magi and the shepherds—just for that one night alone? Oh, no! God hung it there against the ages; it is for all of us. Its radiance enfolds us all, knowing no bound of creed, color, or servitude. It guides the aged home; it is reflected in the eyes of babes, generation after generation, and in the eyes of mother's seeking in their babes the countenance of Christ. All of us are come once more under the spell of the star, come to take new hope in peace and the prince of peace.

Some of us can see the light resting upon a bishop's crosier, but we cannot see the radiance on the ordinary shepherd's staff. We can discern the hallowedness of a priest's vocation, but we can see no sanctity in the calling of a carpenter. We can see the nimbus on the few, but not on the crowd; on the unusual, but not on the commonplace. The very birth-hour of Christianity irradiated the humble doings of humble people. When the angels went to the shepherds, common work was encircled with an immortal crown.

There are many questions asked in the Bible, but one in Genesis and another in Matthew are, I think, the greatest of all. God asked Adam, "Where art thou?" Wise Men from the East asked, "Where is he that is born King of the Jews?" In one, God was searching for the sinner; in the other, men were searching for the Savior.

God continues to ask, "Where art thou?" When, essentially, as we approach Advent, we should be asking the question, "Where is he that was born Savior of the world?" If we have forgotten how to ask, maybe it is time to oil the key to our heart so the lock will open more easily when Christ attempts to enter at Christmastime.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Larry



HELP'N HANDS

What a wonderful day we Older Adults had on November 11th. Through the church providing us a van to travel in, and Troy Willoughby being the good, safe and patient driver, 15 of us went to Seagrove to visit the potteries. The scenery of fall colors were beautiful, and to see so many potter's in one town was just amazing. If you have not been for a visit yet, you have missed a treat.



A Special Thanks to the church for providing the van and caring that we had a day out.

In December, we are planning something special and will have the plans completed later.

Eva Smith,
Adult Coordinator

ONLY IN AMERICA

Only in America...can a pizza get to your house faster than an ambulance.

Only in America...are there handicap parking places in front of a skating rink.

Only in America...do drug stores make the sick walk all the way to the back of the store to get their prescriptions while healthy people can buy cigarettes at the front.

Only in America...do people order a double cheeseburger, large fries, and a diet coke.

Only in America...do banks leave both doors open and then chain the pens to the counters.

Only in America...do we leave cars worth thousands of dollars in the driveway and put our useless junk in the garage.

Only in America...do we use answering machines to screen calls and then have call-waiting so we won't miss a call from someone we didn't want to talk to in the first place.

Only in America...do we buy hot dogs in packages of ten and buns in packages of eight.

Only in America...do we use the word "politics" to describe the process so well: "Poli" in Latin meaning "many" and "tics" meaning "bloodsucking creatures."

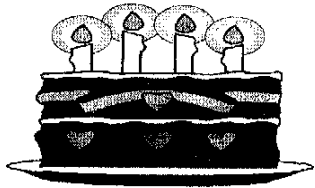
Only in America...do they have drive-up ATM machines with Braille lettering.

and finally,

Only in America...can a homeless combat veteran live in a cardboard box and a draft dodger live in the White House.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAY-

2	Adella Pray
	Karie Bridgeman
3	Rebecca Fields
4	Kenneth Shackelford
6	Betty Patrick
7	Phil Ogden
8	Amy Eberhardt
12	Robyn Shields
	Jackie Ashworth
13	Jay Thompson
14	Nate Unruh
16	Heather Shackelford
17	Francy Hawkins
18	Donna Royal
19	Mary Roth
20	Richard Howell
	Meghann Dominic
21	Carol Chapman
25	Lorene Biggs
30	Marie Strub
	Mary Couch, Jr.
	Virginia Bachelor
31	Carol Clark



**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

ONE-BY-ONE:

Thanks be to God! Thanks to you, St. Matthew's! Two more hearts were touched, and two more teachers stepped forward. Between you and the Lord, there is proof that He intends for ONE-BY-ONE to keep on thriving. Every Monday night that we meet, another of His miracles happens.

The love of God has spread among us. The benefits that you give to our students will last them a lifetime. No longer is the active involvement just between teachers and students. Our whole congregation has become as one, through Christ, to support this mission to its fullest. The students whom you strengthen are indeed the reason for the season.

