

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

SEPTEMBER 2001

Issue 2

Mike's Memo:

I have come to the conclusion that our denomination and many other mainline denominations have greatly neglected any serious effort at discipleship for most of the last century. Even during the revivals at the turn of the century the emphasis was on people making a profession of faith and "being saved" and the church invested little in discipleship programs. Consequently we have churches with many people on the membership roles, but few understand the meaning of discipleship.

When Jesus called his first disciples he said, "Follow me and I will make you become fishers of men." (Mk 1:17) Our Lord spent three years teaching them to be disciples. Then he told them and us, "Go make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you;" "be my witnesses" and "preach the gospel to the whole creation,"

How do people go make disciples if they have not been taught what he has commanded? Therefore, I see it as my responsibility to teach the people of St. Matthew's and Grace what it means to be a true disciple. After much prayer, study and thought, I have decided that this must be an on-going ministry if our church is to be faithful to Christ. I believe that every member needs to go through "basic training" in the faith. Then those who feel called to lead in ministry need to be disciplined at a higher level. As responsibilities increase the level of training in discipleship needs to prepare people for the increased responsibility.

Over a period of time I plan to offer as many as four levels of discipleship training for those who want to grow in the faith. I believe this can be done in occasional five hour sessions on Sunday afternoons and evenings throughout the year. We can meet from 2:30-5:30 p.m., have a light meal from 5:30-6:00 p.m. followed by a 6:00-8:00 p.m. session. Each level of the discipleship program will be done at one time. New members will be expected to attend at least the "basic training."

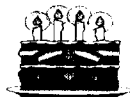
When we start **Wednesday Night Bible Study at 6:30 p.m. September 5th** we will explore some of the core values and beliefs that each member and Christian should know to be a member of the church and become a disciple. I believe this can be an exciting study and provide a strong foundation for the future of our church. Join us on Wednesday evenings and begin or continue your journey in discipleship. I am convinced this journey will help to make me a better person and minister. I pray that it will be of great benefit to you and glorify our heavenly Father.

Shalom,
Mike



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 - Dorothy Taylor
 6 - Matt Unruh
 - Joann Terrier
 7 - Shawn Schultz
 10 - Hilda Parker
 11 - Kay Warbis
 14 - Synthia Long
 - Phyllis Jordan
 - Dustin Powell
 15 - Karen Ogden
 - Melvin Lynn



17 - Ruby Lucas
 18 - Lyle Spidle
 - Laura Gallimore
 20 - Bob Lambert
 21 - Julia Agnew
 22 - Betty Zielinski
 24 - Sam Hubbard
 - Pam Thompson
 26 - Lucky Cabeza
 27 - Andy Edge
 28 - Kristine Lewis

WEDNESDAY NIGHT ALIVE

Our Family Night Bible Study begins *September 5th*. We will meet every *Wednesday* from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. There are classes for all ages: *Adult Leader - Dr. Hale, Older Teen Leader - Julie Anderson, Young Teen Leader - Amy Eberhardt, Young Disciples Leader - Sandy Jones*. Nursery provided upon request.

YOUNG TEEN BIBLE STUDY

We are widening our knowledge and ways of thinking about Biblical events. We are finding that our faith in the Bible, God's Holy Word, is becoming exuberantly stronger. We have found that there are many things about the Bible, after studying only nine chapters, that we may only have dreamed of. Every Wednesday, over every student's head, lightbulbs appear. We have found that the Bible is exciting!!! By the glow in our eyes, it is clearly shown that God's grace is with us.

Dejah Anderson

HELP'N HANDS



Our Senior Group will meet again on Thursday, September 27th at 11:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall for a "Covered Dish" meal. Everyone is invited to attend. It's a great feeling to be able to look forward to getting active again. I hope everyone had a wonderful summer.

Eva Smith

(Remember that people with disabilities lead lives just like people without disabilities - they go to school, get married, work, have families, do laundry, grocery shop, laugh, cry, pay taxes, get angry, have prejudices, vote, plan and dream like everyone else.)

