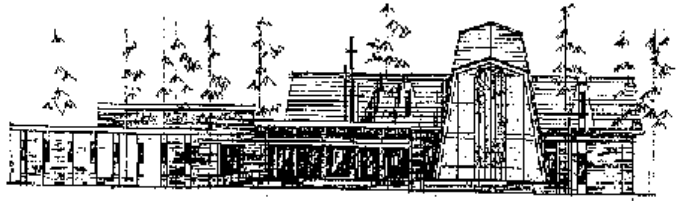


The Encounter

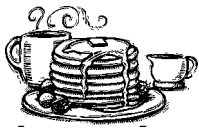


Monthly Newsletter of
St. Matthew's Lutheran Church
612 S. College Road
Wilmington, NC 28403
E-Mail: stmatch@bellsouth.net
Website: stmatthewsch.org

"The Church with a
WELCOME"
1892-2007

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

Volume 8	FEBRUARY 2008	Number 2
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SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE DINNER

Tuesday, February 5
5:00-7:30 pm

in the McSwain Activity Center.
Take out plates available.

A love offering will be taken.



Annual Sweetheart Game Show Sunday February 10th at 12:30pm

All this fun and fellowship will be in the McSwain Activity Center. We will be serving a spaghetti dinner. It is important to sign up so our youth will know how many to prepare the meal for. There is a sheet in the Commons area. Sign up Sunday February 3rd.

This event is always a great deal of fun as we watch couples from our church participate in a version of the Newlywed game show. You really do not want to miss this.



SERVICES 12:00 AND 7:00 PM Wednesday, February 6th

Weekly Lenten services each
Wednesday at 12:00 and 7:00 pm.

The theme for these services is
The Lord's Prayer

NEW

MONDAY AT 6:00 PM EVENING PRAYER AND BIBLE STUDY

We will begin each evening studying the Gospel of Matthew one chapter (or sometimes part of one chapter) each week. Then we will pray the service of Evening Prayer from the Lutheran Book of Worship. An offering plate will be at the door for those that wish to return a portion of what God has given to them. □□□□



Middle School lock-in...

Friday Feb. 8th from 7:00pm
until 9:00 am Saturday. You may
invite a friend to join us. Be sure to

bring \$5 for activity, drink and a snack to share.
Don't forget your toiletries.

Sign up sheet is on the youth board.



OWL's FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON

on the 28th of February will be
warm comfort foods; beef stew,
chicken, vegetables, salad, dessert.
Cost is \$7.50 per person.

Our March meal will be Italian food.

LOOK

on the Church Bulletin board next
to the OWL's board for our spring
activity. We're going to Myrtle Beach to the Palace
Theatre to hear the Irish Tenors! Date, cost and
transportation mode to be decided based on interest
shown for the trip.

**CIRCLE MEETING SCHEDULE FOR
FEBRUARY IS ON PAGE 5**

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Lent comes early this year with Ash Wednesday on February 6. It is our day to take a serious look at how we have failed God and others in the previous year. When we gather at noon and 7 p.m., the service is so solemn that we only sing one hymn: “Just As I Am without One Plea.”

On Ash Wednesday, each household will be able to pick up a daily reading guide that begins with Matthew chapter one and finishes 45 days later on Easter Sunday. Each day there will be a portion of Matthew given, one or two reflection questions, a short prayer, and an opportunity to respond to God’s grace with a small act of charity. The theme of the daily guide is “Following Jesus,” emphasizing that Matthew’s Gospel is a discipleship manual for the Church.

Webmaster Debbie Gimbal will also provide an on-line version, so that you may click on that link anytime and download the daily guide in a printable PDF file.

Frank and Becky Howard’s Sunday School class is making prayer beads to assist in the discipline of daily praying Luther’s Small Catechism.

The midweek Lenten preaching themes will be based upon the petitions of the Lord’s Prayer and Luther’s catechetical teaching on what each means.

