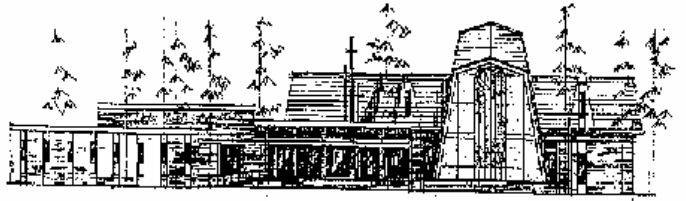


# The Encounter



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

"The Church with a  
**WELCOME**"  
1892-2007

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

Volume 9

JANUARY 2009

Number 1



**Middle School Lock-in...**  
Friday January 9<sup>th</sup>  
in the gym from 7pm-9am.

Sign up sheet is on the youth board outside of the office. I still need a couple of chaperones to help me, if you are interested please call Nancy Magruder at 791-4582 ext 212



**Movie Night!**  
January 10<sup>th</sup>

Join us for a showing of **Enchanted** starting at 7pm in the gym. Be sure to bring your comfy cushion or chair, we provide popcorn and drink.



**Summer Mission Trip 2009  
Parent and Youth Meeting**

**Sunday January 11<sup>th</sup> at 3:30pm**  
in McSwain to discuss winter and spring fundraisers for our summer trip.

Bring your ideas and the logistics to implement the fundraiser.

## LSM LUNCHEON

January 11<sup>th</sup> at 12:15 PM  
in McCombs Hall.  
Menu: Soup and salad from  
McAlister's Deli.



**OWL's Luncheon**  
Thursday, January 22  
at 11:30 am

We're searching our cookbooks for a few tasty and very warm soups and sandwiches. Cost per person is \$6.50. Join us for fellowship and a tasty meal of soup/sandwich.

Reservations to be made through your caller. If you will be attending for the first time contact Dorothy Blade at 350-1990 by January 19<sup>th</sup> to make your reservation.



**High School Lock-in!**  
Friday January 30<sup>th</sup> starting at 8pm  
ending at 9am.

**YES...**this is the one you can bring a friend. Signup sheet is on the youth board and be sure to have a permission form filled out for any friends attending.

I also will need chaperones for this lock-in, so if you are interested please call Nancy Magruder at 791-4582 ext. 21

## SPENDING PLAN FORUMS

**Saturday, Jan. 10, 2009, 5:00 p.m.**

**Sun, Jan. 11, 2009, 9:45 a.m.**

Open discussion and Q&A on the near-final,  
more detailed 2009 draft budget

=====

**PLAN PLAN TO ATTEND THE....**

**Continuation of Annual Meeting**

**Sunday, Jan. 25, 2009, 9:45 p.m.**

Vote on the final 2009 budget

**Note:** The time is 9:45 am. It was incorrect in the Christmas Eve bulletin announcements.

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

We celebrate Christmass for twelve days and then the Epiphany on January 6. In our Gospel lessons, we look at the mystery of God becoming flesh in Jesus Christ through the eyes of Luke, Matthew, and John. Each evangelist tells the story with different emphases, but all agree that the God whom we cannot see has shown Himself in the flesh of Jesus of Nazareth. Indeed the word “epiphany” means appearing.

During the many Sundays after Epiphany, we unpack the meaning of our Lord’s incarnation in our lives. Beginning with the Baptism of our Lord on January 11, we think about how Christ continues to be Servant Lord in and through His Church. On January 18 and 25, we celebrate first the Confession of St. Peter and then the Conversion of St. Paul. The emphasis of those Sundays is the common witness to the Lord Jesus Christ by the whole Church on earth.

Perhaps festival days and indeed the whole liturgical year seem disjointed to you...what with the movement from season to season and the sudden interjection of special days. The real genius behind the liturgical year is the Holy Spirit who uses the rhythm of the seasons and even the interjection of special days to draw God’s people more deeply into the life of God’s Son Jesus. This life is not about us, and the Church is not about us. God has called us into the Church through Holy Baptism so that we may share His life and His love in community...so that in all things we may glorify Him by doing His good and gracious will as Christ Himself dwells in our bodies.

On the other hand, the tragedy of sin is that it is not a lifeless bit of dogma. As Martin Luther observed, the human heart curves in upon itself and the old sinner in us seeks his or her own way. The old enemy delights in stoking our inner rebellion by appealing to our wounded pride, our hurt feelings, our wants, and our stubborn insistence that things must be as we will (what one psychologist called the will to power).

