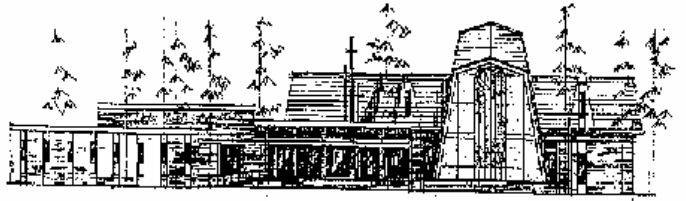


The Encounter



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

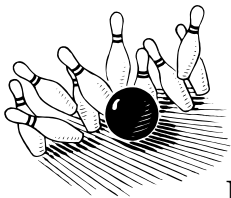
NOVEMBER 2008

Number 11



Thanks for your response to the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Ministry this year. There are only a few boxes left in the Commons. You may get one of them or furnish your own. The brochures are in the Commons for you to use with your gift box.

Completed boxes may be brought to the church office during the week, Monday-Friday, 9:00 until 4:00 or on Sunday. Boxes must be returned by November 24th. Any questions regarding this program contact Marilyn Wilson at 799-6254 or Kay Rose at 256-3917



Middle School Activity...
6:30pm-8:30pm
Meet at Cardinal Lanes on
Friday Nov. 14th at 6:30pm.

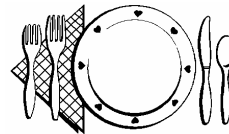
The cost is \$6 per person (shoes, bowling).
Signup sheet is on the youth board.



ACOLYTES are needed for the holiday services. Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Holy week. Please be sure to check your calendar and sign your name on the Acolyte sheet on the youth board.



**OWL'S FELLOWSHIP
LUNCHEON**
Thursday, Nov. 20th
11:30 in gym



Menu: Turkey & dressing, marinated chicken, mashed potatoes, squash casserole, green beans, and banana pudding. Cost is \$7.50 per person. We will take a love offering for a Thanksgiving meal to give to one of our families.

Mark your calendar now for the gathering in December which will be earlier than normal. It will be *December 18th*.

NEEDED FOR UPCOMING SPECIAL SERVICES

If you can serve as a greeter, communion assistant or lector for any of the Thanksgiving services, or the Christmas Eve services please call the coordinator ASAP. Contact Vera Wilson for Greeter and Florence Schorschinsky for the communion assistant and lector schedule.

WELCA CIRCLE SCHEDULE

Faith - 9:30 November 11th at Pat Mahl's home.
Peace - 1:30 November 11th in Church Library.
Love - 7:30 November 11th in Church Library.
Praise - 6:30 November 11th. Place TBA

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

November is, for me, always about penultimate things – next to last things. We begin with the celebration of All Saints, a time to celebrate our Baptism into Jesus' death and resurrection while remembering with joy and tears those saints whose struggles are over. The following three weekends our Gospel lessons are all drawn from the Lord Jesus' final parables in Matthew 25. We think about what it means to be wise women and men and how it is that Christ is indeed Lord and King of the universe. Before beginning a new church year on the last weekend of the month, we celebrate our national day of Thanksgiving again with Eucharists at noon and 7 p.m. on the Tuesday before folks get on the road to see loved ones.

Many years ago, an older wiser pastor pointed out to me that all of Paul's letters begin and end with praise and thanksgiving, reminding us that our response to God's grace and mercy in Christ Jesus is always praise and thanksgiving. All that we have and all that we are comes from God's gracious hand. As Luther says, therefore we surely ought to thank, praise, serve, and obey Him.

We are living in interesting times filled with opportunities and challenges. Those that have lived longest recognize the cyclical nature of economies and the "gotcha" politics that always seem to accompany the down cycle. We Americans will go to the polls to elect leaders at all levels of government. Laura and I have already voted our values with the hope that those we voted for will do the least harm. Having an unshakeable faith in Jesus Christ as Lord, we really don't fall for the messianic promises of political candidates, whatever their stripes. Both of us remember all too well how candidates have promised one thing and yet, in office, have set out on agendas that were something altogether different than advertised. This election will be no different, so we urge you to be wise and remember who your Lord is. His term of office is infinite!

For those that are anxious about finances, I am reminded of Sam Walton's response to the economic crisis of 1987. When asked how it felt to lose a billion dollars in one day, he said: "The loss is only on paper. As long as I don't sell that stock, I haven't lost a thing." Wise words for those that are tempted to buy high and sell low!

