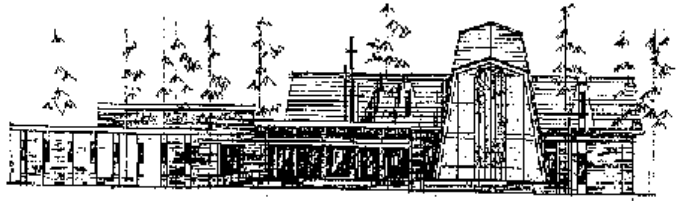


The Encounter



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

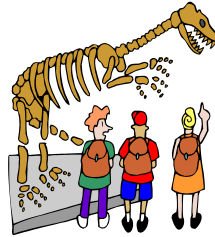
JULY 2008

Number 7



**Open gym times... July 8th, 22nd,
and 29th**
9am-3pm open to 6th grade up...

Bring a bag lunch and spend the day
or part of the day with friends playing
basketball, volleyball, or board games.



OWL's trip to Raleigh!

Come join us for a trip to the
museums in Raleigh, and
lunch on Thursday July 24th.

Sign up is on the OWL'S board along
with any fees. If you have any
questions please call Nancy Magruder
at 791-4582 or 791-6057.



Pool Days! Wednesdays
July 2nd, 9th, 23rd, and
30th

Open to 6th grade and up from 10am-3pm at
my house 114 Devonshire Lane.

You need to bring towel, sunscreen, soda
and snack to share, and a lunch if you
are picky. Parents are welcome to join
us. Please call me, Nancy Magruder at
791-6057 if you are planning to come.

K-5th Grade Pool Day! Saturday July 26th
from 10am-3pm
at 114 Devonshire Lane.



Bring a drink and snack to
share. I will supply the hotdogs
and hamburgers. Parents are welcome and
needed! Call me, Nancy Magruder, if you are
coming, 791-4582, Ext 212.

LOOK

for information on our
adult trip to the mountains
in November- details to
follow soon.

THANKS TO YOUR SUPPORT

with all our fundraisers. We will have
16 youth and 5 adults leave on Sunday July
13th for Bay City, Michigan.

For some of our youth it is a first time
experience on a mission trip and we are all
excited about the work we will be doing.

Our mission work will consist of refurbishing
existing housing.

We will return on July 19th.

Keep us in your prayers as we travel and
work daily on this trip. See you at church on
the 20th.

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

For several years now, our webmaster Debbie Gimbal has posted resources for following the Church's traditional patterns of daily prayer. Rooted in the monastic life of prayer that began in the earliest centuries of Christianity, these daily prayer services (particularly Morning and Evening Prayer) are built around praying the entire 150 psalms monthly and reading through most of the Bible in a prayerful way over the course of two years.

Because of the growth and influence of Islam, most Christians are familiar with the Muslim pattern of praying five times daily. Most Christians don't realize that Islam is a Christian heresy that adapted for its own purposes many of the early patterns and practices of both Judaism and Christianity, including the disciplined practice of daily prayer; however, the ancient Christian pattern of prayer, continued in Christian houses of prayer today, is actually seven times daily (for instance, see "How We Live" at www.monks.org).

I am inviting you to devote the week of July 14-20 to the discipline of daily prayer. You don't have to take off from work or even drive down to St. Matthew's, but you may want to attend an introductory forum on Sunday, July 13, at 9:45 a.m. in McCombs Fellowship Hall.

The suggested daily pattern (*to be adapted to your own lifestyle*) that will be introduced and explained during the 9:45 a.m. hour on Sunday, July 13, is as follows:

- 6 a.m.** Morning Prayer (July 14 in nave @ St. Matt's)
- 9 a.m.** Responsive Prayer 1
- 12 p.m.** Responsive Prayer 2 (July 14 in library @ St. Matt's)
- 3 p.m.** Responsive Prayer 2 (afternoon)
- 6 p.m.** Evening Prayer (July 14 in nave @ St. Matt's, begins with Bible Study)
- 9 p.m.** Prayer at the Close of Day (July 14 in nave @ St. Matt's)

To assist people in getting started on Monday, July 14, I will open the nave for Morning Prayer (Matins) at 6 a.m. Later we will begin the noonday Conversations Group with Responsive Prayer 2 using the noonday prayer. Then, Evening

Prayer will be celebrated, as is our usual practice, at 6:30 p.m. Monday in the nave following 6 p.m. Bible Study. Then at 9 p.m. the nave will be open again for Prayer at the Close of Day.

