



202 Hope Mills Road • Fayetteville, NC 28304
Office 910-425-0401 • Fax 910-425-4830
Website stmattnc.org • E-mail stmattumc@fayetteville.net

Jesus said, "When you did it to one of these my brethren, you did it unto me." Matt. 25:40

Volume II

DECEMBER 2002

Issue 12

Holidays or Holy Days

As we approach the Christmas season most of us look forward to the **Holidays** without much thought to the fact that God intends them to be **Holy Days**. Why is this? Maybe it is the same issue I talked about on Christ the King Sunday. Growing up in America, we don't have much experience with Kings, Queens and Lordship. That is just not a part of our national tradition. The problem is that we have no personal experience with Kings, Queens and Lords. Therefore, we miss understanding the true meaning of Christ as King, Lord or ruler of our lives. We just have to imagine what it means to submit ourselves to Christ as if to a King, Lord or ruler and live accordingly. Our culture and the great freedoms we enjoy cheat us of the true meanings of these words on a personal level.

The same is true of what is Holy? Our over-committed and busy lives cheat us of the Holy. What would it be like to experience the holy like Isaiah did in the Temple, *"In the year that King Uzzi'ah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and his train filled the temple. Above him stood the seraphim; each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called to another and said: 'Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.' And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. And I said: 'Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!'"*

How many of us have ever experienced anywhere near that kind of awe in the presence of our holy God. In Exodus 20, we hear the second of the Ten Commandments, *"Remember*

the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work; but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God; in it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your manservant, or your maidservant, or your cattle, or the sojourner who is within your gates; for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day; therefore, the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it."

We do not even know how to treat our Sabbath, the Lord's Day, as holy. The idea behind this commandment is not to keep something from us, but to give us something we need: rest. Not just physical rest, but spiritual rest which comes through fellowship in the Lord with church, family, friends and all creation. It is intended to be a weekly time of refreshment, renewal and celebration. But is it? Like other days off and holidays, it is just another day to do with as we please or cram in as much activity as we possibly can. Sometimes we call it recreation when God intended it to be a time of re-creation for our souls. This command is not a demand upon our lives, but a gift. Do we truly treat our Sabbaths as precious gifts?

Jesus tells us in Mark 2, *"The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath; so the Son of man is lord even of the Sabbath."* Maybe the great freedoms we enjoy in America have cheated us once again of the experience of the Holy. Maybe as we rediscover the joy of our Sabbath rest we can learn what it means to be Holy. Then, and only then, can we begin to understand Christmas as a **Holy Day** and a **Holy Season** rather than just a **Holiday**.

*Shalom,
Mike*



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Once again, I must relay my deepest gratitude to each of you who supported the "Shoebox Ministry". We had a total of 41 boxes that were picked up from St. Matthew's on Monday morning to go out across the world to share our love and God's love to many children who are in need. God bless you for your efforts and God bless all the children of the world! Another big **thank you** goes to the **Thrift Shop** and all those that do that "**labor of love**" because they were generous enough to sponsor this ministry which took care of the shipping and handling. It seems I owe more thank you's than ever as I leave the office of UMW President. I want to make a public **THANK YOU** to those officers who have always supported me for the past two years. The Circle Chairperson's and each member of the UMW in general. I welcome **Adella Pray** as our new **UMW President** and pledge my support to her as she steps back into the leadership role. Adella, you have an outstanding team of officers by your side. Please continue to support Adella as you have me. I'm looking forward to our **UMW General Meeting on December 2 at 7:00 p.m.** Plan to share your favorite holiday dish! Here is my Christmas address Dec. 20 - 31: P.O. Box 2853, Water's Edge, Murrells Inlet, S.C. 29576

Mary Rozier, UMW President

RUTH-ETHEL SMITH CIRCLE:

Our circle met November 13th and had a wonderful time. We had three new members to join. They were **Edna Parker, Ginger Sessoms, and Sherrie Leggett.** A hardy **WELCOME** to all of you!!! For our November project, we voted to provide a complete **Thanksgiving Dinner** to a needy family. It is always a joy to reach out and help those in need. It's such a blessed time of the year. A time to humble ourselves and thank God for all of our bountiful blessings. Take time to do this in a special way with your family. Our next meeting will be December 11th at 10:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall. This will be a time of celebrating the birth of our Savior. We will exchange **Secret Pal Gifts.** Also, we will bring an **extra gift** to be numbered for each one there to draw a number and receive a gift. So come and bring gifts as well as a covered dish. It will be fun!!! I want to take this opportunity to express my thanks to all the ladies in our circle and church for all their support during these last three years. I will be stepping down as Chairperson in January. Being your leader has truly enriched my life in a way I can never express on paper. **Joyce Christian** will be stepping in my shoes next year, and I feel confident that she will do an excellent as your leader. Joyce, we will all be there willing to assist you in any way. Don't hesitate to ask for assistance, if needed. My personal **thanks** to you for being willing to take the position as **Ruth-Ethel Smith Chairperson.** You will do a great job!