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

- ◆ **Emergency Fund**
 - ⇒ in honor of Bob & Betty Probst's 60th Wedding Anniversary from Lee Anna Sproul
 - ⇒ in memory of Mrs. Grady's brother from Sam & Shirley Pitchford
 - ⇒ in honor of Bob & Betty Probst's Anniversary by Hank & Betty Zielinski
 - ⇒ from the Sunday Morning Bible Study Class
 - ⇒ in memory of Calvin Rome's brother from the Sunday Morning Bible Study Class
 - ⇒ in memory of W.A. Stewart by Wayne & Debbie Hager
- ◆ **Scholarship Fund**
 - ⇒ in memory of W.A. Stewart from the United Methodist Men, Barbara Brookshire, Kenneth & Sally Merritt, Joe & Rebecca Ramirez, Wanda Ward, Player, Inc., Callahan & Rice Insurance Group

HOSPITALITY MINISTRY TEAM

Have you seen the **St. Matthew's Billboard** on Raeford Road right before you get to Reed-Lallier Chevrolet? An anonymous donor made this possible because they are excited about what we can be when people get more involved. Starting September 4th, you will be seeing ads on cable TV inviting people to attend their local United Methodist Church sponsored by the general church. The theme for the ads is, **Open doors, open hearts, open minds**. Let us be sure we are ready to welcome new visitors. We need more people to be involved in this ministry. We need some of our ushers to attend our next meeting and anyone else who is interested in this important ministry. We must make our visitors feel welcome at our church; that's **Hospitality**. Our next Hospitality Team Meeting will be Tuesday, **September 11th at 7:30 p.m.** Hope to see you there!





We are in the process of a 1/2 Price Sale.

During the month of August, we contributed to the Church Power Bill, supported the Card Ministry, and helped several families with school clothes.

Thanks to our volunteers and to everyone for your support.

Lee Anna Sproul,
Chairperson

ONE-BY-ONE

The wonderful folks at St. Matthew's have done it again! Your hearts have opened with wishes to help those in need. Because of the Lord and you, **ONE-BY-ONE** will begin this Fall 2001 at **FULL CAPACITY!** God has made the dream and the prayer reality for all of those who will share in this outreach of love.

Unaccountable are the ways to say, "Thank you," but 26 students will say the words in every way possible. Teachers, you will bless many lives this year. Your influence will touch many more. If our Teacher Training Workshop was even a small indication of what is to come, then each student we have will find success. Your dedication and enthusiasm are truly signs of the love you have for God and your fellow man.

We have set the class nights for the school year 2001-2002. Any alterations will be announced ahead of time. For everyone involved, and for all who may be interested in visiting with us, feel free to clip and save. If you are new to St. Matthew's, **ONE-BY-ONE** is a Christian Outreach Ministry. We teach reading to those who need help within our church and throughout the community. We tutor, we help with remedial skills, we help children who are in school, adults who wish to expand their skills, and we strive to help our community survive. If you would like to know more, please visit. As usual, we meet from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. on **Mondays**.

MEETING DATES:

- Session One - Sept. 10, 17, 24, Oct. 1, 8 & 22
- " Two - Nov. 5, 19, Dec. 3, 10 & 17
- " Three - Jan. 7, 14, 28, Feb. 4, 11 & 25
- " Four - Mar. 11, 18, Apr. 8, 15, 22 & 29
- " Five - May 6, 13 & 20

In the name of the Greatest Teacher,
Our Lord Jesus Christ,
Amy Eberhardt

LOOKING AHEAD:



SEPTEMBER

- 11-Hospitality Ministry Team, 7:30 p.m.
- 18-Council on Ministries, 7:30 p.m.
- 23-Homecoming

OCTOBER

- 2-Administrative Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- 12-13-UMM Barbeque Sale & UMW Bazaar

DECEMBER

- 18-Council on Ministries, 7:30 p.m.

