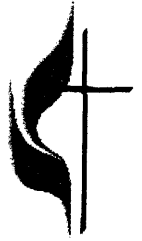


St. Matthew's 25th Anniversary

202 Hope Mills Road • Fayetteville, NC 28304

Office 910-425-0401 • Fax 910-425-9393

Website stmattnc.org • E-mail stmattumc@stmattnc.org



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

Volume IV

MARCH 2004

Issue 3

Reflect

Our Ash Wednesday was a sacred moment for those who attended. We gathered to celebrate our humanness and our mortality. We look forward to the positive promises of our faith:

resurrection and life eternal in Christ Jesus. As Christians, we approach our humanness and mortality with faith because our true life and home is the kingdom come.

Since Lent is a season of spiritual preparation for the truly joyous celebration of Easter, we are **reflect** on our spiritual well being. We prepare ourselves to get the most from Easter by using Lent as a time of spiritual self examination. This year you were asked to give your time to read *The Purpose Driven Life* by Rick Warren during the season of Lent. As you read you are challenged to reflect on each of these 40 readings and consider what they have to say about your personal faith. Come to an adult or youth Sunday School class and discuss any issues that are of interest to you.

As we reflect on the issues that are raised as we go through the study pay particular notice to those statements and issues, which may challenge your beliefs and practices as a church member. Often issues which may disturb or anger us are the very issues we need to embrace more closely. Too often when we disagree with something we too easily dismiss it and go on. Sometimes God uses these issues to **convict** us of areas in our lives that need to

Convict

be examined and changed. These issues may even be painful. But God uses this pain to lead us into a deeper relationship with him through the guidance of the Holy Spirit. We talk

about the Holy Spirit placing us under a conviction concerning areas in our lives that need to be changed and transformed to be more like our Lord and Christ.

Once we come under conviction through the power of the Holy Spirit seek **insight** from God to make the necessary changes in our lives. This insight comes from prayer as we share with God our feelings and concerns on the issue. We gain insight through reading and reflecting on God's word. We can also gain insight by sharing with others our concerns. This is precisely

why we are having all youth and adult classes set aside the next six Sundays for this purpose. We need others to help us gain new insights. Within the context of Christian community we can gain insights into God's will for our lives. I also hope worship and preaching of the Word will help you gain insight into your faith journey over the next six Sundays.

Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. we will have an opportunity to share together too.

Once we gain our Spirit lead insights into the Christian life we can begin to focus on our vision. What is the **vision** you have for you life in Christ? Three, five, ten years down the road, how do you see yourself spiritually? What do you want to look like as a Christian? What will be your priorities then? Then consider what all this reflection, conviction and insight could do for our vision as a Church. **The only way our Church's vision will come to fulfillment is when individual members have vital personal visions.** When these two factors come together, we can expect to witness great things in the life of our church and community. I believe; do you.

Shalom, Mike

Insight

*Where there is
no Vision the
people perish.
Proverbs 29:18*

Vision



The Thrift Shop continues to bless and be blessed. Gifts were given to the following: **Church Power Bill, Yard Maintenance, Emergency Fund, The Care Clinic, Better Health of Cumberland County and Urban Ministry.**

A deposit was also made for **Josh Hager** to attend the "Global Vision" with the N.C. Conference as a representative of St. Matthew's. A very special **Thank You** to all those who faithfully worked and contributed to our Thrift Shop. Keep up the good work!

Mary Schneider, Chairperson
Lee Anna Sproul, Co-Chairperson

GOD'S TEENS SAY, "THANK YOU!"

We want to say a special **THANKS** to everyone who supported us in our **Mission Trip Fundraisers**. We really worked hard to bring to you something different and something that you could remember for a long time. Because of your comments and compliments, we think we made it.

We want to say to all who helped us pull it off, you are great, and we love you for all that you did: **Adella and Bob Pray, Gail Terwilliger and Wayne Hager** for accepting the cooking of a delicious meal; **Phyllis Jordan**, aka Ms. Penney Pincher, for being our D.J.; **Shirley Dominie** for contributing decorations and dessert; **Tina and Fred Horlebein** for donating decorations and pizza for the Cheerleading Camp; and, most importantly, to our parents who kept their patience while toting us to all the meetings we had before the events.

