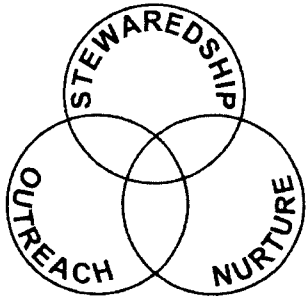


St. Matthew's UMC
202 Hope Mills Rd.
Fayetteville NC 28304



St. Matthew's 25 Challenge



Office 910-425-0401 • Fax 910-425-9393
Website stmatnc.org • E-mail stmatumc@stmatnc.org

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

Volume V

February 2005

Issue 2

Commentary on St. Matthew's Finances by Calvin Rome-Financial Secretary

The Statements of Individual Giving for 2004 were mailed on January 17th. Everyone who had a record of giving should have already received their statement. If you have reviewed the table of giving included with the statement, you may feel as I do. I am continually amazed at the pattern of giving in the church. There are those who always rise to the challenge that we face with the budget by giving extra. Others appear indifferent in their giving and then others seem to withdraw as our church struggles to meet our obligations. We met our conference apportionment obligation this year by using part of the interest earned on money from the sale of the church parsonage a few years ago. This was a difficult decision for the Church Ministry Council because we all would rather see the money grow for the future purchase of a replacement parsonage. However, we are also called to be good stewards of all that God has given us. Part of our stewardship is contributing our fair share to support world missions through the conference apportionment.

Because I have been the Financial Secretary several years, I tend to forget that many in the congregation are not as knowledgeable of the church's financial details. Our church budget continues to increase each year just as our own household budgets increase and many members are justifiably concerned. Although we are trying

to hold the line on increases, there may still be room for improvement. One that comes to mind is yard maintenance. Over the years, church members have maintained the grounds but recently we have been contracting for the yard maintenance partly because it is becoming more difficult for our aging men to maintain. I am sure there are other areas where savings could be realized if members accepted such tasks as their ministry.

However, the most disturbing issue for me is that several members have approached me concerning the pastor's salary. I have been a member of St. Matthew's for twenty years and during most of that time I have been a member of either the Finance or Pastor/Parish committee. I have participated in the annual adjustments of the pastor and staff salaries and I recall only one year that there was ever any committee discussion concerning salary reduction and that year a substantial increase was eventually given. Members who feel that we are paying our pastor too much just do not know the details and their financial concerns could better be served in seeking God's guidance concerning their own commitment to the ministries of our church. The following table may help explain the history of the pastor's compensation.

Continues on page 2

Pastor's Compensation Comparison 1996-2005

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
	Susan	Susan	Susan/Larry	6mo w/Grace	Larry	Mike	Mike	Mike	6mo w/Grace	Mike
Base Salary	\$30,000	\$31,300	\$31,300	\$32,888	\$34,533	\$36,447	\$36,447	\$38,269	\$38,269	\$38,269
Travel Allowance (vouchered in 2004)	\$3,900	\$3,900	\$4,663	\$4,663	\$4,663	\$4,663	\$4,663	\$4,896	\$4,896	\$4,896
Utilities	\$2,981	\$2,981	\$3,745	\$3,745	\$3,745	\$3,745	\$3,745	\$3,932	\$3,932	\$3,932
Continuing Education (vouchered in 2005)	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$600
Total - Discretionary Compensation	\$37,081	\$38,381	\$39,908	\$41,496	\$43,141	\$45,055	\$45,055	\$47,297	\$47,297	\$47,697
%increase	13.4%	3.5%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.4%		5.0%		
Health Insurance	\$2,546	\$2,471	\$2,405	\$5,147	\$2,805	\$2,876	\$4,575	\$5,750	\$8,418	\$11,016
Life Insurance	\$180	\$210	\$210	\$210	\$105	\$105	\$158	\$158	\$185	\$213
Pension (reduced due to vouchering)	\$4,620	\$4,820	\$4,820	\$6,271	\$4,445	\$4,378	\$7,952	\$9,105	\$8,136	\$8,262
Housing Allowance (required if no parsonage)									\$5,214	\$11,449
Total - Nondiscretionary Compensation	\$7,346	\$7,501	\$7,435	\$11,628	\$7,355	\$7,359	\$12,685	\$15,013	\$21,953	\$30,940
(Shared w/Grace 1999-2004)										
Total Compensation Package	\$44,427	\$45,882	\$47,343	\$53,124	\$50,496	\$52,414	\$57,740	\$62,310	\$69,250	\$78,637
Comp % of Budget	39.9%	39.8%	39.8%	36.2%	33.9%	33.9%	41.5%	41.7%	43.3%	48.7%
Comp % of Receipts	42.2%	45.3%	42.6%	37.1%	38.5%	43.1%	43.1%	43.9%	47.1%	
Approved Budget	\$111,315	\$115,291	\$118,924	\$146,570	\$148,833	\$154,691	\$139,284	\$149,353	\$159,934	\$161,554
Church Receipts	\$105,202	\$101,384	\$111,132	\$143,132	\$131,158	\$121,605	\$133,929	\$142,025	\$146,956	

