



St. Matthew's UMC Challenge



202 Hope Mills Road • Fayetteville, NC 28304
Office 910-425-0401 • Fax 910-425-4830
Website stmattno.org • E-mail stmattno@fayetteville.net

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

Volume II

January 2002

Issue 1

As a minister I have never been more impressed by a report at Charge Conference. This is how one of our youth looks at this church in their report to the 2001 St. Matthew's UMC Charge Conference by Meghann Dominie President, St. Matthew's UMYF. I want to share this with you.

The mission of the United Methodist Church is "Go Make Disciples." But what is discipleship? The dictionary defines discipleship as "the actions of one who accepts and assists in spreading the doctrines of another". The United Methodist Book of Discipline defines it as "the obligation and privilege of all Christians." As Christian people, the privilege of discipleship is a relationship with God that is deeply spiritual. The obligation we have is to respond to God's call to holy living in the world. Our church shows discipleship in many ways, but I'll get to that. The motto of our church is "A place to belong...a place to become." This means that at the church you belong to the family of God. Everyone wants a place to belong, and our church is willing to be that place. The second part of the motto, "A place to become" says that at our church we become disciples. Through our belonging to the body of Christ, we become more Christ-like. We become better Christians and better disciples. Taking all of that into consideration, I have decided that our church is working on discipleship in two ways. The first is teaching those within the church to be disciples and the second is sending those church members out into the community to be disciples to others.

Within our church there are many groups that help members of the church. Some of these groups are the United Methodist Women, the United Methodist Men and the Youth group. The United Methodist Women is a group that welcomes all women in the church. They help with many things around the church, including care of the kitchen. The United Methodist Women held a Bible Study in September that focused on Corinthians. They brought a group of the church together and taught them ways to be disciples. The United Methodist Women show women how to fellowship within the church and teach them how to be disciples. The United Methodist Men also help teach within the church and send out disciples. The United Methodist Men is a group in the church that welcomes all men that attend the church. They have monthly meetings and discuss important events that the men help with. The Men hold the annual church-wide picnic, where everyone in the church is invited to be in fellowship together. The final group that helps train disciples within our church is the youth group. The youth group is made up of youth ranging from grades 6 through 12. We have weekly meetings and discuss things that influence the day-to-day lives of Christian teenagers. We reach out to the youth in the church and teach each other how to be better Christians in the modern world. We try to plan events that will help us to grow in the Christian fellowship. We want to be Disciples of Christ in our schools and neighborhoods, and we learn to do that in church.

There is one more thing within the church that helps to train disciples. That is our Wednesday Night Bible Studies. We have several different classes on Wednesday nights. We have two children's classes so that the elementary school children can learn about being disciples. Then we have a middle high Bible Study. This class was started because several middle schoolers approached the preacher about wanting to learn about the Bible. So the church started a class for them. The class started with only two students and now is up to about thirteen on a regular basis. They have been meeting since January and they are still in Genesis. They have taken apart everything that Bible has in it and learned as much as they can about it. Then more recently the church started a high school Bible study. In that class, the high schoolers study various parts of the Bible, including the parables and prophecies of Jesus. The high schoolers have also asked the question, "How do you pray?" We were told to pray from our hearts. To thank God for what we have, to praise Him, and then ask Him for the things we need. That is how we are supposed to pray. That is one way the high schoolers have been prepared to be disciples in the world. The final class on Wednesday night is the adult Bible Study class. The thing that this class has studied is Spiritual Gifts. They learned how to use the gifts that they have been given to praise God and to use them to be Disciples of Christ.

Now on to the second way that our church works on discipleship. After we have taught the members of the church to be disciples, we send them out into the community. We allow them to use what they have learned within the church to help outside of the church. Three items that our church provides that help the needy in our community are the Food Pantry, the Emergency Fund, and the Thrift Shop. Each of these three ministries helps to make someone's life a little brighter. The Food Pantry gives food to people in the community who cannot afford food. The Emergency Fund gives money to those in the community who need it. The Thrift Shop donates various items to help those who are in need. Members of the congregation give of their time to volunteer in the Thrift Shop. The congregation gives money to the Emergency Fund. The congregation gives food to the Food Pantry. The people within the church help to keep these ministries running.

Another ministry of the church is the Card Ministry. This is a group of people, of all ages, who meets every Wednesday evening at the Pizza Palace across the street from the church to send cards to those who are lifted up in concern on Sunday mornings. They send hope to many who would not get it otherwise. They are disciples to those who they do not know. Our church also has a Prayer Ministry. This is a group of people who meets on Tuesday nights here at the church to pray for those on our prayer list, which is compiled from those people who are lifted up on Sunday mornings. This group of people shows their discipleship through prayer.

