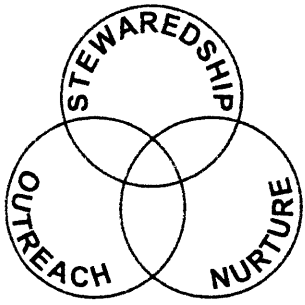


St. Matthew's UMC  
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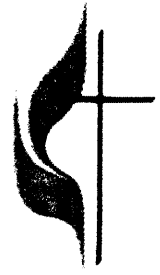


**St. Matthew's UMC**

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



Volume IV

NOVEMBER 2004

Issue 11

## BISHOP GWINN SHARES VISION FOR OUR CHURCHES



Wednesday October 20, 2004, 389 Lay people and clergy gathered at Salem UMC to here our new Bishop share his vision for the churches of the North Carolina Conference. This was the largest attendance for Bishop

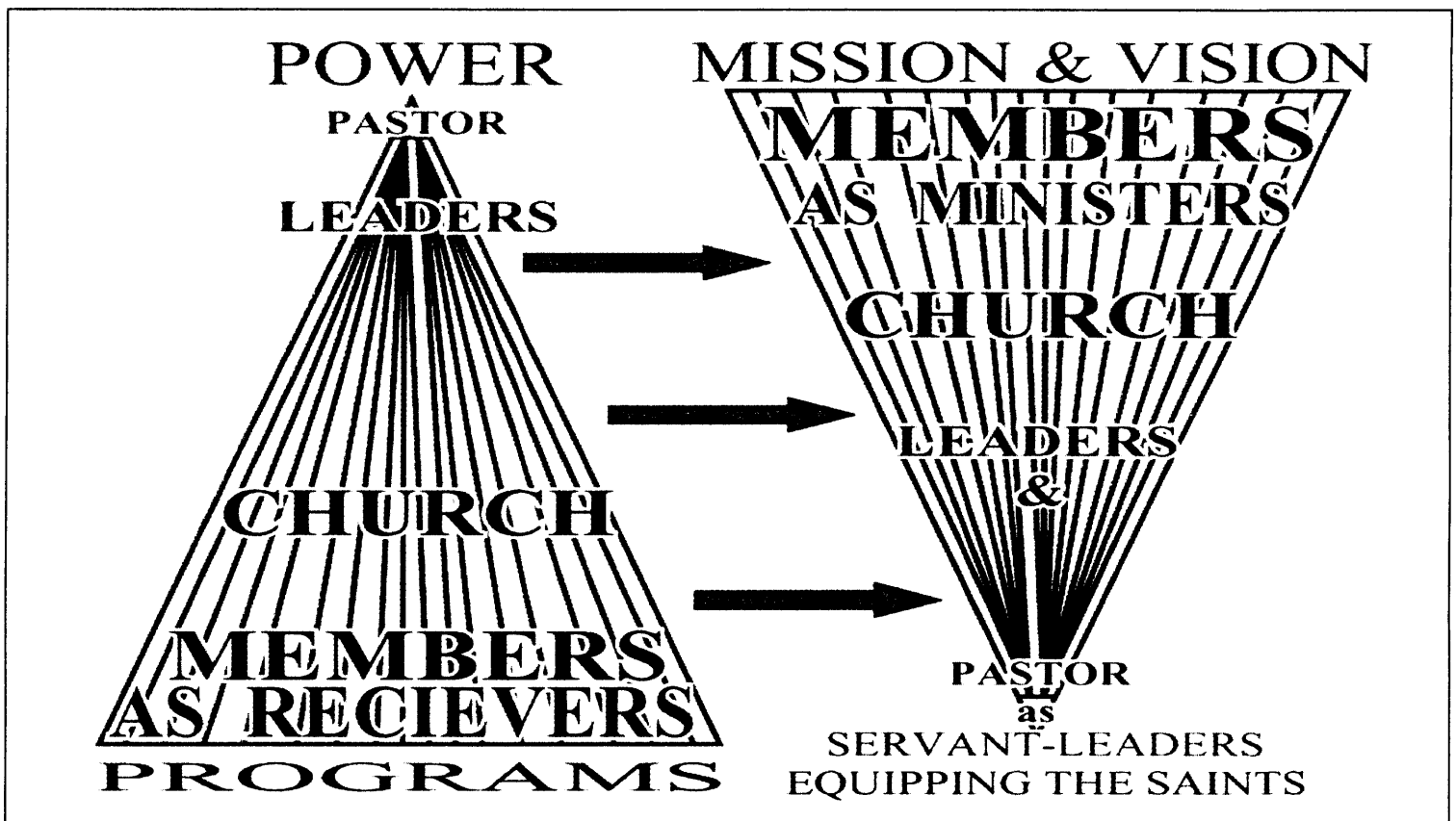
Gwinn up to this point after meeting with eight of the twelve districts. The Pastors met with Bishop Gwinn from 4 p.m. – 6 p.m. with the Laity joining us for dinner at 6 p.m. I think we all thought that we would go to the sanctuary for a worship service but we remained in the Family Life Center and Bishop Gwinn simply shared with us.