Thank you again for the privilege of serving you as your pastor. I cherish the opportunity to be in mission and ministry with you. Again I urge you to connect with the Crossways Bible Study either on Wednesday at 6 p.m. or Thursday at 10 a.m. And, don't be a stranger in worship each weekend!

I love you,

Pastor Sam

THE LAST THINGS LECTURE SERIES

Thanks to Pastor Sam for the idea and arranging the speakers for the "Last Things" lectures. Hopefully, those of you that attended found the information both interesting and helpful in planning for our "final days".

This series of lectures was sponsored by your Endowment Committee in an effort to better educate our members on some rarely discussed but important subjects and to be a reminder of the Endowment Fund now in place at St. Matthew's. The purpose of the fund is to combine multiple gifts into a larger fund which are invested in such a way that the annual income can be used to support or supplement programs at our church. It is one method to help alleviate some of the pressure on our often stretched budget.

As you move forward with your individual "last things" preparations, please consider designating the St. Matthew's Endowment Fund in your estate planning and giving decisions. As our slogan states, a gift to the Endowment Fund is a gift that "reaches through the ages."

More information is available in a new brochure or contact the church office.

Bill Rose – Chairman of the Endowment Committee

THE REST OF THE STORY

Continued from last month.

Richard Chinn, President

On October 26th Bill's prelude was *The Church's One Foundation*. We all know this old hymn written from 1839-1900. We have sung it many times. It is found on page 369 of the LBW if you wish to read the words again. I wish to address the **BUILDING BLOCKS** to a church's foundation.

We have many responsibilities to each other and to future generations. ***What responsibilities do we have?***

To begin with, we must provide a solid foundation for the spiritual growth of all our members and to all people. We only need to read the Bible to find the answers to building a solid foundation. There are many tasks and many things we must learn and be willing to do in order to grow and nurture each other spiritually. Our congregation has many loving members who care about both the physical and spiritual needs of our members. We are truly blessed!

We would like to believe the church is always full of happy, contented people but we know that is not true. There will always be members who are sad, hurting, or lonely. At times, especially in a church the size of ours, there will be some discontentment, some hurt feelings, some anger, some dislikes, some disagreements and all of these have to do with other people. We have not done as well as we can about addressing these types of issues. I have found in my own life that these types of emotions and concerns are a great weight on my spirit when I keep them bottled up inside. In other words, when I don't communicate my concerns things become harder to resolve because hurt and anger get in the way.

So a foundational building block is to provide ways for those who are not totally happy and content to let their concerns be heard. This will allow us as Christian brothers and sisters to take appropriate or necessary action to address these concerns. Appropriate or necessary action does not always mean the "desired" action. How can we accomplish that? It starts with you and your responsibility as a member of God's family. When you have a concern(s) you have to tell someone about your concern(s). The first someone that should be is the person or persons you have a concern(s) about. If they are unwilling to listen you should ask for two or three to assist you. The two or three you ask should be willing to listen and evaluate your concern(s) and be willing to help resolve them appropriately. There are

members of leadership who are willing and able to help you with this, I am one of those people. If you cannot get a concern resolved appropriately at this point you should request a meeting with the Executive Team so the matter can be discussed and brought before the Congregation Council. I've provided some direction on who to speak to. The building block to resolution is found in the Book of Matthew, Chapter 18 beginning with Verse 15.

15] "If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother.

16] "But if he does not listen to you, take one or two more with you, so that by the mouth of two or three witnesses every fact may be confirmed. *17]* "If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

Next month we'll discuss another building block to the church's foundation.

Council Summary – October 9, 2008

The regular monthly business and visioning meeting convened on October 9, 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.

A quorum of eight members in attendance necessary to conduct business was not found to be present, therefore no actions were taken.

Respectfully Submitted,
Peter Gimbal, Recorder

TREASURER'S REPORT September 2008

Income for the month of September totaled \$50,158. Expenditures for September totaled \$46,815, resulting in a **positive** \$3,343. Income for the period January thru September totaled \$434,864. Expenditures for the same period totaled \$437,121, resulting in a **negative** \$2,267.

