

The Encounter



Monthly Newsletter of
St. Matthew's Lutheran Church
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"The Church with a
WELCOME"
1892-2004

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

Volume 7

FEBRUARY 2007

Number 2



Sweetheart Game Show and Dinner! Sunday, Feb. 11th at 12:30pm in the gym

You don't want to miss the fun as we ask questions to four willing couples of their courtship and married life.

How much do they remember and do they remember it the same? Come find out!

A **spaghetti dinner** will be served prior to the game show.

Please **sign up** for this event in the **commons area** or call me at 791-4582, ext. 212. We want to be sure we have plenty of food.



NEW!

Middle school youth group time.

Starting on Feb. 4th we will go back to meeting from 4-5pm every Sunday. Hopefully going back to this time and making it a full hour will be beneficial to everyone.

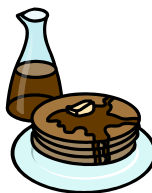


High School youth Super Bowl Party!

Sunday, Feb. 4th at the Riesz's home at 4004 Crofton Place (Echo Farms) at 6:30pm, we ask that you bring your preferred beverage and a snack (think good football munchies food); we will provide paper products and sloppy joe's.

Feb. 11 Teacher Appreciation Breakfast @ 9:45 in McSwain

Anyone willing to help with the Teacher Appreciation Breakfast- provide food, decorate, and/or substitute in classrooms on Feb. 11th, please contact Tammi Gates @ 796-9686.



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper! Fundraiser for Price family Join us

Tuesday, Feb. 20th
5:00 pm until 8:00 pm

in the gym. Please invite your family, friends and neighbors to join us for pancakes, sausage and fruit; while we also help one of our families. A love offering will be taken.

Want to help? Contact Rich Walter or Nancy Magruder.



O W L 's GROUP Older, Wiser Lutherans (formerly Saints Alive)

In February we will meet on the 22nd for fellowship and to enjoy another great meal catered by Middle of the Island Restaurant. The cost will be approx. \$7.00. Plates and utensils provided. The menu will be announced in the bulletin and on the bulletin board. **RESERVATIONS REQUIRED** - call Nancy Magruder at 791-4582, Ext 212 and leave a message.

***No youth groups after the game show on
Feb. 11th ***



HIGH SCHOOL LOCK-IN! Friday, Feb. 23rd from 8pm-9am

You are allowed to bring friends. Just be sure they get the permission slips signed. Be sure to bring your sleeping bag, toiletries, Bible, and a snack and drink to share. Also, bring money to go bowling.

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

The month of February is a time of transition in the church's liturgical year. The first three Sundays of the month are part of the Epiphany season with its discipleship emphasis. We bring that season to a close with the celebration of the Transfiguration of our Lord, remembering His appearance in glory on the mountain top. That is the last day for "alleluias" in worship until Easter Sunday. New members join that weekend.

On Shrove Tuesday, February 20, we continue the old tradition of eating up lots of pancakes and sausage before Lent begins the next day. This year's Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper is from 5-8 p.m. in the McSwain Center. Bring your friends and dear ones and make a nice contribution to the Family Assistance Fund to benefit, among others, Sarah Price and her family. If you want to help, please contact Rich Walter.

On Ash Wednesday, February 21, we gather at noon or 7 p.m. to remember that we have offended against God and neighbor. We are marked with ashes in the sign of a cross and hear the sobering words: "Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return."

During the Sundays in Lent that begin on February 25, the altar is covered with purple, a symbol of solemnity and of Jesus' royalty. We will introduce a number of new musical tunes for various parts of the liturgy. An annual license fee allows us to copy from the new Evangelical Lutheran Worship book as well as from all the other worship resources copyrighted by Augsburg Fortress and their predecessors.

Each Wednesday in Lent beginning February 28, we will have spoken Holy Communion at noon, using the liturgy from the old Service Book and Hymnal. Each Wednesday at 7 p.m., we will sing Evening Prayer from the Lutheran Book of Worship. The 40-day Lenten season continues through the entirety of the month of March. Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday, April 1.

The penitential season of Lent is always a good time to lay aside bad habits and to begin new good habits in their place. The easiest Lenten discipline of all is to increase one's participation in worship and study. Think how very different St. Matthew's would be if each one of us vowed to be present in worship and study each week!

