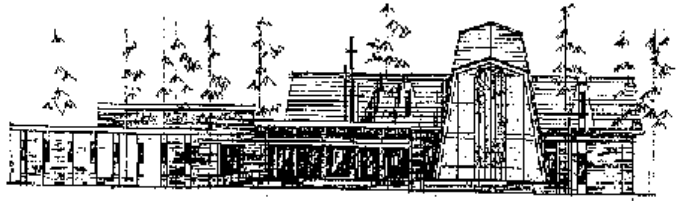


The Encounter



Monthly Newsletter of
St. Matthew's Lutheran Church
612 S. College Road
Wilmington, NC 28403
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Website: stmatthewsch.org

"The Church with a
WELCOME"
1892-2007

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

Volume 8

MARCH 2008

Number 3



Girls only night!

Friday, March 7th

6th-12th grade girls meet in McSwain from 7-10pm for fellowship and conversation about being girls in today's world. The

discussions will include dating and responsibility. I will have a counselor with me for the evening. Sign up sheet is on the youth board.



Home expo show is March 8th and 9th at the Swartz Center and

once again our mission trip youth will be running the concession stand as a fundraiser. Be sure to stop by if you attend the expo!

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS

Will be held at 12:30 pm on March 9th.

One parent will need to be present for the instruction. We will serve pizza first then have our class. The children will take communion for the first time on Sunday, March 30th.



Lock-in for 3rd-5th grader
on Friday March 14th from
7:30pm-8:30am on Saturday.

Sign up sheet is on the youth board. Chaperones are needed!! Signup sheet for chaperone is also on board.

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION CLASS
9-12 MARCH 15. Members will join the 15/16.



St. Matthew's Annual Easter Egg hunt

Saturday March 22nd in McCombs hall from 11:00-12:00. This event has grown over the years with last year having around 60 children from pre-school to 5th grade participating. You are welcome to bring your neighbors, friends and families. We love to have them!



Eucharist Service
March 17, 18, and 19 at noon
Maundy Thursday Service
Noon and 7:00 pm
Good Friday Service
Noon and 7:00 pm
Easter Vigil Service
Saturday at 6:00 pm



SERVICES ON EASTER
6:30 am Sunrise Service
8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

EASTER BREAKFAST!

Sunday March 23rd 9:30-10:45am

This year the mission trip youth and families will be providing a sit down breakfast consisting of egg frittata, bacon, gravy, pancakes, biscuits, fruit, coffee cake, muffins and drink at \$5 per person if you sign up in the commons area, and \$6 if you join us on Easter Sunday.

OWL's LUNCHEON

Thursday March 27th at 11:30 am.
We will be having a guest speaker, Dr. Gray, talking to us about keeping ourselves healthy and happy. Meal will be Italian food.



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I pray that you are keeping a holy Lent, a time of baptismal renewal and penitence. What does that mean? I pray that you are reading Matthew's gospel daily, asking questions about the meaning of its text for you, and praying daily for the Holy Spirit's guidance and help in applying the text to your life, including the renunciation of all that is hostile to God and the amending of life. I hope that your gratitude for God's mercy and goodness is leading you to respond with a growing generosity towards the world's hungry. Just as each of us hungers and thirsts for God, so we become more aware of those whose physical hunger and thirst stands as a barricade in their lives.

I also pray that you are finding yourself increasingly drawn to the services of God's house – not only on the weekend (including the study of Matthew and Evening Prayer on Mondays from 6-7 p.m.) but also for midweek worship. Ellen Bethune staffs the nursery each Wednesday night, so it is possible to bring your household to the soup supper between 5:30 and 6:30 p.m. (freewill offering) and then stay for Evening Prayer from 7-7:30 p.m. If you are one not to get out in the evenings, please don't forget the noonday Eucharist from 12 to 12:35 p.m. on Wednesdays. Our midweek theme is the Matthew 6 version of the Lord's Prayer and Martin Luther's Small Catechism explanation of the model prayer.

We remember where this Lenten journey is leading, don't we? In the western Church, we observe the Feast of the Resurrection of our Lord on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the vernal equinox. This year Easter Sunday is on March 23, about the earliest it can be. That means Holy Week begins on the weekend of March 15-16 with Palm Sunday; we will receive new members into our fellowship on that weekend. Again this year we have daily services at noon Monday through Friday, at 6 p.m. on Monday, then for the Triduum at 7 p.m. on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, and at 6 p.m. on Saturday (the Easter Vigil). Our Easter celebration continues at 6:30 a.m. for the Sunrise Eucharist in the courtyard and festival celebrations at 8:30 and 11 a.m. The German Easter Eucharist is on Saturday, March 29, at 12 noon in the parish church.

For those with children desiring to claim their baptismal right to commune, we have first communion instruction on Sunday, March 9, following the late service. Parents and children will have pizza and a time of instruction. Then, take home materials will be distributed to allow parents and children to continue their discussion of importance of the great gift of the Lord Jesus' body and blood in the Holy Communion. This

year, our First Communion day will be on the Second Sunday of Easter, March 30.

If you are using the Lenten devotional reading guide "Following Jesus" for your reading of Matthew's gospel, you will notice that the Matthew is guiding us into a closer walk and a deeper relationship with the Lord Jesus, His Father, and the Holy Spirit. At no time are we allowed to think that this relationship is anything but a sheer gift of grace. At the same time, we find ourselves wanting to spend more time in prayerful communion with the triune God. The questions become more probing and challenging, the opportunity to respond with gratitude grows incrementally, a symbol of our own spiritual growth.