C.S. Lewis once described hell as a gray city that keeps expanding as self-centered souls move further and further away from God and the community of His people. Sadly congregations that gather in Christ’s name disconnect all too often from what God is saying and doing in the Church’s worship. It is as if all Christians go through group amnesia forgetting why they are here and what they

are about and in whose name they have been assembled and by whom they have been assembled. Instead of childlike faith, childishness rules as the old enemy laughs and claps his hands saying: “Good! Good!” (Star Wars movie fans might think here of the hideous old emperor at work).

Through the external Word and Sacraments, God comes from outside our sinful selves to summon us back to the baptismal font where the old sinner in us can be drowned **and** back to the table of the Lord where the new child of God in us can be fed and strengthened with Christ’s own life. God Himself is present always to say: “I am the Lord your God who has delivered you from sin, death, and evil through my cross and empty tomb. You have not yet learned Christ when sin rules in your lives!”

The Holy Spirit uses the rhythms of the liturgical year to tell us the truth about our brokenness and the greater Truth that Christ alone can save us from ourselves. All of which is to remind us that our Baptism is never complete until the day we draw our last breath in this life. God has to come down to earth in Jesus Christ in order to claim His broken and tattered creatures from our bondage to sin, death, and Satan. And this claiming is a lifelong process! As some old preachers love to say: “God ain’t done with me yet.” And that is what the seasons and special festival days are trying to teach us. We have God-shaped holes in our souls that only God Himself can fill!

To put it again in simple language: God’s Son Jesus was born to die so that we might share God’s eternal life and love. If we turn our lives or even the congregation’s life together into perpetual little dramas, then, at the simplest level, we’re just not getting what God sent His Son to do for us and with us. When a nasty voice keeps whispering in your ear or in the ear of someone you love, you might just repeat the questions of the baptismal liturgy: “Do you renounce the forces of evil, the devil, and all his empty promises?” And “Do you believe in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit?”

The two answers that the Holy Spirit is trying to teach us again and again are: “I do renounce the forces of evil, the devil, and all his empty promises” and “I do believe in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.” After that, the rest is just a matter of details!

I love you,  
Pastor Sam

## Council Summary – December 11, 2008

The regular monthly business and visioning meeting convened on December 11, 2008 at 7pm beginning with devotions led by Pastor Sam. The meeting continued at 7:25 pm being called to order by Richard Chinn, President.

The reports from the previous meetings, Minutes, Pastors' Reports and Parish Records Secretary Membership Report were acknowledged and accepted by motion and vote.

### Council actions to be reported:

Recently elected council members Ryan Allison and Bill Perry were in attendance and welcomed to Council.

Council members Scott Holzberger, Brigitte Walters, Axes Erkes and Joe Rumsey were acknowledged for their dedication and service at the ending of their two year terms.

New Council members elected are Ryan Allison, Bill Perry, Marilyn Wilson, Fred Jackson and Carolyn Hooker.

The Parish Records Report was presented on behalf of the team, Vera Wilson, Darlene Schucker and Carolyn Hooker. It was accepted by motion and vote and entered into the record.

Stewardship presented preliminary projections for the development of the annual spending plan. Council has elected to begin this planning employing the lower projection of pledges, offerings and other collections which is \$597,982.

A modified audit report was presented to Council containing recommendations for information security and financial reporting. This document, with corrections was accepted by council by a vote of six members in favor, five members in opposition and one member abstaining.

Pastors' Housing Allowance elections were received and documented according to tax code requirements at this meeting.

The next scheduled council meeting will be Thursday January 8, 2009 at 7:00 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm with the praying together of the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Peter Gimbal, Recorder

## FAITH

*Richard Chinn, President*

Last month I spoke on a basic building block: FORGIVENESS. I spoke about what forgiveness is and how we should forgive others as many times as it is asked for. The scripture used was Matthew 18:21-22.

This month we continue building a solid foundation for discipleship with the building block: FAITH. FAITH is a building block to a solid foundation for a close personal relationship with our God. Scripture after scripture reveals the faith of others so we might know and understand the gift of faith that comes from our heavenly father.

Hebrews 11:1 *"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."*

Faith can be expressed simply enough, for example: I have faith that the person driving the car behind me will stop before they hit me when we come to a stop sign. That is the substance of something hoped for but has yet to be seen! The "evidence" of something not seen is my "faith" that they will stop. True faith, real faith, is the faith we have in God and that faith only comes by the understanding of God's word.