During the Christmas season, our church sets up an Angel Tree. On this Angel Tree are the names of several children who would not have a Christmas if their names were not taken. We get the names from the Mental Health Department of Fayetteville. Each person who helps with the Angel Tree, whether it is through a group, a family, or an individual, is touched because they can show a child how God works. Even though the child that is helped may never know that they were an angel, they see that they had a great Christmas. And knowing that you can help someone else have a great holiday makes a person feel good. They are being good disciples by helping those who are needy. There are also members in the church who help the needy families year round. They have the angels at Christmastime, but they also help during the other eleven months of the year. They just have to be called and they jump at the opportunity to help others.

This past June, our church started onto a new way of discipleship. I was sent as our church's first "ambassador" to the Appalachian Service Project, more fondly known as ASP. This is a service project in the Appalachia Mountains at which we repaired the homes of families that cannot afford the repairs. From building porches to reinstalling floors, the groups that attend ASP get an experience that can never be forgotten. Personally, I will never forget when I first walked into the trailer where I worked for a week and thought that there was no way we would be able to rebuild that floor in five days. I thought it was impossible. But I was wrong. We set to work and within those five days, we had not only rebuilt the floor, we had also built them steps leading up to their door, we redid the plumbing in their bathroom, we fixed some electrical problems and we laid linoleum on the bathroom and hallway floor. We did a lot of work, but in the end, it all paid off. We were disciples because we showed that family how God's people work in the world.

Another new ministry the church is starting quite soon is the Families First Program. In this program our church will adopt a Work First family and help them to move from welfare to work. There are eight church members on the team to do this. They will show discipleship through their helping of another person.

And a final ministry that shows the discipleship of our church members reaching out to the community is the "One-by-One" Ministry. This ministry is a tutoring program that teaches people of all ages, from second grade through adult, how to read and how to read better. The program started as a dream of Amy Eberhardt about four years ago. As I have heard her say many times: "It started with a dream and a prayer". And now this program has grown from a dream and a prayer, into the church's Lay Ministry of the Year. The program started with only six students and six teachers, and has now grown to a full capacity of 27 students and 34 teachers. Mrs. Amy has been recognized as one of the Governor's Volunteers of the Year because of the effort and dedication she has put into the program. The program has received a grant from the Cumberland Community Foundation and is recognized by J.W. Coon Elementary School as a partner in education. The students have shown great improvements when they are helped by the wonderful teachers of One-by-One. The program has many disciples. The teachers, who themselves range from sixth grade to adult, have answered a calling from God to help those who need help learning to read. The three adult directors of the One-By-One program each fulfill their discipleship work by helping to lead the program as far as it can go. The students are disciples because they allow themselves to be helped and can therefore help others. This "dream and prayer" program has grown into an extremely successful discipleship program. It is no longer just a prayer and a dream; it is now a reality and something to praise God for.

So I leave you with this. Our church is fulfilling both definitions of discipleship. Our church is full of those who are spreading the doctrines of God. And it is full of those who accept the obligation and privilege that they have through the Methodist religion to be disciples. I am very proud to say that I attend a church that has so many opportunities for any Christian person to be a disciple. We belong to a church where we can become disciples for Christ.

Meghann Dominie



The Thrift Shop made the following contributions:

- \$175.00 for 35 shoeboxes sent to Operation Christmas Child
- \$110.00 to the Church Power Bill
- \$150.00 to the Emergency Fund
- \$100.00 to Salvation Army
- \$1000.00 to Argentina Missionary
- Gave Tennis Rackets, Balls and Racket Set to be used for underprivileged children in Cumberland County.

The Thrift Shop will have a "1/2 Price Sale" the first two weeks in January.

Lee Anna Sproul, Chairperson
Mary Schneider, Co-Chairperson

ONE-BY-ONE

Attention: Change Of Date! For Session

Three, we are not beginning on Jan. 7th. Instead, we will begin January 14th, and the other dates will remain the same.

Second Session went well. We had some turn-overs, but we expected that. If a student drops out, we have one to replace him by the next class. Most of the students' grades went up, and all have better attitudes towards learning.

Session Three will contain some skipping Mondays due to holidays. We'll hang in there and do the best we can. Please, everyone involved, stay in tune with the schedule. **Thank you's** go to everyone who is working so hard!