In chapter 16 of Matthew's Gospel, the Lord Jesus asks two questions: "Who do people say that I am?" and "Who do you say that I am?" In a sense, He is also asking us those questions this Lent. And Matthew's gospel is leading us daily to answer that second question not only with our lips but with our lives!

I am praying for you, and I hope you are praying for each other and for me this Lent. The Holy Spirit is around us, behind us, and in us, all the while working on us. At the same time, there are opposing forces trying to keep us in the same old place, locked in the same old patterns, and skipping just across the surface of God's great love for us.

If you haven't started in on the devotional guide, you can start right away. Ash Wednesday was February 6, so you can count forward from that day and catch up by reading what you have missed.

Our Roman Catholic friends have a very good tradition called "Coming Home," an opportunity for those that have been away to return to their spiritual home. If you have been away from the services of God's house for a while or even for years, I am inviting you to come home to St. Matthew's this Holy Week. Mark your calendar for March 15-16 and just jump back in. You won't have to jump through any hoops. You will simply be welcomed home without a lot of fuss or drama or hype.

Your brother in Christ,

Pastor Sam Zumwalt

TAKE OWNERSHIP IN YOUR CHURCH

STEP UP TO THE PLATE

WITH SERVICE AND PARTICIPATION

So, What is the one thing EVERY person needs? Salvation through Jesus Christ! In the end, it's the only thing that matters, the only thing that goes with you.

What is the mission of the church? (The church is God's people, NOT the building.) It's twofold as I see it. The church's mission is to provide the way for the lost to come to salvation through Christ in Baptism and to provide Christian teaching and care to all God's people.

What is our mission here at St. Matthews? It is the same as the answer to the second question.

Why is the church's mission important for us? It's important for us because it keeps us focused on God's will and not our own. We have a lot to do to accomplish His mission. We **all** have to be involved. The staff and the council and the ministry team leaders and the ministry teams are all working to make our church family better! You can help.

Our church family is just that...a family. We are planning a service and big fellowship event in the park for the end of the Sunday School year. We are planning this event for **May 18**. More details will be available soon. So how can you help? Plan to attend and come have some fun with your brothers and sisters in Christ. There will be a service at 11:00 am followed by lunch and fun activities. We have reserved a ball field. We'll have volleyball and games for the children and adults. Plan on a day in the park and invite a friend or two to come have some fun.

This year we are planning an event to honor our veterans. We are planning for a wildly successful Vacation Bible School for **children and adults**. We are planning a big event for St. Matthew's Sunday and we are planning an Octoberfest. All of these are congregational fellowship events where we can come together as family and friends for learning and fun so **plan on being there!** More information soon.

ADDRESSING CONCERNS TOGETHER

The condition of the property is a concern that was made clear in last year's congregational survey and voiced by many people over the last couple of months. We will be working on a plan to do some updating. Look for a giving opportunity to purchase the materials we need for some needed renovations like painting, new toilets, new chairs and tables for the educational wing, ceiling tiles, floor tiles and more! If there is enough interest we may do some renovations to the McCombs Fellowship Hall and kitchen. One of the "ideas" is to turn McCombs Hall into a multi-purpose audio-visual media room.

We want to **see everyone take some ownership in St. Matthew's** by coming out and supporting a project to do the work. For those that have skills to do the work, we want you. If you can't do the work you can support by being a helping hand, fixing food for the workers, cleaning up or setting up. It will be a church wide event and we want everyone to participate!

We are also working on updating or putting the correct policies and procedures in place concerning church funds, giving, property use, personnel, the church constitution, membership, budgeting and spending.

We have numerous *caring ministries* here at St. Matthews and they are very good. From personal crisis to prayer there are people who support these

ministries through their time and talents. You may not be aware of all the ministries we do have to take care of our church family. We are actively looking at the places we need to improve so people don't fall through the cracks. One way is to get people in touch with the right person or group. You have to help us with this. When you or someone you know has a need for a hospital visit, prayers, is going through a personal crisis and needs some support, you need to let someone in leadership know. We will be making access to help easier in the coming months.

We need you to "step up to the plate" with your time and talents. There are many things to do. We need your help! Do you feel led to "step up?" Talk to, call or email me now. If you don't feel led to "step up"...pray about it, ask for God's guidance and talk to, call me or email me anyway! God may be calling on you through someone like me!

Got problems, concerns or suggestions? If we don't know about it, we can't do anything about it! Talk to, call or email me now.

Interested in attending Synod Assembly June 5-7, 2008. Talk to call or email me now! Call me at 279-0445 or email me at richardchinn@ec.rr.com.

In service for Christ,

Richard Chinn, Council President

January 2008 Council Summary

- This business and visioning meeting of the Congregational Council was held on January 26, 2008 beginning with a devotional led by Pastor Sam at 11:30am at the conclusion of Council's annual retreat session. The meeting continued with Richard Chinn presiding.
- Council accepted the receipt of standard reports, which generally include the minutes of the previous meeting, report of the senior pastor, report of the visitation pastor, treasurer's report, and the parish records report. Certain of these reports have been delayed but will be submitted at a later date by their writers.
- Elmer Wild and Dale Blade were in attendance at this meeting on behalf of the Finance Ministry Team. The proposed Spending Plan (Budget) for the year 2008 was presented. After a period of deliberation, which focused on a provision for transfers of funds back to cash reserves and personnel costs a vote was called for. A motion was duly made and seconded. The spending plan was approved for submission to the Congregation by a vote of 10 to 1.
- A list of nominees was presented for the Pastoral Support Team. They are Helen Stansbury, Jim Bauer, Linda Riesz, Chris Bocchino, Walter Brehm and Lisa Hornick. The nominees are to determine among themselves the distribution of terms, 2 for a three year term, 2 for a two year term and 2 for a one year term.
- Discussion continued on a Contribution Policy document prepared by Jerry Bramley.
- The assignment of Council Liaisons to the Ministry Teams has been deferred to the next meeting.
- The meeting adjourned with the praying of the Lord's Prayer at 1:30 pm. The next meeting is scheduled Thursday February 14, 2008 beginning with devotions in the sanctuary at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Gimbal, Recorder