May God continue his blessings upon us all, Catherine Morgan

UPCOMING EVENTS:

MONDAY, DECEMBER 2

- ◆ 7:00 pm - UMW General Meeting

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3

- ◆ 7:00 pm - UMW General Meeting

MONDAY, APRIL 7

- ◆ 7:00 pm - UMW General Meeting

SATURDAY, MAY 3

- ◆ 6:00 pm - Mother-Daughter Banquet

MONDAY, JUNE 2

- ◆ 7:00 pm - UMW General Meeting

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

- ◆ 7:00 pm - UMW General Meeting

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10-11

- ◆ UMW Bazaar

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

"Ho, Ho, Cake"

1 Box of Chocolate Cake Mix. Bake according to directions in three 8 inch pans & cool. Mix an 8 oz. package of Cream Cheese at room temperature, add 1/2 cup of Confectionery Sugar, mix well, fold in 8 oz. of Cool Whip. Spread on top of all three layers. Microwave one can of Chocolate Frosting for 25 seconds. Pour over cake & pull up on sides with a knife. Keep in refrigerator.

P.S. I bake and freeze my layers until I am ready to use them.

Dorothy Taylor

Happy Birthday Jesus!





A very special **thank you** to all the workers of the Thrift Shop. We appreciate you more than words can tell. Gifts were given to the following:

- ◆ **Emergency Fund**
- ◆ **Card Ministry**
- ◆ **Church Power Bill**
- ◆ **Samaritans Purse** (shipping charges for shoeboxes)

A special **thanks** for all the donations is in order also. If you did not give to the Thrift Shop, we would have nothing to sell and therefore, nothing to give.

Thank you very much!

HARVEST DAY DINNER NEWS

Thanks to everyone who helped make our annual "**Harvest Day Dinner**" a huge success. Our attendance was much better than expected on such a rainy night. All the food and desserts were exceptionally good. **A special thanks** goes to **Pam Thompson, Lorri Shackelford, and Adella Pray** for cooking the Turkey's, and **Dawn Stone** for the dressing.

Lorri did the decorating with the help of **Jean Lambert**. Nobody helps like a Mother. **Many thanks** to **Dan Eberhardt** and **Wayne Everts** for cleaning the kitchen after the meal. The leftover Ham and Turkey's will be used by the **Frayed & Frazzled Flock** to prepare meals for the sick and shut-in's, so nothing was wasted. Again, **thanks** to everyone who contributed food to the **Food Pantry**.

Reena Stone thanks everyone for contributing pet food and supplies to the **Haven** which is a shelter for pets. Deadline for contributions is December 4th. Reena is a member of **Jr. Girl Scout Troop #793** and will earn a badge for this project.

FOOD PANTRY NEWS

A Special "thank you" to all that contributed to the **Food Pantry** as part of our **Harvest Dinner**. The Bulletin keeps you informed of items needed to keep us going.

Since we have no calls for Baby Food or Adult Diapers, we contributed our Baby Food to **Operation Blessing** and Adult Diapers to **Highland House Nursing Home**. They were very appreciative.

Thanks again for helping us feed the needy in our community!

Food Pantry Ministry Team

HELP'N HANDS



New words to the melody of "**My Favorite Things**". Sing along!

Maalox and nose drops and needles for knitting,
Walkers and handrails and new dental fittings,
Bundles of magazines tied up in string,
These are a few of my favorite things.
Cadillacs, cataracts, hearing aids, glasses,
Polident, **Fixodent**, false teeth in glasses,
Pacemakers, golf carts and porches with swings,
These are a few of my favorite things.

When the pipes leak,
When the bones creak,
When the knees go bad,

I simply remember my favorite things,
And then I don't feel so bad.

Hot tea and crumpets, and corn pads for bunions,
No spicy hot food or food cooked with onions,
Bathrobes and heating pads, hot meals they bring,
These are a few of my favorite things.

Back pains, confused brains, and no fear of sinnin',
Thin bones and fractures and hair that is thinnin',
More of the pleasures advancing age brings,
When we remember our favorite things.

When the joints ache, when the hips break,
When the eyes grow dim,

I simply remember the great life I've had,
And then I don't feel...so bad!

NIGHT OWLS

"Happy Holidays" to all owls. Just a note to let you know that we voted to keep the same officers for the next year. This month's meeting is on Thursday, December 12th. We will meet at the church at 6:00 p.m. and car-pool over to the home of **Roberta Brown**. Bring a covered dish. Our project is to give a donation to help with a fundraiser for the daughter of **Glyndetta Hubbard**.

