

St. Matthew's 25 Challenge

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

Volume I

NOVEMBER 2001

Issue 4

In the aftermath of our national tragedy on September 11, 2001, Americans started pulling together in a way I have not seen in my lifetime. America's generosity has been amazing. We are remembering that truly we are "One Nation Under God." One of the great hopes for the Christian life is to enjoy all the blessings God has in store for us and every person who claims the name Christian. I am convinced that two of the things which stands in the way of our receiving all the blessings we could receive as individuals and as a nation, are our ignorance and/or neglect of the two key spiritual disciplines of prayer and tithing.

Recently the senior high youth have been asking the question "How do we pray?" This is the same question the disciples asked Jesus and John the Baptist's disciples asked him. So Jesus gave them what we call the Lord's Prayer as an example (Luke 11:1-4). First we must recognize and praise God for being God. When we speak to a person we know well, we acknowledge them and if we want something we let them know how much we appreciate them. Jesus tells us to do the same when we pray to God. We need to recognize God has the power to do what he wills. We always want to make sure that all we ask is consistent with the will of God. We learn the will of God by reading and understanding Scripture. Then we can talk to God about anything that concerns us. God as Father, Son (Jesus) and Holy Spirit, is a person we can talk with. Just talk to God like you would a dear friend. God wants to be our closest friend. Jesus told the disciples they we could ask him for our daily needs, forgiveness when we make mistakes, and help us to be better Christians. If we are going to ask God for something, we need to behave that way toward others.

I have learned that two more important points about prayer are needed. James 4:3-4 tells us. "You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend

it on your passions." God is under no obligation to grant prayers that are selfish and worldly beyond our basic needs. Secondly, Jesus said in John 14:13-14 "Whatever you ask in my name, I will do it, that the Father may be glorified in the Son; if you ask anything in my name, I will do it." To ask for something in Jesus name means we must think and pray as Jesus would pray. We cannot expect God to magically grant our requests simply because we tack on "we ask it in Jesus name", to our prayer.

God's word in Malachi 3:10 says, "Bring the full tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house; and thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing." You wouldn't believe the excuses I had for not bringing the full tithe to God years ago. I always wondered why we had such a hard time financially and in other ways. Because I was weak I did not take God at his word. I didn't accept His challenge and put him to the test. I finally decided to put God to the test, and indeed he has opened the windows of heaven for us and poured down on us an overflowing blessing. I discovered that we cannot out give God. **What are your excuses?**

As we begin our Stewardship Emphasis, I hope you will remember how fortunate we are to live in this great country that allows us to worship so freely the God and Christ we love. Are we truly living as One Nation Under God? Are we supporting our Church with our prayers, presence, gifts and service? You will be asked to make a financial commitment to our Church as well as other commitments. On November 11th at 6:00 pm we will have a Harvest Dinner of thanksgiving. Bring you commitments to the dinner that night or place them in the offering plate.

**Shalom,
Mike**



The Thrift Shop made the following contributions:

- Children's Shoes and Books to the Grove View Terrace Outreach Program
- Work Shoes to the Homeless Coalition
- Adult Potty Chair to Better Health of Cumberland County
- Large number of Evening Dresses to the Fayetteville University Theatre Dept.
- Money toward the Church Power Bill
- Gift to the Church Emergency Fund

Lee Anna Sproul,
Chairperson

LOOKING AHEAD:



NOVEMBER

- 7-Charge Conference, 6:30 p.m.
- 11-Harvest Dinner, 6:00 p.m.
- 18-Community-Wide Thanksgiving Service at Crown Coliseum, 4:00-6:00 p.m.
- 21-Thanksgiving Eve Service, 7:00 p.m.

DECEMBER

- 2-Christmas Service, 7:00 p.m.
- 16-Christmas Cantata, 7:00 p.m.
- 18-Council on Ministries, 7:30 p.m.
- 24-Christmas Eve Communion Service, 6:30 p.m.