1999 Gray Boxes = Grace Insurance/Pension included as part of budget
 2002 Gray Boxes = distribution changed from 50% to fair share percentage
 Continued from page 1

Annually the District Superintendent sends a letter to the Chairman of the Pastor/Parish Team with a recommended salary increase for the pastor. The recommendation varies but is usually around 5 percent. As you can see in the chart, we were giving annual increases until 2002. The 2001 increase was approved during the appointment of Rev. Patrick who left in the middle of his 2000-2001 appointment. Dr. Hale completed the appointment and has been reappointed each year since. During the appointment of Rev. Patrick our church budget soared and giving began to decline. We were joined with Grace UMC in a two church charge with the rationale that Grace could assist us in covering the benefits of the pastor (housing and insurance). Upon Dr. Hale being appointed, he began the difficult task of bringing our budget under control. The first budget year during Dr. Hale's appointment, the budget was dramatically realigned and many cost savings were realized. The following year he received a 5% salary

increase. This has been the only salary increase in the four years he has been appointed. However, there have been compensation increases over which we have no control. The health insurance costs have increased dramatically for Methodist pastors (as has everyone's health insurance costs). The health insurance has two parts, the employer's and the employee's. The table reflects the increase in the part of church/employer. The part of the pastor/employee has also increased.

The church has also taken steps to hold costs at the expense of the pastor. In 2004, we changed the Travel Allowance to a vouchered system. What this means is that the pastor must provide vouchers for his travel that are validated by the Chair of the Pastor/Parish team before being reimbursed for travel expenses. This process means that the travel allowance is not considered as part of the salary and pension benefits do not have to be paid on it. In 2004,

Continue on page 3

Continued from page 2

this resulted in a savings of \$969 in pension obligation. In 2005, we increased the continuing education budget line item from \$200 to \$600 but also made this a vouchered item also. This was the first increase in continuing education that I am aware of and was very much needed.

When we joined Grace as a charge, many members of St. Matthew's were concerned that we no longer had a pastor totally dedicated to St. Matthew's ministries. Dr. Hale heard that concern and went to extraordinary lengths to restore St. Matthew's to a single church charge, even to the extent that he took an overall salary cut. However, the conference requires that each church provide either a parsonage or housing allowance for the pastor. When Dr. Hale was appointed he owned his own home and therefore declined the use of the St. Matthew's or Grace parsonage. When the charge was dissolved St. Matthew's had already sold our parsonage therefore we were required to provide the minimum housing allowance as set by the conference. While joined with Grace, we were "sharing" Grace's parsonage to meet the requirement to provide housing. The minimum housing allowance for 2005 is \$11,449. This is an obligation of the church regardless of pastor appointments. This is the first year since Rev. Ruth Harper that St. Matthew's will be supporting a pastor with full benefits for the whole year. That's the last time that a pastor has lived in our parsonage for a full year as a single church charge.

The minimum base salary for a full time pastor in the NC conference for 2005 is \$34,500; the average salary is \$57,248. St. Matthew's is less than \$4000 above the minimum or about 2 percent of our budget. Members have suggested to me that we cut the pastor's salary to the minimum or even ask for a student pastor so that we can reduce the budget.

Can we really be serious about this? Where is our vision for St. Matthew's? Do we really want a pastor who just presides over the death of the church? Are we so much "of the world" that we are only concerned about how much money we can keep for ourselves? What we need to be about is the mission of the church...making disciples, bringing people to Christ, helping our

brothers and sisters grow to spiritual maturity. That's what will fix our budget issues. Most of the church's expenses are fixed expenses whether there are 100 members sitting in the pews or 200. Let's resolve our financial concerns by growing the church. Bringing people to Christ is the responsibility of each of us.