YOUTH NEWS

Our Youth Group recently elected new officers. *President - Meghann Dominie, Vice-President - Matt Unruh, Secretary - Robin Lewis. Congratulations* to our new officers! We would also like to thank those people who helped make our "Beach Trip" so successful. *Thank you!*

Meghann Dominie

COUNCIL ON MINISTRIES

At our September 18th COM Meeting, we will focus on scheduling programs for the remainder of the year, review budget proposals, how to transition our new structure of Stewardship, Outreach and Nurture ministry areas, and exploring options for Sunday School. **(ALL SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND IN ORDER TO REVIEW NEW S.S. MATERIAL AND DISCUSS IMPROVING OUR S.S. PROGRAM.)** Be prepared with budget requests and scheduling dates for the calendar.

CARD MINISTRY

You are invited to join us for prayer, signing cards and dinner OYO each Wednesday evening at 5:00 p.m. or so (we also take late-comers) at Pizza Palace on Hope Mills Road. Bring cards and names with addresses if you have any, otherwise sign the ones from others. Your presence will be appreciated.



Card Ministry Team



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Four months remain to accomplish our UMW goals for 2001. Please be in prayer for our pastor as he makes preparations for our **Evening Bible Study of Corinthians** on **September 9th at 4:00 p.m.** Anyone who wishes to join the UMW for this study will be welcome. Bazaar time is at hand. Start "cleaning out" those closets, garages, attics, etc. for our **White Elephant Room**. I need a volunteer to head this up. I also need volunteers to head up the kitchen (serving the men's barbeque) and someone to take the responsibility for the **Craft Room**. For those of you who still need ideas and/or supplies for Bazaar crafts, Lee Anna Sproul has donated a box of items from the Thrift Shop that you may wish to use. The box will be placed in the fellowship hall for your consideration at the time of your September Circle meetings. So help yourself! Be thinking about nominations for **Mission Pins** and **Candle-burning** names that will need to be decided upon at your September Circle meetings as well. Sign-ups for working at the Bazaar will also be done at your next meeting. Let's have enough volunteers that it won't be necessary to "draft" at our October 1 General Meeting. God bless!

Mary Rozier

RUTH-ETHEL SMITH CIRCLE

What a wonderful summer I have had. I spent as much time as possible with my children and enjoyed every moment of it. I hope all of you enjoyed your summer too. It's September and time for us to focus on the **Bazaar** which will be held **October 12 & 13**. It will be a fun time with lots of hard work, but, very rewarding in the end. So please get your fingers working and make something for our Bazaar. We will be discussing this and other items of business at our next meeting on the **12th at 10:30 a.m.** in the fellowship hall. Every lady in the church who doesn't have a day-time job is invited to attend. Those who work are welcome to attend the Night Owl Circle. Ladies, you don't have to be a Circle member to volunteer a couple of hours at the Bazaar. We could really use you. It's a good time for fellowship and getting to know one another. Let me know if you can spare a little time. I know you will enjoy it. Until next time, God bless all of you!

Catherine Morgan

NIGHT OWL CIRCLE

After a summer of rest and hot weather, we are ready to get back to our mission work. Our next meeting will be September 13th at 7:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. The program will be given by Janet Wagoner and our hostess will be Barbara Thompson. All ladies of the church are invited to join us.

Rebecca Ramirez

LOOKING AHEAD:

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

September/October - Ticket Sales & Crafts for Bazaar

October 1 - UMW General Meeting, 7:00 pm

7-11 - Bring White Elephant items to church

12-13 - UMW & UMM Bazaar & Barbecue

November - Shoe Box Ministry



RECIPE OF THE MONTH "CRISPY COLESLAW"

1 small head cabbage, shredded (about 1 1/2 lbs)	1 cup sugar
1/2 green pepper, chopped	1 tsp salt
1/2 red pepper, chopped	1 med. onion, chopped
1/2 cup plus 2 TBS vinegar	1 tsp celery seeds
	1/2 cup vegetable oil

Combine cabbage, peppers, onion & sugar in a large bowl; stir well. Cover & chill 2 hours.