Six of our members joined me at Salem for this presentation: Roberta Brown, Josh Hager, Ruby Lucas Donna Meixsell, Lorri Shackelford, and Lola Smith. The Bishop shared that he wanted to **return the Church to the Laity**. As in the New Testament Church, Bishop Gwinn wants to see all members committed to the mission and ministry of the Church as the Body of Christ. Remember, in the first few centuries the church grew at a phenomenal rate primarily due to the fact that everyone in the church saw it as their responsibility to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. As time passed the church put more and more responsibility for the mission and ministry of the church in the hands of the ordained clergy.

In recent times most protestant denominations have involved the laity more and more in the life of the church. Lay people are elected to responsible positions in the church but the majority of the religious activities in the church are still led by ordained clergy and professional staffs. Most of the traditional mainline churches have also been in steady decline for decades.

Bishop Gwinn's vision is to see those trends reversed by leading our churches from what he calls the Traditional Church to a vital Vision Driven Church that takes seriously Jesus' mission for the Church to **"Go make Disciples."** He believes this transition from the Traditional Church to the Vision Driven Church will be challenging. It depends on the active involvement of the laity. Clergy and laity will need to change their expectations and roles to make this transition successful.

In an easy conversational style, Bishop Gwinn explained the features of his plan as he made a drawing to illustrate his points. He used a triangle or pyramid shape to talk about the traditional flow of power in the church as an institution or organization. (See graphics on the next page.) In this model the power is at the top and rests primarily on the pastor or religious professional staffs. He also pointed out that there is also less room at the top for involvement. Only so many people can share the power in such churches as leaders. These leaders set the course of the organization but expect the religious professionals to carry out or lead the programs.



Bishop Gwinn believes that the Church is a living organism rather than just an organization or institution. As the Body of Christ, we are to carry forward Christ's mission in the world. He said our primary responsibility is to bring people to Christ as Savior and Lord and make disciples of them. The traditional church (*On the left*) is not structured to accomplish this very effectively. **Bishop Gwinn intends to hold both clergy and churches accountable for accomplishing this mission in a vision driven church.**

In the traditional church the minister or professional staff are expected to do all or the vast majority of the care giving, visitation, teaching, preaching, programing, counseling, and the administration of church business. This system usually leads the church to become inwardly focused and members are seen as receivers of these ministries. This leaves little time for the minister to do outreach and discipleship. Many members in this type of church are largely spectators in the pew expecting the church and the pastor to be there to meet there needs. Even those members who are active believe that the church exists for them to fulfill their needs.

In the vision & mission driven church (*On the right*) the drawing is inverted. There is plenty of room at the top for everyone to be involved in

the various ministries of the church. Both clergy and laity together are ministers in this church. But the roles and expectations are different from the traditional church.

**The minister and lay leaders in the vision driven church are to move into the role of servant-leaders for "equipping the saints."** The members must then learn to see themselves as ministers that God uses to accomplish his divine purpose. Ministries of care giving, visitation, teaching, preaching, programing, counseling, and the administration of church business can all be shared by ministers and laity. In the vision driven church the pastor's primary role must be that of spiritual leader equipping members for what Bishop Gwinn calls,

- **Radical Hospitality**
- **Dynamic Worship**
- **Formational Ministries &**
- **Risk Taking**

in order to reach out to the world in Jesus' name.