Daily *suggestions* for free prayer during the various prayer periods are as follows:

- Monday:** The engaged and the married, those pregnant, and those considering pregnancy
- Tuesday:** Children, youth, and their families
- Wednesday:** The sick and the aging
- Thursday:** The grieving, the lonely, the divorced
- Friday:** Those struggling to believe; inactive Christians; the unbaptized
- Saturday:** Pastors as they prepare to preach the Word of God
- Sunday:** For grace to receive the Word and grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus

Because of the high cost of gasoline, I am not suggesting that many of us can make multiple trips to St. Matthew's on Monday, July 14, but perhaps many can choose to come either for Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer, or Prayer at the Close of Day.

During Lent, some of you chose a prayer partner for the devotional reading of St. Matthew's Gospel. It may help to ask that same person, or another, to join you in this week of prayer so that you might encourage each other to follow the daily discipline.

My favorite resource to help me follow the ancient patterns of prayer is a four-volume set of prayer books entitled "For All the Saints" published by the independent American Lutheran Publicity Bureau. To learn more about this Lutheran breviary, internet users may go to www.alpb.org and click on "Books." The set is available for \$130 (including postage). I am not suggesting purchasing these books unless you find, after the week of prayer, that you want some help to keep the discipline of daily prayer.

Please join me at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday, July 13, to learn more about how to use these time-honored prayer resources.

Your brother in Christ,

Pastor Sam

NC Synod 2008 Assembly

COUNCIL SUMMARY JUNE MEETING

Zan and Jerry Bramley, and Pastor Sam, attended the June 5-7, 2008 Synod Assembly in Hickory, NC joining the 572 voting members, as representatives of St. Matthews'. Many important and interesting topics were addressed. However, in the interest of brevity, only a few agenda items will be addressed here.

1. The Agape+Kure Beach ministries campaign is involved in raising \$1.1 million to build and improve facilities for youth. The construction and septic systems are "green". St. Matthew's is one of 115 churches that have contributed to date.
2. Human sexuality discussions were postponed indefinitely.
3. The Methodist Church has agreed to being in communion with the Lutheran Church. The Lutheran Church will address communion with the Methodist Church next year. We are already in communion with the Episcopal Church. Simply, "communion" means that we agree in general church practices, and that our pastors will be able to preach and administer sacraments in respective churches.
4. The Mission Statement for the past 100 of 200 years of Synod is "Centering in Christ, equipping leaders, witness in service, stewards of God's gifts, and passing on the faith."
5. The keynote presentation by Paul Hill emphasized youth ministry. "Jesus hung onto kids...He taught adults. Working with the young becomes 'Cross-generational' and equals adult renewal as they pass on the faith." Triple "A" adults means to be Affirming, Available, and Authentic.
6. We heard so many inspirational "Passing on the Faith" moments from many speakers. Our youth president of synod, Megan Large, quoted notable moments in the Bible where individuals were consoled with the words, "Do not be afraid!" We are to "sit up. We're about to be called! This is Good News of Great Joy!" "Think outside yourself...whatever it takes," were the words of Cathy Sell, Women of the ELCA.

*Blessings and Peace
Jerry and Zan Bramley*

The regular monthly business and visioning meeting convened on April 10, 2008 at 7pm beginning with devotions led by Kathren Miller. The meeting continued at 7:15 pm being called to order by Richard Chinn, President.

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

Council acknowledges with gratitude the agreements of Ryan Allison to serve as Finance Committee Chair and Vivian Alexander to serve as Fellowship Committee Chair.

Council received and engaged in discussion of a resolution to make St. Matthew's a smoke free property. This resolution remains under review for incorporation in our property use policies and facility user agreements.