Merry Christmas to you every day!

With love from an humble heart,

Amy

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

DONATIONS GIVEN TO:

- ◆ Emergency Fund from the Boyd Snyder Class
- ◆ Emergency Fund & Power Bill by the Thrift Shop.
- ◆ Emergency Fund in honor of Mary Sue Grady's birthday which was November 25th by her Secret Pal.
- ◆ Emergency Fund by Paul & Jewel Sharpe.
- ◆ Emergency Fund by William & Gertrude Schultz.
- ◆ Emergency Fund by Catherine Morgan in honor of her Secret Pal's birthday.
- ◆ Emergency Fund from the Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle
- ◆ One-By-One Program by Robert & DeAnn Trevathan
- ◆ One-By-One in honor of Amy Eberhardt & Adella Pray's birthday and in honor of Bob & Adella Pray's 25th Anniversary by Gail Terwilliger

"HOOT OWLS"

Here we are at the end of 1999 about to embark on the year 2000! Wow! We had a good year so far, and I trust we will have an even better year 2000! I am your new circle leader for the upcoming year and I am excited about what lies ahead.

For the new women in our church, I would like to extend an invitation to join our ladies circle group every second Thursday of every month! It is an enjoyable time of Fellowship, Mission Work, Devotion, and we always leave a little more "hootier" than when we arrived. If you are interested in joining our group, feel free to contact me at home at 487-5208 and I will be more than happy to speak with you about us! I would like to thank Millie Sessoms for being a great leader for us for the past years and for always having a smile on her face.

Let's all make an effort to re-commit ourselves to our circle and try to have 100% attendance at each meeting if at all possible because if you miss, you could MISS OUT!!

Again, I am excited about this New Year and I wish you all a safe and Merry Christmas!

God Bless You All!!

Candice Wagoner,
Night Owl Circle Leader
for the Year 2000

A LITTLE SOMETHING TO PONDER:

Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by doing so some people have entertained Angels without knowing it.



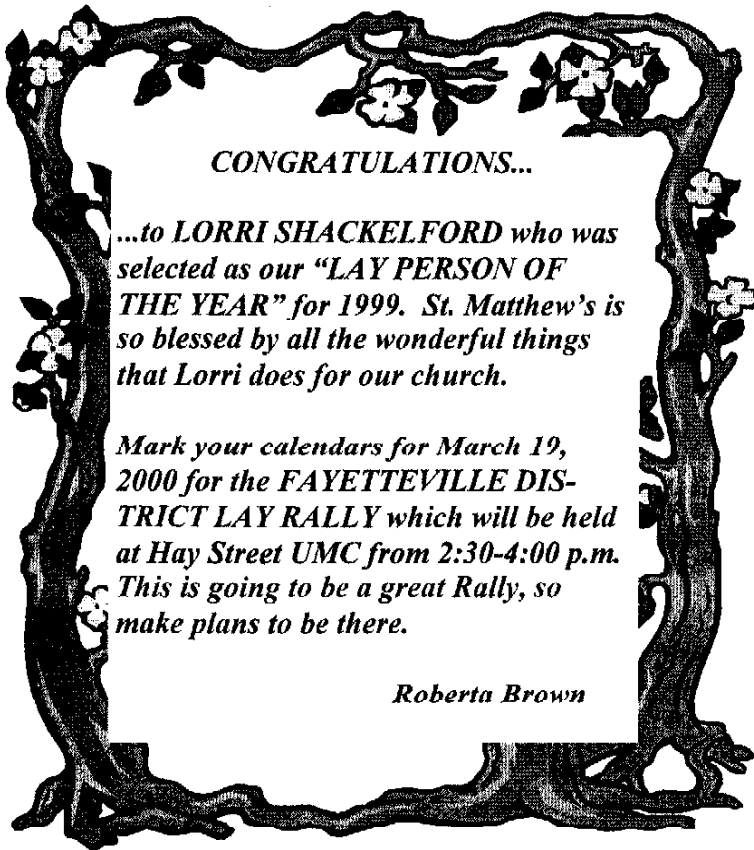


The Thrift Shop held its final meeting for the year 1999 on Monday, November 15th. In looking at our income for the year through October, and the many ways it has been used, we have much to be thankful for.