In short, Lent 2008 at St. Matthew’s will be about listening to Jesus, following Jesus, and learning to pray with Him to do our heavenly Father’s good and gracious will!

I am excited about this opportunity to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. I am excited that in this way we are doing exactly what the penitential season of Lent is meant to be about – not a six week funeral for Jesus but rather a disciplined time of baptismal renewal leading up to the solemn and joyful celebrations of Holy Week and Easter.

One of the possible outcomes for this Lent might be more and more people having a deeper and more meaningful walk with the Lord Jesus. Another might be to grow in an understanding that our God always answers prayers in three ways: Yes, No, and Wait!

The word “salvation” means healing. Accordingly, every prayer for healing is always answered Yes to the particular need for healing, but perhaps with God’s Yes to a healing that is not what we hoped for or expected. After all, death is the final healing of all human brokenness. As the Lord Jesus promises in Revelation 21: “Behold, I make all things new!”

I invite you to keep a holy Lent, a time set aside for deeper reflection and prayer focused upon God’s great love for you, me, and this whole world in Jesus Christ.

If you should like to add one more layer to your Lent keeping, please remember we are studying Matthew’s Gospel each Monday night at 6 p.m. in the nave followed by a quiet time with the liturgy of Evening Prayer. This is our new fourth weekend service.

May God bless you and those you love richly with His tender mercy in Jesus Christ! May your Lent be a time when the Holy Spirit draws you even closer into God’s gracious grasp given in Word and Sacrament!

Your brother in Christ,

Pastor Sam Zumwalt

YOU CARE

By the time you read this I will have been your president for just about one month. I thank all of you for trusting me to lead St. Matthews as your president. So many of you have expressed to me how confident and / or excited you are about me doing this ministry, I am truly humbled. I would like to remind you that I am only a man. If not for the leading of my Lord I cannot live up to any of the expectations that many of you seem to have for me. That is not a bad thing, it's a reality. I look to God daily through His Word and His people for guidance. I trust that what is accomplished over the coming years will be for God's Glory, not yours and not mine. I know that what we do will only be truly successful if we do God's will and not our own. Many new people joined the leadership team at St. Matthews this past January. At that time we all promised to work faithfully to lead and direct our congregation in the capacity of the positions we were called to. You as a congregation promised to help and support us. The whole leadership team (Our staff, our council, our ministry team leaders and others) needs your support and your help to move St. Matthews into the future!

I have had the privilege to listen too many of you over the last couple of months and it's amazing to me how much people really care. I have listened to people complain, express concern, hurt by the actions or words of others, frustrated, angry, joyful, happy, excited, sad, and scared. It hasn't mattered how you have chosen to talk to me, the prevailing message that I heard from all this listening is that you care! You care about your brothers and sisters in Christ, you care about St. Matthews, you care about what we are doing and you care about if we are doing it right. You all express yourselves in

many different ways and yet your message is simple and clear: YOU CARE!

I'll always be honest with you and now is no exception. We have some challenges to overcome. There are some problems that I see and many of you have voiced to me. I am a person that thrives on fixing things! I am an auto repair person by trade, so I look for problems, try to find the best and the right solutions and then make repairs. I see that St. Matthew's needs some repairs. Most of the things that need to be repaired are minor in scope but big in perception. We must act to find effective and permanent solutions to these problems. It has taken several years for some of these things to get where they are today, which is really not as bad as you might imagine. My personal belief is that we are looking at about two years or so to "make repairs" and begin to more intentionally move the church in its mission and ministry. I know we can do it if we all work together!

I'm thankful that budget time is over for now. I am asking you to forget about the numbers for a time, we have responsible people to watch over the spending we do, trust them. Instead, concentrate on working with your brothers and sisters in Christ and let's see how focused we can become on accomplishing God's mission for the church through the ministries we already do and the new ministries we will do!