A discussion of proposed improvements to the classrooms in the McCombs and Education wings occurred. Because of another recent break in, property is urging the approval for and installation of a security system at the earliest possible time. Further work including a re-painting of all classrooms, offices and the choir room is being planned. A recommendation to replace the deteriorated red painted wood doors and the poorly working courtyard exit door is also under consideration. Stay tuned for volunteer service requests and the upcoming Stewardship drive!

Special thanks to Scott and Melissa Holzberger, Tammi Gates and ALL teachers and helpers who participated in the success of Vacation Bible School.

Also, thanks to Don Benson and his crew for the work on our grounds.

The next scheduled council meeting will be Thursday July 10 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



PLANNING AHEAD FOR AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER

Agape Day Camp is coming to St. Matthew's!

**Mark the date!!! August 4th-8th
9:00-3:00**

The cost is \$95 per person for the week. Members and non-members are invited, so please spread the word to your friends to come join in the fun.

This camp is designed to give youth the opportunity to enjoy a week of church camp without having to spend the nights. You only need to bring a bag lunch each day and everything else is provided.

Registration sheets and information is on the youth board. Any questions please call Nancy Magruder at 791-4582



**Middle School Mission Project...
August 12th-16th**

The cost is \$80 per person and is open to all rising 6th grade youth through this years 8th grade youth.

Sign up is on the youth board, cost includes trip at end of week and t-shirt.

FYI SUNDAY SCHOOL 2008 -2009

Please contact Tammi Gates @ 796-9686 if you are interested in helping with Sunday School in 2008-2009, or if you have ideas for adult classes. We are looking for ideas for crafts and different ways to present Bible stories to our children. We had a preliminary planning meeting on June 23. We invite you to ...

COME TO THE NEXT MEETING...

On Wednesday, July 9th at 6:30 pm. All interested adults including parents and teachers are encouraged to attend this follow-up planning meeting. We will meet in the Library.

We are exploring the "rotation Sunday School Model" as a way to better teach the stories of the Bible reinforced by various kinesthetic activities like crafts and drama. Music will also become a part of Sunday School. We will have a formal Sunday School opening each week at 9:45 am. in McCombs Fellowship Hall.

We need lots of hands and ideas to implement this program so please consider sharing your talents in areas of crafts, music, story telling, puppet ministry etc. For more information on this proposed SS model go to <http://www.rotation.org>. You may also contact Tammi Gates or Pastor Sam.

COME TO THE MEETING ON JULY 9TH and be a part of this new Sunday School program for the fall. We want to have everything in place for **RA LLY DAY** which is **Sunday, September 7th**.



CONFIRMATION 2008-2009

Confirmation classes begin **Wednesday, September 3** with an orientation for all students in grades 6-8 and their parents @ 7:00. Any questions please contact Tammi Gates or Pastor Sam.



CROSSWAYS BIBLE STUDY

Crossways Bible Study is offered on Wednesdays @ 6:00 P.M. and Thursdays @ 10:00A.M. *beginning Wednesday, September 3*. We will be studying Revelation for 3-4 weeks and then we will go to Genesis and repeat the cycle. Crossways is a 2 year study of the Bible taught by Pastor Sam. You can audit the class anytime. If you would like to order materials or have any questions please contact Tammi Gates or Pastor Sam.

A BIG, BIG THANK YOU TO:

Scott Holzberger for an awesome job planning " God's Big Back Yard" for Vacation Bible School.