The "**40's & 50's Night**" was a blast from the past! Thank you for being here. We were surprised when we began to hear requests for a "**60's & 70's Night!**"

Our little cheerleaders are also asking parents and grandparents when we will hold another **Christian Cheerleading Camp**. The young ones had a ball. It was really impressive to see them put their whole hearts into this active day.

We were able to see good financial response from our congregation. We feel humble that you care so much about us. Your sponsorship will enable us to carry out our **Mission Retreat March 13 - 15. Thank you!**

With God's Love,
God's Teens

Ashley, Dejah, Heather, Krystle, Melanie, David, Jeremy, Joshua, Justin and Peter



The UMM met on February 15th with **27** men present. They were served Pancakes, Sausage, and Eggs with all the trimmings. A special thanks to the cooks, **Randy**

Caldwell, James DeBruhl, Wayne Hager and Troy Willoughby.

Devotion was given by **Calvin Rome**. It was from Matthew 6: 20-21 which was about "**Estate Planning**". Your Treasure is where your heart is. What is your Treasure? What would people find at your home after you are gone? Think about that for a moment. Would they know you are a follower of Jesus?

J.A. Sessoms thanked the families of the men for the phone calls and food during his last illness.

Thrift Shop Workers were assigned for the 3rd & 4th Saturday of March. There will be a "**Chili Cooking**" going on one of these Saturdays. Come out and enjoy some chili and fellowship. You may find a new outfit if you look at the selections.

Josh Hager spoke to the men about his representing St. Matthew's and the Youth on a trip to Washington, D.C. He needed financial help to offset the cost of the trip. The UMM responded for some help.

The Pastor spoke to the men about a **Barbecue Sale** slated for **March 12th**. This is sponsored by the **Finance Ministry Team** and will be finalized on February 17th. Keep your eyes and ears open for more on this. The Finance Ministry Team needs the help of all of us to make this successful.

Troy Willoughby, UMM Secretary

ATTENTION!!!

WE HAVE BEEN HAVING PROBLEMS WITH THE NEW BACK DOOR NOT CLOSING ALL THE WAY. PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU PRESS THE SAFETY BAR ALL THE WAY AS YOU LEAVE THE CHURCH AND CHECK TO MAKE SURE THE DOORS ARE CLOSED AND LOCKED.

THANKS FOR YOUR COOPERATION!

MARCH BIRTHDAYS



1 - Charles Lucas	26 - Sherrie Leggett
9 - Jeff Anderson	29 - Carolyn Davis
11 - Dejah Anderson	31 - Brandi Makarov
13 - Ginger Sessoms	
24 - Wayne Hager	
Harold Taylor	

SWEETHEART BANQUET NEWS:

The "Sweetheart Banquet" was held on Saturday, February 14th (Valentine's Day). A delicious meal was served which included **New York Strip Steak, Potato, Toss Salad, Coffee, Tea, and Dessert.** There were **75** present for this festive affair. Our **Youth** served as **Waiters** and **Waitresses** and did another great job. They were **Heather, David, Ashley, Peter** and **Lisa.** Thanks to these youth, our meal was served professionally.

Lynwood presided as "MC" and told us the meaning of "Valentine's Day" and gave some very interesting facts concerning February 14th.

After the meal, Wayne had a few couples tell of how their relationship began. There were some real stories told, but we wonder???? Then there were **Door Prizes** given and the winners were happy and some were not. I think everyone had a good time.

Our entertainment was provided by **Belinda Davis.** She had songs to fit the occasion about "Sweethearts". Thanks to Lynwood for inviting this lady and her music.

The meal was provided by the United Methodist Men which consisted of a few good cooks. **Fred Rozier** was Grill Master and prepared the Grill and cooked the Steaks as well as prepared the Potatoes. **Troy** was the Salad Man along with **Doug Stone** and **Wayne Everts** who prepared the plates, as well as washed all the dishes and silverware. These men did a great job!

FRAYED & FRAZZLED FLOCK:

Our group meets the second Saturday Of every month from 10:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M. We prepare and deliver food to our shut-ins. Come & Join Us!!!