**Ponder these things for the coming month:
What is the one thing EVERY person needs?
What is the mission of the church?
What is our mission here at St. Matthews?**

If you know the answers or you want them before next month or if you have a concern or joy you want to share with me, send me an email at richardchinn@ec.rr.com

*I pray that God will bless you with enough!
Richard Chinn, President*

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

- **SISTER'S BIBLE STUDY**

"A Mile in Her Shoes: Lessons From the Lives of Old Testament Women" began January 28th. If you would like to join or want to see what the study is like, please join us on Mondays @ 7:00 P.M. in the church library. Any questions please contact Jodi Davis @ 790-9064 or Tammi Gates @ 796-9686.

- **SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER
AAPPRECIATION BREAKFAST is
March 9th @ 9:45 in McSwain.**

Please volunteer to bring something or substitute for a teacher that day as we celebrate their dedication to teaching our children, youth and adults. This also gives them an opportunity to network resources with each other.

Sign up to volunteer on bulletin board outside church office or contact Tammi Gates or Sandra Humphrey.

- **FIRST COMMUNION CLASS**

First Communion is available to any child whose parents feel their child has an understanding of Holy Communion and is asking to participate in this sacrament. One parent will need to be present for the instruction. The signup sheet is on the bulletin board next to the church office or you may contact Tammi Gates at 200-4415 to register for this class ASAP so materials can be ordered. We will serve pizza first then have our class. **We will meet in McCombs on Sunday, March 9th at 12:30 pm.**

- **CONFIRMATION BANQUET**

May 7th: The congregation is invited to a dinner for the confirmands at 7:00 pm. The youth will present their papers - always a moving experience as they share their faith. Watch for a signup sheet in the Commons in April.

**CONFIRMATION SUNDAY
May 11th at the 11:00 A.M. service**

- **CHURCH-WIDE PICNIC
Sponsored by the Christian Education
and Youth Committees**

***COME TO EMPIE PARK
on Sunday, May 18th 1:00- 5:00 .***

We will have activities for members and potential members of all ages. Please reserve this date to meet members from all 3 services.

This is an awesome opportunity to be one congregation! Please contact Janna Bauer or Tammi Gates for details or to help. Anyone with Bocce Balls or Horseshoes please contact Tammi Gates.

- **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2008**

June 8-13: Contact Scott Holzberger or Tammi Gates for details and/or to volunteer

- **Join a Sunday School Class and a Bible Study.**

Now, for Something Completely Different...

Since late October our Adult Sunday School Class (Frank Howard's) has studied the Sacred Seasons of the church year. Ash Wednesday and Lent are almost here, and we approach a period of penance and discipline with hearts eager to learn. On January 27th we spent our class session focusing our discipleship study on the disciplines of prayer, fasting, and giving, along with a short discussion of George Fox, a 17th Century exemplar of the Christian faith.

On February 3rd, we'll each be hand-making a "Lutheran Rosary" from simple, plain beads and string, for our use in adding new discipline to our lives in prayer. Abundant printed material explaining the prayers to accompany this Rosary for the forty days of Lent will be provided, as will the modest materials for making each Rosary.


All adults not already attending another Sunday School class are *invited* to our February 3rd class. Your fingers will be busied and your heart lifted by this simple activity and you will leave class with authentically Lutheran means for more disciplined prayer.

Crafters? Your donations of simple beads for this project are welcomed; call Becky Howard at 259-8930. All adults are invited and welcomed to this one-time event.

CAN I RESPOND?