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL February 14, 2008

1. Opening devotions were held in the Sanctuary at 7:00pm. The business meeting followed immediately in McCombs. In the absence of President Richard Chinn, the meeting was chaired by Vice President Jerry Bramley.
2. The recording secretary was not in attendance, and the minutes of the January 26, 2008 meeting were not available. Approval was deferred until the next scheduled council meeting.
3. Council approved to accept the standard reports (minus the deferred minutes of the meeting) of the January 26, 2008 meeting.
4. Pastor Sam presented his monthly report, which included a statistical record of the pastoral activities of Pastor Dale for the month of January.

5. The Membership activity report for January 2008 was received.
6. The treasurer reported income for January at \$48,830. Expenditures totaled \$48,193, leaving a positive result of \$637.
7. A motion to accept these standard reports was approved by council.
8. There were no reported executive committee actions.
9. The contribution policy was discussed. A motion for acceptance with noted changes was made and approved by council. The policy is made a part of the minutes of the meeting.
10. Discussion was held regarding council members accepting liaison positions with the ministry teams. The following council members agreed to act as liaison with these respective teams:
 - FINANCE- Joe Rumsey
 - PROPERTY- Mike Roberts
 - STEWARDSHIP- Jerry Bramley
 - PERSONNEL- Mark Williams
 - CHRISTIAN EDUCATION- Scott Holzberger
 - YOUTH- Axel Erkes and Jaimee Miles
 - WORSHIP & MUSIC- Kathren Miller
 - FELLOWSHIP- Brigitte Walters

Ministry team liaisons not filled were Evangelism and Social.

11. A letter from the Parish Records Audit Team dated February 11, 2008, was received, recommending the removal of 49 adults and 31 children from the parish records. Letters had been submitted to all of the families listed, noting that they had not attended for a protracted period of time. A motion was made that the list be accepted with the exception of the names of Wendy, Jeffery, and Courtney Robinson. The motion was approved by council.
12. There was discussion regarding the formulation of a team to study the church constitution. The team is to address leadership continuity/rotation problems, fix ambiguities, and address needs/efficiencies as noted by the past two presidents. A motion was made to accept the five recommended: John Antonelli, Bob Stansbury, Joel Melito, Pastor Sam, and Jerry Bramley. The motion carried by majority using a hand vote. It was agreed this matter would be placed on the agenda for additional discussion at the next meeting.
13. There was discussion regarding various aspects of the Personnel Team. No action was taken.

The next scheduled meeting is March 13, 2008.

Due to time constraints, matters concerning the development of a Care Ministry Team, and discussion of Property Renovation Projects were tabled until the next scheduled meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 9:10pm. Council session concluded with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Jerry Bramley, Vice President

