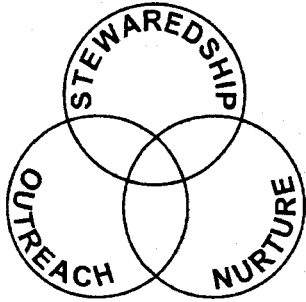


St. Matthew's UMC
202 Hope Mills Rd
Fayetteville, NC 28304

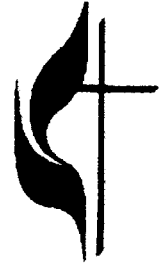


St. Matthew's 25 Challenge

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

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

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



Volume VII

FEBRUARY 2007

Issue 2

OUR CALL TO EXCELLENCE from the NC Christian Advocate

In a series of gatherings in all districts, Bishop Alfred Wesley Gwinn, Jr. is using PowerPoint slides to explain his understanding of the Biblical and theological call to excellence and what the implications of this call are for clergy, laity, and congregations. "Excellence is nothing more and nothing less than thinking, acting, and feeling the mind of Christ. It is calling us out, back, and up to what was set at our baptism and our ordination," Bishop Gwinn said. Excellence in ministry will "change our lives." It will bring a different way of living for the cabinet, the board of ordained ministry, the board of laity, clergy, and congregations," he said. **All members of St. Matthew's Church Council are expected to come hear our Bishop Monday evening, January 29th at 7:00 pm, at Haymount UMC in order to lead our church to excellence.**

During these gatherings, in addition to Bishop Gwinn, presentations are made by the conference lay leader, two other lay persons, and superintendents from other districts who joined these individuals in a panel discussion and a question and answer session. Bishop Gwinn supported his presentation with scriptural references: "If there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things" (Phil. 4:8), "And I will show you a still more excellent way." (1 Cor. 12:31), and "I pray that you may have the power to comprehend...so that you may be filled with the fullness of God" (Eph. 3: 18-19).

"We have forgotten that our major work as a church isn't increased attendance figures, dynamic programs, growing budgets and expanded facilities – **it's spiritual formation.** That is what the Great Commission is all about – **making disciples,**" Bishop Gwinn said:

The goals for the NC Conference in growing

excellence in ministry, he said, are 1) every congregation being an obedient, vital, missional congregation regardless of size, and 2) every pastor being an effective spiritual, obedient, and visionary leader.

"Excellence in ministry is not some kind of new bar arbitrarily and subjectively set for all. Rather it is an attitude of the heart, a willingness to give our best to the One who gives his best," Bishop Gwinn said. He issued a caution during each gathering against 'me-ism' getting in the way of God's will. "**Are we going to obey God or are we going to do it 'our' way,**" he asked and then said, "too often we will do anything God wants us to do if it is what we want to do."

When talking about effective leadership, Bishop Gwinn said it was "only and completely about obedience to God. It is a spiritual issue, the way we live in community with others and work with others, and is a move from self-centeredness to Christ-centeredness." Excellence in pastoral leadership comes when we learn to exchange a self-centered world for one where Christ and kingdom values are the priority," he said.

Clergy were encouraged by Emily Innes, conference lay leader, to equip and empower laity for ministry. "**Our mission is to make disciples for the transformation of the world.** Maybe this transformation will begin with each congregation, with all of us," she said. Since becoming Bishop of the NC Conference in September 2004, Bishop Gwinn has introduced the concept of effective leaders and healthy congregations. He has also emphasized being accountable to each other, mentoring others, and becoming life-long learners. **Will St. Matthew's strive for excellence as an Acts 2 Church?**



Truly a Mission within the community! If you want to be part of a great happening at St. Matthew's, just check out our Thrift Shop! From Dorothy Taylor's vision of the Thrift Shop, to today's operation, this organization continues to meet the

needs in the community, through mission outreach and the needs of the church. Many people have dedicated their time and support to this ongoing organization. I can personally say that every trip to the Thrift Shop, I take away much more than I give. The blessings of those we meet there are unbelievable. This is an ongoing mission that is met on a daily basis. Donations have come in since the New Year which will enable us to keep going. A special thanks to everyone who keeps supporting our Thrift Shop by giving, buying and working.

