

St. Matthew's 25 Challenge

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Jesus said, "As you did it to one of these my brethren, you did it unto me." Matt. 25:40

Volume I

AUGUST 2001

Issue 1

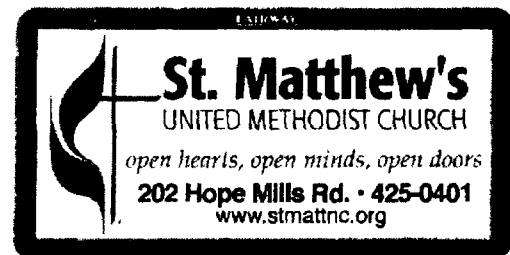
On June 19, the Administrative Board voted to change the name of our newsletter to the St. Matthew's 25 Challenge. **WHY?** First of all, no one remembered what Bellwether meant. We discussed the fact that St. Matthew was the only Gospel to share the story of Judgment Day when Jesus commended those on his right hand because they saw him hungry and gave him food, thirsty and gave him drink, a stranger and welcomed him, naked and clothed him, sick and visited him, in prison and came to him. They did not remember seeing him. They questioned how they did all these things. Jesus answered, "as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me."

This is the St. Matthew's 25 Challenge. We are challenged to meet our Lord Jesus in our relationships with the hungry, thirsty, stranger, sick, imprisoned and needy. We are challenged to meet Christ outside the comfort of our homes, our usual friendships, and outside of our church. We are challenged to make disciples of the world starting where we are. Starting right here in the community surrounding this church. We are to start in our own neighborhoods and where we work or attend school.

We are challenged to be faithful disciples, rooted in Christ and established in the faith. How many of us are ready to accept this challenge? I now believe that my primary calling as minister at this church is to equip the saints, that's you, for this ministry. **Are you ready to experience the joy of serving him faithfully?** I am. We need a renewed commitment to Jesus' mission for the Church: Go Make Disciples. We need to get excited about this Mission.

The St. Matthew's 25 Challenge comes at a critical time for Methodism and Cumberland County. After decades of membership loss the United Methodist Church is investing millions of dollars in an advertising campaign to reach the unchurched between the ages of 25-55. National, state and local adds will be telling the unchurched that the people called United Methodist have open hearts, open minds and open doors. **Are we ready for this challenge?**

How many people in our church make a special effort to seek out visitors and welcome them before the service begins or during the early part of the service? If we accept the challenge to meet Jesus as the stranger among us, we are looking for every opportunity to minister to him. In fact we need to be so alert to visitors that we get the welcome packet for them without having to ask them to raise their hands. We need to take the initiative. That would be a true ministry of Hospitality. Look for the this billboard soon!



Billboards, newspaper, radio and TV adds will be inviting the unchurched to attend a United Methodist Church to find acceptance. **Will we meet this Challenge?**

Shalom,
Mike

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

2 - Dave Dominie Jeff Graham	19 - Mary Byrne
5 - Spenser Scruggs	20 - Gladys Rice Elinor Stewart
6 - Christy Rome	Tommy Stewart
8 - Chris Strickland Marc Norton	21 - Betty Nalls
9 - David Dominie	22 - Joyce DeBruhl Mary Ann Mitchell
10 - Kenneth Merritt Sally Merritt	23 - Jeremy Anderson Barbara Thompson
11 - Mary Morrow	25 - Reena Stone Cathleen Manship
12 - Roberta Brown Ashley Stone	27 - Gudrun McDuffie
13 - Joan Foster	30 - April Norton Katie Jordan
16 - Charles Couch Jeanette Ward	Joanne Bland

TEEN BIBLE STUDY

We teens have been staying busy...with God. Thanks to Dr. Mike and Mrs. Syndi Long, we were able to keep "studying" during the summer. The reason for this was that Mrs. Amy and Mr. Dan went out West, as you already know. We want to thank Dr. Mike and Syndi: **THANK YOU!!!!**

We have been studying since January 31, 2001, about seven months. The first four months, we just asked tons (and I mean TONS) of questions. The last two months, we have started to read and study the Bible. And you know what? We are only in Genesis, Chapter Five. Would you like to know why? We age from 11 to 15, so we have sponges for brains. We want to learn more and more, and the only way to learn is to ask questions, lots of questions. We are really glad that we have Bible Study.