God bless you,
Amy



COMPUTER RAMBLINGS

The "Hit Counter" that counts the visits to our church web site <http://www.stmattnc.org> was reset to 00000 on January 1, 2002. There has been **1039** visits to our home page since January 1, 2001 and **386** visits to the Audio Sermon page since April 15, 2001.

I am producing a **CD-ROM** that has all of the available sermons from Easter through December 2001. The **CD-ROM** is primarily for use on computers and MP3 players, but the MP3 files can be written to an Audio CD for those people who have a CD Writer. The CDs will be distributed through the Youth Group as a fund raiser.

I am looking for someone who would be willing to transcribe the weekly sermons to a text file on a computer. It needs to be someone with lots of time on their hands and able to use a computer. If you do not have a computer, I can loan you one and provide all of the tools that you need. Just contact me or the church office.

Calvin Rome

Home: 867-8031 romec@nr.rr.com

Work: 432-1471 romec@soc.mil





JANUARY

BIRTHDAYS

7-Cathy Collins
14-Roxie Server
15-Joyce Christian
21-Mary Schneider
22-Debbie Hager

23-Nan Blehi
-Betty Willoughby
24-Fred Rozier
25-Eva Smith
31-Reed Rozier

HELP'N HANDS

As we come into the New Year a little nervous about the new Committee's in the church, we look forward to a successful year.

The Senior Adults enjoy their monthly meetings and especially our trips. On December 8th, we went to Selma, N.C. to the "Rudy Theatre" to see a Southern Christmas Show. Santa, Elvis, Snowflakes, and Good Music made our day.

Our next meeting will be January 24th at 11:00 a.m. Come join us!

Eva Smith

BRIGHTEN UP YOUR CORNER WHERE YOU ARE

We cannot all be famous or be listed in "Who's Who," but every person great or small has important work to do.

For it's not the big celebrity in a world of fame and praise, but it's doing unpretentiously in undistinguished ways.

The work that GOD assigned to us, unimportant as it seems, it makes our task outstanding and brings reality to dreams.

So at the spot GOD placed you, begin at once to do, little things to brighten up the lives surrounding you.

For if everybody brightened up the spot on which they're standing, by being more considerate and a little less demanding.

This dark old world would very soon eclipse the "Evening Star." If everybody brightens up the corner where they are!

-Helen Steiner Rice



SPECIAL OFFERINGS

- ◆ EMERGENCY FUND
 - ⇒ for families with children from God's Teens
 - ⇒ from the Thrift Shop
 - ⇒ from the Sunday Morning Bible Study Class
 - ⇒ from the Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle
 - ⇒ in honor of Mary Schneider's birthday (Jan. 21) from her Secret Prayer Partner
- ◆ POWER BILL from the Thrift Shop
- ◆ MUSIC FUND from Janice T. Simpson

GOD'S TEENS

One year ago, the Young Teen Bible Study Group formed. We have learned so much during these past twelve months. We began with two teens, and now we have fifteen on our roll. We just keep on growing. We are so excited that we plan a "Birthday Celebration" on Wednesday, January 30th.

We are proud of our faith. We are happy that we can learn to apply God's Word to our own lives. We are lucky to have our questions answered so we can better understand the Bible.

We voted to change the name of our group to "God's Teens". We want to learn about the Bible, but we also want to be good Christians. That has led us to great fellowship and to stewardship. Faith and actions is where it all is. That is what God wants, and we are trying to live by His Holy Word.

Group Contribution





UNITED

METHODIST

WOMEN

"HAPPY NEW YEAR" to all women of our church who are active or inactive with the United Methodist Women. If you have not been active, we hope and pray that your New Year's Resolution will be to become a vital member of our organization. Our first meeting of the new year will be Monday, January 7th at 7:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. We will start with a "COVERED DISH DINNER" and continue with our program and business session. Hope to see you there!

Mary Rozier,

President UMW

**RECIPE OF THE MONTH
"HEATH BAR COOKIES"**

1 1/2 cups sifted unbleached flour	1/2 tsp. baking powder
1/2 tsp. baking soda	4 oz. unsalted butter
1/2 cup smooth or chunky peanut butter	1 tsp. vanilla
1/2 cup granulated sugar	1/2 cup brown sugar
4 oz. salted peanuts	2 large eggs
	14 oz. Heath Bar Chunks



Crumble Heath Bars. Sift flour, baking powder and soda. Mix butter until soft, add peanut butter and vanilla. Beat in both sugars and eggs until incorporated. Remove from mixer and add candy. Bake at 350 degrees F. for 14 minutes or until light brown in color. Yield: 5 dozen cookies.