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|---|--|--|---|--|--|
| <p>Choir Schedule</p> <p>4:00 Luther Choir</p> <p>4:00 Little Luther Choir</p> <p>4:00 Instrumental Ensemble</p> <p>4:45 Tone Chime Choir</p> <p>5:00 Handbell Choir</p> | | | | | <p>REMEMBER <i>John 3:16</i> <i>The way to eternal life</i></p> | <p>1</p> <p>6:00 Worship/Comm</p> <p>8:00 AA</p> <p>8:00 AL-ANON</p> |
| <p>2 Fourth Sunday In Lent</p> <p>8:30 Worship/Communion</p> <p>9:45 Sunday School</p> <p>11:00 Worship/Communion</p> <p>1:30 Senior GS #139</p> <p>1:30 Junior GS #226</p> <p>6:00 MS/HS YOUTH GROUP</p> | <p>3</p> <p>9:30 Spiritual Form.</p> <p>12:00 Conversations</p> <p>6:00 Evening Prayer and Bible Study</p> <p>7:00 Sister's Bible Study</p> | <p>4</p> <p>Women's</p> <p>9:00 Fitness</p> <p>10:00 Prayer Group</p> <p>6:30 Contemporary Svc Practice</p> <p>7:00 Stephen Min.</p> <p>7:30 Love Circle</p> <p>8:00 AA</p> | <p>5</p> <p>8:00 Devotional Breakfast</p> <p>9:30 Spiritual Form.</p> <p>12:00 Lenten Service</p> <p>5:30 Cadette GS #354</p> <p>5:30 Soup Supper</p> <p>6:00 Crossways</p> <p>6:30 Cub Scouts #274</p> <p>7:00 Lenten Service</p> <p>7:30 Confirmation</p> <p>7:30 Adult Choir</p> | <p>6</p> <p>9:00 Women's Fitness</p> <p>10:00 Crossways</p> <p>4:00 Brownie #739</p> <p>7:00 Boy Scouts</p> | <p>7</p> <p>7:00-10:00 Girls Only Night 6th thru 12th Grade</p> <p>HOSPICE MEAL <i>Jamie and Cyndi Price</i></p> | <p>8</p> <p>6:00 Worship/Comm</p> <p>8:00 AA</p> <p>8:00 AL-ANON</p> <p>Change your clocks after midnight to Daylight Savings Time (move ahead 1 hour)</p> |
| <p>9 Fifth Sunday In Lent</p> <p>8:30 Contemp. Worship</p> <p>9:45 Sunday School</p> <p>9:45 Teachers Appreciation Breakfast (McSwain Center)</p> <p>11:00 Worship/Communion</p> <p>12:30 First Communion Class</p> <p>6:00 MS/HS YOUTH GROUP</p> | <p>10</p> <p>9:30 Spiritual Form.</p> <p>12:00 Conversations</p> <p>6:00 Evening Prayer and Bible Study</p> | <p>11</p> <p>9:00 Women's Fitness</p> <p>9:30 Faith Circle</p> <p>10:00 Prayer Group</p> <p>1:30 Peace Circle</p> <p>6:00 Praise Circle</p> <p>7:00 C.E. Meeting</p> <p>8:00 AA</p> | <p>12</p> <p>8:00 Devotional Breakfast</p> <p>9:30 Spiritual Form.</p> <p>12:00 Lenten Service</p> <p>5:30 Cadette GS #354</p> <p>5:30 Soup Supper</p> <p>6:00 Crossways</p> <p>6:30 Cub Scouts #274</p> <p>7:00 Lenten Service</p> <p>7:30 Confirmation</p> <p>7:30 Adult Choir and Instr. Ensemble</p> | <p>13</p> <p>9:00 Women's Fitness</p> <p>10:00 Crossways</p> <p>4:00 Brownie #739</p> <p>7:00 Boy Scouts</p> | <p>14</p> <p>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</p> <p>7:30 Lock-In 3rd thru 5th grade</p> | <p>15</p> <p>9-12 New Member Orientation</p> <p>Lock-In ends at 8:30 am</p> <p>6:00 Worship/Comm</p> <p>8:00 AA</p> <p>8:00 AL-ANON</p> |
| <p>16 Palm Sunday</p> <p>8:30 Worship/Communion</p> <p>9:45 Sunday School</p> <p>11:00 Worship/Communion</p> <p>1:30 Senior GS #139</p> <p>1:30 Junior GS #226</p> <p>6:00 MS/HS YOUTH GROUP</p> | <p>17</p> <p>9:30 Spiritual Form.</p> <p>12:00 Eucharist Service</p> <p>6:00 Evening Prayer and Bible Study</p> | <p>18</p> <p>9:00 Women's Fitness</p> <p>10:00 Prayer Group</p> <p>12:00 Eucharist Service</p> <p>8:00 AA</p> | <p>19</p> <p>8:00 Devotional Breakfast</p> <p>9:30 Spiritual Form.</p> <p>12:00 Eucharist Service</p> <p>5:30 Cadette GS #354</p> <p>6:00 Crossways</p> <p>6:30 Cub Scouts #274</p> <p>7:30 Adult Choir</p> | <p>20 MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICES 12 & 7</p> <p>9:00 Women's Fitness</p> <p>10:00 Crossways</p> <p>4:00 Brownie #739</p> <p>7:00 Boy Scouts</p> | <p>21</p> <p>7am to 7pm Day of Prayer</p> <p>GOOD FRIDAY SERVICES 12:00 AND 7:00</p> <p>HOSPICE MEAL <i>Antonelli Family</i></p> | <p>22</p> <p>11-12 Easter Egg Hunt</p> <p>6:00 Easter Vigil</p> <p>8:00 AA</p> <p>8:00 AL-ANON</p> |
| <p>23 EASTER</p> <p>6:00 Sunrise Service</p> <p>8:30 Contemp. Worship</p> <p>9:45 Sunday School</p> <p>9:30-10:45 Breakfast</p> <p>11:00 Worship/Communion</p> <p>3:08:30 Contemp. Worship</p> <p>9:45 Sunday School</p> <p>11:00 Worship/Communion</p> <p>1:30 GS #139 / GS #226</p> <p>6:00 MS/HS YOUTH</p> | <p>24</p> <p>6:00 Evening Prayer and Bible Study</p> | <p>25</p> <p>9:00 Women's Fitness</p> <p>10:00 Prayer Group</p> <p>6:30 Cont. Svc. Practice</p> <p>7:00 Ministry Teams</p> <p>8:00 AA</p> | <p>26</p> <p>8:00 Devotional Breakfast</p> <p>9:30 Spiritual Form.</p> <p>5:30 Cadette GS #354</p> <p>6:00 Crossways</p> <p>6:30 Cub Scouts #274</p> <p>7:00 Confirmation</p> <p>7:30 Adult Choir</p> | <p>27</p> <p>9:00 Women's Fitness</p> <p>10:00 Bible Study</p> <p>11:30 OWL's Fellowship Luncheon</p> <p>4:00 Brownie #739</p> <p>7:00 Boy Scouts</p> | <p>28</p> <p>6:00 Stephen Ministry Training Class Begins</p> <p>7:00 Via de Cristo</p> | <p>29</p> <p>Stephen Ministry Training Class Continued</p> <p>12:00 German Easter Service</p> <p>6:00 Worship/Comm</p> <p>8:00 AA</p> <p>8:00 AL-ANON</p> |