Lots of love in Christ,
Ashley Stone

CARD MINISTRY

The Card Ministry is continuing to meet every other week until September 5th when we will resume a full-time schedule. This has made our vacations nicer, but our ministry more difficult because of less communication. If there are any needs you are aware of, please contact Amy Eberhardt, Connie Knight or any other member of the card ministry. You may also leave a message on my answering machine at 424-4590. Thanks for your support!



Mary Rozier

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

- ◆ **Emergency Fund**
 - from the Thrift Shop
 - from the Sunday Morning Bible Study Class
 - from James & Joyce DeBruhl
 - in honor of Peggy Williams birthday (7-7) from her Secret Pal
- ◆ **Power Bill from the Thrift Shop**

ONE-BY-ONE

Most churches have two types of people within their congregations: Individuals who give even more than the Lord expects; and, those who are able to be with us just for worship on Sundays. **WAIT!!!!** There are **THREE** types of people! So sorry to forget...good people, with good hearts, with good intentions to serve God and their fellow man...but have not yet decided to make a commitment to use their talents.

St. Matthew's has a healthy combination of all three listed above. To Group One: God bless you! To Group Two: Maybe God understands your reasons. To Group Three: **ONE-BY-ONE** is waiting for you! Think for a moment (or two) about what a difference you can make in the life of another. If you can read, you can help someone else learn to read better. And what blessings the Almighty will heap upon you! If not this ministry, we have others in which you can participate.

At present, we need **nine** more teachers to attain full capacity of 26. The students are in desperate need. There are children who are waiting for someone just like you. They need someone who can help them feel better about themselves. They must have help in order to try to reach their potential. As we help a child, we also help a family and a teacher. What your capabilities are can change this entire community, **ONE-BY-ONE**. Will you pray about joining this ministry?

A **Teacher Training Workshop** will be held Monday, August 27 from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. It is important for new teachers and for those who would like a refresher to attend. (Child care is provided.) You will be given instructional workbooks and discussions, questions and answers will complete this session.

We welcome back our 11 "seasoned" teachers, and we will be losing two of them soon. The Holy Spirit touched hearts, and we are extremely glad to welcome nine new volunteers who are dedicated to helping children this year. Yes, it is a big commitment, but it is one that is pleasing to the Lord.

Classes will begin Monday, **September 10th** at 7:00 p.m. Our September newsletter will announce the dates for this school year. Become a believer! You **CAN** change a student's life for the better! The kids are waiting, hoping and praying that they can be a part of this program. The way to their success lies within you. Please, listen in your hearts and souls.

May the Lord bless and keep you,
Amy Eberhardt

The following policy was established by the Board of Trustees and presented to the Administrative Board and was amended and adopted at our last meeting (June 19). If you have any questions, contact one of the Trustees.

BUILDING USE POLICY (For Weddings & Private Functions)

In order to eliminate any misunderstandings, St. Matthew's UMC has established the following policy to be followed by church members and non-church members using the church property for private functions and events. Individuals may call the church secretary to schedule the use of church facilities for weddings and private functions, but the date will not be confirmed until the person comes by the office and signs the policy sheet.

1. Person in charge of private function may pick up a key at the church office Monday - Thursday from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. A deposit of \$20.00 will be charged to the person responsible for key. Deposit will be refunded when key is returned.
2. Church member(s) may be charged a \$75.00 clean-up fee for use of the sanctuary and/or fellowship hall.
3. Non-church members will be charged a \$75.00 fee for use of sanctuary and/or fellowship hall **PLUS** a \$75.00 clean-up fee.
4. All music performed during a wedding ceremony and/or reception in fellowship hall must be approved by pastor and/or church musician.
5. Pastor will not normally perform wedding ceremonies for individuals who are not members of St. Matthew's UMC.

NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ARE ALLOWED ON CHURCH PROPERTY AT ANYTIME. ALL OUR FACILITIES ARE SMOKE-FREE. THOSE WHO SMOKE ARE ASKED TO DO SO BEHIND THE CHURCH BUILDING OUTSIDE OF PUBLIC VIEW.

I have read the above Building Policy of St. Matthew's UMC and agree to abide by the policy as outlined.



The Thrift Shop has helped three families with extenuating circumstances during the month, by giving them needed items.

We also contributed to the Church Power Bill, Emergency Fund, Care Clinic and UMCOR.

We provided a meal one night during Vacation Bible School.