The Thrift Shop is a valuable asset to our church, and we reach out all over the world in helping others. That is the mission of the Thrift Shop. We have helped in Kosova, Oklahoma/Kansas Tornado Victims, Day Camp, Bible School, Fans for the Elderly, Care Clinic, One-By-One, Sunshine Haven, Hinton Rural Care, Salvation Army, NC Flood Victims, Repairs on Rental Property, and provide Clothes, Coats, Shoes, etc. for the Homeless Coalition regularly.

It is a great mission field, and we have done well. This is only possible through donations of items and faithful, dependable workers that are always there.

Eva Smith, Chairperson



CONGRATULATIONS...

...to **LORRI SHACKELFORD** who was selected as our "LAY PERSON OF THE YEAR" for 1999. *St. Matthew's is so blessed by all the wonderful things that Lorri does for our church.*

Mark your calendars for March 19, 2000 for the FAYETTEVILLE DISTRICT LAY RALLY which will be held at Hay Street UMC from 2:30-4:00 p.m. This is going to be a great Rally, so make plans to be there.

Roberta Brown

YOUTH NEWS

This month we are planning a trip to **PIGEON FORGE**. The dates for this trip are December 27-29. This is a youth event that is held every year called "TEEN CELEBRATION". We are looking forward to it.

We had a great time at our Lock-In which was held on October 29th. We would like to thank everyone who helped to make this years lock-in a success. We would also like to inform you that we had an excellent time at Pilgrimage 99.

As always we would like to say thank you to everyone who supports us with your money, time, or other special ways. Thank you very much!

Yours in Christ,
Meghann Dominic



UNITED METHODIST MEN NEWS:

UMM held their monthly Fellowship Breakfast on Sunday, November 21st with 19 members in attendance. After enjoying a delicious breakfast served up by Matt Jamison, the meeting was called to order by President, Troy Willoughby. Business discussed was the election of Head Ushers for December and January, and Volunteers for the Thrift Shop. We also discussed the security of the church and the church grounds following another break in. Plans are in place by the Finance Committee to have lights added to the back of the church, and we are looking at Security Systems.

We elected officers for the year 2000. Troy Willoughby will remain as President for a second term. Lyle Spidle will also maintain his title and responsibilities as Treasurer. Raymond Gray was nominated to accept the role of Vice-President and Matt Jamison will be replacing me as UMM Secretary.

The next UMM Fellowship Breakfast will be held on December 18th at 8:00 a.m. at a Restaurant to be announced later. All men, wives and girlfriends are invited and welcome.

Ken Manship,
UMM Secretary

RUTH-ETHEL SMITH CIRCLE NEWS

The Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle accomplished many deeds and helped in areas which involved each and everyone these past months.

At our December meeting, we will again vote on Prayer Partners, Reading Programs and choose a Project.

Hope to see all of you at our meeting which will be held at the home of Eva Smith on December 8th at 10:30 a.m. Bring a covered dish and gifts.

Lola Smith,
Chairperson

ST. MATTHEW'S UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Greetings to all!!! It would take more space than I have available on this page to list all the wonderful projects accomplished by the Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle, The Night Owls, and the UMW Unit this year. In addition to all the projects, many hours of personal time was gladly given to outside-community projects as well. We have had a wonderful "Missional" year and I give God the glory and thank each of you for your continued support of our purpose.

Also, thank you for your generous donation of the Shoebox Christmas Boxes for our support of the Samaritan's Purse Project. At the time of this writing, I do not know the actual number of boxes donated, but I know it is more than last year.

Another last minute project was the Christmas Memory Containers that were put together for families down-cast in the flood areas of North Carolina. This project was an appeal from our Bishop's wife, Linda Edwards, to send boxes of Christmas articles to help families begin to make new memories. We were asked to fill (one) 20-gallon container; we filled two containers. Thanks be to God for committed Christian women.

The Night Owls Circle will begin in January meeting every month, even the months of the General Meeting, but we will still take July and August as a summer break. There will be a list in the 2000 Directory of where the meetings will be held, person with the program, and the hostess. Remember this time change in meetings.