SPECIAL OFFERINGS WERE GIVEN TO THE FOLLOWING FROM:

EMERGENCY FUND

- ♦ Paul & Jewel Sharpe
- ♦ James & Joyce DeBruhl
- ♦ Sunday Morning Bible Study Class
- ♦ Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle
- ♦ In honor of Patty Poche's birthday (2-11) by her Secret Prayer Partner
- ♦ In honor of Ginger Sessoms Birthday (3-13) by her Secret Prayer Partner

CHURCH POWER BILL

- ♦ The Thrift Shop

TRUSTEES FUND

- ♦ Marvin & Lynn Hiner

SUMMER BREAKAWAY

- ♦ Wayne & Elaine Everts

BUILDING FUND

- ♦ In memory of Mildred Kersey (Jean Lambert's Aunt) by the Sunday Morning Bible Study Class

LAWN CARE SERVICE

- ♦ United Methodist Men

A WEEK OF GOOD THOUGHTS

Suppose we start this very day to live our lives in a different way; Suppose we vowed and constantly tried to help those in trouble on life's wayside; If we showed by our deeds a hint of His love wouldn't earth be a bit more like heaven above?

On Monday: Look for a smile today and return it with one of your own. Give someone faith and hope, it's such a beautiful loan.

On Tuesday: Gather a thought that's kind, one that's sincere and deep. Be sure to pass it along for such are too precious to keep.

On Wednesday: Forget yesterday's sorrows, mistakes, sadness, and pain. Lift your heart with hope as flowers to sun and rain.

On Thursday: Offer a word of comfort and prayer to help someone in need. A little thoughtful gift, some flowers, or a smile makes us all rich indeed.

On Friday: You shall not pass this way again, so do any good you can do. Don't put it off till tomorrow or the chance may be lost for you.

On Saturday: Today will soon be a memory so don't let it come to an end, without a smile, without a song, or just a word from a friend.

On Sunday: Don't let worry and care depress you, or brush your joy away. But arise and give thanks to God above, for His love and another "Blest Day."



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN AN INVITATION TO MEMBERSHIP

TO THE WOMEN...

- ◆ who finds meaning in her church and is drawn to its fellowship
- ◆ who wants to combine fellowship with study, worship and outreach opportunities
- ◆ who feels she has gifts that are to be shared with others
- ◆ who seeks a supportive community to affirm her own sense of purpose and commitment to God

United Methodist Women invites you to "grow spiritually through Worship, Bible Study and Prayer celebrate the person you are becoming in Jesus Christ, develop meaningful and lasting relationships, share who you are and your gifts, take action and make a difference in your community and the world."

FROM: "YOU BELONG HERE" WOMEN'S DIVISION

Our Purpose: *The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.* Joining this group of committed women is a unique opportunity—no matter who you are or where in your life you are at this moment—to move in harmony with other women who have been responding to this Purpose for over one hundred years. **The Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle** meet the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 11:00 a.m., **The Night Owls Circle** meet the 2nd Thursday night of each month at 7:00 p.m., and our **UMW General Meeting** is April 5th at 6:30 p.m. Please join us for one or all!!!
Adella Pray, UMW President

RUTH - ETHEL SMITH CIRCLE:

The Ruth - Ethel Smith Circle met Wednesday, February 11th in the fellowship hall and had a great turn out. We had a first time visitor, **Edna Galliera**, and we hope she will be joining our group in March. We thoroughly enjoyed our guests, **Louise Garvin** and **Cheryl Evans** from **Cumberland County Council for Older Adults** who spoke to us about different programs available for Senior Citizens. Thanks to **Jean Lambert** and **Dorothy Spakes** for inviting these two ladies to speak to us. There are many upcoming events in the next several months. March 20th the UMW are hosting the **District Spiritual Day Apart**. We are serving Cookies & Drink and bring your own Sandwich. I want to remind you to please attend this very special day, and to bring some type of cookies or dessert bars. If you can't be there, please have the cookies at the church by 9:15 A.M. THANKS!!! March 10th will be our next Circle meeting. We will meet at 10:30 instead of 11:00. We will have a short business meeting and program. Then we will proceed to **Fullers Restaurant** for lunch. Come and lets have a great time. Everyone is welcome!