We must go overboard in inviting and welcoming people to the church; celebrate together in exciting worship experiences; design ministries which help people grow into the image and likeness of Christ; and take some serious risks in reaching out to meet the needs of people in the communities surrounding our churches.

## WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH YOUR EXTRA HOUR?

Early Sunday morning, October 31st, we gain an extra hour by turning our clocks back to Standard Time. We usually turn our clocks back before we go to bed on Saturday and then sleep an extra hour on this one Sunday each year. Instead of sleeping away this extra hour, do something with it this Sunday. I suggest that you use this opportunity to attend Sunday School. Often on a typical Sunday less than half of people at the Worship Service have attended Sunday School that morning. Why? I don't know...Often the excuse is that I slept late or it is just hard to get started on a Sunday morning. Well...here you have an extra hour...take this opportunity to attend Sunday School.

I would like to invite you to the **W.A. Stewart Bible Study Class**. The teacher is **Calvin Rome**. We meet each Sunday at 9:45 a.m. in the Education Wing. The classroom is located at the "T" intersection of the Administrative Wing and Education Wing. We have just finished the book of **Joshua** and will be beginning the book of **Judges** on Sunday, October 31st. Sunday School provides a different opportunity for spiritual growth. Class members have the opportunity to ask questions that they have always wondered about, share their faith, support and encourage fellow Christians and take a closer, deeper look at the scriptures.

We will not put you on-the-spot. You are not expected to know everything about the Bible...no one does. We won't ask you to pray "in public" (but you may be led to). We won't "make" you participate in discussions (but, we welcome you to). You may feel like you have nothing to contribute...that you don't know enough. But you have a gift that you may not be aware of...Just your presence at Sunday School serves to give encouragement to your fellow Christians.

Take this extra hour to give yourself the opportunity to better understand God's Word and develop a closer relationship with God and your fellow Christians.

Calvin Rome



## NOTES TO GOD

(A Teacher asked her class to write notes to God.)

**Dear God:** I didn't think orange went with purple until I saw the sunset You made on Tuesday. That was cool!

**Dear God:** Maybe Cain and Abel would not have killed each other if they had their own rooms. That's what Mom did for me and my brother.

**Dear God:** If You watch me in church on Sunday, I'll show You my new shoes.

**Dear God:** I bet it is very hard for You to love everybody in the whole world. There are only 4 people in our family and I'm having a hard time loving all of them.

**Dear God:** In school they told us what You do. Who does it when You're on vacation?

**Dear God:** Is it true my father won't get to Heaven, if he uses his bowling words in the house?

**Dear God:** Who draws the lines around the countries?

**Dear God:** I went to this wedding and they kissed right in front of the church. Is that okay?

**Dear God:** Did you really mean "do unto others as they do unto you?" Because, if You did, then I'm going to get my brother good.

**Dear God:** Thank You for the baby brother, but what I prayed for was a puppy.

**Dear God:** Please send me a pony. I never asked for anything before. You can look it up.

**Dear God:** I want to be just like my Daddy when I get big, except for the bald head.

*Submitted by: Doris Miles*

## NOVEMBER FLOWER CHART

7 - In honor of Lynwood Griffin & Lynn Hiner's Birthday

14 - None

21 - In honor of Randy Caldwell by Ruth Caldwell

28 - In honor of Rebecca Ramirez birthday by her Secret Prayer Partner

Flowers are only \$20.00. Make your check out to St. Matthew's UMC and put flowers in the memo section and place in offering plate.



## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS



2 - Amanda Colon  
 3 - Elaine Everts  
 5 - Justin Cole  
 6 - Lynwood Griffin  
 8 - Lynn Hiner  
 10 - Jack Byrne  
 11 - Bob Pray  
 12 - Gudrun Arnold  
 Darrell Collins  
 Glyndetta Hubbard

15 - Hank Zielinski  
 17 - Kristen Royal  
 19 - Jessica Powell  
 23 - Irma Evans  
 25 - Mary Sue Grady  
 28 - Christopher Rome  
 30 - Amanda Yencsko



The Youth have been very busy this past month. We finally finished painting the **Youth Room**. We would like to thank all the adults and youth who came out and helped us paint. It was a great experience painting and

fellowshipping. We would also like to thank **Mrs. Cindy Rogers** for donating the paint.

We have also been working on our **Youth Service**. We have had an awesome time praising the Lord in songs and in words.

We are getting ready for the **Youth Pilgrimage** which will be held November 12 - 14, and are raising money for **No Hungry Neighbors**. Each youth member is trying to raise \$20.00. If you would like to support us, please see any youth member or adult leader. We would greatly appreciate it.

With love through Christ,  
 Ashley Stone

## ONE-BY-ONE

The new school year is off to a very slow start. So far we have only 5 students and teachers. If you have any family members, friends, or neighbors who need help with their school subjects or are interested in learning how to operate a computer, please call Dawn Stone at 868-3657. To be a part of this mission, there is **NO** cost, just the fact that you want to learn. We meet on Monday night from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. God bless You! Dawn Stone

### REMAINING 2004 SCHEDULE:

#### November

1  
 8  
 15  
 29

#### December

6  
 13



## SPECIAL OFFERINGS WERE GIVEN TO THE FOLLOWING FROM:

### ARP FUND

- ◆ Wayne & Elaine Everts
- ◆ Raymond & Betty Gray IMO Betty Zielinski

### BUILDING FUND

- ◆ Reuben & Pat Coleman IMO Betty Zielinski

### CARD MINISTRY

- ◆ Wayne & Elaine Everts

### CHURCH POWER BILL

- ◆ The Thrift Shop

### EMERGENCY FUND

- ◆ Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle
- ◆ The Thrift Shop
- ◆ Sunday Morning Bible Study Class
- ◆ Paul & Jewel Sharpe

### MEMORIAL FUND

- ◆ Donald & Lillian Lanier IMO Betty Zielinski
- ◆ J.A. & Ginger Sessoms IMO Betty Zielinski

### MUSIC FUND

- ◆ Sister in Christ IMO Denise Gallimore

### SCHOLARSHIP FUND

- ◆ Wayne & Elaine Everts

## CARD MINISTRY

*The Card Ministry Team would like to thank everyone for your support, but particularly Lyle Spidle and the Thrift Shop. Most of our cards and stamps are furnished by them. We gratefully appreciate your prayers and all that you do to assure that this ministry continues. We would love to have you join us any Wednesday evening from 5:00 - 6:30 p.m. at the Pizza Palace on Hope Mills Rd. just across from the church for signing cards and fellowship. (Eat if you like.)*



**WANTED: CLOTHES THAT NEED SEWING!**  
 In my quest to multiply my \$10.00 from our pastor, I need to do your hemming or other repairs (I'm very reasonable!) No job is too small...

See: Mary Rozier



## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

A very special **THANKS** to everyone who helped, worked, donated, organized, priced, cooked, sewed, quilted, counted money, crocheted, or all of the above at the Bazaar. I am sorry that due to my situation I was unable to be here, but please know that I appreciate all of your hard work.

Don't forget the **"Shoebox Ministry."** We need help from everyone to get our boxes filled so that they may travel around the world to share God's love and let others know that we care as well! The **Thrift Shop Ministry Team** has agreed to pay the **\$5.00** Shipping & Handling Fee for each box. Pamphlets and boxes are available on a table in the hallway outside the side door of the sanctuary. Please have your shoeboxes at the church on Sunday, November 14th, so that they may be picked up on Monday, November 15th. Don't forget to attach a label on each box designating boy or girl and their age group. Thanks for your support!!

The Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle will be sponsoring the **CHRISTMAS MAILBOX** for our Church Family Christmas Cards. You can place the cards in the mailbox matching the first initial of the family's last name. There will be a Donation Box on top of the mailbox. The mailbox will be available on November 28th and removed on December 28th. Check your mailbox each time you are at church.

