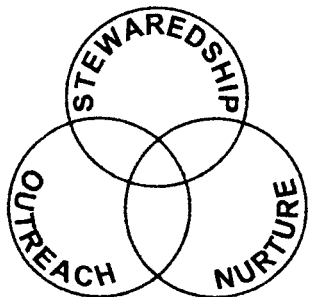


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St. Matthew's UMC



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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 V

APRIL 2005

Issue 5

Bishop Al Gwinn's RADICAL HOSPITALITY



FAYETTEVILLE DISTRICT LAY RALLY

Sunday, March 20th seven of our members attended the Lay Rally at Salem

UMC in Eastover. This was a great time to here our new bishop and support those in the congregation who had gone through Lay Speaker training. St. Matthew's was also recognized as a Rainbow Covenant Church because we paid all our apportionments and gave extra in five lanes of Advance Giving: World, National Missionary Support, UMCOR, and Conference Advance Specials.

The highlight of the program for me was hearing our new Bishop address the Body of Christ in a very relaxed conversational style. He comes across as a very compassionate and passionate person. His passion is for the church and he said that the four characteristics of a vital church are **Radical Hospitality, Dynamic Worship, Spiritual Formation, and Risk Taking.**

What does he mean by these characteristics? He only had time to address **Radical Hospitality.** Salem UMC exemplified some of this Radical Hospitality by having people in the parking lot to help us find a parking place. There were greeters at every door to welcome us and answer any questions. Ushers cheerfully led people in and found them a seat and brought in extra chairs making sure everyone had a program. Following the Lay Rally they were ready to serve a delicious supper of chicken and rice soup, sandwiches, fruit cup, beverage and dessert.

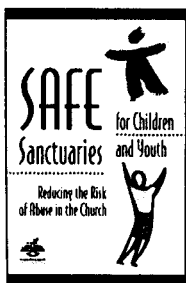
The Bishop complimented them on an excellent job, but said Radical Hospitality must be more than this. He pointed out that we can't be hospitable and claim our favorite position on our favored pew. He asked us if we had ever noticed that pews just aren't designed for people to crawl over someone to get to the vacant seat in the middle. Radical Hospitality means moving to the center of the pew to make room for visitors and welcome them.

But Radical Hospitality is more than that; much more. It means bringing people to church; seriously inviting people to church. He shared that he recently read some good news with a down side. The good news was that **90% of people who join a church join because of a family member or a friend's invitation.** If left

up to the minister alone, it means only a small fraction of people will join the church. The down side to this information was that **95% of people in the church have not led a person to Christ and his church by the time they die.** He asked how many of us had a prayer list of people we were praying for to come to Christ and his church? Bishop Gwinn then shared some touching personal stories of people who had prayer for him to be a Christian or he would not be where he is today. Radical Hospitality means reaching out to others with the Good News of Jesus Christ and praying that they will come to a saving relationship with him and become active members of the body of Christ. He shared with us that if all we do is care for ourselves, even though we are a hospitable and welcoming congregation, it is just a matter of time before we die. In my five years here at St. Matthew's I have only seen the evidence of less than a half dozen people who consistently invite and bring people to church. If you want to know why we are not growing as we should take a good look in the mirror. **What we need is Radical Hospitality.** Start praying for some people today and invite them to church Sunday.

*Shalom,
Mike*

TRUSTEES ENDORSE SAFE SANTUARIES MOVEMENT

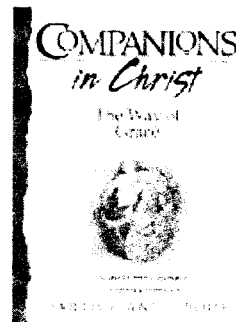


Headlines about clergy and lay sexual misconduct are prompting members of all denominations to look hard at their own churches and ask pointed questions: To what extent is this a problem in our congregations? What is being done to address it? Are our members, especially young people and children, safe?

On Monday evening March 14th St. Matthew's Trustees looked at this issue closely and decided to act. Dr. Hale shared that the Safe Sanctuaries movement was a result of a resolution "Reducing the Risk of Child Sexual

Abuse in the Church," passed by the 1996 General Conference, recommending specific measures for prevention to congregations, annual conferences (regional administrative units) and churchwide agencies. The resolution cites Christ's warning to adults of the consequences of causing children to stumble. It also quotes the denomination's Social Principles: "Children must be protected from economic, physical, emotional and sexual exploitation and abuse."

Our insurance carrier, Guide One, has also made this a requirement for all staff and volunteers who work with children and youth. They have arranged a Lifetime Membership \$50 fee waiver with CheckPoint, the nation's leading provider of identification services. National searches are \$20, State wide sexual offender searches cost \$7.20 and criminal searches cost \$4.00, a 20% discount. We will be implementing this policy immediately.