Lent is about recognizing the God substitutes, or, more bluntly, the idols, that hold great power over our daily lives. None of those people or things can save us. Our God says again: "Return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love" (Joel 2:13). The Lord Jesus says: "Lay not up for yourselves treasures on earth where rust and moth consume and thieves break in and steal. But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven...for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Matthew 6:19-21).

Let's vow to keep a holy Lent, wholly devoted to the Lord, our gracious God!

I love you,

Pr. Sam Zumwalt

Let's Communicate

My message this month is very simple: let's talk.

Your 2007 Church Council has at the very top of its list a commitment to better and more frequent communication. As we implement our vision and continue to transform from a membership institution to a discipleship center we will have some growing pains. It will be important that we communicate every step of the way.

Ways we can communicate:

- 1) Call us. Please know that we are approachable and want to hear from you. We pledge not to get defensive. We'll listen. If asked, we'll gladly share history and rationale for a decision. Our names are in the bulletin.
- 2) E-mail us. If this is easier for you or you're more comfortable with this method of contact, then send us a note. All of us have e-mail.
- 3) Come to a council meeting. We meet every second Thursday. We always start with worship then get into the business of the church. Come praise Christ and commune with us; share your input. Many of you have done this. We welcome you all.
- 4) We'll be having open forums – probably about four this year. Similar to the January forums on the budget, we'll gather for open Q&A sessions, and engage in 2-way dialogue. Come and share.
- 5) Look for a Congregational Survey early in the year. Please take the time to fill it out.
- 6) Read the bulletin, the encounter, church mailings. Lots of pertinent information (announcements, key dates, council meeting minutes, plans, etc., etc., etc.) is shared through these written vehicles from council, the ministry teams, fellowship groups, members, and each other. Anyone can put an announcement in the bulletin or encounter. It's easy – the forms are outside the office or just e-mail the church.
- 7) Any other communication suggestions or ideas? Just me know.

*Your brother in Christ,
John Antonelli, Council President*

January Council Summary

- This business and visioning meeting of the Congregational Council was held on January 13, 2007 at the conclusion of the annual council retreat. A quorum necessary to conduct business was present.
- Council members elected for two year terms beginning January 1, 2007 are Brigitte Walters, Axel Erkes, Scott Holzberger and Joe Rumsey with Christine Deily elected to serve as youth representative.
- The treasurer reported that Income for the month of December totaled \$66,047. Expenditures for the same period totaled \$59,722 reflecting a **positive** result of **\$6,325**. December-to-date figures reflected a **negative** result of **\$1,590**.
- Council prayerfully engaged in study and consideration of our visioning plan. Council will be reaching out to our fellow disciples requesting information and opinions on how we may be able to improve our programs.
- Elmer Wild was present on behalf of the finance team. He presented the budget for the upcoming year. After review and discussion, this budget was unanimously approved for presentation to the congregation at the continuation of the annual meeting on January 28th after the conclusion of the 11:00am service.
- Members of the audit team were approved for 2007. They are Jerry Bramley, Happy Wade and Peter Gimbal.
- Council will be continuing its efforts to contact inactive members.
- Thanks were conveyed to our outgoing council members, Jim Mees, Renate Gray, Jim Markworth and Inga Shelton remembering their contributions of dedication and wisdom to the endeavors of our council.
- The meeting adjourned with the praying of the Lord's Prayer at 1:03 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday evening, February 8, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Gimbal, Recorder

**Christian Education
Upcoming Events**

- On Feb. 5th a *NEW* Women's Bible Study begins "Knowing God: Making God the Main Thing in My Life" The first class will be at the home of Jodi Davis. If you are interested in attending this 7 week class contact Jodi Davis at 790-9064 or Tammi Gates at 796-9686.
- Feb. 11 Teacher Appreciation Breakfast 9:45 am in McSwain
- 1st Communion Class - Time to be announced.
- 1st Communion @ Maundy Thursday Service April 5th.
- Confirmation Banquet - May 23rd.
- Confirmation Sunday - May 27th.
- Vacation Bible School- June 10-15.

**Join a Sunday School Class
in 2007**

We have Sunday School classes for ages 2 through adult.