Scott and Melissa created an exciting back yard with help from *Alexis Holzberger, Stephanie Price, Bailey Riesz, and Samantha Gates*. The tire swing was a huge hit! Thanks to *Melissa* for planning delicious meals. *Matt Weaver* painted a beautiful mural for kid's pictures. *Teresa Hall, Traci Plumley, and Ashe Stemke* did a wonderful job teaching the kids music. *Cheryl Trapp and Nancy Magruder* planned fun games for all. *Zan Bramley, J Hollamon, Leila Hollamon, and Jake Wade* entertained us with the puppet show each night. *Amy Tucker Morgan* taught us a different Bible Story every night using different costumes and props. *Shannon Humphrey, Bryanna Mallo, Sandra Humphrey and Sheila Mallo* helped us make yummy and fun snacks. *Lori Haskins and Jill Cummings* helped us make creative crafts that will leave us with wonderful memories of VBS 2008. Thanks to *Pastor Sam and John Antonelli* for leading the adult class in exciting discussions. God blessed us with wonderful helpers and a supportive congregation that generously donated supplies for this year's VBS. **Thanks to all who participated by giving your time, talents and prayers. We are all called to serve in God's Big Back Yard!**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 9:00 Women's 10:00 Fitness Prayer Group 8:00 AA	2 10:00-3:00 POOL DAY 7:30 Adult Choir	3 9:00 Women's Fitness 7:00 Boy Scouts	4 HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSED <i>Hospice Meal</i> <i>Sandra Miles and</i> <i>Sherry</i> <i>Bendahmane</i>	5 6:00 Worship/Comm 8:00 AA 8:00 AL-ANON
	6 8:30 Worship/Communion 11:00 Worship/Communion	7 12:00 Conversations 5:00 Holy Hearts 6:00 Evening Prayer and Bible Study	8 9:00-3:00 OPEN GYM DAY FOR YOUTH 9:00 Women's Fitness 10:00 Prayer Group 6:30 Contemporary Svc Practice 8:00 AA	9 10:00-3:00 POOL DAY 6:30 Sunday School Planning Meeting 7:30 Adult Choir	10 9:00 Women's Fitness 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Church Council	11
13 <u><i>Youth Mission Trip to Michigan</i></u> 8:30 Contemp. Worship 9:45 Discipline of Daily Prayer information meeting <i>(see P. Sam's article)</i> 11:00 Worship/Communion	14 6:00am Prayer in Naive 12:00 Conversations 6:00 Evening Prayer and Bible Study 9:00 Prayer in Naive	15 9:00 Women's Fitness 10:00 Prayer Group 7:00 Stephen Min. Reg. And Trainees 8:00 AA	16 7:30 Adult Choir	17 9:00 Women's Fitness 7:00 Boy Scouts	18 <i>Hospice Meal</i> <i>Jane and Stan</i> <i>Brunt</i>	19 <i>Youth Return from</i> <i>Mission Trip</i> 6:00 Worship/Comm 8:00 AA 8:00 AL-ANON
20 8:30 Worship/Communion 11:00 Worship/Communion	21 12:00 Conversations 5:00 Holy Hearts 6:00 Evening Prayer and Bible Study	22 9:00-3:00 OPEN GYM DAY FOR YOUTH 9:00 Women's Fitness 10:00 Prayer Group 6:30 Contemporary Svc Practice 8:00 AA	23 10:00-3:00 POOL DAY 7:30 Adult Choir	24 OWL'S RALEIGH TRIP 9:00 Women's Fitness 7:00 Boy Scouts	25 <i>7:00 Via de Cristo</i>	26 10:00-3:00 K-5th Grade POOL DAY 6:00 Worship/Comm 8:00 AA 8:00 AL-ANON
27 8:30 Contemp. Worship 11:00 Worship/Communion	28 12:00 Conversations 6:00 Evening Prayer and Bible Study	29 9:00-3:00 OPEN GYM DAY FOR YOUTH 9:00 Women's Fitness 10:00 Prayer Group	30 10:00-3:00 POOL DAY 7:30 Adult Choir	31 9:00 Women's Fitness 7:00 Boy Scouts		