Romans 10:17 *"So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."*

For me, faith is a fact of my life. It is not an emotional thing although I often express my faith emotionally. Faith is God's word in action in my life. My faith is what gets me to a place to hear God's word preached, it is what motivates me to sing in the choir and serve as an Assisting Minister or a Lector. My faith is what drives me to be in fellowship with my brothers and sisters in Christ and to assist in leading our congregation to do God's will. My faith is what allows me to be a cheerful giver of my time, talents and possessions. My faith in God is the catalyst that moves my mind and body but I have found that faith has little to do with what I accomplish for God and a lot to do with what God accomplishes in me. Everyday God works on my heart, in fact He is working on the heart of each of us to accomplish something in us. I believe we can sum up the work He is accomplishing in us this way:

Matthew 22:37-40 *"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the great and foremost commandment. And the second is like it. "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." On these two commandments depend the whole law and the prophets.*

God grant us the gift of abundant faith so that we can experience the joy of being more completely in your will. Amen.

## Our First New Member Class for 2009

**January 24, 2009 from 9-12** for those new to the Lutheran Church.

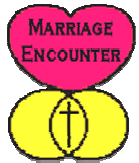
**February 21, 2009 from 9-12** for those that completed the January 24<sup>th</sup> class and for those Lutherans that wish to transfer.

**February 21 and 22, 2009** New Disciples will be received at the service they normally attend.



### WIHN FAMILIES

will be here January 18<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>. The signup sheets will be in the Commons area for you to serve in this ministry.



### Marriage is a journey!

**A Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend** can help you enrich your marriage and add some pizzazz to your journey. Whether you've been married 1 year or 50, a Marriage Encounter Weekend may be just the thing you need to put a breath of fresh air into your relationship.

Visit our website at [www.godlovesmarriage.org](http://www.godlovesmarriage.org) or call 800.235.1010 or you can contact Bill & Mitzie Edwards, by phone at 828-452-3885 or by e-mail - [billandmitzie@wmconnect.com](mailto:billandmitzie@wmconnect.com) or Ken & Gina Schiess, by phone 910.399-5507 or by e-mail - [Kschiess@ec.rr.com](mailto:Kschiess@ec.rr.com) for more information.

The next Lutheran Marriage Encounter weekend is Feb. 27-March 1, 2009 in Myrtle Beach, SC.

*Note:* Ken and Gina Schiess have been visiting our church and have plans to join with the next new member class.

**Thanks** to Renate and Frank Gray for their generous donation of advent calendars for the Sunday School children. The children enjoy carrying on the tradition from Renate's childhood.

Blessings,  
Christian Education Team  
and Sunday School Children

*I would like to thank the congregation for my generous love gift.*

*I would also like to thank you for the privilege of working together to enhance the Christian Education programs at St. Matthews. Thank you for your love and support.*

*In Christ's love,  
Tammi Gates*

### Sunday School 2009

**2 year old class** coming soon- thanks to Bruni Kline. She is helping to coordinate a class in the nursery. Check nursery door for sign-ups and ways you can help.

**3 years old to 5<sup>th</sup> grade-**  
Treasures of the **S.E.A.** (**S**tory **E**nriching **A**ctivities)

January- Baptism of Jesus  
February- Good Samaritan  
March- Lent  
April- Resurrection  
May- Zacchaeus

**6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade-** Divine Drama, a Bible Study led by Jim Bauer and Bob Trapp

**9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade-** Faith Lens, Discussion of contemporary issues led by John Beall, Jeff Hollamon, and Happy Wade