Adult classes offered:

- 1) **NEW:** "What are we saying?: A history of the Lutheran Book of Worship"- led by Bill Davis
- 2) "Divine Drama Bible Study" - shorter version of Crossways, led by Becky Howard
- 3) "Christian Parenting"- lively discussion led by Kathren Miller
- 4) "Family and Faith"- Old Testament Bible Stories.

Crossways Bible Study continues to be offered on Wednesday @ 6:00 P.M. and Thursday @ 10:00 A.M.

All classes are designed for drop-ins, so please feel free to audit any of the classes. If you wish to purchase material for Crossways or Divine Drama, please contact Tammi Gates @ 796-9686.

**Outreach Appeal
UNC-CH Lutheran Campus
Ministry for Katie Trapp**

During Spring Break, some people take ski trips; many others take trips with their friends to the beach.

This year however, I am joining Lutheran Campus Ministry at UNC-Chapel Hill, and taking an alternative trip: to Germany. Rather than sit in the sun, we will spend a few days remodeling a church in Eisleben into a center for youth in the area. The remainder of the trip will be spent touring Germany, hitting highlights such as Wittenburg and Lutherhaus and Melanchthonhaus, as well as worshiping (in a bi-lingual service, fortunately) with two congregations in Eisleben.

We have been working as a group to raise money for the trip, through working concessions and ticket stands at football and basketball games, but we have to raise over \$700/student in order to fund our trip. UNC-CH Lutheran Campus Ministry has asked us to seek the support of our home congregations, and any money that is donated will help us greatly. You can support this trip through an offering to the UNC Lutheran Campus Ministry Mission Fund. Please make checks out to St. Matthews Lutheran Church and on the memo section please write Katie Trapp- UNC-CH LCM. All Thrivent members gifts will be matched 50%. If you are a Thrivent member, please get a form off the table in the commons area sign, and write your Thrivent number and attach to your check.

Thank you for your support, or should I say danke!

Katie Trapp is a freshman at UNC-CH, and the daughter of Bob and Cheryl Trapp, who have been members since 1985. Lets help her with this outreach mission trip to Germany this spring.

**Relay for Life
April 20-21, 2007**

St. Matthew's Family, I wanted to let you know that I am again the team captain for Johnson Elementary's Relay For Life Team. We are raising money for the American Cancer Society to benefit local patients, families, and cancer research. I know how much cancer has affected our

church this past year and wanted to give everyone an opportunity to help make a difference. The New Hanover County Relay is one of the largest in the state. Last year we raised over \$482,000. Many of you also know that at last year's event Emily Wade and Sarah Price cut the ribbon to being the Relay. There are many ways that you can help. If you would like to make a donation you can go the website at newhanoverrelay.org. Click on online registration/donations, then click on donate and type in my name (Tracy Plumley). Also on this website are many other ways to volunteer and get involved. Another way to contribute is to buy luminaries in honor or memory of someone. The forms are available in the Commons area. Each luminary is \$10 and will be set up around the track to be lit during the luminary ceremony. It is a truly moving experience!

Please remember "There is no finish line...until we find a cure." God bless you all!!

*Tracy Plumley, 793-1168,
carson96@bellsouth.net*

Dear Friends,

We have answered the call to coordinate the WIHN families when they are cared for by Saint Matthews. We pray that we will match the success of the past coordinators.



Mark your calendars, the families will be back in McSwain Center on March 18th.

We must also thank Michele Dew for her years of commitment as coordinator. Here tireless efforts are an inspiration. We also know the dedication and time provided by Inga Shelton and Elaine Brown assisted the families greatly.

If you can help with preparing for the families, sharing meals, staying over, hosting and providing fellowship, or the final clean up, let us know. We've been told that there are parish members waiting to be asked to help. We don't know who you are, only God does.

Finally, thanks to everyone who has heard the call and been involved in the past.