JULY BIRTHDAYS ** Denotes Youth Birthday

1	Kari Cottle Bobby Seitter Kelsie Johns ** Christopher Bocchino Audrey Shannon	9	Cristen Gallagher Alex McKeithan Ronald Lutz Jackie Davis	22	Mary Guerassio Mary Serkiz Stephanie Neal
2	Jonathon Humphrey Peter Parisek Heather Catts Terri Robertson	10	Kay Rose	23	Sara Bjorkquist Nancy Fauser Nancy Brennan
3	Needless Hall	11	Judy Daniels Eric Wakild	24	Al Barr Dorothy Blade Jason Cook Jim Mees Ed Wright
4	Janet Wise	12	Barbara Cook	25	Aimee Meyer Clare Zumwalt
5	Tyler Antonelli ** Karen Haag	13	Lynne Hughes Logan Neal	26	Christine Deily ** Sherri Hiler
6	Carrie McDonough Bob Byrne Jerry Bramley Melissa Hollamon Thomas Barber Zachery Grieb **	15	Julia Overman Jacquelin Karam ** Joseph Karam **	28	John Frye
7	Sandy Marlow Maile Rose Rowanne Lane Sydney Alexis Miller	16	Vivian Alexander	29	Norma Malmberg
8	D. Larry Troutman Kasey Cummings **	17	Margaret Eller Randy Magruder Anna Williams ** Lauren Schaefer ** Jeff Turner	30	Marisa Turner ** Debbie Lariviere
9	Phyllis Smith	18	Amy Brewbaker Richard Williams	31	Jeanne McConnell
		19	Robert Jones Mike Thompson Lauren Williams		
		21	Jay Thompson Kristin Kalous		



JULY ANNIVERSARIES

1	Jill and Gary Cummings	16	Larry and Pat Mahl
2	Erick and Danae Wangenstein Gregory and Donna Adams	17	Jim and Janet Tweedy
5	Earl and Doris Ullman	21	Douglas and Bruni Kline
11	Stephen and Amy Morgan	26	Scot and Melissa Holzberger
12	David and Keri Rutland	27	Gary and Sonja Stroehl
		28	Don and Ann Strickland



*Well, here we are,
six months into 2008.*

The last six months have been a learning experience for me and I am still learning. In the short time that I have been your president it has become even more abundantly clear to me what a great congregation St. Matthews really is. So many of you have offered support to my family and other families, your caring and generosity are truly heartfelt. I thank you on behalf of my family and those other families you have reached out too as well.

At the end of 2007, all the elected officers with the exception of Chuck Malmberg, our treasurer, went off church council. A need was identified to address this situation to maintain better continuity. Specifically, a change in the constitution has to be made to allow the elected officers of the church to serve an additional year if necessary to maintain staggered terms. A team was organized to suggest changes to the constitution to correct this situation. The team was also charged with correcting some inconsistencies that exist in our constitution as it is written. The council is reviewing proposed changes and corrections and will present the updated constitution to the congregation for approval around the end of the year or the beginning of 2009.

The Sunday school year ended with an end of the year church picnic at Empie Park. This was our first major planned congregational fellowship event in some time. The event was planned, organized and carried out by the Christian Education Team. It was a big success. We had about 150 people come out to the park for food, fellowship and fun. My thanks go out to Christian Education. I hope to see this event take place again next year.

Wow! I think we had over 250 people at the Memorial Day celebration. We remembered and honored our Veterans for their service to God and country. Thanks to all our Veterans and to all those who planned and executed this event. I think our congregation is so blessed to have these people sharing the pews with us.

The property team is planning a "face lift" for the educational wing. The congregational survey identified our property as the number one area of concern for most members. We listened and are addressing your concerns. We plan to complete the work in August so the facility will be ready before Sunday school Rally Day on September 7th. We are asking church members, young and old, to plan to come out and help with painting, cleanup, food and other activities as you have skills and talents to do. You can start donating

to this project now. Using our labor for those items that do not require highly skilled or licensed labor, we expect the project to cost about \$29,000 which will include the cost of installing a basic burglar alarm system in our facility. If the congregation desires it, the system can be expanded. Adding a couple of options, video surveillance and card key access, would cost about \$27,000.

Campaign "Go Camp!" St. Matthews raised over \$20,000 to support this ministry! Thanks for making the fundraiser for renovations to the Kure Beach Retreat a success. Once again we stood up to be counted as caring members of our community.

The church council has taken the initiative to provide leadership through vision and assistance for projects and activities that draw our church family closer together in service to God. Fellowship is an important facet of that vision, especially because we have 3 very distinct congregations in our church. Take advantage of the opportunities offered as a way to get to know your brothers and sisters in Christ.