Combine remaining ingredients in a saucepan; bring to a boil, stirring until salt dissolves. Pour over cabbage mixture; toss gently. Cover and chill at least 2 hours before serving. Will keep several days in the refrigerator. Yield: 6 to 8 servings.)



New Time : 8:00 a.m. Sunday 16th

New Format : Men's Bible Study

Beginning Sunday September 16th the Methodist Men will be meeting a half hour earlier starting at **8:00 a.m.** Dr. Hale will begin a time of Bible Study and Prayer promptly at 8:30. We will begin exploring the special call God has for the men of his church. We will examine biblical models for men who are willing to serve God. We will talk about what it means for men to be Christian Disciples in today's world. The men of St. Matthew's are called upon to take a serious look at how we live and behave as witnesses of Christ Jesus. We will be challenged to consider the meaning of providing spiritual leadership in the church, which honors our heavenly Father.

Lynwood Griffin spoke to us on the "**Rules of Life.**" Little children will lead you and follow your actions. Be careful how you live your life, because you never know who is watching. Don't let a day go by without making someone feel good. He also told us about some future projects such as the Sewer & Water, Parking Lot Expansion and other renovations for the future. We as a church are in a growing mode and must prepare for it. Watch for our growth!

Details and responsibilities for our **Church Family Picnic** were given out. Everything is going great. When you read this, I am sure everyone can say they had a good time! We discussed a **Memorial** for **W.A. Stewart**. There will be more on this later. We had **22** men present at our last meeting on August 19th and enjoyed a delicious breakfast prepared by Charles Lucas and Jack Spakes. September Cooks and Ushers were assigned. Come join us for good food, fellowship and faith-filled study of God's word!

HOMECOMING

Our church will celebrate **45 years** of ministry during this year's Homecoming September 23rd. Conflicts in schedules and health concerns have prevented previous ministers from joining us for this occasion. Dr. Hale has agreed to preach for the service. This gave us the idea to take a slightly different approach to homecoming this year. In addition to inviting family, friends and former members, **why not welcome home people who have been inactive or out of the habit of attending regularly. That would be an important Homecoming.**

But remember, it is not always easy to come back home when you have been away for a while. It takes a special effort to make plans to attend. These people wonder what people will think of them. Will they really be welcomed? Will some of the people they know and like be there? **They wonder, "Does it really make a difference if I am there? YES!, every person makes a difference.** We need to be the friendly people who will be here to give them a warm welcome.

Maybe they have been in the habit of sleeping late on Sunday or planning other activities rather than attending church regularly. We know it is hard to get started back to church. We just thought **Homecoming 2001** would be a good time to help them renew their ties with St. Matthew's and its people. Following worship, we will have a **Covered Dish Dinner** in the fellowship hall. Let's make sure there is plenty of food for your family and a bit extra. We will be sending out a letter to invite our members, with an emphasis on inactive members, to attend. We look forward to seeing you there **Sunday, September 23rd at 11:00 a.m.**



DISCIPLE:

BECOMING DISCIPLES THROUGH BIBLE STUDY

The title **DISCIPLE** includes both identity and purpose. The disciple is a *learner, believer, follower, proclaimer*. In the Bible the word *disciple* is connected with instruction and training.

Underlying the development of Disciple is the assumption that people are hungry for the word of God, for fellowship in prayer and study, and for a sense of appropriate ministry as baptized, believing, committed Christians.

The purpose of Disciple may be summarized in the words of Ephesians 4:12: *"to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ."*

During the course of thirty-four weeks, **DISCIPLE** study groups will move through the biblical story from Creation to the New Jerusalem. Each member of a study group needs a study manual and a Bible.

The group members commitment will include:

Three to four hours of independent study each week (at least thirty minutes daily) in preparation for the weekly study session.

Attendance at and participation in an orientation session and all thirty-four of the weekly study sessions.

Conducting the Session:

All weekly study sessions will follow basically the same pattern: gathering, a moment of devotion, the video segment, reporting and discussing what persons have discovered through their daily reading and study of assigned Scripture, group study of a selected passage of Scripture, closing commitment, and prayer.