I will be happy to answer any questions about the table above.

CALVIN ROME
FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house, and thus put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts; see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing.

(Malachi 3:10)



February is a time for Americans and United Methodist church members to remember the contributions African American's have made to our nation and our denomination. In colonial Fayetteville white and black Methodist's worshipped under the leadership of a free black shoe cobbler and minister, Henry Evans, on Cool Spring Street. Later white Methodist's formed Hay Street Methodist Church. Although we have a number of Black Churches in the UMC we have been separated by race since the War between the States. The CME (Colored Methodist Episcopal) Churches, AME (African Methodist Episcopal) Churches and the AME Zion Churches are traditionally black congregations are a part of our tradition.

I have had the privilege of working with a number of pastors and lay people monthly from AME Churches in eastern North Carolina for the past two years and have been greatly enriched by the experience. One day I hope we will break down the walls that separate us by race and economic status. We can learn so much from the life and ministry of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s non-violent approach to conflict resolution.





**ASH
WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 9, 2005**

Wednesday February the 9th, at 7:00 p.m. we will celebrate Ash Wednesday. We gather to celebrate, of all things, our humanness and our mortality. On the surface that sounds pretty strange, doesn't it? It goes along with other strange things we do as Christians. We celebrate our mortality at funerals too. If you have ever noticed our funeral bulletins, the heading reads, "A Service of Death and Resurrection". We do not simply focus on death but resurrection. We look forward to the positive promises of our faith: resurrection and life eternal. As Christians, we approach our humanness and mortality because our true life and home is the kingdom come.

Lent is a season of spiritual preparation for the truly joyous celebration of Easter and the power of the resurrection. Easter, not Christmas, is the center of our faith. Christmas is a seductive substitute for those who are not mature in the faith. It's all right to celebrate Christmas, but if it is the most important religious day for your faith, maybe you need to go deeper in your faith journey. Lent exists precisely for that purpose.

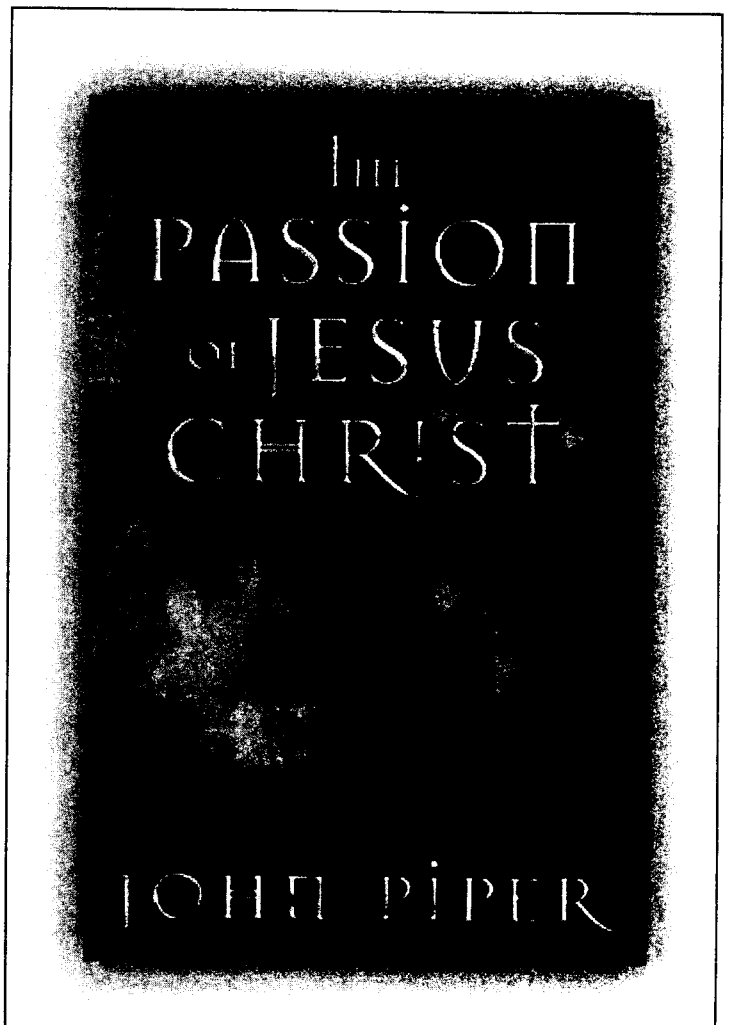
We prepare ourselves to get the most from Easter by using Lent as a time of spiritual self-examination. I invite you to join me on a spiritual quest during Lent. Traditionally, we fast or give up something during Lent. This year I am asking you place a \$\$ dollar \$\$ value on what you choose to give up and put that money aside as a special Lenten Offering for others.