We, as a congregation, took on a healthy budget this year. No person has been untouched by the recent rise in energy and food costs. We didn't expect to see the cost for energy or basic necessities rise like a rocket! *So how are we doing as we work to support God's work here at St. Matthews?* I think we are doing Pretty Doggone Good!!! Donations to specially funded items and activities continue to be very healthy, like Go Camp, memorial giving, youth mission trips, support for those suffering from health issues, etc.

How about the budget? What are we doing there? The budget is a plan for what we expect to collect from the congregation to pay the expenses of keeping the church running and supporting the various ministries. From January 1st to the end of May, we spent \$650 more than we expected to. We estimated what we would spend almost exactly! We didn't do as good a job estimating what we would collect. We collected \$4,160 LESS than what we expected. That means for the first 22 weeks of the year, tithes and offerings were off by \$189 a week. As we continue through the summer, we will very likely see this shortfall in giving continue due to lower attendance. Will we be affected by rising energy and food costs? I don't know, but probably some. *Should we worry about it? NO!* God teaches us that worry is in direct opposition to Faith. When we worry about things, we do so not trusting that God will see us through.

Continue reading on page 7

REMEMBER IN PRAYER:

MEMBERS:	Jane Brunt	Mary Serkiz
Frank Fauser	Frank Howard	Diane Vickery
Kristin Scott,	Pru Hovis	Bruni Kline
John Geiger	Harold Shelton, Jr	Betty Lauver
Michael Vickery	Iris Whiteside	Brenda Seitter
Charles Ramseur	Brenda Tyler	Randy Myers
Marie Brown	Earl Lindner	Bobby Seitter
Clement Doniere	James Ammons	Marilyn Wilson

FAMILY IN GRIEF – *Scott and Christi Monroe* in the death of Scott's grandfather, Lloyd Stephenson on June 17th in Wilmington, NC

Lois Padgett in the death of her sister, Ruth Hemby in Colorado on June 19th. Graveside services were held in Wilmington, NC. on June 26th.

Kris Hall in the death of her niece, Valerie Hall.

FRIENDS/FAMILY OF MEMBERS:

Bessie King	Edward Capalbo	Daniel Detloff
Ashley Holgerson	Mauri Hanes	Evelyn Lauer
Dorothy Heberling	Nancy French	Carolyn Purcell
Herb Fox	Pat Dearie	Dick Bramley
Lillian Witter	Dean Carlisle	Karen Brix
Rick Robey	Bertha Rankin	Elsie Heinlein
Clyde Farmer	Leon Wade, Sr.	Fran Heidorn
Lois Whitmeyer	Gary Faircloth	Sarah Mairs
Linda Parker	Norma Horne	Carroll Strong
Kelsea Webster	Katherine Gatewood	Peggy Clemmons
Military Families	Beverly Chamberlain	Chuck Stansbury

REMEMBER OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS: Diane Koen, Emma Brunjes, Barbara Cook, Helen Hauns, Betty Lauver, Ruby, Hubbard, and Jane McDougald.

Dear Members of St. Matthews,



Thank you for the cards, calls and gifts sent after my knee surgery. I now realize how much these expressions of caring mean to a person who is convalescing.

Visits and communion by Pastors Sam and Dale were blessings to Peter and me. We are so fortunate to be part of St. Matthew's Church family.

With love to all,
Virginia Parisek

A heartfelt thank you to the entire St. Matthew's Lutheran Family. This year has been a real struggle for our family, but your cards, encouraging words and prayers have been such a blessing.

Thank you for everything,
Bruni Kline

My sincere Thank You to all who planned, helped and took part in the Children's Program for the Veterans on Sunday, May 25th. It was excellent!

A special thank you to the young man who presented me with the lapel pin of our flag – with his smile – and kind words. For all the wonderful music, cake and to the Sunday School Choir for singing "This is My Country."

Thank you!
It is a great country!!
Grace Torkelson

I appreciate the gift given to me in honor of graduation. The book is excellent and has many helpful pointers on success. I hope to make you all proud next year at OSU!