At our January 3rd-Covered Dish General Meeting, you will receive your year 2000 Directory containing much information inside. Also, because we are taking care of our business matters in a more timely manner, our General Meetings next year will have a somewhat new format. We will have more time for fellowship, programming, eating (of course) and also there will be a few new additions. We will begin in the December 6th General Meeting to give out a door prize and also a surprise activity at each meeting. It will all be fun and I encourage each of you to make plans to attend. Remember, if you need transportation to the meeting, just call me.

Here are a few dates for you to jot down on your calendar:

Dec. 6 - General Meeting in fellowship hall. Please bring a finger-food. The drinks will be provided. We need to finalize the 2000 Budget and wrap-up any loose business for this year. We will have a surprise activity and a door prize.

Dec. 8 - Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle at Eva Smith's. Bring a Covered Dish and Gifts.

Dec. 9 - Night Owl Circle Christmas Party at Roberta Brown's home. Secret Prayer Partners revealed.

Jan. 3 - General Meeting at 7:00 p.m. with a Covered Dish Meal in the fellowship hall.

Mar. 6 - General Meeting. Call to Prayer and Self-Denial Program and offering.

Please bring your offering to this meeting.

As you see, we are to start off running in January; we can do it and have a better year next year than this one-it just takes everyone helping. Oh, by the way, the new TV and VCR combination that the UMW Unit bought for the Children's Nursery is mounted up high on the wall and it looks great. This is a great addition to the nursery and the children love watching the Veggie Tale videos. Go by and see the addition, it looks great. Also, many thanks to Lynwood Griffin for having the TV installed properly on the wall away from little hands. Thanks again!!!

Have a great, safe holiday, and I will see you in 2000. Boy, that sure sounds funny!!

UMW President - Betty Patrick

CRANBERRY SALAD

3 ozs Cranberry Gelatin
3 ozs Strawberry Gelatin
1 1/3 cups Boiling Water
10 ozs Frozen Strawberries
20 ozs Crushed Pineapple
8 ozs Cranberry Sauce
1/3 cup Pecans (optional)

PROCEDURE:

Dissolve the cranberry and strawberry gelatin in the boiling water. Add partially thawed strawberries, pineapple and juice, cranberry sauce (cut into cubes) and chopped pecans. Mix and pour into a 13 1/2 X 8 3/4 inch pyrex dish until chilled. Serves 12.

DECEMBER

ST. MATTHEW'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1999

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
			1 Card Ministry-5pm Bible Study-6:30pm Choir Practice-7:30pm	2 Administrative Bd.-7pm Grace Bible Study-7pm	3	4	EVERY SUNDAY SCHEDULE: 8:30AM EARLY WORSHIP SERVICE (NO) NURSERY PROVIDED 9:45AM SUNDAY SCHOOL (ALL AGES) 11:00AM WORSHIP SERVICE (NURSERY PROVIDED)
5 Cantata-7pm	6 UMW Christmas Covered Dish Supper-7pm One-By-One-7pm	7 Prayer Mtg.-7pm	8 Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle-10:30am at Eva Smith's Card Ministry-5pm Bible Study-6:30pm Choir Practice-7:30pm	9 Night Owls meet at Roberta Brown's-6:30pm Grace Bible Study-7pm	10	11 Acolytes Christmas Party-2pm in F.H.	
12 Grace S.S.-6pm Grace Worship-7pm	13 One-By-One-7pm	14 Prayer Mtg.-7pm	15 Home Extensions-9:30am Card Ministry-5pm Bible Study-6:30pm Choir Practice-7:30pm	16 Grace Bible Study-7pm	17	18	
19 UMM Breakfast-7:30am Christmas Covered Dish Lunch-12pm UMYF-5pm Grace SS-6pm Grace Worship-7pm	20 NO One-By-One	21 Prayer Mtg.-7pm	22 Card Ministry-5pm Bible Study-6:30pm Choir Practice-7:30pm	23 Grace Bible Study-7pm	24	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS	
26 UMYF-5pm Grace SS-6pm Grace Worship-7pm	27 One-By-One-7pm	28 COM Dinner-6:30pm Prayer Mtg.-7pm	29 Card Ministry-5pm Bible Study-6:30pm Choir Practice-7:30pm	30 Grace Bible Study-7pm	31		