ONE-BY-ONE

God is great! God is good! Let us ALL say, "Thank you, Lord!" What we thought could not be done is happening through the Almighty. His plans are awesome. Somehow, He brought to us two more teachers and two more students; then, He opened up space for them. It is incredible to see His Hands at work. He has given the blessings of hearts, minds and souls to students and teachers alike. So much is being taught. So much is being learned.

One of our youngsters walked in, and said, "Will you unlock the room (the Sanctuary)? I need to pray." I told him it was dark, and he said, "God's here with me." When he went to his workplace, what a sight to see! A child who had been totally rigid with anger was at peace. Without a doubt, his Lord had touched him. His teacher reported that he was calmer than he had ever been. **ONE-BY-ONE** provided, through God's love, much more than reading skills that night.

Second Session is ready to begin. The meeting dates are **Nov. 5, 19, Dec. 3, 10, 17.** As usual, we have class from **7:00 - 8:00 p.m.** Again, all are welcome to visit.

In the Name of Christ,
Amy



CARD MINISTRY

Thanks to many of you (you know who you are) for your continued financial support of the Card Ministry. We're constantly told what a blessing it is to so many who appreciate being remembered and prayed for on a regular basis. Join us as we pray for Gail Terwilliger who is undergoing physical therapy and is not yet back on a regular basis. Also, pray for Dot Green's speedy recovery from surgery and her rapid return to our team. Joyce Christian has also recently returned. Our ages range from 15 - 79, so come join us Wednesdays at 5:00 p.m. for supper (optional) and card signing at the Pizza Palace.

Card Ministry Team



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2 - Amanda Colon	14 - Derrek Snyder
5 - Justin Cole	15 - Hank Zielinski
6 - Lynwood Griffin	17 - Kristen Royal
Tracy Scruggs	19 - Dee Parker
8 - Lynn Graham	Jessica Powell
10 - Jack Byrne	23 - Irma Evans
Tiffany Willis	25 - Mary Sue Grady
11 - Bob Pray	Ike Huffman
12 - Darrell Collins	26 - Ashley Alexander
Gudrun Arnold	28 - Christopher Rome
Glyndetta Hubbard	30 - Amanda Yencsko



HELP'N HANDS

Help'n Hands Senior Group met September 27th after a summer of no activity. We voted to donate \$100.00 to UMCOR for the **World Trade Center Relief**. We discussed **Elder Care Ministry** and what it takes to accomplish it. We planned a trip to the "**Rudy Theatre**" in Selma, NC for their Christmas Show on December 8th. Cost is only \$18.50 per person. Reservation deadline is November 6th. I reserved 20 seats and any adult is welcome to go with us. Showtime is 1:40 p.m.. We will leave the church at 10:30 a.m. and have lunch before we go to the theatre. We should be back at the church by 6:00 p.m.

Eva Smith, Adult Coordinator

WHY PARENTS HAVE GRAY HAIR!

The boss of a large company needed to talk with one of his employees about a problem with one of the main computers. He dialed the employee's home phone number and was greeted with a child's whispered, "Hello". Feeling put out by the inconvenience of having to talk to a youngster, the boss asked, "Is your Daddy home?" "Yes", whispered the small voice. "May I talk to him?" the man asked. To the surprise of the boss, the small voice whispered, "No." Wanting to talk to an adult, the boss asked, "Is your Mommy there?" "Yes" came the answer. "May I talk to her?" Again the small voice whispered, "No."

Knowing it was not likely that the young child would be left home alone, the boss decided he would just leave a message with the person who should be there watching over the child. "Is anyone there besides you?" the boss asked the child. "Yes" whispered the child, "a policeman." Wondering what a policeman would be doing at his employee's home, the boss asked, "May I speak with the policeman?" "No," he is busy, whispered the child. Busy doing what? asked the boss. Talking to daddy and mommy and the fireman, came the whispered answer.

Growing concerned and even worried as he heard what sounded like a helicopter through the phone, the boss asked, What is that noise? A hello-copper, answered the whispering voice. What's going on there? asked the boss, now alarmed. In an awed whispering voice the child answered. The search team just landed the hello-copper. Alarmed, concerned, and frustrated, the boss asked, What are they searching for. Still whispering, the young voice replied along with a muffled giggle: "ME!"