HERE I AM LORD

Volunteers are needed to fill our Hospice Meals calendar for 2008! Our church has been assigned the 1st and 3rd Friday of every month. Prayerfully consider signing up to provide a meal to the families of Hospice patients. Individuals or groups may sign up to help! If there are any questions, please contact Kristi Wade at 392-9134 or happykristi@aol.com.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Choir Schedule 4:00 Luther Choir 4:00 Little Luther Choir 4:00 Instrumental Ensemble 4:45 Tone Chime Choir 5:00 Handbell Choir					1 <u>HOSPICE MEAL</u> Mike and Pat Floyd	2 9-12 New Member Orientation 6:00 Worship/Comm 8:00 AA 8:00 AL-ANON
3 Transfiguration Sunday 8:30 Worship/Communion 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship/Communion 1:30 Senior GS #139 1:30 Junior GS #226 6:00 MS/HS YOUTH GROUP NO CHOIRS OR ENSEMBLE	4 9:30 Spiritual Form. 12:00 Conversations 6:00 Evening Prayer and Bible Study	5 SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER 5:00-7:30 PM 9:00 Women's Fitness 10:00 Prayer Group 6:30 Contemporary Svc Practice 7:00 Stephen Min. 7:30 Love Circle 8:00 AA	6 ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES 12 & 7 8:00 Devotional Breakfast 9:30 Spiritual Form. 5:30 Cadette GS #354 6:00 Crossways 6:30 Cub Scouts #274 7:00 Confirmation 7:30 Adult Choir	7 9:00 Women's Fitness 10:00 Crossways 4:00 Brownie #739 7:00 Boy Scouts	8 MS LOCK-IN 7:00 PM.... Until 9:00AM Saturday	9 6:00 Worship/Comm 8:00 AA 8:00 AL-ANON
10 First Sunday In Lent 8:30 Contemp. Worship 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship/Communion 12:30 SWEETHEART GAMESHOW LUNCHEON 6:00 MS/HS YOUTH GROUP	11 9:30 Spiritual Form. 12:00 Conversations 6:00 Evening Prayer and Bible Study	12 9:00 Women's Fitness 9:30 Faith Circle 10:00 Prayer Group 1:30 Peace Circle 6:30 Praise Circle 8:00 AA	13 LENT SERVICES SERVICES 12 & 7 8:00 Devotional Breakfast 9:30 Spiritual Form. 5:30 Cadette GS #354 6:00 Crossways 6:30 Cub Scouts #274 7:00 Confirmation 7:30 Adult Choir	14 Valentine's Day 9:00 Women's Fitness 10:00 Crossways 4:00 Brownie #739 7:00 Boy Scouts	15 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE <u>HOSPICE MEAL</u> The Tuck Family	16 6:00 Worship/Comm 8:00 AA 8:00 AL-ANON Ski Trip Begins...
17 Second Sunday In Lent 8:30 Worship/Communion 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship/Communion 1:30 Senior GS #139 5:00 Interfaith Families Arrive..... NO YOUTH GROUPS	18 9:30 Spiritual Form. 12:00 Conversations 6:00 Evening Prayer and Bible Study Ski Trip Ends...	19 9:00 Women's Fitness 10:00 Prayer Group 6:30 Contemporary Svc Practice 7:00 Stephen Ministry 8:00 AA	20 LENT SERVICES SERVICES 12 & 7 8:00 Devotional Breakfast 9:30 Spiritual Form. 5:30 Cadette GS #354 6:00 Crossways 6:30 Cub Scouts #274 7:00 Confirmation 7:30 Adult Choir	21 9:00 Women's Fitness 10:00 Crossways 4:00 Brownie #739 7:00 Boy Scouts	22 7:00 Via de Cristo	23 9-12 New Member Retreat 6:00 Worship/Comm 8:00 AA 8:00 AL-ANON
24 Third Sunday In Lent 8:30 Contemp. Worship 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship/Communion 5:00 Interfaith Families Leave 6:00 MS/HS YOUTH GROUP	25 9:30 Spiritual Form. 12:00 Conversations 6:00 Evening Prayer and Bible Study	26 9:00 Women's Fitness 10:00 Prayer Group 7:00 Ministry Teams 8:00 AA	27 LENT SERVICES SERVICES 12 & 7 8:00 Devotional Breakfast 9:30 Spiritual Form. 5:30 Cadette GS #354 6:00 Crossways 6:30 Cub Scouts #274 7:00 Confirmation 7:30 Adult Choir	28 9:00 Women's Fitness 10:00 Bible Study 11:30 OWL's Fellowship Luncheon 4:00 Brownie #739 7:00 Boy Scouts	29	