God's Blessings to you and yours, Catherine

NIGHT OWL CIRCLE:

We held our first meeting on January 8th with **12** members present. **Ruby Lucas** was Hostess and presented the program. Our project was to collect money to assist a woman in need of a mammogram. At our meeting in February, we had **13** members present. Our project was to donate money for the **Brooke McLaurin Hospital Fund**. We collected **\$61.50**. **Shirley Dominie** served as Hostess. **Elaine Everts** read *Footprints* and *1 John 1: 3 & John 15: 13*. Our next meeting will be March 11th at 7:00 p.m. All ladies are welcome!
Submitted by: Linda Webb

UPCOMING EVENT:

"DISTRICT SPIRITUAL DAY APART"
ST. MATTHEW'S UMC
SATURDAY, MARCH 20
9:30 A.M.—11:30 A.M.
(Make plans to attend!)



RECIPE OF THE MONTH "PUFF PASTRY CHICKEN BUNDLES"

8 Boneless Skinless Chicken Breast	40 large Spinach Leaves
2 cartons (8 oz each) Spreadable Chives & Onion Cream Cheese	1/2 tsp Cold Water
2 sheets Frozen Puff Pastry, thawed	1/2 tsp Pepper
1/2 cup Chopped Walnuts, toasted	1 tsp salt
	1 egg

Cut a lengthwise slit in each chicken breast to within 1/2 inch of the other side; open meat so it lies flat. Cover with plastic wrap; pound to flatten to 1/8 inch thickness. Remove plastic wrap. Sprinkle salt and pepper over chicken. In a saucepan, bring 1 inch of water to a boil; add spinach. Cover and cook for 1 to 2 minutes or until wilted; drain. Place five spinach leaves on each chicken breast. Spoon 2 tablespoons of cream cheese down the center of each chicken breast; sprinkle with walnuts. Roll up chicken and tuck in ends. Unroll puff pastry; cut into eight portions. Roll each into an 8-inch-by-7-inch rectangle. Combine egg and cold water; brush over edges of pastry. Place chicken at one short end; roll up tightly, tucking in ends. Place on a greased 15-inch-by-10-inch-by-1-inch baking sheet. Bake at 350 degrees for 25 to 30 minutes or until golden brown. Yield 8 servings.

*St. Matthews United Methodist Church
Dr. Michael Hale, Pastor
&*

*New Beginnings Ministry
Rev. Alfred & Norma Richardson*

Invite you to attend



“Sisters Standing Together” Women’s Conference

Topic:

Domestic Violence: Healing Unseen Wounds

Saturday, March 6, 2004

9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Location:

St. Matthews United Methodist Church

202 Hope Mills Road

Fayetteville, N.C. 28304

Telephone: (910) 425-0401

Speaker: Ms. Belinda Jones, MPH

Domestic Violence Survivor, Minister

College Instructor/Educator

Mother/Grandmother

No registration fee. Refreshments served after meeting.

*For more information, contact Norma Richardson at
(919) 942-8319 or Roberta Brown at (910) 423-1690*

MARCH

ST. MATTHEW'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6 Women's Conference 9:30am - 12:30pm
7 Lay Rally at Hay St. UMC - 3-5pm UMYF - 4:00pm Praise Team - 5pm	8 One-By-One-7:00pm	9 Prayer Group - 6:30pm	10 Card Ministry - 5:00pm WNA & B.Study-6:30pm Choir Practice - 7:30pm Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle - 10:30am Card Ministry - 5:00pm WNA & B.Study-6:30pm Choir Practice - 7:30pm	11 THT - 7:00pm NO THT Night Owls Circle - 7:00pm	12 Barbecue Sale - 11:00am-7:00pm	13 FFF - 10:00am - GOD'S TEENS
14 RETREAT TO	15 SPRUCE PINE	16	17 Home Extensions-9:30am Card Ministry - 5:00pm WNA & B.Study-6:30pm Choir Practice - 7:30pm	18	19	20 UMW District Spiritual Day Apart 9:30 - 11:30am UMM Spring Picnic
21 UMM Breakfast Mtg. - 8:30am UMYF - 4:00pm	22 NO One-By-One	23 Prayer Group - 6:30pm	24 Card Ministry - 5:00pm WNA & B.Study-6:30pm Choir Practice - 7:30pm	25 NO THT Help'N Hands - 11am	26	27 Book Club meets at Pizza Palace - 11:30am
28 UMYF - 4:00pm	29 One-By-One - 7:00pm	30 Prayer Group - 6:30pm	31 Card Ministry - 5:00pm WNA & B.Study-6:30pm Choir Practice - 7:30pm	THT - 7:00pm		