A special **thanks** to our devoted volunteers and to everyone who donate items to our shop. God bless you all!

Lee Anna Sproul,
Chairperson

LOOKING AHEAD:



- AUG. 27-One-By-One Teacher Training Workshop,
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.**
- SEPT. 11-Board of Trustees Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
18-Council on Ministries, 7:30 p.m.
23-Homecoming**
- OCT. 2-Administrative Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
12-13-UMM Barbeque Sale & UMW Bazaar**
- DEC. 18-Council on Ministries, 7:30 p.m.**



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

We now have five months remaining to accomplish our UMW goals for 2001. Shorter yet, we have just a little more than 2 1/2 months left before the **Bazaar**. Have you given your share of time, resources and talents that God has given you? As we work towards the Bazaar, I personally know three women who have done their best.

At our June meeting when I asked for volunteers, **Lee Anna Sproul** volunteered to do the phone calling to solicit baked goods. Lee Anna could have easily used the excuse that she does enough through the Thrift Shop, but, she didn't.

Secondly, even though she was unable to be at our June meeting, **Jewel Sharpe** learned of my appeal for volunteers and sought me out to say that she would be happy to "**head up**" the baked goods. She could have easily used the excuse of her leg problems, but, she didn't.

Then there's **Ruth Caldwell**...she has already made and sold one quilt, and now she is working on a second one for two years in a row! She could have used the excuse that she was going to the mountains to be with her family, to rest, read and enjoy the scenery, but, she didn't. She has now completed the top of a second quilt (fan pattern), and I know that she will have much of it quilted upon her return to Fayetteville. I am sure that if these women had lived during the time that the **Bible** was written, they would have been included as **Godly** examples for all women to follow.

We still need lots of volunteers for the **Bazaar** which will be **October 12 - 13**. Would you take a "**step out in faith**" and volunteer? Be thinking before your September Circle Meeting and let your leaders know what you can do. I really believe that "**many hands make small work.**" I'm looking forward to hearing from you.

Please continue to pray for our UMW mission.

Mary Rozier, UMW President

LOOKING AHEAD:

August, September & October
- Crafts for the Bazaar

September & October
- Ticket Sales

September 9
- UMW Sunday Evening Bible Study of
Corinthians, 4:00 pm (light supper at 6pm)

October - Baked Goods
1 - UMW General Meeting, 7:00 pm

12 & 13 - UMW/UMM Bazaar & Barbecue



RECIPE OF THE MONTH

"Easy Banana Pudding"

6 or 8 Beautiful Ripe Bananas
1 Box Nabisco Nilla Wafers
1 Large Box Vanilla Instant
Pudding



Follow directions for making pudding on the box. In a large bowl, layer round slices of bananas in bottom of bowl. Place nilla wafers on top of bananas and then spoon vanilla pudding over nilla wafers. Alternate bananas, nilla wafers and pudding until you use up all the bananas, crumble left-over nilla wafers over final layer of pudding. Then enjoy. YUM!! YUM!!

AUGUST

ST. MATTHEW'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

2001

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5 Youth Choir-9:30am Sun. School-9:45am Worship-11:00am	6	7 Prayer Group-7:00pm	1 NO Card Ministry Young Teen BS-6:30pm NO Choir Practice	2	3	4
12 Youth Choir-9:30am Sun. School-9:45am Worship-11:00am	13	14 Prayer Group-7:00pm Igniting Ministry Hospitality-7:30pm	8 Card Ministry-5:00pm Young Teen BS-6:30pm Choir Practice-7:30pm	9	10	11
19 UMM Breakfast Mtg-8:30am Youth Choir-9:30am Sun. School-9:45am Worship-11:00am	20	21 7:00 - Prayer Group	15 Home Extensions-9:30am NO Card Ministry Young Teen BS-6:30pm NO Choir Practice	16	17	18
26 Youth Choir-9:30am Sun. School-9:45am Worship-11:00am Family Games-3pm Family Picnic-5pm Concert Angela Brady-6:00pm	27 One-By-One Teacher Training Wksp. in Fellowship Hall-7:00-9:00pm	28 Prayer Group-7:00pm Finance Committee Mtg. 7:30pm	22 Card Ministry-5:00pm Young Teen BS-6:30pm Choir Practice-7:30pm	23	24	25
			29 NO Card Ministry Young Teen BS-6:30pm NO Choir Practice	30	31	