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

** Denotes Youth Birthday

| | | | | | |
|----|---------------------|----|-------------------|----|---------------------|
| 1 | Rich Walter | 13 | John Humphrey | 24 | Joanne Johnson |
| 2 | Iris Whiteside | | Randy Rose | | Lisa Connaughton |
| 3 | Virginia Parisek | 14 | Elsie Cates | 25 | Don Strickland |
| 4 | Cherry Horn | | Sandy O'Donnell | | Nina Rabozzi |
| | Don Benson | | Justin Townsend | | Christina Turner ** |
| 5 | Saville Riesz | 15 | Cheryl Trapp | 26 | Annette Geiger |
| | Donald Meyer | | Vickie Watts | 27 | Rachel Erkes ** |
| | Danielle Sharpe | | Dottie Bateman | | Tim Walter |
| 6 | Margaret Barr | 16 | Terri Robey | | Janna Bauer |
| | Minnie Larson | 17 | Robert Wooley | | William Becker |
| 7 | Trey Whiteside ** | | Ronald Funke | 28 | Allison Cummings ** |
| | Carol Roberts | 19 | Carolyn Hooker | | Delores Irenze |
| 8 | Mary Lou Byrne | | Jake Wade ** | 29 | Hilda Buck |
| 10 | Jamel Bendahmane ** | | Maura Kitchens ** | | Jimmy Davis |
| | John Pollard | 20 | Ben Stroehl | 30 | Josey Warrington |
| | Ken Shea | 21 | Lee Christmas | 31 | Frank Fauser |
| 11 | Laura Gray | | Joanna Brennan ** | | Joe Rumsey |
| | Carol Ann Meyer | 23 | Rita Jividen | | |
| 12 | Carolyn Gimbal ** | | Olivia Hill ** | | |
| | Joel Melito | 24 | Pat Lerch | | |
| | Linda Andron | | Judith Funke | | |



MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

| | | | |
|----|-----------------------------|----|-----------------------------|
| 6 | Walt and Loretta Brehm | 14 | David and Terri Dearie |
| 8 | Ronnie and MyLoan Lutz | | Ryan and Mary Allison |
| 10 | Larry and Tammi Gates | 24 | Ray and Marilyn Wilson |
| 12 | James and Nancy Wells | 29 | Michael and Annette Janssen |
| 13 | Edward and Carrie McDonough | 31 | Craig and Nan Phillips |



Many of you have asked questions about the needlework on the Altar cushions. Hopefully all will enjoy this information below.

In 1984 a small group, inspired by Pastor McSwain, began planning needlepointed kneeling cushions for the altar area. The life, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ as celebrated in the Lutheran Church year was chosen as the theme. The final cushion was to depict the spreading of the Gospel. Because the altar area had one center gate, the gate cushion was planned to represent one of the Sacraments in the Lutheran Church-Communion.

The Counting House at Pawley's Island consulted in the design and mechanics of this project. Cherry Horn began graphing the designs for the shields, and appropriate crosses for the themes chosen. Several men constructed tables for holding the canvases. Twenty-one dedicated church members needlepointed the first seven cushions, each one taking approximately 500 hours. Two corner cushions were necessary. The completed canvases were taken to Kerstin McDaniel in Asheville, North Carolina for construction. These cushions were then dedicated.

When our worship space was rearranged and enlarged, the new altar was considerably larger. Seven additional cushions were planned. Themes important in the Christian Church and the Lutheran Church were chosen for the two side cushions. The other Sacraments in the Lutheran Church-Baptism-was designed to go with the Communion cushion. Cherry Horn, whose job had taken her to Greenville, NC, continued the graphing of those designs. Ann Fitz-Simons, a local needlepoint designer, chose crosses for the corners; graphed and painted the designs on these four canvases. Encouraged and aided by Mary McSwain, a now bonded group of needlepointers completed the additional canvases in February 1996. They were immediately constructed by Kerstin McDaniel.

During the past twelve years twenty-eight devoted needlepointers have lovingly given over 8,000 hours to create these ecclesiastical designs which add meaning, beauty and warmth to our worship space. To them we give our sincere thanks. We praise God for their talent and diligent work. On June 9, 1996, the cushions were dedicated to the Glory of God.

Needlepointers: Jane Birzenieks, Diane Blais, Jane Brunt, Hilda Buck, Ursula Cuthbertson, Dolores Fink, Peg Fitzsimmons, Dulcie Fralin, Helen Freepartner, June Gilbert, Cherry Horn, Mary Horne, Joy Ann Keziah, Marge Laing, Peg Olson, Diane Mees Otsby, Mary McSwain, Lynda Roesch, Buddy Royal, Gerry Saintsing, Elaine Simmonds, Phyllis Smith, Dot Springs, Carolyn Stroud, Lorraine Sweeney, Grace Torkelson, Sherry Vought, Vernetta Williams.

Table Constructors: Richard Chinn, Frank Fauser, Gary Thomas, Gary Stroehl.

EASTER IS EARLY THIS YEAR

Easter is always the 1st Sunday after the 1st full moon after the Spring Equinox (which is March 20). This dating of Easter is based on the lunar calendar that Hebrew people used to identify Passover, which is why it moves around on our Roman calendar. Based on the above, Easter can actually be one day earlier (March 22) but that is pretty rare.

Here's the interesting info. **This year is the earliest Easter any of us will ever see the rest of our lives!** And only the most elderly of our population have ever seen it this early (95 years old or above!). And none of us have ever, or will ever, see it a day earlier! Here are the facts:

- 1) The next time **Easter** will be this early (March 23) will be the year 2228 (220 years from now). The last time it was this early was 1913. (so if you're 95 or older, you are the only ones that were around for that!).
- 2) The next time it will be a day earlier, March 22, will be in the year 2285 (277 years from now). The last time it was on March 22 was 1818. So, no one alive today has or will ever see it any earlier than this year.