Have a Blessed Holiday Season!
Shirley Dominie



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| 2 - Adella Pray
Karie Bridgeman | 16 - Heather Shackelford
David Gibson |
| 3 - Dan Eberhardt
Rebecca Ramirez | 18 - Donna Dorwart |
| 7 - Phil Ogden | 20 - Meghann Dominie |
| 8 - Amy Eberhardt | 22 - Amber Alexander |
| 12 - Robin Shields | 25 - Lorene Biggs |
| 14 - Nate Unruh | 30 - Virginia Bachelor
Marie Strub |

UNITED METHODIST MEN

The UMM met Sunday, November 17th at 8:30 a.m. and had **21** men present. Maybe our new later meeting time of 8:30 has helped.

A delicious breakfast of bacon, sausage, pancakes and eggs were prepared by **Lynwood** and **Julie Griffin**, **Lynn Graham** and **Marvin Hiner**.

A **thank you** was read from **Cumberland County Mental Health Auxiliary** for our help in their up & coming **Christmas Cheer Project**. They help make Christmas a little better for the less fortunate.

Our men's group must be doing something right. We are attracting some younger people who are always welcome. **Peter Rome** and **Heather Schultz** were our guest. It was Heather's first visit, however, Peter is becoming a regular. It is good to have young people in attendance.

Dan Eberhardt had a program on **Ushering**. He outlined the duties of an Usher and introduced a plan that will take place in January. This plan will give everyone an opportunity to become involved in the church functions. If you are not asked, but would like to volunteer, see Dan.

New officers were elected for **2003**. They are **Charles Lucas - President**, **Dan Eberhardt - Vice President**, **Troy Willoughby - Secretary**, **Lyle Spidle - Treasurer**, and **Lynwood Griffin - Chaplin**.

Special prayer was requested for four of our men. Jack Byrne, Bill Parker, Frank Sipes, and Bob Probst. Keep these men in your daily prayers during their trying times.

Respectively,
Troy Willoughby, President UMM

P.S. Missing in Action:
J.A. Sessoms
Raymond Gray
Wayne Hager
Dale Mitchell

Doug Stone
Grover Green
Kenneth Manship

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

EMERGENCY FUND

- ◆ from God's Teens for Families with Children
- ◆ from the Sunday Morning Bible Study Class
- ◆ from the Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle
- ◆ from the Thrift Shop
- ◆ from Paul & Jewel Sharpe
- ◆ from United Methodist Women

POWER BILL from the Thrift Shop

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

- ◆ from Wayne & Elaine Everts
- ◆ from UMYF & God's Teens
- ◆ from Gail Terwilliger in honor of loved ones & special friends Nov. & Dec. Birthdays
- ◆ from Joyce Christian in memory of Christina Bayouth
- ◆ from Julie Griffin

CARD MINISTRY

During the month of December, we will meet at the Pizza Palace at 5:00 p.m. on the following dates.

December 4

December 11

December 18

We will not meet on December 25th or January 1st. We will resume our ministry on January 8th.

Merry Christmas and the Happiest and Most Blessed New Year to you all!

Card Ministry Team



ST. MATTHEW'S SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

"Poinsettia Sale"

Deadline December 8th

Cost \$12.00 each

Sponsored by the
frayed & frazzled flock

Proceeds donated to
friends of Children

Cape Fear Valley

Medical Center



New Beginnings

Will be hosting

"Breakfast With Santa"

Saturday, December 14th

8:00 — 9:30 a.m.

"Progressive Dinner"

Will be held at 5:00 p.m.

In the fellowship hall

Sign-Up Sheets are

Posted for both events

On the Bulletin Board



"CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS"

We give God thanks each day for your continued sweet friendship. You have truly touched our lives in many beautiful ways. May the special warmth of our friendship here, go with us on throughout eternity with our wonderful Lord.

Christmas joy is best, when shared with those we so love and for those who have so cared and shared. "Thank you" for loving us.

*Joyful Blessings to all,
Our Love,
Edgar & Pegi Lineberger*



"Jesus, Our Emmanuel"

Will be presented

Sunday, December 8th

7:00 p.m. at

Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church

&

Sunday, December 15th

7:00 p.m. at

St. Matthew's UMC



DECEMBER ST. MATTHEW'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 2002

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	UMW General Mtg. & One-By-One - 7:00pm		Card Ministry - 5:00pm WNA & B.Study-6:30pm Choir Practice - 7:30pm			
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	One-By-One - 7:00pm	Prayer Group - 7:00pm	Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle 10:30am	Night Owls meet at church to carpool to Roberta's - 6:00pm		Breakfast with Santa - 8:00-9:30am Progressive Dinner - 5:00pm
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
UMM Breakfast Mtg. - 8:30am Cantata - 7:00pm	One-By-One - 7:00pm	Prayer Group - 7:00pm	Home Extensions-9:30am			
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	One-By-One	Prayer Group - 7:00pm	Card Ministry - 5:00pm WNA & B.Study-6:30pm Choir Practice-7:30pm			
29	30	31	MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS!			
	NO One-By-One	Christmas Eve Service - 6:00pm				
	NO One-By-One	Prayer Group - 7:00pm				