Companions in Christ: The Way of Grace - A Small-Group Experience in Spiritual Formation
By John Indermark

Grace is a gift. Even before we recognize its need in our lives, God extends us favor. This nine-week study in the *Companions in Christ*

series explores the Gospel of John and, specifically, how divine grace is at work in our lives today, just as it was in the lives of biblical characters 2000 years ago.

"God's grace comes to us in the distinctive shape of our personal histories, needs, and possibilities," Participants in this small-group study will explore the central stories of John, focusing on people who discovered God's grace through their encounters with Jesus. This is more than a survey of the biblical stories of Andrew, Simon, Philip, and Nathaniel; Nicodemus; the Samaritan woman; the lame man; the woman caught in adultery; the blind man; Mary and Martha; and Simon Peter. **Those interested in a Tuesday morning or Tuesday evening session need to sign the *The Way of Grace* sign up sheet on the bulletin board. We will begin April 5th, 2005.**



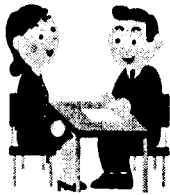
A special thanks to all of our volunteers who work so faithfully at our Thrift Shop. Also, thanks to everyone for your generous donations.

The Thrift Shop made the following contributions:

- ◆ Emergency Fund
- ◆ Church Power Bill
- ◆ Lawn Care Service
- ◆ Amy-Jo Everts Florida Mission Trip
- ◆ South African Zulu
- ◆ Salvation Army
- ◆ Safe Haven
- ◆ Methodist Home for Children
- ◆ Highland Chapter Red Cross

Lee Anna Sproul, Chairperson

ONE-BY-ONE:



We have been growing by leaps and bounds in the past month. We have been getting around one or two students each week. Why?

There is only eight weeks left in this school year, and it is crunch time on whether a student gets to go to the next grade level. Because of this, I am asking for your help again. Most of my students need help in **MATH**.

Thanks to all of my teachers for your continued support in our One-By-One program. May God bless you in all that you do.

Dawn Stone

FRAYED & FRAZZLED FLOCK:

Our FFF will be cooking on April 30th at 8:30 a.m. in the church fellowship hall. Afterwards, we will go across the street to the "Pizza Palace" at 11:30 a.m. to discuss our book of the month. Come and join us for fun and fellowship!



The UMM met Sunday, March 20th at 8:30 a.m. for their regular monthly meeting. We had **23** men present. Breakfast was prepared by Doug Stone, James DeBruhl and Jack Spakes. It was good to have some of our regulars back as well as one visitor, Carl Ogburn.

Calvin Rome led our devotion which was on the **"Bible"**. Why is the Bible true? It is unique in its teachings...It is the only one of its kind...It is history...It is the only book that teaches love and forgiving. Over 40 men wrote this book 15,000 years ago.

Cards were read from some of the ladies who attended the **"Sweetheart Dinner"** which was held on February 12th. Also, a **"Thank You"** card from **Amy-Jo Everts** thanking the men for their support on her **Mission Trip** to Florida.

The UMM will be in charge of the **"Mother's Day Worship Service"** and will have a **"Guest Speaker"**. The men will also fill the choir with a surprise song as they have done in the past.

Dr. Hale spoke to the men about ministries in the church. **Rainbow Covenant Church** is an advance giving structure. Pick a project in advance and work toward a goal. There is always room for more missions in any church. There will be more on this later.

Our next project will be the **"Father's Day Booklet"**.

The purchase of a large **Coffee Urn** has been made and is ready for use. It will make **42** cups or less.

Troy Willoughby,
UMM Secretary



APRIL BIRTHDAYS



- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 8 - Barry Gallimore | 25 - Lola Smith |
| 9 - Joe Bledsoe
James DeBruhl | 27 - Connie Miller |
| 17 - Joshua Hager | 28 - Jean Lambert |
| 20 - Clarice Edge | 29 - Edna Parker
Amanda Call |
| 21 - Margaret Lewis | 30 - John Williams, Jr. |



The *Easter Egg Hunt* was a smashing event. We had about **40** children and almost all of them were from our community. Thanks to all who helped. Also, thanks to all of you who came to our *"Donation Breakfast"* which was held after the Sunrise Service on Easter morning.

Some of our upcoming events are as follows:

- ◆ *April 16 - Donation Car Wash*
- ◆ *May 15 - Donation Lunch*

CONFIRMED & RECEIVED INTO MEMBERSHIP 3-27-05:

*Morgan Edwards
Christopher Rome
Reena Stone*

BAPTISMS 3-27-05:

*Jackson Parker LeeRoy Henning
Son of Jeromy & Rebecca Henning*

*Rachel Yvonne Shields
Daughter of James & Robyn Shields
Grandparents of Jackson & Rachel are
Robert & Skeeter Parker*

*Alixus Call
Makenzie Call
Daughters of Amanda Call*

*Cierra Patten
Cayla Patten
Candace Patten
Granddaughters of Cherri Cone*



SPECIAL OFFERINGS WERE GIVEN TO THE FOLLOWING FROM:

ARP FUND

- ◆ 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

- ◆ Wayne & Elaine Everts

- ◆ James & Joyce DeBruhl

- ◆ Bradley Everts

- ◆ Wayne & Elaine Everts IMO Margaret King

LAWN CARE SERVICE

- ◆ United Methodist Men

- ◆ The Thrift Shop

MEMORIAL FUND

- ◆ William & Gertrude Schultz IMO Margaret King

- ◆ Franklin & Martha Cabanillas IMO Margaret King

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

- ◆ Amy-Jo Everts

- ◆ The Thrift Shop

SUMMER YOUTH BREAKAWAY

- ◆ Wayne & Elaine Everts

APRIL FLOWER CHART

3 - In honor of Jean Lambert's birthday

*10 - In honor of Diana C. Bone's birthday
& in memory of E.W. Wilson by Ruth
Caldwell*

*17 - In honor of Laura & Catherine
Ashworth's birthday by their grand-
parents, Lynwood & Julie Griffin*

24 - In honor of Lin Rogers birthday

*The "2005 Flower Chart" still has spaces
available for you to sign-up to give recog-
nition 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

Fifteen year old "David" told the camp cook that he wanted to make some changes in his life. She helped him to secure a scholarship to attend **Music Camp at Red Bird Mission**. His self-esteem was very low and he was unable to make eye contact when spoken to by adults upon his arrival. Another camper took him under his wing and helped him integrate fully. David began to experience the love of God as he related with others. The campers were taught to construct and play their own dulcimer. At the end of camp, when the dulcimer concert was held, David sat in the front row with his head held high. **Ruth Wiertzima, Red Bud Missionary**

We never know when any small act of kindness or information will help someone else have a better place in life. Remember that we have a Donation Lunch planned for Sunday, April 3rd immediately following worship service. May God be with you as you continue to respond to the needs of others.

Adella Pray, President UMW

This months special prayer request is for:

Kay Frances Collins

1200 Maple Road

Joliet, Illinois 60422

Her Birthday - April 3, 2005

(Remember to pray for her and to send a card or letter if possible.)

RUTH-ETHEL SMITH CIRCLE:

Our group of ladies met on March 9th for a brief meeting before going to "Sammio's" for a delicious lunch and great fellowship. Our March project was to purchase socks and underwear for Urban Ministry. It was very successful and they were delighted to receive them. For our April 13th meeting, we are going to **Carolina Health Care** on Cumberland Road to celebrate birthdays of our ladies born in April which includes **Edna Parker** who is a resident there. It was such a heartwarming experience for Edna last year, so we wanted to do it again. Please bring finger foods for this event. Edna is looking forward to all of us sharing this time with her. We will meet at the church at 11:00 a.m. and carpool to the Health Care Center because parking is limited. Don't forget the UMW will be hosting a **Donation Luncheon** after church on **April 3rd**. Please bring items for **Salad, Dressing** and **Sheet Cakes**. We expect to have good attendance for this lunch. Let's all continue to pray for one another and our church. God bless you!

Catherine Morgan

DATES TO REMEMBER:

April 23 - Conference Racial Justice Work Shop, Ashley UMC, Smithfield

May 6 - Church Women United May Friendship Day

May 7 - Mother-Daughter Banquet, 6:00 pm

May 24 - Deadline for placing names in Mother's Day Booklet

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

"TUNA SALAD"

12 ounce can Chunk Light Tuna in water, drained
2-3 Tbsp Light Mayonnaise

1 small Granny Smith Apple, chopped
Celery rib, chopped



Combine ingredients in a small bowl, and mix well. Serve as a sandwich on whole grain bread, as a spread on crackers or a toasted bagel, as a filling for celery, or atop lettuce for a tasty salad. Makes 4 servings.

APRIL

ST. MATTHEW'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Daylight Savings Time Begins Donation Lunch - 12:00pm	4 One-By-One - 7:00pm	5 Prayer Group - 6:30pm	6 Card Ministry - 5:00pm WNA & B.Study-6:30pm Choir Practice - 7:30pm	7	8	9
10 UMYF - 12:00pm	11 One-By-One - 7:00pm	12 Prayer Group - 6:30pm	13 Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle - 11:00am Card Ministry - 5:00pm WNA & B.Study-6:30pm Choir Practice - 7:30pm	14 Night Owls Circle - 7:00pm	15	16 DONATION CAR WASH
17 UMM Breakfast Mtg. - 8:30am UMYF - 12:00PM	18 One-By-One - 7:00pm	19 Prayer Group - 6:30pm	20 Home Extensions-10am Card Ministry - 5:00pm WNA & B.Study-6:30pm Choir Practice - 7:30pm	21	22	23
24 Youth Rally Rocky Mount	25 One-By-One - 7:00pm	26 Prayer Group - 6:30pm	27 Card Ministry - 5:00pm WNA & B.Study-6:30pm Choir Practice - 7:30pm	28 Help'N Hands Senior Group - 11am	29	30 FFF - 8:30am Book Club at Pizza Palace - 11:30am