**ADULT CLASSES.....pg. 5**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>CHOIR PRACTICE</b> <b>SUNDAY SCHEDULE</b> <b>4:00 Little Luther Choir</b> <b>4:00 Luther Choir</b> <b>4:00 Instrumental Ensemble</b> <b>5:00 Handbell Choir</b>				<b>1</b>  <b>NEW YEARS HOLIDAY</b>  <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>2</b>  <i>Hospice Meal</i>  <i>Peggy Barr and Beverly Hunsberger</i>	<b>3</b>  6:00 Worship/Comm 8:00 AA 8:00 AL-ANON
<b>4</b>  8:30 Worship/Communion 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship/Communion  <b>NO CHOIRS OR ENSEMBLES</b> <b>NO YOUTH ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>5</b>  9:30 Spiritual Form. 12:00 Conversations <b>1:00 Social Min Meeting</b> 5:00 Holy Hearts 6:00 Evening Prayer/Bible Study	<b>6</b>  9:00 Women's Fitness 10:00 Prayer Group <b>12:00 Epiphany Service</b> 6:30 Steven Ministry <b>7:00 Epiphany Service</b> 7:30 Love Circle 7:30 Adult Choir 8:00 AA	<b>7</b>  9:30 Spiritual Form. 6:00 Cadette #354 6:00 CROSSWAYS 6:30 Cub Scouts #274 6:30 Confirmation Music 7:00 Confirmation 7:00 Tone Chime Choir  <b>NO CHOIR</b>	<b>8</b>  9:00 Women's Fitness 10:00 CROSSWAYS 3:30 GS #739 <b>7:00 Church Council</b> 7:00 Boy Scouts	<b>9</b>  <b>LOCK-IN MIDDLE SCHOOL</b> <b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>10</b>  <b>4:45 Spending Plan Forum</b>  <b>7:00 MOVIE NIGHT</b>  6:00 Worship/Comm 8:00 AA 8:00 AL-ANON
<b>11</b>  8:30 Contemporary Worship 9:45 Sunday School <b>9:45 Spending Plan Forum</b> 11:00 Worship/Communion <b>12:15 LSM Luncheon</b> 1:30 GS #139/226 3:30 Parent Youth Meeting 4:00 Puppet Ministry 6:00 Youth Groups	<b>12</b>  9:30 Spiritual Form. 12:00 Conversations 6:00 Evening Prayer/Bible Study	<b>13</b>  9:00 Women's Fitness <b>9:30 Faith Circle</b> 10:00 Prayer Group <b>1:30 Peace Circle</b> <b>6:30 Praise Circle</b> 8:00 AA	<b>14</b>  9:30 Spiritual Form. 6:00 Cadette #354 6:00 CROSSWAYS 6:30 Cub Scouts #274 6:30 Confirmation Music 7:00 Confirmation 7:00 Tone Chime Choir 7:30 Adult Choir	<b>15</b>  9:00 Women's Fitness 10:00 CROSSWAYS 3:30 GS #739 7:00 Boy Scouts  <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	<b>16</b>  <i>Hospice Meal</i>  <i>Happy, Kristi and Jake Wade</i>	<b>17</b>  <b>9-4 Council Retreat</b>  6:00 Worship/Comm 8:00 AA 8:00 AL-ANON
<b>18</b>  8:30 Worship/Communion 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship/Communion See Choir Schedule Above  NO YOUTH ACTIVITIES  <b>5:00 WIHN Families Arrive</b>	<b>19</b>  9:30 Spiritual Form. 12:00 Conversations 5:00 Holy Hearts 6:00 Evening Prayer/Bible Study  <b>WIHN Families</b>	<b>20</b>  8:30 Men's Breakfast 9:00 Women's Fitness 10:00 Prayer Group 6:30 Contemp. Practice 7:00 Stephen Min. 8:00 AA  <b>WIHN Families</b>	<b>21</b>  9:30 Spiritual Form. 6:00 Cadette #354 6:00 CROSSWAYS 6:30 Cub Scouts #274 6:30 Confirmation Music 7:00 Confirmation 7:00 Tone Chime Choir 7:30 Adult Choir	<b>22</b>  9:00 Women's Fitness 10:00 CROSSWAYS 11:30 O.W.L.s Luncheon 3:30 GS #739 7:00 Boy Scouts  <b>WIHN Families</b>	<b>23</b>  7:00 Via de Cristo  <b>WIHN Families</b>	<b>24</b>  <b>9-12 New Disciples Class</b>  6:00 Worship/Comm 8:00 AA 8:00 AL-ANON  <b>WIHN Families</b>
<b>25</b>  8:30 Worship/Communion 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship/Communion See Choir Schedule Above  NO YOUTH ACTIVITIES  <b>WIHN Families Leave</b>	<b>26</b>  9:30 Spiritual Form. 12:00 Conversations 6:00 Evening Prayer/Bible Study	<b>27</b>  9:00 Women's Fitness 10:00 Prayer Group 8:00 AA	<b>28</b>  9:30 Spiritual Form. 6:00 Cadette #354 6:00 CROSSWAYS 6:30 Cub Scouts #274 6:30 Confirmation Music 7:00 Confirmation 7:00 Tone Chime Choir 7:30 Adult Choir	<b>29</b>  9:00 Women's Fitness 10:00 CROSSWAYS 3:30 GS #739 7:00 Boy Scouts	<b>30</b>  8:00 HS LOCK-IN	<b>31</b>  <b>Father/Daughter Banquet</b> <b>GS #139/226</b>  6:00 Worship/Comm 8:00 AA 8:00 AL-ANON

# JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

\*\* Denotes Youth Birthdays

- |    |                    |    |                    |    |                  |
|----|--------------------|----|--------------------|----|------------------|
| 1  | Trisha Watts       | 12 | Alanna Turner **   | 23 | Al Lerch, Jr.    |
|    | Jaimee Miles **    |    | Donna Adams        |    | Sheila Whitmeyer |
|    | Alexander Miles ** | 13 | Frank Howard       | 24 | Wendy Ahrens     |
| 2  | Betty Mentz        |    | Dorian Farmer      |    | Jackson Prehar   |
|    | Charles Schucker   | 14 | Samuel Zumwalt     | 25 | Pete Koder       |
| 3  | James Clemmons     |    | Astrid Cooke       |    | Jack Kuske       |
|    | Anna Haskins **    |    | Tiffany Grieshamer |    | Marilyn Willson  |
|    | Harold Shelton     |    | Ron Snyder         |    | Cayne Jones **   |
| 4  | Kathie Tucker      | 15 | Travis Johns **    | 27 | James Wells      |
| 5  | Eleanor Davis      | 16 | Lucy Hieronymus    |    | LeRoof Poythress |
|    | Kim Sabbagh        |    | Teresa Hall        |    | Brigitte Walters |
| 6  | Diane Rumsey       |    | Evan Watts, Jr     |    | Danielle Bashaw  |
|    | Emily Anderson     |    | Cearra Meyer **    | 28 | Richard Brode    |
|    | Jenna Ricketts     | 17 | Elaine Brown       | 31 | Jane Bruce       |
| 8  | Judy Williams      |    | Ashley Perry       |    | Jim Taylor       |
| 9  | Mark Sewell **     | 19 | Betty Ann Gesser   |    | Loretta Brehm    |
|    | E.A. Shands        |    | Clement Doniere    |    |                  |
| 11 | Amy Morgan         |    | Robert Rabozzi     |    |                  |
|    | Becky Davis        | 20 | Anna LeRoux        |    |                  |
|    | Ivy Jane Fischl ** |    | Nancy Heck         |    |                  |
| 12 | Bill Rose          | 21 | Jeff Zuege         |    |                  |
|    | Robert Williams    | 22 | Freda Brewbaker    |    |                  |



# JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- |    |                              |    |                          |
|----|------------------------------|----|--------------------------|
| 3  | Lee and Iris Whiteside       | 27 | Carl and Marthat Larson  |
|    | Trevor and Lisa Hornick      | 28 | Keith and Lynette Farmer |
| 4  | Ken and Irene Shea           | 30 | Bob and Jean Wooley      |
|    | Stephen and Bekki Lee        |    |                          |
| 8  | Charles and Darlene Schucker |    |                          |
| 14 | John and Astrid Cooke        |    |                          |



## Adult Classes

- 1) ***Christianity in the First Three Centuries***  
meets in room 117.  
This is an eight session video series featuring Dr. Paul Maier, a Lutheran pastor and church historian, who teaches at Western Michigan University. Pastor Sam leads the weekly discussion that follows the video presentation. This is a historical account of the growth of the Christian movement from the events in the New Testament era to the conversion of Roman emperor Constantine.
- 2) ***Living Faith*** meets in room 112  
This is a 10 session video series featuring Dr. N.T. Wright, New Testament scholar and Anglican bishop of Durham, England. Bill Davis leads the weekly discussion that follows the video presentation. This is a simple and engaging exploration of the basics of the Christian faith. Wright's book entitled, Simply Christian would make good reading as well.
- 3) ***Family Life*** meets in the library  
This is a weekly conversation on the intersection between Christian Faith and daily family life. Discussion leaders are Cindy Antonelli and Janna Bauer.
- 4) A Class to be led by Fred Jackson is in the planning stages. Look for details and starting date in a bulletin announcement.

---

## CIRCLE SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY

**Start the new year by joining one of our circles. Two circles meet during the day and two meet in the evening.**

***Our Purpose Statement:*** *As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society and the world.*

**Love** January 6 at 7:30 pm in the Church Library.  
**Faith** January 13 at 9:30 am at the home of Bethel Paris  
**Peace** January 13 at 1:30 pm in the Church Library  
**Praise** January 13 at 6:30 pm, place to be announced.