**Jan Christine and Bill Fox
793-4859**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY		
SUNDAY CHOIR SCHEDULE 4:00 Little Luther Choir 4:00 Luther Choir 4:00 Instrumental Ensemble 4:45 Tone Chime Choir 5:00 Handbell Choir						1 9:00 Women's Fitness 10:00 CROSSWAYS 3:30 Daisy #739 7:00 Boy Scouts	2 8:00 NA	3 6:00 Worship/Comm 8:00 AA 8:00 AL-ANON
4 8:30 Worship/Communion 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship/Communion <i>*See Choir Schedule</i> 4:00 MS Youth Group 6:30 HS Youth Super Bowl Party @ the Riesz Home	5 9:30 Spiritual Form. 7:00 Women's Bible Study (in member homes) 8:00 NA	6 9:00 Women's Fitness 10:00 Prayer Group 6:30 Contemporary Service Practice 7:00 Stephen Ministry 7:30 Love Circle 8:00 AA	7 8:00 Devotional Bkfst. 9:30 Spiritual Form. 4:00 Daisy #981 4:15 Cadette #139 4:15 Junior #226 5:30 Cadette #354 6:00 CROSSWAYS 6:30 Cub Scouts #274 7:30 CONFIRMATION 7:30 Adult Choir.	8 9:00 Women's Fitness 10:00 CROSSWAYS 3:30 Daisy #739 7:00 Church Council 7:00 Boy Scouts	9 8:00 NA	10 6:00 Worship/Comm 8:00 AA 8:00 AL-ANON		
11 8:30 Contemporary Worship 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship/Communion 12:30 SWEETHEART GAME SHOW & LUNCHEON <i>*See Choir Schedule</i> NO YOUTH GROUPS	12 9:30 Spiritual Form. 7:00 Women's Bible Study (in member homes) 8:00 NA	13 9:00 Women's Fitness 9:30 Faith Circle 10:00 Prayer Group 1:30 Peace Circle 6:00 Praise Circle @ Rucker Johns 8:00 AA	14 8:00 Devotional Bkfst. 9:30 Spiritual Form. 4:15 Cadette #139 4:15 Junior #226 5:30 Cadette #354 6:00 CROSSWAYS 6:30 Cub Scouts #274 7:30 CONFIRMATION 7:30 Adult Choir.	15 9:00 Women's Fitness 10:00 CROSSWAYS 3:30 Daisy #739 7:00 Boy Scouts Newsletter Deadline	16 8:00 NA	17 9 AM – 12 Noon New Disciples Orientation 6:00 Worship/Comm 8:00 AA 8:00 AL-ANON SKI TRIP BEGINS		
18 8:30 Worship/Communion <i>New Members Received</i> 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship/Communion <i>New Members Received</i> <i>*See Choir Schedule</i> 4:00 MS Youth Group 5:00 Open Gym 6:00 HS Youth Group	19 9:30 Spiritual Form. 7:00 Christian Ed. Team Mtg. 7:00 Women's Bible Study (in member homes) 8:00 NA	20 SHROVE TUESDAY Pancake Supper 5-8 pm 9:00 Women's Fitness 10:00 Prayer Group 6:30 Contemporary Service Practice 7:00 Ministry Teams 8:00 AA	21 ASH WEDNESDAY 12:00 & 7:00 Service 8:00 Devotional Bkfst. 9:30 Spiritual Form. 4:00 Daisy #981 4:15 Cadette #139 4:15 Junior #226 5:30 Cadette #354 6:00 CROSSWAYS 6:30 Cub Scouts #274 7:30 CONFIRMATION 7:30 Adult Choir.	22 9:00 Women's Fitness 10:00 CROSSWAYS 11:00 OWL's GROUP (Lunch catered by MOI) 3:30 Daisy #739 7:00 Boy Scouts	23 7:00 Via de Cristo 8:00 NA 8:00 HS Lock-In	24 4:30 Altar Guild Mtg 6:00 Worship/Comm 8:00 AA 8:00 AL-ANON 9:00 am		
25 First Sunday in Lent 8:30 Contemporary Worship 9:45 Teachers Breakfast 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship/Communion 4:00 MS Youth Group 5:00 Open Gym 6:00 HS Youth Group	26 9:30 Spiritual Form. 7:00 Women's Bible Study (in member homes) 8:00 NA	27 9:00 Women's Fitness 10:00 Prayer Group 7:00 Ministry Teams 8:00 AA	28 Lent Services 12 & 7 8:00 Devotional Bkfst. 9:30 Spiritual Form. 4:15 Cadette #139 4:15 Junior #226 5:30 Cadette #354 6:00 CROSSWAYS 6:30 Cub Scouts #274 7:30 CONFIRMATION 7:30 Adult Choir.	Send  and your loved ones <i>Valentine Cards for Our Shut-ins</i>				

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

** Denotes Youth Birthdays

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



FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

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

Celebrating 
An Anniversary This Month



Summer Camp Registration begins this month

Our assigned week for confirmation camp is **June 17th-23rd**; we provide the transportation to and from camp for this week. If you choose another week you will have to provide your child's transportation. A list of what is available, and the signups, for Lutheridge, Lutherock, and Camp Agape (in Fuquay Varina) are on the youth board. I will need a registration form plus a \$100 non-refundable deposit turned in by **April 8th**.