Contribution Policy

St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church is exempt from state and federal income tax as a not for profit religious organization. In order to meet its responsibilities to the Internal Revenue Code, church council has adopted a contribution policy. The policy defines the General Mission and Ministry Fund and explains how contributions can be made to the church. It also explains how designated funds are established. In the event that the purpose of the designated fund have been met, the policy explains how monies in excess of the initial need are handled. The contribution policy consists of five pages and comprehensively covers appropriate and inappropriate contributions. Copies of the policy will be continuously maintained in the commons of the church. All parishioners are urged to take a copy for their personal use.

FIFTH SUNDAY PROGRAM FOR 2008

Congratulations to the congregation on its contributions to the Fifth Sunday Program. This special giving opportunity has greatly reduced the church debt in an on going program that continues to reduce the mortgage on our church facility. The year 2008 will have four Sundays when we make it a point to call your attention to the success of the program and how you can be a part of it. Fifth Sundays for 2008 are: March 30, June 29, August 31, and November 30.

Our past efforts have been successful in reducing a \$730,000 mortgage in 2004 to one of \$310,000 at the end of January 2008. This leaves us with 45 monthly payments. BUT, let us reduce that also and carry on in 2008 with the Fifth Sunday program.

This is a "double win" situation. Not only do your contributions go directly to the principle but also they reduce future interest costs. This makes every contribution you make worth more than 100% to the program and shortens the time left to make the monthly payments.

You can contribute to this program by using the special envelopes provided, also envelopes found in the church pews. Contributions can be given through memorials.

God Bless.

Sylvia Hall and Bob Stansbury, Co-Chairs



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

CIRCLE MEETINGS FOR MARCH

Love March 4 at 7:30 pm, Church Library

Faith March 11 at 9:30 am, Church Library

Peace March 11 at 12:30 pm, Carolyn Hooker's

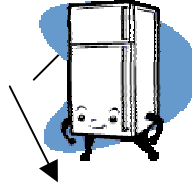
Praise March 11 at 6:00 pm, Nancy Thompson's

REFRIGERATOR REMINDER

FOR APRIL AND MAY DATES

Cut and put on your refrig. door

** Church wide activity*



April Dates

- * Apr. 20th Church Talent Show and meal
- Apr. 25th Middle School Retreat Ft. Caswell
- Apr. 27th Last youth group... Party location to be announced later

May Dates

- May 2nd & 3rd High School Retreat ... location T.B.A.
- * May 7th Confirmation banquet
- May 16th-18th Parking Car Fundraiser
- * May 18th Church picnic at Empie Park sponsored by Christian Ed.
- May 22nd OWL's Luncheon

We need you!



We are looking for people willing to share their talent with others for our Talent Show and meal in April.

You don't have to be a member to participate. All proceeds from this activity will go toward our summer mission trip. If you are interested please call Nancy Magruder at 791-4582 ext. 212 or 791-6057.



GOOD FRIDAY DAY OF PRAYER

7:00 a.m. -7:00 p.m.

Watch for signup Sheet in the Commons Area and the box for your prayer concerns forms.

FYI: 121 Soup labels and 131 bar codes sent to the Navajo Mission School in February. Keep them coming.

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

Kenneth Hufham
Bobby Seitter
George Thompson
Bruni Kline
Military Families
Catherine Smith
Vera Wilson
Jane Brunt
Naomi Era
Michelle King
James Ammons
Karlene Ahrens
James Clemmons
Marti Felter
Charles Ramseur
Dick Bramley

Herb and Lucy Bost
Carroll Strong
Elsie Heinlein
Cathy Geiger's father
Dorothy Heberling
Milton Moser
Debbie Young
Diane Vickery
Michael Vickery
The Wade Family
Beverly Chamberlain
Lois Whitmeyer
Tim and Sarah Walter
Brenda Tyler
The Price Family
Harold Shelton, Jr.

Betty Lauver
Earl Lindner
Ken Getsinger
Pru Hovis
Maury Hanes
Steve Smith
Mary Serkiz
Frank Gilbert
Clyde Farmer
Wally Schultz
Rick Robey
Dean Carlisle
Marilyn Wilson
Leon Wade, Sr
Pat Dearie
Marie Brown

Iris Whiteside
Ray Wilson
Lillian Witter
Linda Parker
Bertha Rankin
Fran Heidorn
Herb Fox
Brenda Seitter
Clement Doniere
Dick Hiler
Nell McArver
Scott Kanyok
Robin Hueskes
Nancy French
John Geiger
Kelsea Webster

REMEMBER OUR HOMEBOUND

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

SYMPATHY is extended to *Ina May* in the death of her sister, Doris Merritt.

SYMPATHY is extended to *Nell McArver* in the death of her sister-in-law, Tommie McArver.

SYMPATHY is extended to *Dick Hiler* in the death of his cousin, Sonny Hiler in Michigan.

SYMPATHY is extended to *Vivian Alexander* and family in the death of Bill Claytor.



Dear Church Family,
Thank you for your calls, gifts and love
shown to me during a sad time.

I will truly miss Bill, but, I know I have my
church family's support and will never be alone.

Thank you,
Vivian Alexander

I would like to thank all of St. Matthew's for the many
prayers offered up for me as I went through a Bone Marrow
Transplant this past fall. I am now in remission and pray that
continues for many years to come.