## INSTALLATION OF NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS

Our newly elected council members will be installed during services on the weekend of January 3-4.

Marilyn Wilson a 1 year term  
Ryan Allison a 2 year term  
Fred Jackson a 2 year term  
Carolyn Hooker a 2 year term  
Bill Perry a 2 year term  
Samantha Gates, Youth Rep. 1 year term

---

## TREASURER'S REPORT November 2008

Income for the month of November totaled \$49,248. Expenditures for November totaled \$48,096 resulting in a positive \$1,152.

Income for the period January through November totaled \$523,133. Expenditures for the same period totaled \$ 536,560 resulting in a **negative** \$13,427.

---

*Charles D. Malmberg, Treasurer*

---

## HAPPY NEW YEAR JANUARY 2009

### In Tune with the Master

Out West an old shepherd had a violin, but it was out of tune. He had no way of tuning it, so in desperation he wrote to one of the radio stations and asked them at a certain hour on a certain day to strike the tone "A". The officials of the station decided they would accommodate the old fellow, and on that particular day the true tone of "A" was broadcast. His fiddle was thus tuned, and once more his cabin echoed with joyful music.

When we live apart from God, our lives get out of tune—out of harmony with others and with God. But if we live in tune with the Master, we, too, will find ourselves surrounded by His beautiful music.

As the new year begins, ask God go help you tune your life every day to His Word, so you can bring harmony and joy to those around you.

## REMEMBER IN PRAYER:

**MEMBERS**  
Jane Brunt Mary Serkiz  
Frank Fauser Frank Howard Diane Vickery  
Pru Hovis Emma Brunjes Hilary Piper  
John Geiger Harold Shelton, Jr Marie Brown  
Michael Vickery Brenda Seitter John Geiger  
Charles Ramseur Brenda Tyler Earl Lindner  
James Ammons Betty Lauver Pat Lindner  
Vicki Watts Raegan Sharpe Jerry Murrell  
Richard Chinn Gary Faircloth Haley Snyder  
Jayne Sanderson Sarah McDougald Jim Stallings  
Shannon VanderWal Bonnie Weaver  
Danielle Bashaw and daughter Braelynn

## FRIENDS/FAMILY OF MEMBERS:

Chuck Stansbury Carroll Strong Joanna Loftis  
Edward Capalbo Seth Ewing Nathan Fauser  
Military Families Sarah Mairs Noel Costa  
Bertha Rankin Norma Horn Traci Lawson  
Nancy French Pat Manning Mike Caldwell  
Herb Fox Pat Dearie Fran Heidorn  
Karen Brix Rick Robey Cindy Fentress  
Peggy Clemmons Helen Fromm Heather Thornton  
Dick Bramley Liz Sabbagh Lois Whitmeyer  
Katherine Gatewood Martin O'Neill William J. Davis  
Karen Marshall Robyn Baily Henriette Pahl  
Helen Hamrick Nancy Hanselman  
Tom and Joella Hyne

## REMEMBER OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS:

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

## SYMPATHY IS EXTENDED TO THE FOLLOWING FAMILIES:

**Dale and Dorothy Blade** in the death of their daughter, Pamela Nicholson on December 4<sup>th</sup>. A memorial service was held on December 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Philip Bloedorn** in the death of his mother, Esther on December 5<sup>th</sup>. A memorial service will be held January 10<sup>th</sup> at St. Matthew's. Esther joined St. Mathew's in November 2003.

**Sheila Whitmeyer** in the death of her father, George Viola on December 10<sup>th</sup> in Durham, NC.

**Cathy Geiger** in the death of her father, Bob Speedling of Little River, SC on December 13, 2008.

**Alan and Josie Warrington** in the death of Josie's stepfather, Ed John, in Florida.

**Bruce and Rebecca Seip** in the death of their son, Benjamin, who was killed in a car accident on December 13<sup>th</sup> in Pennsylvania.

**The Tucker and Morgan Families** in the death of Kathie's mother, Dorothy Heberling on December 18<sup>th</sup> in Iowa. Also Kathie's Uncle Darrell Heberling who died on December 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Carol Doniere** in the death of her husband, Clement who died on December 27<sup>th</sup>. A memorial service will be held at St. Matthew's on January 19<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am. His ashes are to be buried at Arlington National Cemetery in April.