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SPECIAL OFFERINGS

- ◆ **EMERGENCY FUND**
- ⇒ from Betty Priest
- ⇒ from James & Joyce DeBruhl
- ⇒ from the Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle
- ⇒ from the Sunday Morning Bible Study Class
- ⇒ in honor of Gudrun Arnold's birthday (Nov. 12th) from her Secret Pal
- ◆ **POWER BILL** from the Thrift Shop
- ◆ **ONE-BY-ONE** from the Cumberland County Foundation
- ◆ **BUILDING MAINTENANCE FUND**
- ⇒ in memory of Robert Johnston, Hank & Betty Zielinski's son-in-law & in memory of Bolden Farris, Mary Sue Grady's son from the Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle
- ◆ **MEMORIAL FUND**
- ⇒ in memory of W.A. Stewart & Rev. Robert Pullman from Harriett E. Coker
- ⇒ in memory of Robert Johnston by Charles & Ruby Lucas

YOUNG TEEN BIBLE STUDY

The group racked their brains to present this article. Our class is really fun. We have learned so much about the "**Tower of Babel**". Thanks to Josh Hager, we learned what we thought it may have looked like. We each drew it and then learned what it really looked like. Our class really liked it. We are now learning about Abram, Sarah and their family. Since we have started (January 31st, 2001), we are still in Genesis. It's not far, but we are learning so much. Our spirits are enriching so much also. Last, but not least, we have decided to collect an offering of money. We talked it over and decided to contribute the money to the Emergency Fund to help families with kids. We are trying to become good stewards of our church. Our membership has grown. In January, it was only 2 and now we have 12. We would love for your teenage kids or grand-kids to join us.

Group Contribution





UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Two months remain to accomplish our UMW goals for 2001. October certainly came and went with a bang! **Thanks** for the the baked goods, crafts, white elephant items and ticket sales...**great job!** Special **thanks** go to Jay and Barbara Thompson who "begged" our sodas from two local Winn Dixies, and who knew a friend who was able to donate the hot dog buns...super! Ruth, you did it again...the quilts were beautiful and will definitely benefit our missions. **Congratulations** to *Cassandra Butler*, who won the Patriotic Basket which was donated by Shirley Pitchford, *Bob Pray*, who won Barbara Edwards Doll, *Joann Terrier*, who won Mary Schneider's Afghan, and *David Jenkins*, who won the Fan Quilt. **Thanks** to all who helped set-up, worked Friday and/or Saturday, and helped clean-up Saturday and Sunday. Also, a big **thanks** to Joann Terrier who took on the responsibility of the monies. **Thanks** to the *United Methodist Men* who gave us the opportunity to share in their profits by letting us serve their barbecue. Lots of hard work went into our bazaar, and it was noticed. Many of you worked straight through from set-up to shutdown Sunday. **Thanks** and **God bless!**

Catherine Morgan, UMW President

LOOKING AHEAD:

November 12 - Deadline for Shoe-Box Ministry (see a circle member for details)

November 13 - Take Shoe-Boxes to Methodist College

December 2 - United Methodist Women Officer Training

December 3 - General Meeting (covered dish)

RUTH- ETHEL SMITH CIRCLE

Our circle met for its regular monthly meeting on October 10th. We discussed plans for the UMW Fall Bazaar and took care of our regular monthly business. I want to **thank** all of you for coming forward with full force to make our bazaar so successful. Without team work it couldn't have been done. We will meet again on November 14th at 10:30 a.m. **Betty Jennings** and **Anne Alred** will be our hosts. They have invited a guest speaker who will talk about a medical condition which plagues many. So ladies, you don't want to miss this enlightening meeting. If you didn't turn in your **World Thanks Offering** last month, bring it to our next meeting. We voted last month to supply a **Thanksgiving Dinner** to a needy family. This is always a heart-warming project for us. Reaching out to help someone in need, is one of the many ways we can feel good about doing God's work. November 22 is **Thanksgiving**. Let's all take time to be thankful for all we have and especially for God many blessings.