Mark your calendar for this deadline date.

St. Matthew's supplements the camp fee by \$100 per camper for one week at camp. Please do not submit forms to Lutheridge or Lutherock without letting me know, it is easier for the paper work to be sent altogether so we can keep track of who is attending.

Confirmation camp is open to 7th graders and any 8th graders who have not attended before and wish to do so. We meet with several other churches as a cluster at the Wilderness area. I hope to see a lot of new faces this year at camp! *Nancy Magruder*

The Busch Garden's adventure for a day...

is still open. The date I have set aside is **Saturday, April 14th**. If you wish to join us I will need a **\$40 non-refundable** deposit by **March 4th**; the rest is due **by March 31st**.

This is open to **all ages and to non-members** as well. However, please do not sign up any youth under the age of 14 to attend without you also attending.

Any questions please call me at 791-4582 ext. 212... *Nancy Magruder*

Emily Wade Memorial Family Benefit Fund Appeal

The Family Benefit Fund was established in late 2005. Emily Wade was diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor. There was an incredible outpouring of support from our church, other congregations, and the community. Everyone realized that the Wade family was going to undergo great financial tribulation. A team was appointed by the church council to administer to the financial needs of the Wades, or any parishioner in crisis. Subsequently, Sarah Price was diagnosed with brain cancer, and we had another family in dire financial need. Both Kristi and Cynthia were working mothers and a vital financial force in their families. In a moment

of crisis neither could continue to work. Because of your love for these families, your empathy for their pain, and your financial response, the team has been able to meet every financial need of families in distress. All needs have been verified by the team, and all requests have been paid. Sarah is now under hospice care, and the financial needs of the Price family are significant. The fund is feeling some financial stress. If we as a congregation wish to continue to shoulder the financial stress of this illness, to allow the family to focus on Sarah, and the team to administer to the Price family and others in need, we need your financial support. Please consider this plea when you next tithe.

*On behalf of the Emily Wade Memorial Family Benefit Team
Jerry Bramley*

NEW OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY

The Evangelism Committee will begin an outreach program beginning in February to provide meals two nights a month for the Hospice Care Center on Physician's Drive here in Wilmington. Many of us have had our own personal experiences with the Lower Cape Fear Hospice and understand that Hospice not only cares for the patients, but also their families. Family members of Hospice patients often think little of eating, much less preparing a meal. The volunteer meals brought to the Care Center help to fill the tummies of those family members and nourish their souls.

For the present, we have been assigned the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month. Meals should arrive at the Care Center by 5:00 p.m. on each designated day. We encourage both individuals and groups of individuals (like WELCA Circles, Youth Groups, Sunday School Classes) to sign up to help. Meals or donations might include something as simple as a cold cut tray with rolls, a casserole, soups, or meats and vegetables. Also, Hospice is always in need of disposable items like plates, cups, napkins and utensils. Desserts are also a welcome treat!

Starting the beginning of February, you will find a sign-up board in the Narthex. We hope that our St. Matthew's family will make time in their schedules to contribute to the needs of Hospice. If you have any questions or would like to help, **please contact Kristi Wade (392-9134), coordinator.**