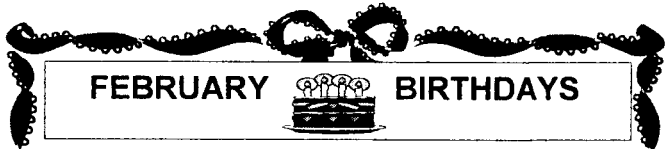
Adella Pray

TRUSTEE MINISTRY TEAM

A special thanks to **Frank Bagley** for being "**Trustee of the Month**" for January. Our "**Trustee of the Month**" for February will be **Doug Stone**. We appreciate everything the men do to make our church a safe and attractive place to worship our Lord. God bless you all!

We have promised to participate in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts and our service.

ANNUAL BUDGET - \$171,027.91	AS OF JANUARY 7, 2007
Needed Weekly \$3,289.00	Needed To Date \$9, 866.99
Average Weekly \$3,173.18	Received To Date \$9, 519.55
Avg. Weekly Deficit (\$115.82)	Deficit (\$347.44)



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2 - Linda Webb	13 - J.A. Sessoms
Sue Rutledge	14 - Connie Knight
4 - Mark Webb	20 - Calvin Rome
5 - Cathy Edwards	Marty Webb
7 - Lucille Cook	Bob Probst
10 - Leigh Sibbett	25 - Edna Galliera
11 - Patty Poche'	27 - Raymond Gray



The UMM met Sunday, January 21st at 8:30 a.m. We had **24** men present. We honored **Lyle "Spike" Spidle** with a moment of silence. He will be greatly missed. Our love and prayers go out to the Spidle family.

Our invocation was given by Calvin Rome.

We enjoyed a wonderful breakfast prepared by **Calvin, Christy, & Christopher Rome** and **Joe Hazelett**. Our February cooks will be **Fred Rozier** and **Raymond Gray**. Our new President, Raymond Gray opened the meeting and turned it over to Calvin who gave a devotion on "**Packing 'Chutes**" which came from 1 Thessalonians 5: 9-15. The minutes were read from last month's meeting and approved. The new Treasurer, Troy Willoughby read the Financial Report and the Financial Giving Expenditures were discussed. A new **Budget Schedule Sheet** will be developed. More details will follow in reference to this sheet.

Calvin thanked Bob Lambert for Communion Sunday last month and congratulated him for a job well done as a new Team Leader. The UMM continues to serve Communion to our homebound members. If you know of someone desiring to be served Communion, or would like to become part of this wonderful ministry, please notify Calvin Rome or call Doris at the church office. This ministry continues to be a blessing to all involved. Communion Team for February will be **Bob Lambert, Lloyd Miller, Troy Willoughby, Bill Stackhouse, Archie Clyde, Raymond Gray** and **Joe Hazelett**.

A motion was made and passed to donate **\$200.00** to the **Prayer Parlor** in honor of **Lyle Spidle**. The UMM will notify the family. Motion was also made and passed to have the annual **Sweetheart Banquet** on **Saturday, February 17th at 6:00 p.m.** More information on this event will be coming in the near future. Point of contact will be Bill & Maria Stackhouse. **February Ushers** will be **Head Usher - Bob Lambert, James DeBruhl, Kenneth Merritt, Perry Smith & Frank Bagley**. We invite all men of the church whether you are a member or not to join us on the third Sunday of each month at 8:30 a.m. We really would like to see new faces and hear new ideas, so please come join us.

Bill Stackhouse, UMM Secretary



FEBRUARY CHURCH FLOWERS

4 - In honor of Trevor & Kimberley's birthday by Sherrie Haan

11 - (1) In honor of Santos & Hilda Pena's 56th Anniversary (2) In honor of Cliff & Catherine Morgan's 52nd Anniversary

18 - In memory of Betty Gray by Raymond Gray

25 - In honor of Marty, Linda & Mark Webb's birthday

(The "2007 Flower Chart" is available for you to sign and place flowers in Honor/Memory of a loved one. Cost is only \$22.00.)