Catherine Morgan

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

"Creamy Chocolate Lace Cheesecake"

CRUST

1 1/2 cups chocolate wafer crumbs (about 24 wafers)

1/2 cup finely chopped almonds

1/4 cup margarine or butter, melted

TOPPING

1 cup dairy sour cream

1 1/2 tsps vanilla

1 tsp sugar

1/2 oz. unsweetened chocolate, melted



FILLING

2 (8 oz.) pkg. cream cheese, softened

2/3 cup sugar

3 eggs

1 (12 oz) pkg. (2 cups) semi-sweet chocolate chips, melted, cooled

1 cup whipping cream

2 TBS margarine or butter, melted

1 tsp vanilla

Heat oven to 325 degrees F. Butter or grease 9-inch spring-form pan. In large bowl, combine crust ingredients; mix well. Press in bottom and up sides of buttered pan; refrigerate. In large bowl, beat cream cheese and 2/3 cup sugar at medium speed until smooth and creamy. At low speed, add eggs 1 at a time, beating just until blended. Add melted chocolate chips; beat well. Add whipping cream, 2 tablespoons margarine and 1 teaspoon vanilla; beat until smooth. Pour into crust-lined pan. Bake at 325 degrees F. for 55 to 65 minutes or until edges are set. Center of cheesecake will be soft. Cool in pan 5 minutes; carefully remove sides of pan. Cool completely. In small bowl, combine sour cream, 1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla and 1 teaspoon sugar; stir until smooth. Spread over cooled cheesecake. Drizzle with 1/2 oz. melted chocolate in lace pattern. Refrigerate several hours or overnight before serving. Garnish as desired. Store in refrigerator. Yield: 16 servings.



The United Methodist Men met October 19th at 8:00 a.m. with 13 men present. A delicious breakfast was served by Dale Mitchell. The Barbecue Financial Report was given by Lyle Spidle. There were a few tickets not accounted for, but it looks like a profit of **\$2,800.00** was close to accurate. The United Methodist Women were given **\$632.50** for their effort in serving and cleaning the kitchen. Dr. Hale spoke to the men about our work as United Methodist Men. Questions and discussions were raised in areas of how to get more men involved in the work of Methodist Men. As Dr. Hale pointed out, you can grow if you get people interested and if you really care about others. Other business, the Methodist Men decided to donate five Turkeys and three Hams for the **Harvest Day Dinner** on November 11th at 6:00 p.m. That day is on a Sunday, so we are cooking for a large turn out. Also, **\$1,200.00** was given to the Trustees for their work that is going on around the church. **\$200.00** was given to help re-stock the Food Pantry of needed items. Our next meeting will be **November 18th at 8:00 a.m.** We need your presence at these meetings. Please make every effort to attend. We will miss Doug Stone in his absence while on deployment. Keep him in your prayers and don't forget the family he leaves behind. Give them a hug occasionally. It was nice to see Paul Long back from his absence. I hope it will be permanent.

Troy Willoughby, Acting Secretary

BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT

- ◆ Blinds at the Front Door entrance off the Prayer Garden
- ◆ Sewer Line is complete; Wade Hardin Plumbing cost was \$5,925.00
- ◆ New Maintenance Building; cost was \$2,340.00. The United Methodist Men paid \$1,200.00. Cost to wire - \$200.00
- ◆ Pave Parking Lot cost was \$22,090.00. At present \$20,000.00 was paid. Patch Work, Sealing, Striping and Curbing remain to be done
- ◆ Power Line was installed underground along with the Telephone and Water Line. Paid PWC \$520.00 to dig trench and put wire in ground. Paid Classic Electrical Contractors \$1,350.00 to wire church when PWC was finished
- ◆ Handicapped Restroom is in the final stage. Approximate cost was \$1,800.00
- ◆ Three Lights in the Parking Lot with two Spotlights mounted on an 8 ft. arm will give us ample light
- ◆ Tables, Chairs and Caddie have arrived. Cost was \$1,475.80
- ◆ Assessment from PWC was \$7,176.00; if paid by November 14th, there will be no interest charge. Plan to pay all by due date.