Charles D. Malmberg, Treasurer

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS ** Denotes Youth Birthday

- | | | | | | |
|----|--|----|---|----|--|
| 1 | Catherine Magruder
Craig Phillips
Robert Gatewood | 11 | Anthony Rendin | 28 | Lindsey Lariviere |
| 2 | Dale Blade
Wilheimina Stanland
Lynn Stemke
Stephen Humphrey | 12 | Helen Walter | 29 | Linda Meyer
Bonnie Nyhus
Courtney Robinson
Zan Bramley
William Fox |
| 4 | Shauna Ruefle **
Debbie Walton | 14 | Jean Manley | 30 | Tom Flythe
Joan Thompson
Jeffrey Cummings |
| 5 | Jayne Sanderson | 15 | Becky Howard
David Dearie
Marie Wild
Victoria Lutz **
Barbara Moore | | |
| 6 | Robin Funke | 17 | Doris Prillaman
Caitlin Brown | | |
| 7 | Linda Riesz
Marlie Linkner | 18 | James Harshbarger
Hilary Piper **
David Robey ** | | |
| 8 | Sarah Thompson
Mildred Schulz
Charles Malmberg
Chris Tucker **
Joyce Fulp
Rhiannon Sharpe | 19 | Harold Shelton
Cameron Plumley **
Megan Lambert ** | | |
| 9 | Lisa Hornick
Tim Townsend
Kathy Koder
Marcella Schedler | 20 | Margaret Ballantine
Heidi Apel | | |
| 10 | Matthew Linkner **
Elizabeth Lutz
Rebecca Ann Seip | 21 | Wendy Robinson | | |
| 11 | Angie Gilliam | 23 | Cynthia Price | | |
| | | 24 | Morgan Piper ** | | |
| | | 27 | Lynda Roesch
Andres Piccinin | | |
| | | 28 | Pearl Ogden
Walt Brehm
Leland Watson
Alexander Porter ** | | |



NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- | | | | | | |
|----|--|----|--------------------------------|----|--|
| 1 | Walter and Mildred Schulz | 18 | Clement and Carol Doniere | 29 | Bill and Kay Rose |
| 2 | Dale and Dorothy Blade | | Al and Patty Macino | 30 | John and Cindy Antonelli
Paul and Jane Fulton |
| 4 | Brent and Jennifer Kitchens | 19 | Peter and Virginia Parisek | | |
| 5 | Ed and Patti Wright
Tim and Monica Braden | 20 | Dennis and Krysta McCain | | |
| 18 | Pete and Grace Koder | 24 | Steve and Mary Phillips-Saieed | | |
| | | 27 | William and Frances Perry | | |