Adella Pray, UMW President

### LOOKING AHEAD:

Monday, November 1 - UMW General Mtg., 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, November 14 - Deadline for turning in Shoeboxes

### RECIPE OF THE MONTH "PUMPKIN MUFFINS"

1/2 cup shortening	1/2 tsp baking powder
1 cup sugar or splenda	1 2/3 cup all-purpose flour
1 cup canned pumpkin	1 cup cinnamon chips
1/2 tsp baking soda	1/2 tsp salt
2 eggs	



#### DIRECTIONS:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease 12 muffin tins. With an electric mixer, cream shortening and sugar. Add eggs, mixing well. Stir in pumpkin, baking soda, baking powder, salt, and flour. Add cinnamon chips. Pour into muffin tins. Bake for 20-25 minutes. Makes 12 muffins. YUM! YUM!

## Group Study Guide to “Christian Principles in an Election Year”

1. **Open the session** by inviting all participants to pray together the prayer that Jesus taught, contemplating carefully the words they are praying. Follow the prayer with 60 seconds of silence.
2. **Read the “Christian Principles in an Election Year.”** While all the principles are important, ask the group to prioritize these issues, listing them from most critical to less critical.



3. **Examine the following biblical texts.** You may want to have two or three people read and discuss each text rather than having the entire group read all the texts.

\* Micah 6:6-8; Amos 5:21-24

\* Matthew 7:7-12

\* Mark 12:28-34

\* Isaiah 65:17-25

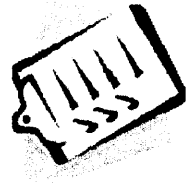
\* Hebrews 13:1-9a, 16

\* Psalm 104

**For each passage consider these questions:** What words particularly stand out as you think about the 10 “Christian Principles in an Election Year?” What is the guiding gospel principle in this text? What does the text have to say about your Christian responsibility toward your neighbor and/or the earth? What additional biblically based principles would you include on this list that speak to the issues identified in the 10 principles?



4. **Discuss ways to find out a candidate’s record/platform on the issues identified in the 10 principles:** 1. war/conflict; 2. urban decay; 3. foreign policy; 4. economic justice; 5. racial justice; 6. environmental justice; 7. immigration; 8. health care; 9. criminal justice; and 10. public education and children’s services. Possibilities include looking on the candidates’ Web sites or calling their campaign headquarters. You can write the candidates about specific concerns and expect a response from their offices. This contact can be made online. It is important that Christians educate themselves about the issues and the candidates’ views.



If a candidate is an incumbent seeking re-election, review his/her voting record. If the candidate is seeking a first term, what has he/she said about each of these 10 issues? **As you study each candidate’s record or platform, ask these questions** with regard to each of the 10 issues and reflect on them in light of your study of the above biblical passages.

1. Who benefits the most from each position taken by the candidate?
  2. Who bears the cost of this position?
  3. What are the immediate implications of this position?
  4. What are the long-term implications of this position?
  5. What must be given up or sacrificed to pursue this position?
5. **To conclude the session have the participants close their eyes and sit quietly.** Then ask, “O God, what is your yearning for us in this important election year?” Allow time for silent reflection, and then invite those who wish to respond aloud to do so. End this time with a prayer of thanksgiving for God’s presence and guidance in our lives as we seek to be faithful Christian disciples.

\* \* \* \*

This study guide was developed by constituent leadership and staff of the National Council of Churches USA. **For more information**, visit [www.nccusa.org](http://www.nccusa.org), e-mail [rnedd@nccusa.org](mailto:rnedd@nccusa.org), call 202-544-2350, or write National Council of Churches USA, Attn: Justice and Advocacy Commission, 110 Maryland Ave. N.E., Washington, DC 20002



**Register to Vote:**

<http://registrationbyworkingassets.com/NCC>

**More Resources for Voter Registration & Action:**

[www.faithfuldemocracy.org](http://www.faithfuldemocracy.org)

**Join an On-Line Advocacy Community:**

[www.faithfulamerica.org](http://www.faithfulamerica.org)

## Christian Principles in an Election Year

Our Christian faith compels us to address the world through the lens of our relationship to God and to one another. Public discourse is enhanced as we engage civic leaders on the values and ethics affirmed by our faith. At the same time, religious liberty and the integrity of our democracy will be protected as candidates refrain from using faith-based organizations and institutions for partisan gain. We offer these 10 principles to those seeking to accept the responsibility that comes with holding public office.