I also want to thank you for welcoming me into your church
family. Not only did I have health issues to deal with, but I
also retired and moved back to the states after 30 years
overseas working for the Dept. of Defense. In many ways it
has been a "culture shock", but finding a church family like St.
Matthew's has made the transition back to the states so much
easier.

The Lord is Good,
Nancy Heck

Dear Members of St. Matthew's,

The three homeless mothers, Loletta, LaShena and Katana,
and their children, Ta'Lyah, Shandaya and Deandre, support
by all of the churches committed to the Wilmington Interfaith
Hospitality Network program, just left the McSwain Center.
They are carrying all of their belongings on to St. Paul's to
start a new and different week. "Put yourself in their place,
what would you do, how would you feel?"

They all appreciated your help, caring, nourishment and
shelter this week. Remember them in your prayers that they
achieve stability and peace in their lives.

We want to especially thank the 68 volunteers that helped this
week:

Chris Bocchino, Dawn Grieb, Mark Grieb, Robert Tuck, Jan
Christine, Phil Anderson, Teresa Tuck, Ryan Tuck, Megan
Lambert, Jim Mees, Carol Roberts, Mike Roberts, Carol
Comeskey, Ana Marie Jackson, John Stemke, Pat Mahl,
Margaret Ballentine, Linda Reisz, Karin Cook, Renata Gray,
Zan Bramley, Amy Tucker-Morgan, Cindy Antonelli, Ken
Shea, Sophie Williams, Dick Williams, Saville Reisz, Messiah
Lutheran, Lynette Farmer, Nancy Fauser, Minnie Larson,
Kure Beach Memorial, Karen Ruefle, Elaine Brown, Frank
Felter, Elaine Willow, Gina Williams, Seti Jones, Jenna
Ricketts, Carol Hooker, Erika Brambell, Thelma Walter, Ina
Sinkel, Diane Rumsey, Defrayne Plantes, Bonnie Weaver,
Eddie Weaver, Matt Weaver, Don Benson, Judy Benson,
Barbara Moore, Andrew Moore, Mary McSwain, Helen
Stansbury, Kathie Tucker, Cathy Alexandravicius, Vivian
Alexander, Brunni Kline, Ruthe Markworth, Nell McArvers,
Susan Shearin, Gourville Family, Marie Wild, Dorthy Blade,
Cindy Cornett, Dot Springs, Jennifer Kitchens, Lisa Hornick,
Pastor Sam and Laura.

The volunteers provided 288 hours of time completing 48
activities over the seven days. Many provided help for
multiple activities during the week. Without them, St.
Matthew's Church could not provide shelter, nourishment or
hope for the homeless. If you chose not to volunteer this week,
consider making a commitment to help the next time. If you
could not help this time because you were not available, we
missed you.

Mark your calendar; the homeless families visit St. Matthew's
the weeks of May 11th, August 3rd and November 2nd.

Thanks again,

Jan Christine and Bill Fox

Those Serving in March 2008

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

- 2** 8:30 Terri Dearie, Linda Renzaglia, Nancy Wells, Florence Schorschinsky
11:00 Sherry Bendahmane, Nancy Miller, Jerry Bramley, Lynette Farmer
9 8:30 Jan Christine, Bill Fox, TBA
11:00 Carol Chinn, Karin Cook, Jodi Davis, Pam Gudrian
16 8:30 Nancy Brennan, Bill/Bethel Paris, Butch Ruefle
11:00 Stan Brunt, Robert Rabozzi, Helen Stansbury, Kristi Wade
23 8:30 Scott Holzberger, Robert/Cheryl/David Trapp
11:00 Ken Johns, Ana Marie Jackson, Barbara Moore, Linda Riesz
30 8:30 Tammi Gates, Lisa Hornick, Mike/Carol Roberts
11:00 Jerry/Zan Bramley, Melissa Hollamon, Carol Comeskey

USHERS

Saturday Service: Pete Koder

- 2** 8:30 John and Ash Stemke
11:00 Happy and Jake Wade, Stan Brunt
9 8:30 John and Ivonne Tullous
11:00 John Pollard and Tony Irenze
16 8:30 Randy and Bryce Mallo
11:00 Happy Wade, Saville Riesz, Fred Getsinger
23 8:30 Ryan Allison, David/Kathren Miller
11:00 Peter Gimbal and Keith Geiger
30 8:30 Joel Melito, Gary Cummings
11:00 Jerry and Zan Bramley, Dale Blade

GREETERS

- 6:00 John Frye
8:30 Rich and Thelma Walter, John and Karen Matthews
11:00 Dot Springs, Mary Guerassio, Trevor and Lisa Hornick

LECTORS *Saturday Services:* (1) Cindy Cornett;
(8) Joanne Johnson; (15) Nancy Thompson;
(22) Phil Bloedorn; (29) Janet Tweedy

Sunday Services

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 8:30 | 11:00 |
| 2 Lynn Stemke | Jerry Bramley |
| 9 Butch Ruefle | Nancy Miller |
| 16 Ben Stroehl | Helen Stansbury |
| 23 Midge Piper | John Antonelli |
| 30 John Stemke | Suzanne Whitmarsh |

ALTAR FLOWERS

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2 Holz, Barr | 9 Gates, Hughes |
| 16 Wade, Price | 23 Allison, Kallenborn |
| 30 Poythress, Cornett | |

NURSERY

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| 8:30 | 11:00 |
| 2 Karen Ruefle | Zan Bramley |
| 9 Needed | Charles Riesz |
| 16 Melissa Holzberger | Sarah Davis |
| 23 Needed (Easter Sunday) | Needed |
| 30 Lynn and Megan Stemke | Rowanne Lane |