We will also be sending you a copy of John Piper's "*The Passion of Jesus Christ: Fifty Reasons Why Jesus Came to Die*" for you to study during Lent. The AM Sunday Bible Study class has been studying this book for months. The website shares:

"The most important questions anyone can ask are: Why was Jesus Christ crucified? Why did he suffer so much? What has this to do with me? Finally, who sent him to his death? The answer to the last question is that God did. Jesus was God's Son. The suffering was unsurpassed, but the whole message of the Bible leads to this answer.

"Why did Christ suffer and die? The central issue of Jesus' death is not the cause, but the meaning-God's meaning. That is what this book is about. John Piper has gathered from the New Testament fifty reasons. Not fifty causes, but fifty purposes-in answer to the most important question that each of us must face: What did God achieve for sinners like us in sending his Son to die? "

We will also have extra books for you to share with friends and neighbors as a witness for God. During Holy Week we will also offer a showing of Mel Gibson's "The Passion Of Christ" which helps us to identify with the sacrifice he made for you and me. **If you would like to send us a contribution to support this special outreach during Lent we would appreciate your gift.**





As we have had weeks of very cold weather; we wish to thank **EVERYONE** that gives their time to work at the Thrift Shop. It has indeed taken a lot of effort on their part to get out in the cold to help keep the Thrift Shop going.

Because of your efforts, we were able to help several families with needed items during the holiday season. We also contributed to the following:

- * Card Ministry
- * Care Clinic
- * Church Christmas Tree (Pre-lit)
- * Church Power Bill
- * Emergency Fund
- * Fence for Day Care
- * Methodist Home for Children
- * Red Cross
- * Salvation Army
- * Shoebox Ministry
- * UMCOR - Tsunami Relief

Lee Anna Sproul, Chairperson

YOUTH NEWS

The Youth are really busy preparing for the **"Souper Bowl Luncheon"** to raise money for the hungry. As a conference, most groups are choosing to send their funds raised to Tsunami survivors. Our group discussed this at our January 23rd meeting, and decided that we will send our money through the conference to help feed Tsunami survivors. Ashley did a great job presenting to the Church Ministry Council our proposed calendar of events for 2005. The youth will be busy raising funds for **Summer Breakaway, ACS** and **Footprints (Work Mission)**. These programs are very special to our youth and they look forward to attending these events each year. Some of our youth are planning on attending the **Lay Leadership Training** on February 12th at Hope Mills UMC. Ms. Lorri recently went to the training at Hay Street UMC in January and has brought back some neat things we can implement into our meetings. Our youth are sharing and discussing their devotionals during their meetings.

May God bless you!
Ms. Elaine

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- February 6 - Souper Bowl Luncheon
- February 12 - Serve at Sweetheart Banquet



The UMM met Sunday, January 16th at 8:30 a.m. There were **18** men present. Breakfast was prepared by Randy Caldwell and Wayne Hager.

Calvin Rome gave the devotion which was from Philipians 4: 11-12. "God owns everything and we own nothing. We are only caretakers of God's world." As John Wesley once said, "Earn all you can, save all you can, so you can give away all you can." Money is earned only to pay taxes, insurance, living expenses, and to contribute to the needy.

Lynwood told us about his experience with the \$10.00 talent he received from Dr. Hale. It will multiply with God's help. We cannot do anything alone.

Our old business was about the "Black-Eyed Dinner" which was held on January 2nd. Thanks to **Doug Stone** and **Lola Smith** for their help in the kitchen. Our meal consisted of turnip greens, cabbage, collards, black-eye peas, ham, cornbread and all the trimmings. Doug and Lola made the cornbread which was a tremendous hit.