March Dates for Your Calendar

Movie night...March 9th at 6:30pm

Middle school lock-in... March 16th

Money due for Busch Gardens.... March 4th and March 31st

EMPLOYMENT – Water of Life Lutheran Church is seeking an Administrative Assistant for part-time hours. The hours would be Monday through Thursday, 9:00 am until 1:00 pm. You may call 798-8996 if interested.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Carol Comeskey	Mary Alice Franks	Laura Zumwalt
Fran Perry	Joseph Flythe	Robin Hueskes
Harriet Zumwalt	Lillian Witter	Ruth Luca
Marla Fuller	Jim Mees	Landen Ryan
The Wade Family	Dick Bramley	John Geiger
Bettie Bachemin	The Deily Family	Sara Wakild
Brenda Tyler	Nell McArver	Tom Brondy
Esther Wilson	Dot Hankins	Mary Pierson
Kelsea Webster	Don Benson	Paul Murphy
Leon Wade, Sr.	Anne Bunting	Wally Schultz
Berta Rankin	Brady Parks	Marilyn Wilson
Martha Bridges	Clement Doniere	Michelle King
James Ammons	Harold Shelton, Jr.	Gail Wadsworth
Dorothy Heberling	James Clemmons	Lauren Schaefer
Tim and Sarah Walter		Military Families
Sarah Price and family	Our homebound members	

SYMPATHY is extended to *Rebecca Seip* in the death of her father, Warren Schwartz who died January 2, 2007.

SYMPATHY is extended to *Nancy Fauser* in the death of her sister-in-law, Mary Ellsworth, in Pennsylvania.

AS THE NEW YEAR BEGINS, please remember our young men who are serving our country stateside and overseas.
God bless them all and keep them safe.

LT CLAY HUFFMAN - Serves with the 10th Mountain Div. in Afghanistan. If you hear that Bin Laden has been captured, Clay's unit will most likely have been involved. Clay's parents are Judy and Wayne Huffman

DR. EDWARD JONES - Serves as a Doctor at Womack Army Hospital at Ft. Bragg. Ed is the son-in-law of Judy and Wayne Huffman.

MICHAEL MILLER - Serving in the Air Force at Lackland AFB in San Antonio Texas. Michael recently returned from Iraq. Michael has done several tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. Michael's parents are Kathren and David Miller.

SGT FIRST CLASS ROB (BOBBY) COTTLE

Serving with the 1st Armored Division in Iraq. After serving as a Platoon Sgt and Tank Commander, Bobby was moved up to his Battalion headquarters to serve as the Battalion Master Gunner and Liaison for his unit. Bobby's parents are Becky and Frank Howard.

SGT. ALEX CHRISTINE - Serves with the Oklahoma National Guard in Afghanistan. Alex recently re-enlisted and his proud parents are Jan Christine and Bill Fox.

Lt. Col. CHIPPER ALEXANDER - Serves in the Air Force. Chipper is a pilot and is based in Louisiana. Chipper and his wife just made his Mom – Vivian Alexander a Grandmother again for the 5th time.

CONGRATULATIONS

In December 2006, J. Hollamon and Jake Wade completed their requirements for their Cub Scout God and Family Religious Knot. Their dads, Jeff Hollamon and Happy Wade, served as their mentors. Also, both boys have completed their basic requirements for their Webelo Rank and will be recognized at their Blue and Gold Banquet this month. The boys are members of the Frontiersman Patrol in Pack 226 at Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church.

Thank You!

Dear "Carriers of the Light,"

A huge thank you to Nancy Magruder, Amy Tucker-Morgan, Teresa Hall, Lynn and Ash Stemke, Sandra Humphrey, Ruthe Markworth, Happy Wade, and the two Bills, Glisson and Davis. Your work in staging the Children's Christmas Program is appreciated. The children, young people and their parents are my heroes, too. You have no idea how much joy you brought to us on Christmas Eve.

Yours in Christ,
Carol Comeskey

Dear St. Matthews Lutheran Church,

Thank you so much for your recent and generous contribution of \$1,000 to Friends of Tar Heel Angels in memory of Emily Wade. The tax deductible contribution is appreciated more than you know.

Many thanks,
Board, Friends of Tar Heel Angels

Thank you for your generosity! We want to express our appreciation to all those families that have made donations of toys to our church nursery. Thank you for remembering our little ones!

Ellen Bethune and Bruni Kline

"Jesus said to him, 'Go and do likewise.'" (Luke 10:37)

Special thanks from the Evangelism Committee to all who helped make Christmas ornaments for our Christmas Eve worshippers this year. Thanks to Tammi Gates and Sandra Humphrey for involving our Sunday School children and parents, and to Barbara Moore for setting up and decorating the ornament tables. The Commons Area never looked more beautiful and welcoming!