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

** Denotes Youth Birthday

1	Charlotte Thompson	13	Effie McDougald	24	Richard Thompson
2	Frank Gilbert		Ray Wilson		Ed Walker
	Sandra Fascher	14	Emma Brunjes		Betty Lauver
4	Sonja Stroehl		Jeff Hollamon	25	Prue Hovis
	Shirley Morrow		Erik Wangenstein		Alexandria Knight
	Elizabeth Benoit	15	Kay Thompson		Andrew Vics
	Suzanne Whitmarsh		Ryan Allison		Mark Williams
5	Pat Lindner		Daniel Lockwood **		Helen Stansbury
	Sandra Miles		Emily Connor **		Charly Fischl **
	William Gourville **		Thomas Douglas	26	Betty Matlock
6	Lori Haskins	16	Kristi Wade		Norma Troutman
	Axel Erkes		Lauren Hornick **		Maty Friedrichs
	Bill Whitmarsh		Ryan Piper **	27	Larry Mahl
7	Gary Stroehl		Teresa Tuck	29	Martha Walker
8	Katie Trapp		Tim Norman		Howard Siko
	Larry Schneider	17	Rita Knoll		
	Ayden Snyder **		Faye Dunaway		
	Bryce Snyder **	18	Tom Thompson		
10	James Ryan Wells		Kennedy Scott **		
	Scott Holzberger	19	Kathren Miller		
	Kace Getsinger **		Dale Kempainen		
	Hannah Brekhus **	20	John Keith Geiger		
11	Nancy Miller		Sara Grieb **		
	Meredith Allison **	21	John Bink		
	Thomas Jividen		Corey Stanley **		
	Matthew Piccinin	23	Renee James		
12	Jane Brunt		Kevin James		
13	SFC Robert Cottle		Christine O'Donnell		



FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

1	Michael and Diane Vickery	17	John and Yvonne Tullous	28	Tom and Hanne Flythe
4	Dale and Jeanne Kempainen	18	Richard and Sherri Hiler	28	Thomas and Marie Douglas
7	Richard and Carol Chinn	18	Donald and Audrey Rose Meyer		
11	Joel and Shirley Melito	22	Jim and Nancy Mees		
17	Bill and Rita Knoll	25	John and Kathy Bink		



**NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION CLASS
SATURDAY FEBRUARY 2
FROM 9-12**

This class is for those that attended the January 12th retreat and for families that are already Lutheran and wishing to transfer their membership. We will welcome these new members on February 2/3 at the service they normally attend. Photos and biographical sketches will be in the March Encounter.



Breakfast between services...

the youth have been providing donuts and baked goods between services and you have been very supportive of this project, so THANK YOU! We will continue this fundraiser through out the year with a heavier meal offered on Easter Sunday (specifically for mission trip). All funds raised are going toward youth activities and mission trips; vans, gas, special activity, retreats, etc.; as a supplement to what parents pay for their child. This way I can keep cost reasonable so more youth can participate. If you wish to help with baked goods please contact Sheila Mallo or Patti Erkes.



OUR ANNUAL SKI TRIP to W. Virginia is the 16th-18th of February. Please keep us in your prayers as we travel and ski down the slopes.

There will not be youth groups on Sunday the 17th, enjoy your holiday weekend.

CIRCLE MEETINGS FOR FEBRUARY

- Love** February 5 at 7:30 pm, Church Library
- Faith** February 12 at 9:30 am, Ruthann's home
- Peace** February 12 at 1:30 pm, Church Library
- Praise** February 12 at 6:00 pm, Place TBA



Summer Camp 2008!

It's that time of year to think about registration for Lutheridge or Camp Agape.

The date for Lutheridge week is **June 22nd - 28th**. We are assigned our week for Confirmation camp by Lutheridge.