Completion of study of **DISCIPLE** by groups is cause for recognition, celebration, and thanksgiving by the whole congregation.

If there are twelve or fourteen people who will make a serious commitment to this 34 week study Dr. Hale will provide the primary leadership, assisted by Roberta Brown. Both have recieved the official training from Cokesbury. Those who are interested should called Doris at the church office or Roberta Brown.

MINISTRY TEAMS

In our new structure we will no longer have committees. To often a committee is a group of people who get together and talk a lot about things and try to figure out who should do things. Ministry Teams exist to get things done. Team members make the decisions and see that ministry happens. James tells us 'faith without works is dead' (2:26). We need to be a church at work and teams are the way to go about that work. When Jesus sent the disciples out on their mission he sent them in teams. The same tasks will be cared for in a different way through teams. If we don't have two or three people or more on a team we will consider the church is not ready for that ministry yet. **If you are a serious christian you will be on at least one ministry team.**

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY TEAM

FINANCE MINISTRY TEAM
TRUSTEES MINISTRY TEAM
VISION MINISTRY TEAM
MEMORIAL MINISTRY TEAM

NOMINATIONS MINISTRY TEAM
PASTOR-STAFF MINISTRY TEAM
COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY TEAM

OUTREACH MINISTRY TEAM

THRIFT SHOP MINISTRY TEAM
FAMILIES FIRST MINISTRY TEAM
EVANGELISM MINISTRY TEAM
DOOR STEP EVANGELISM MINISTRY TEAM
HOSPITALITY MINISTRY TEAM

ONE BY ONE MINISTRY TEAM
MISSIONS MINISTRY TEAM

NURTURE MINISTRY TEAM

EDUCATION MINISTRY TEAM
FAMILY MINISTRY TEAM
CHILDREN MINISTRY TEAM
CHILDRENS TEACHING TEAM
YOUTH MINISTRY TEAM
YOUTH TEACHING TEAM
UNITED METHODIST YOUTH
ADULT MINISTRY TEAM
UNITED METHODIST MEN
UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
HELPING HAND MINISTRY TEAM
ADULT TEACHING TEAM

WORSHIP MINISTRY TEAM
MUSIC MINISTRY TEAM
ACOLYTE MINISTRY TEAM
USHER MINISTRY TEAM
CARD MINISTRY TEAM
PRAYER MINISTRY TEAM
CARE CELL MINISTRY TEAM

SEPTEMBER

ST. MATTHEW'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

2001

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 Youth Choir-9:30am Sun. School-9:45am Worship-11:00am	3 LABOR DAY CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	4 Prayer Group-7:00pm	5 Card Ministry-5:00pm WNA & BS - 6:30pm Choir Practice-7:30pm	6	7	1 8 Choir Potluck & Christmas Party - 5:00pm
9 Youth Choir-9:30am Sun. School-9:45am Worship-11:00am	10	11 Prayer Group-7:00pm Hospitality Ministry Team - 7:30pm	12 Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle - 10:30am Card Ministry-5:00pm WNA & BS-6:30pm Choir Practice-7:30pm	13 Night Owl Circle - 7:00pm	14	15
16 UMM Breakfast & Mtg. - 8:00am Youth Choir-9:30am Sun. School-9:45am Worship-11:00am	17	18 Prayer Group-7:00pm Council on Ministries - 7:30pm	19 Home Extensions-9:30am Card Ministry-5:00pm WNA & BS-6:30pm Choir Practice-7:30pm	20	21	22
23 HOMECOMING Youth Choir-9:30am Sun. School-9:45am Worship-11:00am	24	25 Prayer Group-7:00pm	26 Card Ministry-5:00pm WNA & BS-6:30pm Choir Practice-7:30pm	27 Help'n Hands - 11:00am	28	29
30 Youth Choir-9:30am Sun. School-9:45am Worship-11:00am	One-By-One-7:00pm	Prayer Group-7:00pm				