I want to share an excerpt of a devotional from "The Word In Season", Oct-Dec 2006: "Being a Christian is not only about thinking, feeling and believing, it is also about doing. There are times when our best response is to go ahead and do something merciful instead of trying to justify our behavior or feel our way into action. Jesus did not say, "Go and think about it", or "Go and contemplate your inner motivation." Jesus said, "Go and DO!" And that is exactly what all our volunteers did! Thank you again and God Bless you all!

In the same spirit, please join us in supporting Kristi Wade in the new Outreach Program for Lower Cape Fear Hospice. It's a terrific idea – many thanks to Kristi for developing the program! You will find details about it in this issue of The Encounter.

Blessings,
Debbie Gimbal, Evangelism Team

Thank you Sandra Humphrey for organizing the candy cane ornament craft for Sunday School. Visitors and St. Matthews members enjoyed receiving the candy canes and learning the Christian meaning. Thanks again for a job well done!

Christian Education Ministry Team

Thank you St. Matthews Church family for your generous love gift. We are blessed to serve God and you here at St. Matthew's. Your support all year is appreciated as well.

In His Love, *Your Staff*

Those Serving in February 2007

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

- 4** 8:30 Florence Schorschinsky, Dick/Sophie Williams, Kay Rose
- 11:00 Stan Brunt, Amy Tucker-Morgan, Robert Rabozzi, Nancy Miller
- 11** 8:30 Frank/Marti Felter, Scott Holzberger, Thelma Walter
- 11:00 Steve Morgan, Karin Cook, Kris Hall, Pam Gudrian
- 18** 8:30 Mike/Carol Roberts, Allan/Josey Warrington
- 11:00 Jerry/Zan Bramley, Melissa Hollamon
- 21 Ash Wed. Noon** Carol Comeskey
- 7 pm TBA**
- 25** 8:30 Nancy Brennan, Tammi Gates, Wayne/Judy Huffman
- 11:00 Sherry Bendahmane, Melinda Knoerzer, Kristi Wade, Shirley Melito

USHERS

- 4** 8:30 TBA
- 11:00 Jerry/Zan Bramley, Dale Blade
- 11** 8:30 TBA
- 11:00 Fred Doll, Arthur Moore, TBA
- 18** 8:30 TBA
- 11:00 John Antonelli, Trevor Hornick, TBA
- 25** 8:30 TBA
- 11:00 Jeff Hollamon, Jeff Cummings, Walter Brehm

GREETERS

- 6:00 Laura Gray
- 8:30 John/Karen Matthews; Don/Ann Strickland; Linda Renzaglia
- 11:00 Mary Phillips-Saieed; Pam Gudrian; Mark/Suzanne Whitmarsh

LECTORS *Saturday Services:* (3)Brigitte Walters; (10)Mary Lou Byrne; (17)Phil Bloedorn; (24)James Harshbarger

Sunday Services

- | | | |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| | 8:30 | 11:00 |
| 4 | Shirley Melito | Helen Stansbury |
| 11 | Vivian Alexander | Sherril Hiler |
| 18 | Mike Roberts | Ellen James |
| 21 Ash Wed. | Noon Carol Comeskey | |
| | 7 pm Florence Schorschinsky | |
| 25 | Lynn Stemke | Susan Wakild |

ALTAR FLOWERS

- 4** Manley, Gilbert
- 11** Allison, Melito
- 18** Mees, Marggraff
- 25** Douglas, Bink

NURSERY

- | | | |
|-----------|--------------------|----------------|
| | 8:30 | 11:00 |
| 4 | Tracy Gourville | Gina Williams |
| 11 | Lori Haskins | TBA |
| 18 | Melissa Holzberger | Lori Fischl |
| 25 | Charles Riesz | Lynette Farmer |

ACOLYTES (Serve all month)

- | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| | 8:30 | 11:00 |
| | Ian Brambell | Natalie Watkins |
| | Dale Stansbury | Danniella Meyer |
| ALTAR GUILD | <i>Saturday: Carrie McDonough</i> | |

- 4** Margaret Ballantine, Nancy Fauser, Shirley Morrow
- 11** Kathren Miller, Judi Funke, Robin Hueskes
- 18** Kathie Tucker, Amy Tucker-Morgan, Arlene Robie
- 25** Thelma Walter, Linda Renzaglia, Jane Fulton