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Sunday Choir Practice Schedule 4:00 Luther Choir 4:00 Instrumental Ensemble 5:00 Handbell Choir WEDNESDAY 7:00 Tone Chime Choir	<h1>November</h1>		Thank you, Lord, for countless blessings showered upon us. May we be more quick to recognize them and to return thanks for your goodness. Amen.			1 9-12 New Member Orientation Class 6:00 Worship/Comm 8:00 AA 8:00 AL-ANON
2 8:30 Worship/Communion 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship/Communion <i>See Choir Schedule</i> 4:00 Girls Small Group 6:00 MS/HS Youth KICK-OFF WIHN FAMILIES ARRIVE @ 5:00	3 9:30 Spiritual Formation 12:00 Conversations 5:00 Holy Hearts 6:00 Evening Prayer and Bible Study WIHN FAMILIES ALL WEEK	4 9:00 Women's Fitness 10:00 Prayer Group 6:30 Contemporary Svc Practice 6:30 Stephen Min Training 7:00 Stephen Min 8:00 AA	5 10:30 Spiritual Formation 6:00 GS #354 6:00 Crossways 6:30 Confirm.Music 6:30 Cub Scouts274 7:00 Confirmation 7:30 Adult Choir	6 9:00 Women's Fitness 10:00 Crossways 3:30 GS #739 7:00 Boy Scouts	7 <i>Hospice Meal</i> <i>Robert Perry – 4H</i> <i>Cooking Club</i>	8 9:00 Altar Guild to clean Sanctuary 6:00 Worship/Comm 8:00 AA 8:00 AL-ANON
9 8:30 Contemp.Service 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship/Communion 12:30 LSM Luncheon 1:30 GS Troop 139/226 <i>See Choir Schedule</i> 4:00 Puppet Ministry 6:00 MS/HS Youth	10 9:30 Spiritual Formation 12:00 Conversations 6:00 Evening Prayer and Bible Study	11 9:00 Women's Fitness 9:30 Faith Circle 10:00 Prayer Group 1:30 Peace Circle 6:30 Praise Circle 7:30 Love Circle 8:00 AA	12 10:30 Spiritual Formation 6:00 GS #354 6:00 Crossways 6:30 Confirm.Music 6:30 Cub Scouts274 7:00 Confirmation 7:30 Adult Choir	13 9:00 Women's Fitness 10:00 Crossways 3:30 GS #739 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Church Council	14 6:30-8:30 Middle School Bowling at Cardinal Lanes	15 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 6:00 Worship/Comm 8:00 AA 8:00 AL-ANON
16 8:30 Worship/Communion 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship/Communion <i>See Choir Schedule</i> 4:00 Puppet Ministry 6:00 MS/HS Youth	17 9:30 Spiritual Formation 12:00 Conversations 5:00 Holy Hearts 6:00 Evening Prayer and Bible Study	18 9:00 Women's Fitness 10:00 Prayer Group 6:30 Contemporary Svc Practice 7:00 Stephen Min 8:00 AA	19 10:30 Spiritual Formation 6:00 GS #354 6:00 Crossways 6:30 Confirm.Music 6:30 Cub Scouts274 7:00 Confirmation 7:30 Adult Choir	20 9:00 Women's Fitness 10:00 Crossways 11:30 Owl's Fellowship Luncheon 3:30 GS #739 7:00 Boy Scouts	21 <i>Hospice Meal</i> <i>Robert and Teresa Tuck</i>	22 6:00 Worship/Comm 8:00 AA 8:00 AL-ANON
23 8:30 Contemp.Service 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship/Communion 1:30 GS Troop 139/226 4:00 Boys Small Group 6:00 MS/HS Youth 30 First Sunday in Advent 8:30 Worship/Communion 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship/Communion	24 9:30 Spiritual Formation 12:00 Conversations 6:00 Evening Prayer and Bible Study	25 9:00 Women's Fitness 10:00 Prayer Group 12:00 Thanksgiving Service 7:00 Thanksgiving Service 7:30 Adult Choir 8:00 AA	26 NO ACTIVITIES	27 THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSED	28 OFFICE CLOSED 7:00 Via de Cristo	29 6:00 Worship/Comm 8:00 AA 8:00 AL-ANON

REMEMBER IN PRAYER:

MEMBERS	Jane Brunt	Mary Serkiz
Frank Fauser	Frank Howard	Diane Vickery
Bruni Kline	Muriel Hospodar	Ester Bloedorn
John Geiger	Harold Shelton, Jr	Betty Lauver
Iris Whiteside	Michael Vickery	Brenda Seitter
Brenda Tyler	Charles Ramseur	Elsie Cates
Marie Brown	Earl Lindner	Bobby Seitter
Frank Gilbert	James Ammons	Marilyn Wilson
John Geiger	Emma Brunjes	Vicki Watts
Pru Hovis	Ruthann Getsinger	Charles
Stanland		
Clement Doniere		
Danielle Bashaw and daughter Braelynn		

FRIENDS/FAMILY OF MEMBERS:

Chuck Stansbury	Carroll Strong
Edward Capalbo	Daniel Detloff
Seth Ewing	Ashley Holgerson
Carolyn Purcell	Dorothy Heberling
Bertha Rankin	Joanna Loftis
Sarah Mairs	Nancy French
George Viola	Herb Fox
Pat Dearie	Noel Costa
Norma Horn	Karen Brix
Rick Robey	Adelle Troxler
Peggy Clemmons	Gary Faircloth
Jerry Murrell	Kelsea Webster
Fran Heidorn	Cindy Fentress
Leon Wade, Sr.	Dick Bramley
Linda Parker	Jacob Chamness
Katherine Gatewood	Lois Whitmeyer
Heather Thornton	William J. Davis
Beverly Chamberlain	Mason Fauser
Tom and Joella Hynes	
Military Families	

REMEMBER OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS:

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

SYMPATHY IS EXTENDED TO *Karen and John Matthew's, Krista McCain and Holly Woollard* in the death of Karen's mother, Elsie Heinlien on October 12th in Pennsylvania.

SYMPATHY IS EXTENDED TO *Diane Vickery* in the death of her mother Elora Angel.