Sincerely,
Lydia M. Christine

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

- May 25, 2008 for **Simon Jefferson Sabbagh**, son of Anthony and Kimberly Flythe Sabbagh. Grandparents are Tom and Hanne Flythe.
- May 25, 2008 for **Lindsey Kendall Lariviere**, daughter of Christopher and Deborah Lariviere.
- Jun 29, 2008 for **Ethan Michael Rhoades**, son of Michael and Eline Rhoades.

"WELCOME NEW MEMBERS"

Julia Fryar was reinstated into the membership. We welcome her back into our church family.

Debbie Lariviere and children, Alexis, Emily and Lindsey. They have transferred here from St. John's Lutheran Church in Winter Park, FL. Lindsey was baptized on May 15th. She and her husband Chris and their 3 daughters relocated to Wilmington from Orlando, Florida in June 2007. Debbie found St. Matthew's by trial and error. She enjoys boating, outdoor activities, and playing with her children.

Art and Jan Magnus transferred from St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Hawley, PA. They are retired and moved to Wilmington from Lake Ariel, PA in May 2007. They have 3 grown children: Karen (49), Joan (48), and John (42). Arthur enjoys fishing and gardening. Janet enjoys playing bridge.

Ray Porter transferred from Messiah Lutheran Church, Wilmington, NC. Ray's wife and children joined in November of 2007. He works as a chemist. He enjoys collecting stamps, playing with kids, travel, football, basketball, the beach and cooking.

Mark and Cindy Prehar and son Jackson joined by transfer from Trinity Lutheran Church, Kissimmee, FL. They moved from Florida to Wilmington in February 2008. They have a son Jackson, 15 months, and are expecting a baby on October 3. Mark works as a Senior Buyer and Cindy is a stay-at-home Mom. They enjoy spending time with family, going to the beach, reading and outdoor activities.

Terry and Linda Psioda were reinstated into the membership. We welcome them back into our church family.

Addresses and telephone numbers for these families will be in the new address directory to be published in mid-July.

Those Serving in July 2008

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

- 6** 8:30 Kathy Bink, Jan Christine, Bill Fox, Kathren Miller
11:00 Sherry Bendahmane, Nancy Miller, Sandra Miles, Carol Comeskey
- 13** 8:30 Nancy Brennan, Lisa Hornick, Butch Ruefle, Allan Warrington
11:00 Ruthann Getsinger, Stephanie Price, Ken Johns, Barbara Moore
- 20** 8:30 Kay Rose, Florence Schorschinsky, Dick/Sophie Williams
11:00 Robert Rabozzi, Lynette Farmer, Stan Brunt, Kristi Wade
- 27** 8:30 Frank/Renate Gray, Larry/Tammi Gates
11:00 Carol Chinn, Karin Cook, Shirley Melito, Saville Riesz

USHERS

Saturday Service: Pete Koder

Sunday Service:

- 6** 8:30 Dick and Sophie Williams
11:00 Peter Gimbal, Keith Geiger, TBA
- 13** 8:30 Phil Anderson, Larry Gates
11:00 Jerry and Zan Bramley, Dale Blade
- 20** 8:30 John and Ash Stemke
11:00 NEEDED (3)
- 27** 8:30 John and Kathy Bink
11:00 John Antonelli, Trevor Hornick, Arthur Moore

GREETERS

- 6:00 Pete, Grace, Kathy Koder
8:30 John/Karen Matthews, Mary McSwain, Vivian Alexander
11:00 Dale/Dorothy Blade, Ruth Smith, Judy Daniels

LECTORS *Saturday Services:* (5) Phil Bloedorn; (12) James Harshbarger; (19) Janet Tweedy; (26) Michael Vickery

Sunday Services

- | | 8:30 | 11:00 |
|-----------|--------------------|-----------------|
| 6 | Paul Haskins | Jerry Bramley |
| 13 | Melissa Holzberger | Kelly Stansbury |
| 20 | Kathren Miller | Zan Bramley |
| 27 | Mike Roberts | Jodi Davis |

ALTAR FLOWERS

- 6** Bruce; P. Smith **13** V. Wilson; K. Tucker
20 Comeskey; Fauser **27** Benson; Seip