Dear friends,

How can I begin to thank you for all your prayers, cards, calls, and concerns since my cancer returned in January of this year. I took my first overnight chemotherapy at Duke on November 24 and 25. I had to be admitted to the hospital, and go through a process of desensitizing, which meant bags of a nausea medicine, tagament, and another bag of steroids, before getting the actual chemo overnight. This was necessary since I had a allergic reaction to the chemo in Wilmington. I am scheduled to return for another overnight treatment on December 15, so please continue to keep me in your prayers. Without your uplifting of prayers and the blessings from above, I'm sure I would not be doing as well. Also, a big thank you to Pastor Sam and Pastor Dale for their calls and visits.

Best wishes for a blessed and healthy 2009!

*Love, Brenda*

Dear St. Matthew's Family,

Thank you for the generous Christmas love gift. Your kindness is truly appreciated. Thank you also for the opportunity to nurture the love of Christ in the youth of St. Matthew's. What a privilege and a blessing it is in my life.

God's blessings to you all,  
*Amy Tucker-Morgan*

THANK YOU, DEAREST ONES!

Laura, Clare, Josie the dog, and I are very grateful for your loving kindness to us this Christmas. Because of your love gift, we will be able to make a trip to see our families in Texas sometime soon. We thank God for your having made that possible! We also want to say how much we delighted in your cards, baked goods, and special gifts especially for Clare and even for Josie!

Laura agrees with me that the Holy Spirit wanted us in Wilmington and at St. Matthew's. She likes to say that the Holy Spirit made it abundantly clear in all of the many details that this is exactly where we are supposed to be. For that we say, "Thanks be to God!" And we thank you for your partnership in the Gospel.

*Love,*  
*Pastor Sam and Laura Zumwalt + Clare and Josie*

Messages of thanks continued on back cover.....

Those Serving in January 2009

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

- 4 8:30 Frank/Marti Felter, Josey Warrington, Florence Schorschinsky
11:00 Robert Rabozzi, Jerry Bramley, Bob/Christine Gatewood
11 8:30 Terri Dearie, Mike/Carol Roberts Amy Beall
11:00 Kris Hall, Sherri Hiler, Linda Riesz, Shirley Melito
18 8:30 Frank/Renate Gray, Linda Renzaglia, Nancy Wells,
11:00 Stan Brunt, Melissa Hollamon, Kristi Wade, Danielle Bashaw
25 8:30 Nancy Brennan, Kathy Bink, Jan Christine, Bill Fox
11:00 Ruthann Getsinger, Stephanie Price, Ana Jackson, Saville Riesz

USHERS

Saturday Service:

Sunday Service:

- 4 8:30 Saville and Charles Riesz
11:00 Jeff Hollamon, Walter Brehm, Axel Erkes
11 8:30 Randy and Bryce Mallo
11:00 Happy/Jake Wade; Stan Brunt
18 8:30 Jim Bauer and Gary Cummings
11:00 John Pollard, Tony Irenze, Peter Gimbal
25 8:30 Butch Ruefle and Bill Rose
11:00 Fred Getsinger, Jamie Price, Needed

GREETERS

- 6:00 Pete, Grace and Kathy Koder
8:30 Art/Jan Magnus; Peter/Virginia Parisek
11:00 Walt/Loretta Brehm; Tony/Delores Irenze

LECTORS Saturday Services: (3) Cindy Cornett; (10) James Harshbarger; (17) Karen Haag; (24) Lea Shipman

Sunday Services

- 8:30 11:00
4 Sophie Williams John Antonelli
11 Marti Felter Carol Chinn
18 Kay Rose Ellen James
25 Bethel Paris Bill Davis

ACOLYTES

- 8:30 11:00
4 Meredith Deily Amy Erkes
Carson Plumley Lizzie Rhoades
11 Patrick Magruder Jake Wade
Ryan Piper Bryan Snyder
18 Megan Stemke Matt van der Wal
Morgan Piper Bryan van der Wal
25 Megan Kline J. Hollamon
Shauna Ruefle Peyton Hughes

ALTAR FLOWERS

- 4 Morgan;Seip 11 Wade; Schucker
18 Kuske; Doniere 25 Poythress; E.Brown

NURSERY

- 8:30 11:00
4 Keri Rutland Needed
11 Missy Marcinowski Kelly Fuqua
18 Lisa/Lauren Hornick Needed
25 Needed Needed