ACOLYTES

- | | |
|---|--|
| 8:30 | 11:00 |
| 2 Patrick Magruder Carson Plumley | Natalie Watkins Riley Tucker |
| 9 Dale Stansbury Shauna Ruefle | Peyton Hughes Meredith Deily |
| 16 Patrick Magruder Megan Stemke | Travis Johns, Carson Plumley Caleigh Lockwood, Ian Brambell |
| 23 Meredith Allison Shauna Ruefle Megan Lambert Marisa Turner | Amy Erkes Sarah Davis Robert Perry David Robey |
| 30 Patrick Magruder David Haskins | Laurel Melito Danni Meyer |

ALTAR GUILD *Saturday: Nancy Thompson*

- 2** Thelma Walter, Linda Renzaglia, Karin Cook, Barbara Moore
9 Carol Chinn, Lynette Farmer, Laura Zumwalt, Carol Comeskey
16 Jodi Davis, Kristi Wade, Sonja Stroehl, Janet Wise
23 Margaret Ballantine, Nancy Fauser, Shirley Morrow
30 Robin Hueskes, Arlene Robie, Jan Christine

BUILDING Sat: Pete Koder

SUNDAY: OPEN: John Matthews

CLOSE: Bob Lentz



January 27 – February 17, 2008

MEMORY OF HARRIET KUSKE

Fifth Sunday

Bob and Helen Stansbury
Vera Wilson

Social Ministry

Dale and Dorothy Blade
Hilda Buck

Bob and Yvonne Jones
Marie Kuske and Marilyn Adams
R.W. and Doris Sparrow
Carolyn Jones

Samuel Long, Jr.
Don and Audrey Meyer
W. Ferrell Shuford
Paul Burton
Carolyn Benton

Dr. and Mrs. Charles Caravati, Jr.

Patricia Woodard

Thomas and Marlene Harty

Bob and Helen Stansbury

Mr. and Mrs. William Mirza

Frank and Nancy Fauser

Phil and Barbara Christmas

Jack Kuske

Walter and Anne Craven

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Head

Richard Dokmo

Mary Phillips-Saieed

James and Nancy Walker

H.T. King, III and Ann King

Ray and Marilyn Wilson

Pete and Grace Koder

Property

Jim Harshbarger

Choir

Jim and Ruthe Markworth

Budget shortfall

Florence Schorschinsky

Debt reduction

Ray and Brenda Tyler

Pastor's Discretionary

Needham and Sylvia Hall

Family Assistance

Nell McArver

CONTINUED ON BACK COVER.....

TREASURER'S REPORT

January 2008

Income for the month of January totaled \$ 48,830.

Expenditures for January totaled \$48,193 resulting in a **positive** \$ 637.

Charles D. Malmberg, Treasurer

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church
A Stephen Ministry Congregation

MARCH 2008

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(910) 791-4582

E-Mail: stmatth@bellsouth.net
Website: stmatthewsch.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME VALUE MAIL

MEMORIALS CONTINUED....

MEMORY OF TOM FLYTHE'S FATHER

Property Pete and Grace Koder
Peter and Virginia Parisek
Choir Bob and Helen Stansbury
Pastor's Discretionary Nell McArver
Fifth Sunday Vera Wilson

MEMORY OF DON MEYERS BROTHER-IN-LAW

Family Assistance Donald and Audrey Meyer

**MEMORY OF BILL CLAYTOR, VIVIAN
ALEXANDER'S FRIEND**

Property Peter and Virginia Parisek
Undesignated Aleda Marggraff

MEMORY OF MITCH MILLER

Pastor's Discretionary Nell McArver

MEMORY OF HAROLD MCSWAIN

Fifth Sunday Mary McSwain

**MEMORY OF JOHN LAUER AND IN LOVING
THANKS TO PASTOR SAM AND ST. MATTHEWS**

Endowment Evelyn Lauer

**MEMORY OF CLARENCE MILLER, DAVID
MILLER'S FATHER**

Fifth Sunday Vera Wilson

MEMORY OF LOUISE SLOOP, JOHN FRYE'S SISTER

Fifth Sunday Vera Wilson

MEMORY OF GLENN NYHUS

Fifth Sunday Vera Wilson

MEMORY OF ROSE MEYER'S SISTER-IN-LAW

Fifth Sunday Vera Wilson

MEMORY OF MARGARET ELLER'S SISTER

Fifth Sunday Vera Wilson

HONOR OF ASH STEMKE'S EAGLE SCOUT AWARD

Music Randy and Sheila Mallo

Youth Robert and Carolyn Hooker

MEMORY OF DORIS ZUBE

Christian Ed./Vacation Bible School Peace Circle

HONOR OF ASH STEMKE

Scout Troop #274 Jim and Nancy Mees

HONOR OF DAVIDTRAPP

Scout Troup #274 Jim and Nancy Mees

**HONOR OF JIM AND NANCY MEES ON THEIR
50TH ANNIVERSARY**

Music Frank and Nancy Fauser

Landscaping Mary Kay Dodson, Sandra Ezzelle,

Nancy Graham and Peggy Grossnickle

Robert and Carolyn Hooker

Property Pete and Grace Koder

Endowment Norman and Susan Shearin

HONOR OF NANCY MAGRUDER

Budget shortfall Florence Schorschinsky

HONOR OF INA MAY'S SISTER, DORIS MERRIT

Property Fund Pete and Grace Koder