Please **DO NOT** register on line! We need to register together to avoid any confusion. Forms are on the youth board if you need one and as always feel free to call me, Nancy Magruder, if you have any questions about camp or confirmation camp.

**Youth Activities
Mark Your Calendar
for March**

- Mar. 7th Girls only activity
- Mar. 8th and 9th ... Home expo show...
mission trip fundraiser
- Mar. 14th ... 3rd-5th Grade Lock-in
- Mar. 22nd Easter egg hunt

**Activities
Mark Your Calendar
for April.**

- Apr. 11th ... Azalea festival
- Apr. 20th ... Talent show and meal
- Apr. 25th ... Middle school retreat
- Apr. 27th ... Last Sunday youth
group meeting

REMEMBER DAILY IN YOUR PRAYERS the following church members and friends.

Nancy Heck	Kenneth Huffham	Arlene Ahrens
Jane Brunt	Diane Vickery	Pru Hovis
Naomi Era	Michael Vickery	Lillian Witter
Michelle King	The Wade Family	Ryan Family
Dick Bramley	John Geiger	Brenda Tyler
Kelsea Webster	Pat Dearie	Wally Schultz
Marie Brown	Leon Wade, Sr.	Mary Serkiz
Herb and Lucy Bost	Bertha Rankin	Scott Dickson
Carroll Strong	Bobby Seitter	Dean Carlisle
Marilyn Wilson	Clement Doniere	Fran Heidorn
Herb Fox	Elsie Heinlein	Ken Getsinger
Bonnie Nyhus	Josey Warrington	Bruni Kline
Military Families	Dorothy Heberling	Maury Hanes
Charles Ramseur	The Price Family	Marti Felter
Catherine Smith	Milton Moser	Angie Gilliam
James Ammons	Beverly Chamberlain	James Clemmons
Iris Whiteside	Vera Wilson	Rick Robey
Harold Shelton, Jr.	Patricia Williams	Earl Lindner
Missy Marcinowski	Linda Parker	Frank Gilbert
George Thompson	Cathy Geiger's father	
Tim and Sarah Walter		

REMEMBER OUR HOMEBOUND

Diane Koen, Emma Brunjes, Barbara Cook, Helen Hauns, Betty Lauver, Ruby Hubbard, Effie and Jane McDougald.

SYMPATHY is extended to the family of *Doris Zube* who died on January 8th at NHRMC. Her service was held at her home church in Columbia, SC.

SYMPATHY is extended to *Jack Kuske, Cheryl, John, and Nancy* in the death of their beloved wife and mother Harriet, who died January 17th. A memorial service was held at St. Matthew's on January 22.

SYMPATHY is extended to *Tom and Hanne Flythe* in the death of Tom's father, James Flythe in late January. Tom's father lived in Virginia.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

Deborah Walton	Andrew and Barbara Smith
301 Marsh Oaks Dr	3 Chamberwell Green Ct.
Wilmington, NC 28411	Castle Hayne, NC 28429
Tele: 431-5596	

Dusty Pilcher	Lisa Rodabaugh
4514 Billings Circle	6704 Van Haven Dr.
Santa Clara, CA 95054	Raleigh, NC 27615



Special thanks to the "Fellowship Team" friends and family who helped make the Congregational Luncheon in December successful.

Also, thank you for always being there when called upon. It has been a fun and pleasurable working with you.

Ruthann Getsinger
Fellowship Committee



My family and I wish to thank our St. Matthew's family for the love offering we received during the Holidays.

Your generosity and unwavering support mean a great deal and is appreciated more than you will ever know.

Your servant in Christ,
Nancy Magruder

MANY THANKS on behalf of the *Worship and Music Committee* to Boy Scout Troop under the supervision of Randy Mallo and Bob Trapp for putting up the Christmas tree and lights and to the ladies who helped decorate: Thelma Walter, Kathie Tucker, Norma Vics and Linda Renzaglia.