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Bob and Elaine Landis of the *Red Bird Mission* shares this mission moment. "Here at Mary Helen & Cranks Creek UMC, our major concern is drugs which continue to destroy lives, families and jobs. One of our young men was devastated over his habit. Besides being deeply in debt, he feared losing his wife and children. He felt helpless. His habit cost \$60 a pill, and his dealers were constantly after him. He dried out at a center and spent time in a mission center for addicts. Now he is going out of state to work and live with relatives who are Christians. We believe God will set him totally free, which is his hearts desire." Because of our UM support for missions, many people are able to receive help. This year we have honored four members of the church for this Christian Growth and work in the church and community. Doug Stone, Dawn Stone, Mary Schneider and Marie Parker. **CONGRATULATIONS!!!!** As we begin this New Year, we will meet February 5th at 6:30 p.m. to discuss Mother's Day Cards and Banquet, Father's Day Service, and other upcoming events for the year. I would encourage each of you, if you're not already a member of the UMW to become active in the Ruth/Ethel Smith Circle, The Night Owls, or the FFF. Visit and find out what is going on with each group with their mission activities. Or just come to the General Meeting on the first Monday evening of each month. We meet at 6:30 p.m. for a light dinner and meeting. We're usually home after 8:00 p.m. We would love to have each of you at our meetings.

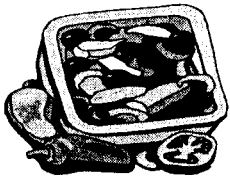
Adella Pray, UMW President

RUTH-ETHEL SMITH CIRCLE

Our Circle of Friends met Wednesday, January 10th at 11:00 a.m. Dorothy welcomed everyone and Margaret gave the devotion and prayer. **The Purpose of the United Methodist Women** was read by all. We recognized those present who had birthdays in January and remembered those not present. The Minutes were read and the Treasurer's Report was given. Our mission project for February is to give to the **Emergency Fund**. We discussed our March Mission Project and will vote on it at our next meeting. **Dorothy Taylor** was our Host and she gave an excellent program. Prayer was given and we all enjoyed a delicious lunch. "Thanks for all your help!"

Lola Smith

RECIPE OF THE MONTH "BEEF & MACARONI CASSEROLE"



3/4 cup uncooked elbow macaroni
1 pound ground chuck
1/2 small onion, chopped
1/3 cup chopped green bell pepper
1 can (15 oz) diced tomatoes, do not drain
1 tablespoon ketchup

1 tablespoon steak sauce
1 tablespoon chopped parsley
1 can cream of mushroom soup, undiluted
1 cup grated cheddar cheese
Salt and pepper

Cook macaroni per package directions. Set aside. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Brown the ground chuck in a large skillet. Add onion and bell pepper; cook until onion is transparent. Drain fat, then add tomatoes, ketchup, steak sauce, and parsley. Cook 10 minutes. Stir in cooked macaroni, and season to taste with salt and pepper. Gently mix in cream of mushroom soup, and transfer to lightly greased casserole dish. Sprinkle cheese over top. Bake until casserole is bubbly and cheese is lightly browned, about 30 minutes. Yield: 6-8 servings.

NIGHT OWLS CIRCLE

Our Circle of Friends met Thursday, January 11th at 7:00 p.m. Our project for January was to donate food to our Church Food Pantry. Our next meeting will be held on February 8th at 7:00 p.m. Our February Project will be to give a Love Offering to the FFF.



FEBRUARY**ST. MATTHEW'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH****2007**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 Communion Service In Honor of Linda Snyder - 11:00 am	5 UMW Mtg. - 6:30pm	6 Prayer Group - 6:30pm	7 Card Ministry - 5:00pm Bible Study - 6:30pm Choir Practice - 7:30pm	8 Night Owls Circle - 7:00pm	9	10 Lay Speaker Workshop @ Campground UMC - 7:30am - 6:00pm
11	12	13 Prayer Group - 6:30pm	14 Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle - 11:00 am Card Ministry - 5:00pm Bible Study - 6:30pm Choir Practice - 7:30pm	15	16	17 Sweetheart Banquet 6:00pm
18 UMM Breakfast Mtg. - 8:30am	19	20 Prayer Group - 6:30pm	21 Card Ministry - 5:00pm Ash Wednesday Service - 6:30pm	22 Help-N-Hands - 11:00 am	23	24
25	26	27 Prayer Group - 6:30pm	28 Card Ministry - 5:00pm Bible Study - 6:30pm Choir Practice - 7:30pm			