CHRISTMAS 2001

1. Last Christmas we were thinking about all the things we didn't have. This Christmas we thought about all the things we do have.

2. Last Christmas we were placing wreaths on the doors of our homes. This Christmas we placed wreaths on the graves of our heroes.

3. Last Christmas we were letting our sons play with toy guns. This Christmas we were teaching them that guns are not toys.

4. Last Christmas we were counting our money. This Christmas we were counting our blessings.

5. Last Christmas we were lighting candles to decorate. This Christmas we were lighting candles to commemorate.

6. Last Christmas we paid lip service to the real meaning of the holidays. This Christmas we were paying homage to it.

7. Last Christmas we were digging deep into our bank accounts to find money to fly home for the holidays. This Christmas we were digging deep into our souls to find the courage to do so.

8. Last Christmas we were trying not to let annoying relatives get the best of us. This Christmas we were trying to give the best of ourselves to them.

9. Last Christmas we thought it was enough to celebrate the holidays. This Christmas we knew we must also find ways to consecrate them.

10. Last Christmas we thought a man who could rush down a football field was a hero. This Christmas we thought a man who rushes into a burning building was the real one.

11. Last Christmas we were thinking about the madness of the holidays. This Christmas we were thinking about the meaning of them.

12. Last Christmas we were getting on one another's nerves. This Christmas we were getting on our knees.

13. Last Christmas we were giving thanks for gifts from stores. This Christmas we were giving thanks for gifts from GOD.

14. Last Christmas we were wondering how to give our children all the things that money can buy. This Christmas we were wondering how to give them all the things money can't buy (peace, security).

15. Last Christmas we were thinking about all the pressure we were under at the office. This Christmas we were thinking about all the people who no longer have an office.

16. Last Christmas we were singing carols. This Christmas we were singing anthems.

17. Last Christmas we were thinking how good it would feel to be affluent. This Christmas we were thinking how good it feels to be alive.

18. Last Christmas we thought angels were in heaven. This Christmas we knew they were right here on earth.

19. Last Christmas we were contemplating all the changes we wanted to make in the New Year. This Christmas we were contemplating all the changes we will have to make in this new reality.

20. Last Christmas we believed in the power of the pocketbook. This Christmas we believed in the power of prayer.

21. Last Christmas we were sharing, spreading, and listening to gossip. This Christmas we were sharing, spreading, and listening to the Gospel.

22. Last Christmas we were complaining about how much of our earnings went to taxes. This Christmas we comprehended that freedom isn't free.

23. Last Christmas we valued things that were costly. This Christmas we valued things that were holy.

24. Last Christmas the people we idolized wore sports uniforms. This Christmas the people we idolized wore police, firefighter and military uniforms.

25. Last Christmas peace on earth was something we prayed for on Sunday morning. This Christmas it's something we prayed for every day.

-Anonymous Author-

Submitted by: Calvin Rome

JANUARY

ST. MATTHEW'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

2002

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 OFFICE CLOSED HAPPY NEW YEAR!	2	3	4	5
6 UMYF - 4:00pm	7 PPRC Mtg. - 6:00pm NO One-By-One UMW General Mtg. - 7:00pm	8 Prayer Group-7:00pm	9 Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle 10:30am Card Ministry-5:00pm WNA & B. Study-6:30pm Choir Practice-7:30pm	10 Night Owl Circle-7pm	11	12
13 Black-Eyed Lunch - 12:00pm UMYF - 4:00pm	14 One-By-One-7:00pm	15 Prayer Group-7:00pm	16 Home Extensions-9:30am Card Ministry-5:00pm WNA & B. Study-6:30pm Choir Practice-7:30pm	17	18	19
20 UMM Breakfast Mtg. - 8:00am UMYF - 4:00pm	21 Martin Luther King Jr. Day OFFICE CLOSED	22 Prayer Group-7:00pm	23 Card Ministry-5:00pm WNA & B. Study-6:30pm Choir Practice-7:00pm	24 Help'n Hands-11am	25	26
27 UMYF - 4:00pm	28 NO One-By-One	29 Prayer Group-7:00pm	30 Card Ministry-5:00pm WNA & B. Study-6:30pm Choir Practice-7:00pm	31		
	One-By-One-7:00pm	Prayer Group-7:00pm				