NURSERY

- | | 8:30 | 11:00 |
|-----------|-------------------|------------------|
| 6 | NEEDED | Zan Bramley |
| 13 | Lynn/Megan Stemke | Lynette Farmer |
| 20 | Lori Townsend | Lori Fischl |
| 27 | Samantha Gates | Lisa Connaughton |

ACOLYTES NEEDED FOR THE MONTH

- ALTAR GUILD** *Saturday: Laura Gray*
- 6** Thelma Walter, Linda Renzaglia, Karin Cook, Barbara Moore
- 13** Carol Chinn, Lynette Farmer, Laura Zumwalt, Carol Comeskey

- 20** Jodi Davis, Kristi Wade, Sonja Stroehl
27 Margaret Ballantine, Nancy Fauser, Shirley Morrow
- BUILDING** Sat: Pete Koder
SUNDAY: OPEN: Dave Miller **CLOSE:** Bob Stansbury



June 1, 2008 – June 22, 2008

MEMORY OF EFFIE MCDOUGALD

Fifth Sunday

Women ELCA

Property

Jim Harshbarger

TREASURER'S REPORT May 2008

Income for the month of May totaled \$41,180. Expenditures for May totaled \$49,857 resulting in a **negative** \$8,677. Income for the period January thru May totaled \$240,131. Expenditures for the same period totaled \$247,951 resulting in a **negative** \$7,820. *Charles D. Malmberg, Treasurer*

Richards' article continued from page 5...

I was St Matthew's treasurer for over 12 years and every single year our church went through the "summer slump" in attendance/giving. Unfortunately, expenses remain constant even when giving does not. We handle this by using some of our contingency funds to have enough in our checking account to support the needed cash flow. Generally, by September to October, our attendance/income are back up and money removed from contingency can be replaced. This sequence of events happened every single year I was the treasurer! It's not any different today, we suffer a "summer slump" every single year and the contingency fund is used. (Our year end giving has traditionally been strong to replace these borrowed funds).

So, should we as individual members take the attitude that it will all be alright by the end of the year?

NOT AT ALL!

It can be very disheartening for our treasurer to pay bills without seeing the required income coming in to cover them (Been there, done that, it's hard). To say the least, it does cause him some stress! If you are behind in your giving, I would encourage you to attempt to catch up. If you are up to date with your giving and you can give more...just do it. I realize that some folks really cannot afford to do more to support St Matthews ministries, that's OK. I also realize that the funds collected in a month's time for the Go Camp fundraiser were 5 times the amount we are currently short on our budget. I think that might mean some of us have the ability to do more. Our congregation is a loving, caring and giving group of people. If it were not so, God would not have entrusted so much to us. Even in the midst of rising costs for energy and food and economic slowdown, God's gifts are abundant and true, we never have to wonder if He will go back on His promises to us because He won't. Let us be faithful and true to God by supporting and nurturing the church.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact me at richardchinn@ec.rr.com or 675-3889.

Richard Chinn, President

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
Website: stmatthewsch.org

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SOS I felt I took this task, Chairperson of the Fellowship Committee, in a weak moment, however on second thought, a chain is as strong as its weakest link. I certainly have no intention of being the weakest link at St Matthews.

So--- I am asking (*interpret as begging*) for your help. I know we can have some great fellowship events and perhaps even something new this year.

My thought is to have enough people that you only work on one event for the year. If you can do any of these jobs: fold napkins, set tables, make center-pieces, direct people on food lines, move furniture, clean up, make tea or coffee or place food on platters; please contact me at 791-4263, or e-mail me valexi@bellsouth.net to serve on the committee with me for 2008-2009.

I'm looking forward to hearing from many of you in the congregation.

Vivian Alexander

For your information.....

I have printed a copy of the most recent St. Matthew's financial report. You will find this report posted on the bulletin board outside Pastor's Sam's office.

I will be updating this report monthly and will as always be glad to hear your thoughts or questions regarding the information contained in the report.

Elmer Wild
Financial Secretary



THE BIBLE

is God's message to everybody. We deceive ourselves if we claim to want to hear His voice but neglect the primary channel through which it comes. We must read His Word. We must obey it. We must live it.

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.
James 1:22