COMMUNITY-WIDE THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Sunday, November 18th from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. there will be a Community-Wide Thanksgiving Service planned by the Clergy Gathering on Race Relations (Chamber of Commerce MetroVisions and Business Ecumenical Partnership) which will include people of all faiths: Judaism, Islam and Christian. It will be held at the Crown Coliseum. We invite all interested churches to join in the celebration and for clergy to participate in a processional and special seating for the service.

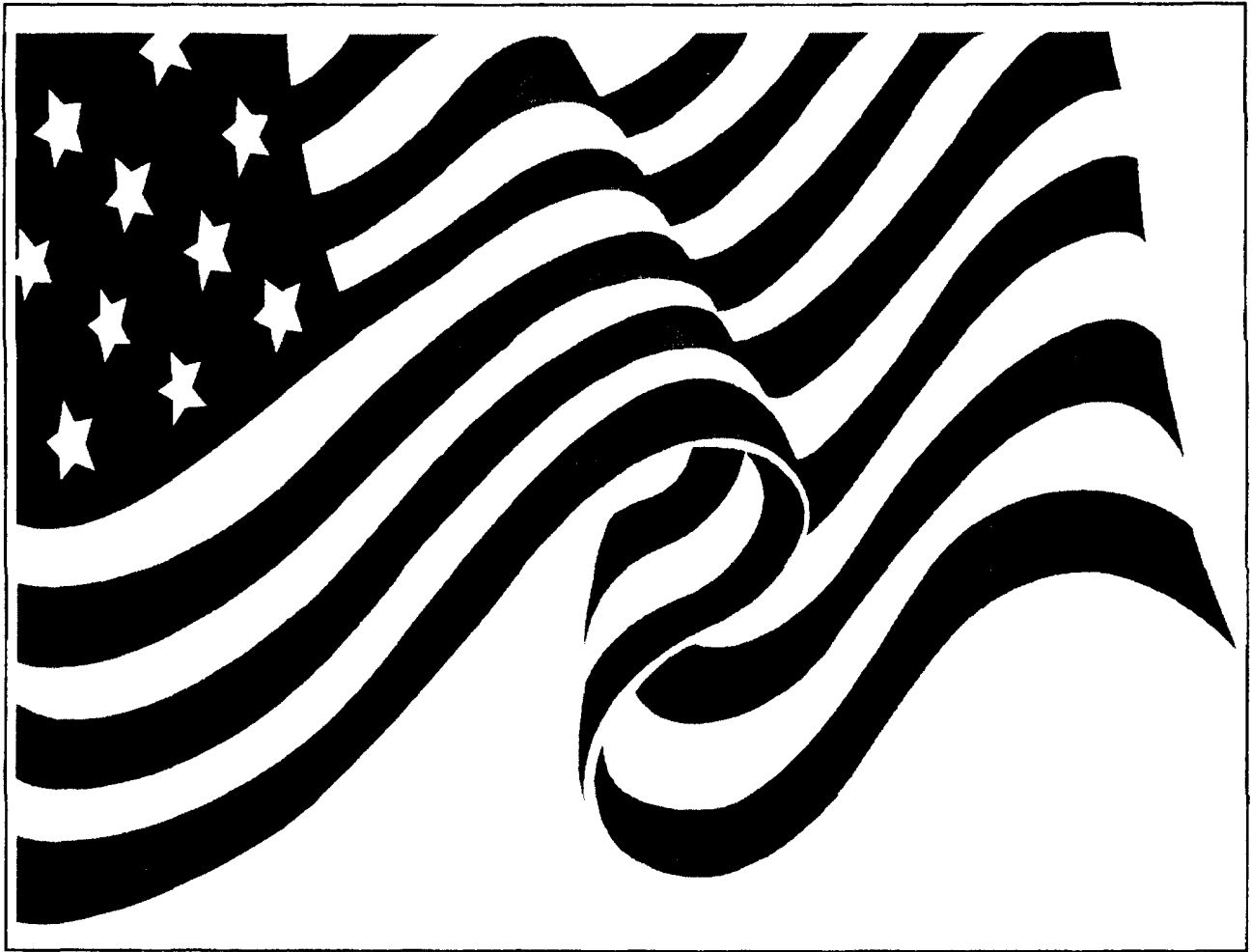


FAYETTEVILLE DISTRICT LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

November 17, 2001
9 a.m. - Noon

Hope Mills United Methodist Church, Hope Mills

Course	Content	Instructor
1. Advocacy Issues	Peace & Justice, Christian Unity	Ms. Linda Harris, Administrative Assistant/Office Manager, NC Annual Conference Connectional Ministries
2. Active Outreach	The Hand in Hand Project	Ms. Susan Pennock, The Hand in Hand Project Director
3. Children/Poverty	Developing Children's Ministries	Rev. Jimmy Cummings, Director of Multicultural Ministries of the NC Annual Conference
4. Education	Christian Education	Mrs. Dorothy Funkhouser, Director of Christian Education, Haymount UMC, Fayetteville
5. Evangelism	Offering Christ Today	Rev. Marty J. Cauley, Trinity UMC, Fayetteville
6. Igniting Ministry	Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors	Rev. Michael A. Davis, Gardners UMC, Fayetteville DCOM Chair of Evangelism Training Ministry
7. Missions	Making a Difference with Missions Mission Chairs & Pastors	Mrs. Myra Roberts, Chair of Missions, Salem UMC, Fayetteville
8. Organize Your Church	COM: Administrative Board/Council	Rev. Hope Vickers, Cumberland UMC, Fayetteville Chair of Fayetteville District Circle of Ministries