SYMPATHY IS EXTENDED TO *E.A. "Curly" Shands* in the death of his first great-grandson who was born October 8th and died on October 9th.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM was celebrated on August 31st for *Braelynn Grier Marie Campos*. She is the daughter of Danielle Marie Bashaw and granddaughter of Cheryl Penney.



St. Matthew's Congregation,

Your gift from the Blessing of the Animals to New Hanover Humane Society is acknowledged with grateful appreciation. These gifts enable the shelter to continue meeting the special needs of the animals.

*Thank you,
New Hanover Humane Society*

A Thank You to those who donated blood and those volunteers that helped with providing snacks and hosting the event. It was a successful blood drive with 27 pints of blood donated.

The Social Ministry Team

Dear Friends in Christ,

I can't thank you enough for your help with the Lenoir Ryhne choir concert. The LR a cappella choir was just amazing- and you made it even more so with your presence, gifts, and prayers.

Thank you to all those that came and shared in their musical gift. Special thank you's to Pastor Sam, Bill Glisson, our choir members, and all those who helped with our meal and opened their hearts and homes to these gifted young musicians. We couldn't have done this without you! And if my two young ladies were any indication, the LR kids were thrilled with every aspect of their visit.

*Many, many heart-felt thanks!
Soli Deo Gloria!
Bonnie*

THANK YOU AND THANK YOU to all that helped plan, prepare and man an activity for the Fall Festival on October 25th. Thanks to those that provided baked goods and items for the country store. Many thanks to those that helped in the kitchen cooking, serving, cutting onions and cleaning up all the mess. And of course thanks to the many families that came and participated in the festival/October Fest to make it a success. The men's group and youth appreciate your support of this fundraiser.

Those Serving in November 2008

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

- 2** 8:30 Scott Holzberger, Mike/Carol Roberts, Kay Rose
- 11:00 Jerry/Zan Bramley, Robert Rabozzi, Ellen James
- 9** 8:30 Frank/Marti Felter, Frank/Renate Gray
- 11:00 Kelly Stansbury, Sherri Hiler, Ken Johns, Barbara Moore
- 16** 8:30 Terri Dearie, Linda Renzaglia, Nancy Wells, Butch Ruefle
- 11:00 Nancy Miller, Stan Brunt, Melinda Knoerzer, Kristi Wade
- 23** 8:30 Lisa Hornick, Nancy Magruder, Sandy O'Donnell, Florence Schorschinsky
- 11:00 Shirley Melito, Linda Riesz, Susan Shearin, Kris Hall

25 (Thanksgiving Service)

- Noon** Florence Schorschinsky, **Needed**
- 7 pm** Kris Hall, Karin Cook, Saville Riesz, Richard Chinn
- 30** 8:30 Larry/Tammi Gates, Dick/Sophie Williams
- 11:00 Shirley Bendahmane, Melissa Hollamon, Bill Davis, Helen Stansbury

USHERS

Saturday Service: Pete Koder

Sunday Service:

- 2** 8:30 David/David II Robey
- 11:00 John and Tyler Antonelli, Trevor Hornick
- 9** 8:30 Phil Anderson, Larry Gates
- 11:00 Jeff Hollamon, Walter Brehm, Axel Erkes
- 16** 8:30 John/Ash Stemke
- 11:00 Happy and Jake Wade, Stan Brunt
- 23** 8:30 John/Kathy Bink
- 11:00 John Pollard, Tony Irenze, Peter Gimbal
- 30** 8:30 Robert/David Trapp
- 11:00 Fred Getsinger, Jamie Price, Arthur Moore

GREETERS

- 6:00 Richard and Kay Thompson
- 8:30 Bill/Bethel Paris and The Mallo Family
- 11:00 Greg/Donna Adams; Mary Horne; Cherry Horn

LECTORS *Saturday Services:* (1)Jim Harshbarger; (8)Karen Haag; (15)Kathy Bink; (22)Brigitte Walters; (29)Michael Vickery

Sunday Services

- | | | |
|-----------|------------------|-----------------|
| | 8:30 | 11:00 |
| 2 | Phil Anderson | Jodi Davis |
| 9 | Vivian Alexander | Jerry Bramley |
| 16 | Judy Benson | Helen Stansbury |
| 23 | Becky Howard | Shirley Melito |

25 Thanksgiving Service

- Noon** Florence Schorschinsky
- 7 pm** Helen Stansbury
- 30** Butch Ruefle Lynette Farmer