Also thanks go to Steve and Amy Morgan for arranging the 99 poinsettia plants that decorated the church and to those who helped take down the Christmas decoration: Norma and Andy Vics, Kris Hall and Harold Larson.

Sincerely,
Minnie Larson

To My Church Family,

Thank you for all the TLC you have showered me with during my recent hospitalization and my stay at Silver Stream Rehabilitation Center. Your concerns, calls, cards, visits, goodies and flowers have made my days brighter. Also, thanks to Pastor Sam and Pastor Dale for their visits. I am getting stronger each day and cannot wait until I can be back with you at church.

Please continue to keep me in your prayers.

Love,
Vera Wilson

Dear St Matthew's Family,

We send you many heartfelt thanks for the love and support you have given us during Jane's treatment for breast cancer. Your cards, phone calls, food, visits and prayers have helped sustain our family during a very difficult time. Special thanks to Pastor Dale and Pastor Sam for the wonderful care they have given our family.

God's blessings to all of you.

Love,
Jane & Stan Brunt and Family

Those Serving in February 2008

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

- 3** 8:30 Tammi Gates, Kay Rose, Sandy O'Donnell, Thelma Walter
- 11:00 Nancy Miller, Sandra Miles, Robert Rabozzi, Lynette Farmer
- 10** 8:30 Lisa Hornick, Bob/Cheryl/David Trapp
- 11:00 Kris Hall, Barbara Moore, Shirley Melito, Susan Shearin
- 17** 8:30 Kathy Bink, Dick/Sophie Williams
- 11:00 Stan Brunt, Kristi Wade, Carol Comeskey, Ellen James
- 24** 8:30 Frank/Renate Gray, David Miller, Florence Schorschinsky
- 11:00 Jerry/Zan Bramley, Melissa Hollamon, Melinda Knoerzer

USHERS

Saturday Service: TBA

- 3** 8:30 John and Kathy Bink
- 11:00 Jerry/Zan Bramley, Dale Blade
- 10** 8:30 Dick and Sophie Williams
- 11:00 Arthur Moore, **TBA**
- 17** 8:30 Trevor Hornick and Randy Magruder
- 11:00 John Antonelli, Trevor Hornick
- 24** 8:30 Vivian Alexander and Kathren Miller
- 11:00 Jeff Hollamon, Jeff Cummings, Walter Brehm

GREETERS

- 6:00 Laura Gray
- 8:30 Don/Ann Strickland, TBA
- 11:00 Hank/Pam Gudrian, Mark/Suzanne Whitmarsh

LECTORS *Saturday Services:* (2) Phil Bloedorn; (9) Brigitte Walters; (16) Mary Friedrichs; (23) Jim Harshbarger

Sunday Services

- | | | |
|-----------|----------------|----------------|
| | 8:30 | 11:00 |
| 3 | Kathren Miller | Lynette Farmer |
| 10 | Becky Howard | Richard Chinn |
| 17 | Bethel Paris | Carol Comeskey |
| 24 | Mike Roberts | Jodi Davis |

ALTAR FLOWERS

- 3** Tuck, Merrell
- 10** Manley, Melito
- 17** Marggraff, Mees
- 24** McDonough, B. Stansbury

NURSERY

- | | | |
|-----------|-------------------|----------------|
| | 8:30 | 11:00 |
| 3 | Bruni Kline | Gina Williams |
| 10 | Lori Haskins | Bekki Lee |
| 17 | Allison Linkner | Lori Fischl |
| 24 | Jennifer Kitchens | Lynette Farmer |

ACOLYTES

- | | | |
|-----------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | 8:30 | 11:00 |
| 3 | Patrick Magruder
David Haskins | Meredith Allison
Marissa Turner |
| 10 | Patrick Magruder
Meredith Deily | Peyton Hughes
Megan Lambert |
| 17 | Danni Meyer
Laurel Melito | David Robey
Robert Perry |
| 24 | Patrick Magruder
Dale Stansbury | Amy Erkes
Sarah Davis |