9. Stewardship	Developing Faithful Stewards	Dr. Rick Hebert, Past Chair of Conference Stewardship Committee
10. Stop Hunger Now	"Unto the Least of These"	Mr. Ernie Wendell, Associate Stop Hunger Now
11. Working with Ministers & Laity	Spiritual Formation	Rev. David Brownlee, Director of Wellspring, NC Annual Conference
12. Working with Youth	Youth Ministry UMYF Officers and Youth Counselors	Rev. Adam Seate, Wesley-Black's Chapel Charge, Dunn, NC
13. Worship	Planning Vital Worship	Rev. Samuel (Skip) A. Williams, Jr., Trinity UMC, Wilmington UMC



**Show the flag and let it wave
As a symbol of the brave;
Let it float upon the breeze
As a sign for each who sees
That beneath it, where it rides,
Loyalty today abides.
Show the flag and let it fly,
Cheering every passerby
Men that may have stepped aside,
May have lost their old-time pride,
May behold it there, and then
Consecrate themselves again.**

NOVEMBER ST. MATTHEW'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 2001

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 Youth Choir-9:30am Sun. School-9:45am Worship-11:00am Spaghetti Lunch - 12:00pm	5 One-By-One-7:00pm	6 Prayer Group-7:00pm	7 Card Ministry-5:00pm Charge Conference - 6:30pm	8 Night Owl Circle - 7:00pm	9	10
11 Youth Choir-9:30am Sun. School-9:45am Worship-11:00am Harvest Dinner - 6:00pm	12 ← PASTOR	13 Prayer Group-7:00pm	14 ON Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle - 10:30am Card Ministry-5:00pm WNA & BS-6:30pm Choir Practice-7:30pm	15	16 VACATION	17 →
18 UMM Breakfast-8am Youth Choir-9:30am Sun. School-9:45am Worship-11:00am Community Thanks- Giving - 4:00pm	19 ← DORIS WORKS	20 9:00AM-3:00PM → Prayer Group-7:00pm	21 Joint Thanksgiving Eve Service-7:00pm	22 THANKSGIVING DAY	23	24
25 Youth Choir-9:30am Sun. School-9:45am Worship-11:00am	26 NO One-By-One	27 Prayer Group-7:00pm	28 Card Ministry-5:00pm WNA & BS-6:30pm Choir Practice-7:30pm	29	30	