ACOLYTES

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| | 8:30 | 11:00 |
| 2 | Morgan/Ryan Piper | Peyton Hughes, Jake Wade
Bryan Snyder, Dale Stansbury |
| 9 | Meredith Deily
Megan Kline | Ian/Megan Brambell |
| 16 | Megan Stemke
Patrick Magruder | J. Hollamon, Robert Perry |
| 23 | Megan Lambert
Shauna Ruefle | Lizzie Rhoades, Bryan Snyder,
Bryan/Matt van der Wal |
| 25 (Thanksgiving Service 7 pm) | (Needed) | |
| 30 | Needed | Needed |

ALTAR FLOWERS

- 2** Magruder; Aleksandravicius **9** Seip; Heck
- 16** Walter; Brown **23** Koppenhazer; M.Williams
- 30** Getsinger; Rose

NURSERY

- | | | |
|-----------|---------------------|---------------|
| | 8:30 | 11:00 |
| 2 | Keri Rutland | Gina Williams |
| 9 | Lori Townsend | Gina Williams |
| 16 | Lisa/Lauren Hornick | Gina Williams |
| 23 | Alison Oring | Gina Williams |
| 30 | Bruni Kline | Gina Williams |

ALTAR GUILD *Saturday: Laura Zumwalt*

- 2** Arlene Robie, Jan Christine, Erika Brambell
- 9** Kathie Tucker, Kathren Miller, Jill Cummings
- 16** Ivonne Tullous, Patti/Rachel Erkes
- 23** Shirley Morrow, Lea Shipman, Carol Chinn
- 30** Linda Renzaglia, Gina/Anna Williams, Natalie Watkins, Danielle Bashaw

BUILDING Sat: Pete Koder

SUNDAY: OPEN: Frank Felter

CLOSE: Jerry Bramley



September 28 – October 26

MEMORY OF HARRIET KUSKE

Building Renovations Jack Kuske

MEMORY OF HAROLD MCSWAIN

Fifth Sunday Needham and Sylvia Hall

MEMORY OF EMILY WADE

Luther Choir Vivian Alexander

MEMORY OF SARAH PRICE

Luther Choir Vivian Alexander

MEMORY OF KAREN MATTHEWS'S MOM

Endowment Mary Jane Carroll

Building Renovations Florence Schorschinsky

Youth Fund Robert and Carolyn Hooker

Stephen Ministry Pat Mahl

MEMORY OF KRIS HALLS FATHER AND

CINDY ANTONELLI'S FATHER

Stephen Ministry Pat Mahl

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church
A Stephen Ministry Congregation

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

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Website: stmatthewsch.org

NOVEMBER 2008

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RESTING FAITH

(A message for these trying times.)

James 1:3 *The testing of your faith
produces patience.*

Dwight L. Moody was fond of pointing out that there are three kinds of faith in Jesus Christ: *struggling faith*, which is like a man floundering and fearful in deep water; *clinging faith*, which is like a man hanging to the side of a boat; and *resting faith*, which finds a man safe inside the boat – strong and secure enough to reach out his hand to help someone else. *Where do you find yourself right now in this economic crisis? Or in a time of uncertainty?*

Notice each man had faith. Each knew the boat was his only hope. But only one had a *resting* faith. Only one had discovered he could actually be *in* the boat – where all he had to do was rest.

This is the kind of faith God wants us to have – a faith that trusts Him totally. But sometimes we discover its reality only after we have endured a struggling or clinging faith. Sometimes we only realize we can get *in* the boat when the

storm rages and we cry out to God with new faith. Then our Savior graciously extends His hand and says, “Come to me...and I will give you rest” (Matt.11:28).

So when hardship and worry storm your soul know with a resting faith you can be in Christ and be *in* the boat.

December Dates

- Dec. 6th K-5th grades 10am -12 activity in gym
- Dec. 6th caroling 3-6pm (all ages welcome)
- Dec. 12th Movie Night... Christmas movies, double feature
- Dec. 13th Play dress rehearsal 10am
- Dec. 13th Christmas play at 4:00 pm followed by dessert reception
- Dec. 14th L.S.M. luncheon 12:40 McCombs hall
- Dec. 14th Ladies (6th grade- adult) Christmas Tea 3:00 pm in McSwain
- Dec. 18th OWL's luncheon
- Dec. 21st Youth group Christmas Party 6:00 pm
- Dec. 28th No youth groups