**1. War is contrary to the will of God.** While the use of violent force may, at times, be a necessity of last resort, Christ pronounces his blessing on the peacemakers. We look for political leaders who will make peace with justice a top priority and who will actively seek nonviolent solutions to conflict.

**2. God calls us to live in communities shaped by peace and cooperation.** We reject policies that abandon large segments of our inner city and rural populations to hopelessness. We look for political leaders who will re-build our communities and bring an end to the cycles of violence and killing.



**3. God created us for each other, and thus our security depends on the well being of our global neighbors.** We look for political leaders for whom a foreign policy based on cooperation and global justice is an urgent concern.

**4. God calls us to be advocates for those who are most vulnerable in our society.** We look for political leaders who yearn for economic justice and who will seek to reduce the growing disparity between rich and poor.



**5. Each human being is created in the image of God and is of infinite worth.** We look for political leaders who actively promote racial justice and equal opportunity for everyone.

**6. The earth belongs to God and is intrinsically good.** We look for political leaders who recognize the earth's goodness, champion

environmental justice, and uphold our responsibility to be stewards of God's creation.



**7. Christians have a biblical mandate to welcome strangers.** We look for political leaders who will pursue fair immigration policies and speak out against xenophobia.

**8. Those who follow Christ are called to heal the sick.** We look for political leaders who will support adequate, affordable and accessible health care for all.



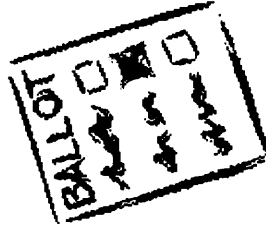
**9. Because of the transforming power of God's grace, all humans are called to be in right relationship with each other.** We look for political leaders who seek a restorative, not retributive, approach to the criminal justice system and the individuals within it.

**10. Providing enriched learning environments for all of God's children is a moral imperative.** We look for political leaders who will advocate for equal educational opportunity and abundant funding for children's services.

Finally, our religious tradition admonishes us not to bear false witness against our neighbor and to love our enemies. We ask that the campaigns of political candidates and the coverage of the media in this election season be conducted according to principles of fairness, honesty and integrity.

\* \* \*

These principles were developed by the National Council of Churches USA's Justice and Advocacy Commission and approved by the NCC's Executive Committee. **For more information**, visit [www.nccusa.org](http://www.nccusa.org), write National Council of Churches USA, Attn: Justice and Advocacy Commission, 110 Maryland Ave. N.E., Washington, DC 20002, e-mail [redd@nccusa.org](mailto:redd@nccusa.org), or call 202-544-2350.



# NOVEMBER ST. MATTHEW'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
	UMM General Mtg. - 6:30pm One-By-One - 7:00pm	Prayer Group - 6:30pm	Card Ministry - 5:00pm WNA & B.Study-6:30pm Choir Practice - 7:30pm			
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
	One-By-One - 7:00pm		Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle - 11:00am		← YOUTH	FFF - 10am PILGRIMAGE
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
Harvest Dinner - 6:00pm	One-By-One - 7:00pm	Prayer Group - 6:30pm	Card Ministry - 5:00pm WNA & B.Study-6:30pm Choir Practice - 7:30pm	Night Owls Circle - 7:00pm		
			Home Extensions-10am			
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
UMM Breakfast Mtg. - 8:30am Decorate Church After Worship	One-By-One - 7:00pm	Prayer Group - 6:30pm	Card Ministry - 5:00pm WNA & B.Study-6:30pm Choir Practice - 7:30pm	Thanksgiving Day		Book Club at Pizza Palace - 11:30am
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>				
Angel Tree	NO One-By-One	Prayer Group - 6:30pm				
	One-By-One - 7:00pm	Prayer Group - 6:30pm				