ALTAR GUILD Saturday: Nancy Fauser

- 4 Kathie Tucker, Kathren Miller, Jill Cummings
11 Barbara Moore, Ivonne Tullous, Patti/Rachel Erkes
18 Shirley Morrow, Lea Shipman, Carol Chinn
25 Linda Renzaglia, Gina/Anna Williams/Natalie Watkins, Danielle Bashaw

BUILDING Sat: Richard Thompson

SUNDAY: OPEN: John Matthews

CLOSE: Peter Gimbal



November 30, 2008 - December 21, 2008

MEMORY OF PAM NICHOLSON

- Building Renovations Phil and Barbara Christmas
Florence Schorschinsky Phil Bloedorn
Peter and Virginia Parisek
Family Assistance Cherry Horn
Elmer and Marie Wild Robert and Carolyn Hooker
Robert and Helen Stansbury John Plank
Donald and Audrey Meyer Andy and Norma Vics
Darryl and Carol Yochem John and Karen Matthews
Nell McArver Alan and Beverly Hunsberger
Al and Peggy Barr Nell McArver
Ernie and Dee Young Laura Gray
Fred and Ana Jackson Ray and Marilyn Wilson
Gene and Marilyn Blade Elizabeth Calvert
Linda Koziol Janice Wightman
Mr. and Mrs. Torkelson Sue and Ray Jones
Jean M. Oliver Trust Jerry and Zan Bramley
Joyful Noise Bob and Jean Wooley
Stephen Ministry Larry and Pat Mahl
General Fund Dale and Dorothy Blade

MEMORY OF ESTHER BLOEDORN

- Building Renovations Florence Schorschinsky
Phil Bloedorn John and Karen Matthews
Building Laura Gray
Mrs. Wilma Gunther Jean Hoehler
Ms. Dorothy Smith Mike, Sara and Aaron Lipski
Family Assistance Nell McArver
Debt Reduction Donald and Audrey Rose Meyer

MEMORY OF JOHN BINK'S DAD

- Building Renovations Phil and Barbara Christmas

MEMORY OF AL HOSPADAR

- Building Renovations Phil and Barbara Christmas
General Fund Butch and Karen Ruefle
Stephen Ministry Larry and Pat Mahl

**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

E-Mail: [stmatth@bellsouth.net](mailto:stmatth@bellsouth.net)  
Website: [stmatthewsch.org](http://stmatthewsch.org)

JANUARY 2009

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
WILMINGTON, NC  
PERMIT NO. 472

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME VALUE MAIL

**MEMORIALS CONTINUED:**

**MEMORY OF HAPPY WADE'S DAD**

*Building Renovations* Florence Schorschinsky  
Aleda Marggraff  
*Family Assistance* Ray and Marilyn Wilson

**MEMORY OF ARTHUR FEILKE**

*Building Renovations* Aleda Marggraff

**MEMORY OF FRANK GILBERT**

*Family Assistance* Nell McArver  
*Fifth Sunday* Al and Peggy Barr

**MEMORY OF SHEILA WHITMEYER'S FATHER**

*Stephen Ministry* Larry and Pat Mahl

**MEMORY OF EMILY AND SARAH**

*Family Assistance* The Kitchens

**HONOR OF STEPHEN MINISTRY**

*Family Assistance* Fred and Ana Jackson  
*Pastor's Discretionary* Larry and Pat Mahl

**HONOR OF JIM AND NANCY MEES**

*Endowment* Susan Shearin

**HONOR OF ANNA ELISE PORTER BAPTISM**

*Worship and Music* Anonymous

**HONOR OF DAIVD TRAPP**

*Youth Fund* Vera Wilson

**HONOR OF SHAUNA RUEFLE**

*Youth Fund* Mr. and Mrs. Peterson

**Thank You messages continued:**

**Thank you...**

*Two words that never seem to be truly adequate when expressing a tremendous amount of gratitude for the generosity shown by others such as those who have given so graciously to my love offering. So I say humbly to you a huge thank you, I am truly blessed to be apart of the St. Matthew's family.*

*Nancy Magruder*

***I THANK YOU*** for your care and generosity towards me this Christmas season. The nice love offering I received is appreciated very much. It will be used for something special and some will go in savings for future needs.

Being a part of the St. Matthew's Church family is a blessing I enjoy and cherish all year. Again, thank you for your love at Christmas and all through the year.

*Always, In Christ,  
Judy Clemmons*

MEMORIALS FROM 12/28/08 will appear in the February Encounter.

(more thank you messages will be in the February Encounter)