BUILDING *Sat: Pete Koder*

SUNDAY: OPEN: John Stemke **CLOSE:** Jeff Cummings

December 24th – January 14



MEMORY OF KATHRYN BERLING
Fifth Sunday

Rebecca Mahler

MEMORY OF LIB TURNER
Fifth Sunday

Rebecca Mahler

MEMORY OF EMILY WADE
Family Asst. Fund

Rebecca Mahler
Bill and Bethel Paris
J.B. and Jennifer Kitchens

MEMORY OF JOHN LAUER
Fifth Sunday

Phil and Barbara Christmas
Endowment

Jerry and Zan Bramley
Harold and Minnie Larson
Vera Wilson
Bill and Bethel Paris
Frank Hoerner Family
Sandy O'Donnell
Jacque and Margaret Allen

MEMORY OF BARBARA DEILY
Fifth Sunday

Undesignated
Debt reduction

Family Assistance Fund

Jerry and Zan Bramley
Vera Wilson
Gary Deily
J.B. and Jennifer Kitchens
Saville and Linda Riesz
James and Barbara Clemmons
Gary Deily

MEMORY OF ELEANOR LANIER
Fifth Sunday

Vera Wilson

MEMORY OF LOUISE BOWERS
Fifth Sunday

Family Assistance Fund

Vera Wilson
Bob and Betty Killian

MEMORY OF PHYLLIS NOVAK
Fifth Sunday

Vera Wilson

CONTINUED ON BACK COVER

<p>TREASURER'S REPORT December 2006</p> <p>Income for the month of December totaled \$66,047. Expenditures for the same period totaled \$59,722 reflecting a positive result of \$6,325. December-to-date figures reflected a negative result of \$1,590.</p>

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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MEMORIALS AND HONORIAMS CONTINUED

MEMORY OF DOROTHY MURPHY

Fifth Sunday Vera Wilson

**MEMORY OF FLORENCE SCHORSCHINSKY'S
BROTHER AND GRANDSON**

Fifth Sunday Vera Wilson

MEMORY OF ETHEL SPINA

Fifth Sunday Vera Wilson

MEMORY OF MERLE POYTHRESS

Fifth Sunday Vera Wilson

MEMORY OF VERA CONWAY

Fifth Sunday Vera Wilson

HONOR OF PASTOR SAM FOR ENRICHING OUR

HOLIDAY SEASON

Pastor's discretionary Jim and Mabel Harshbarger

HONOR OF CHOIR AND MUSICIANS

Choir fund Jim and Mabel Harshbarger

HONOR OF TIM AND SARA WALTER

Missionary Fund Joe and Diane Rumsey

HONOR OF SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

Clement and Carol Doniere

**HONOR OF SOPHIE WILLIAMS, SUNDAY SCHOOL
TEACHER**

Family Asst. Fund Addison Kitchens

**HONOR OF LINDA RIESZ, SUNDAY SCHOOL
TEACHER**

Family Asst. Fund Addison Kitchens

**HONOR OF LYNETTE FARMER, SUNDAY SCHOOL
TEACHER**

Family Asst. Fund Maura Kitchens

**HONOR OF ANITA TURNER, SUNDAY SCHOOL
TEACHER**

Family Asst. Fund Maura Kitchens

**HONOR OF LORI HASKINS, SUNDAY SCHOOL
TEACHER**

Family Asst. Fund Maura Kitchens

**HONOR OF AMY TUCKER-MORGAN, CHOIR
DIRECTOR**

Family Assistance Fund Maura Kitchens

HONOR OF SARAH PRICE

Family Assistance Fund Children's School House

Robert and Cheryl Trapp Barbara Adamek

Andrew and Norma Vics Cathy Aleksandravicius

John and Cindy Antonelli Wayne and Judy Huffman

Don and Judith Benson Dennis and Krysta McCain

Philip and Esther Bloedorn Ed and Lori Fischl

Dick and Sophie Williams

HONOR OF JOE RUMSEY AND HAPPY WADE

Sunday School Thomas and Sheila Wallace

HONOR OF PRICE AND GETSINGER FAMILIES

Family Assistance Fund Harry and Carol Comeskey

HONOR OF PASTOR SAM'S BIRTHDAY

Family Assistance Fund Harold and Inga Shelton

FAMILY ASSISTANCE FUND

Chuck and Norma Malmberg Trevor and Lisa Hornick