Our new business consisted of our annual **"Sweetheart Banquet"** which will be held on **Saturday, February 12th**. Doug Stone will be in charge of this event and has everything under control. There will be decorations, door prizes, youth servers, entertainment and more surprises. The menu will be **New York Strip Steak, Potato and Salad**. Reservations will be required.



Other business was the re-marking of the parking lot. This will be done in the Spring. The fence area for the Day Care has been marked off. It needs to be on our property so Doug and Lynwood put markers on the area where it will be placed.

Missing from our January meeting were Jack Byrne, Bob Galliera, J.A. Sessoms, Ike Huffman, Grover Green, Fred Rozier, Lyle Spidle and Scotty Clyde.

Troy Willoughby,
UMM Secretary



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS



- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 2 - Linda Webb | 14 - Connie Knight |
| Sue Rutledge | 20 - Calvin Rome |
| 4 - Mark Webb | Marty Webb |
| 5 - Cathy Edwards | Bob Probst |
| 10 - Leigh Sibbett | 25 - Edna Galliera |
| 11 - Patty Poche | Julie Anderson |
| 12 - Catherine Morgan | 27 - Raymond Gray |
| 13 - J.A. Sessoms | |

FRAYED & FRAZZLED FLOCK

We're off to a New Year with an even greater love for the Lord and a stronger desire to do His will. We want to thank our church family, individuals, as well as the church as the body of Christ for all your support. We are starting our third year and realize that we could not have accomplished our goals and visions for God's work without your love and support! We also want to thank everyone who donated stuffed animals to the *"Birthday Party For Jesus"*. They were donated to the *"Children's Center"* at *Cape Fear Valley Medical Center*. A *"Thank You Card"* from them has been posted on the bulletin board *"Bringing Big Smiles To Little Faces"*. We have gotten off to a good start by tentatively setting our calendar for the New Year. We will continue to cook at least once a month and share it with our church family and those in need. The Book Club will continue to meet once a month to discuss the novel of the month. Reading can be an outlet for so many things from stress to relaxation. Also it's a great reason to come together in fellowship over a meal and share in good conversation. We will continue to meet for Bible Study every Wednesday night from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Our resource for this study is *"The Grand Sweep - 365 Days Through The Bible"*. As the name implies, the book is designed so that you can read the whole Bible in one year. We tried following that for a while, but found it moved too fast for us. So to the extreme, we cover one day each week. You read about three chapters during the week and we discuss them on Wednesday. We are just starting the book of *Numbers*. Please remember that everything we do is open to anyone who would like to join us. So if you feel moved to cook, or join us for lunch, or come to bible study, please don't hesitate you are welcome!! On February 5th we will help the youth prepare for the Souper Bowl Luncheon. We will meet to cook on the 26th at 8:30 a.m. and the Book Club will meet at 11:30 a.m. We will discuss *"The Princess"* by *Lori Wick*.

SPECIAL OFFERINGS WERE GIVEN TO THE FOLLOWING FROM:

ARP FUND

- ◆ Wayne & Elaine Everts
- ◆ Cindy & Lisa Rogers

CHURCH POWER BILL

- ◆ The Thrift Shop

EMERGENCY FUND

- ◆ Ruth Caldwell
- ◆ Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle
- ◆ The Thrift Shop
- ◆ Sunday Morning Bible Study Class
- ◆ Paul & Jewel Sharpe
- ◆ Wayne & Elaine Everts
- ◆ Mary Morrow
- ◆ Sunday Morning Bible Study Class IMO Karen Ogden's Mother

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

- ◆ Wayne & Elaine Everts

SUMMER BREAKAWAY

- ◆ Sunday Morning Bible Study Class IMO Robert Swan
- ◆ Wayne & Elaine Everts

FEBRUARY FLOWER CHART

- 6 - In memory of Linda Snyder by Boyd Snyder
- 13 - In honor of Leigh Sibbett's birthday by her family
- 20 - (1) In honor of Cliff & Catherine Morgan's 50th Anniversary
(2) in honor of Evelyn Pavel's Mother
- 27 - In memory of Harold Caldwell by Ruth Caldwell

The "2005 Flower Chart" is now ready for you to sign-up and give recognition to a friend or loved one. Flowers are only \$20.00. Please make your check out to St. Matthew's UMC and put "flowers" in the memo section and place in the offering plate.



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

"COME TO THE POTTER"

For Molding - Yet, O Lord, you are our Father.