- ALTAR GUILD** *Saturday: Carrie McDonough*
- 3** Judy Benson, Robin Hueskes, Arlene Robie, Jan Christine
 - 10** Amy Tucker-Morgan, Kathie Tucker, Kathren Miller
 - 17** Thelma Walter, Linda Renzaglia, Karin Cook, Barbara Moore
 - 24** Carol Chinn, Lynette Farmer, Laura Zumwalt, Carol Comeskey

BUILDING Sat: Pete Koder
SUNDAY: OPEN: David Miller
CLOSE: Fred Getsinger



December 30 – January 20

MEMORY OF DAVID MILLER'S FATHER, CLARENCE MILLER

Fifth Sunday *Frank and Nancy Fauser*

MEMORY OF JOHN FRYE'S SISTER, LOUISE SLOOP

Fifth Sunday *Frank and Nancy Fauser*

MEMORY OF ROSE MEYER'S SISTER-IN-LAW

Fifth Sunday *Frank and Nancy Fauser*

MEMORY OF GLENN NYHUS

Property *Robert and Carolyn Hooker*

MEMORY OF BILL FINK

Altar Guild *Jim and Ruthe Markworth*

MEMORY OF MARGARET ELLER'S SISTER

Youth *Robert and Carolyn Hooker*

MEMORY OF EMILY WADE ON HER BIRTHDAY

Family Assistance Fund *Stan and Jane Brunt*

HONOR OF BONNIE WEAVER

Music Fund *Rich and Thelma Walter*

HONOR OF RANDY MAGRUDER

Youth Fund *Rich and Thelma Walter*

HONOR OF JOE RUMSEY, BILL GLISSON, BONNIE WEAVER, ALL CHOIR MEMBERS

Choir Robes *Nell McArver*

HONOR OF ASH STEMKE

Youth Music *Jim and Ruthe Markworth*

HONOR OF CAST OF CHRISTMAS PAGENT

Youth *Jim and Ruthe Markworth*

HONOR OF PASTOR SAM'S BIRTHDAY

Discretionary Fund *Stan and Jane Brunt*

CONTINUED ON BACK COVER.....

TREASURER'S REPORT

December 2007

Income for the month of December totaled \$ 66,093. Expenditures for December totaled \$52,826 resulting in a **positive** \$13,267. Income for the period January thru December totaled \$557,471. Expenditures for the same period totaled \$575,356 resulting in a **negative** \$17,885.

Charles D. Malmberg, Treasurer

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church
A Stephen Ministry Congregation

The Rev. Dr. Samuel D. Zumwalt, Pastor
612 S. College Road
Wilmington, NC. 28403-3202
(910) 791-4582

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MEMORY OF HARRIET KUSKE

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Pastor Discretionary/Family Assistance *Carol Comeskey*
Social Ministry *Lucy Hieronymus*
Robert and Carolyn Hooker
Peter and Virginia Parisek
Mary McSwain
Charles and Darlene Schucker
Bloedorn Family

HONOR OF GABRIEL BROWN

General Fund *Caitlin Brown*

Enjoying God's Presence

*(Hope for Each Day by
Billy Graham)*

Psalm 16:11 *In your presence is fullness
of joy.*

Have you ever watched a young couple communicate their love for each other without even saying a word? Maybe you have experienced it yourself. Every glance, every touch, every smile conveys love. People deeply in love find absolute bliss simply being in each other's presence.

In the same way, simply being in the presence of God brings us great joy. It happens as we listen to Him speak in His Word; it happens as we pray. But it also happens as we simply enjoy His presence-meditating on His goodness, delighting in the beauty of his creation, rejoicing in the life of a new baby or the surprise of an unexpected blessing which we all have had in our lives. The Bible says, "Be still, and know that I am God" (Ps. 46:10). Someday we will be in His presence forever; the Bible says. "God Himself will be with them." (Rev. 21:3). What joy that will be! But in the meantime, delight in His presence right now, for He is with you every hour of the day.