We are the clay you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand. Isaiah 64: 8

This is the theme for 2005. Let us remember this as we go about our daily tasks. Will you please pray for **Wilma Frances Lynch**, a Church and Community Worker in Alaska. She has a birthday on February 2 and her address is **Wilma Frances Lynch, P.O. Box 375, Willow, AK. 99688** and her email address is **flynch@gci.net**. Frances is devoted to uplifting the poor and disadvantaged in rural and urban areas. She works to change the social iniquities of poverty, racial injustice, and domestic violence. If you have time send her an email or note to let her know that we appreciate what she does.

Please save **Campbell's Soup Labels** and related products including **Swanson's Canned Foods, Prego Spaghetti Sauce, V-8 Vegetable Juice, Franco-American Products, Campbell's Beans and Campbell's Tomato Juice**. There will be a Ziploc Bag on the bulletin board by the church office for you to put these in at any time. These labels are converted for materials for education. This is one project for for the **Mission Today Unit** that we are working toward.

Adella Pray, President UMW

NIGHT OWLS CIRCLE:

The Night Owl Circle met Thursday, January 13th. Ruby Lucas served as hostess and presented the program. She read a poem entitled **"Interview With God"**.

Our project for the month was to help a family who due to a fire lost their home and their belongings. We provided household items and made a monetary donation to assist them.

In December, we voted to take money from our Sunshine Fund to help **Amy-Jo Everts** with her **Mission Trip** to Florida. We will replace the money at our February 10th meeting at the church at 7:00 p.m. Hope to see you there!

May God hold you in the palm of His hand and may you be filled with His peace and love.

Linda Webb, Secretary

DATES TO REMEMBER:

February 7 - UMW General Mtg. to plan Mother's Day & other upcoming Events, 6:30 p.m.

March 4 - Church Women United World Day of Prayer

April 23 - Conference Racial Justice Workshop in Smithfield

May 6 - Church Women United May Friendship Day

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

"CHICKEN TOMATO SOUP"

1 1/2 cups water	1 10 oz package frozen chopped broccoli
3/4 cup chopped onion	1 garlic clove, minced
3/4 pound boneless, skinless chicken breast, cut into 1-inch chunks	1/2 teaspoon seasoned salt
1 15 1/2 oz can great northern beans, rinsed & drained	1/4 teaspoon pepper
1 tablespoon ketchup	1 15 oz can black beans, rinsed & drained
Crumbled bacon & shredded cheddar Cheese	1 11 oz can whole kernel corn, drained
	1 teaspoon brown sugar
	dar 1 46 oz can tomato juice



In a Dutch oven or soup kettle, combine water, broccoli, onion, & garlic. Bring to a boil; boil for 8 to 10 minutes, stirring frequently. Meanwhile in a nonstick skillet, cook chicken until no long pink, about 6 minutes. Sprinkle with seasoned salt & pepper. Add to broccoli mixture. Stir in tomato juice, beans, corn, ketchup, & brown sugar; bring to a boil. Reduce heat; cover and simmer for 10 to 15 minutes, stirring occasionally. Garnish with bacon and cheese. Yield: 12 servings (about 3 quarts).

FEBRUARY

ST. MATTHEW'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Prayer Group – 6:30pm	2 Card Ministry – 5:00pm WNA & B.Study-6:30pm Choir Practice – 7:30pm	3	4	5 FFF – 8:30
6 Souper Bowl Donation Lunch – 12:00pm	7 UMW Mtg. – 6:30pm One-By-One – 7:00pm	8 Prayer Group – 6:30pm	9 Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle - 11:00am	10 Night Owls Circle – 7:00pm	11	12 Lay Speaker Training Hope Mills UMC- 8:30am-5:30pm Sweetheart Banquet – 6:00pm
13 UMYF – 12:00pm	14 One-By-One – 7:00pm	15 Prayer Group – 6:30pm	16 Home Extensions-10am	17	18	19
20 UMM Breakfast Mtg. – 8:30am UMYF – 12:00pm	21 One-By-One – 7:00pm	22 Prayer Group – 6:30pm	23 Card Ministry – 5:00pm WNA & B.Study-6:30pm Choir Practice – 7:30pm	24 Help'N Hands Senior Group – 11:00am	25	26 FFF – 8:30am Book Club – 11:30 a.m.
27	28 One-By-One – 7:00pm					