

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

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Call to Discipleship is St. Matthew's first discipleship program for new and prospective members and their families. Persons who have united with the church over the last fifteen months and those interested in the exploring the meaning of becoming a member of this church are given first choice in signing up for this event scheduled for Sunday, March 10th from 2:00 pm until 7:00 pm. Volunteers from the church will provide a light meal as a part of our fellowship and study.

Why are we doing this? Several months ago I shared with you my concern that the United Methodist Church has emphasized membership gain rather than discipleship for almost a century. When the Methodist church became the leading protestant denomination in American in the 1890's we became a little too pleased with ourselves. One in five Protestants was Methodist. Receiving members into the church was more important than teaching people the meaning of discipleship. Because of this failure we have lost membership in the United Methodist Church for decades. I am no longer willing to continue this destructive practice.

Call to Discipleship is a commitment I am making to God and this church to follow Jesus' command to "make disciples." People who join the church often have many questions about God, Scripture, the Church and what is expected of them when they join. One family I visited who joined the church

before I arrived, shared that even though they joined the church they were uncomfortable because they had so many unanswered questions. They also believed they needed some direction as to how they might become more involved in the life of the church. Other adults share that they never received any instruction or training before they joined the church. Come to this event.

Commitment is the key issue when uniting with a church. It means commitment to God in Christ as a person agrees to support the church with their prayers, presence, gifts and service. But the church also makes a commitment to help new members grow in their relationship with God and others within the fellowship of the church. This event is the first step toward meeting that commitment and being faithful to our vows as individuals and a church.

Questions about God, Scripture, the Church, worship, rituals, Methodism, local church structure and policy and expectations are welcomed as a part of this event. We will search for answers together. Individuals and families are encouraged to share in this event. Parents can decide if their children are old enough to share in the experience or a nursery can be provide for those who are too young. Call the church office to reserve your place in ***Call to Discipleship***.

Shalom,
Mike



Are you in need of a *Prom Dress* or *Ball Gown*? Check out the Thrift Shop. We have several new and slightly used dresses for under **\$25.00**. Check them out!!!

The Thrift Shop made the following contributions during the month of January:

- ◇ Contributed toward the Power Bill & Emergency Fund
- ◇ Installed a new Door, Door Frame & Storm Door for the Thrift Shop
- ◇ Gave money to the Card Ministry for postage
- ◇ Purchased Youth Bibles
- ◇ Purchased additional letters for the sign in front of the church

Thanks to everyone who helped with this special outreach.

Lee Anna Sproul, Chairperson
Mary Schneider, Co-Chairperson

JUST FOR YOU!

No wound, no scar?
Yet, as the Master shall the servant be,
And pierced are the feet that follow me;
But thine are whole! Can he have followed for
Who has nor wound, nor scar?

From 'Toward Jerusalem,
By Amy Carmichael

Jesus said, if any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow me. Luke 9:23

Submitted by: Dorothy Taylor

ONE-BY-ONE

Session Four begins this month. The dates for classes will be **March 11, 18, April 8, 15, 22, and 29**. This will be the hardest push of the school year. We strongly feel that our students' grades are going to be more than adequate. We can see improvement in everyone's self-esteem.

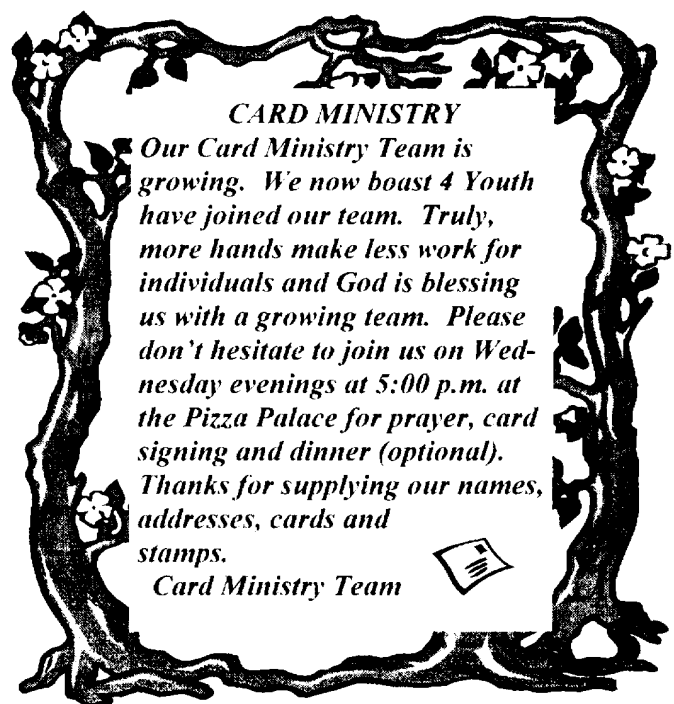
God bless you,
Amy



UNITED METHODIST MEN

We met on February 17th at 8:00 a.m. for our regular monthly meeting and breakfast. A delicious breakfast was prepared by Fred Rozier and a couple of helpers. It was enjoyed by all. There were **94** people who signed up for the Sweetheart Banquet of which **88** were served. Many **thanks** and **appreciation** to **Dan Eberhardt** for making all the arrangements, and to **David Gibson, Jeff Anderson** and **Wayne Hager** for heading this event. Also, a big **thank you** to **Mary** and **Fred Rozier** for the decorations and door prizes. The Youth did the serving and handled the Nursery. We are very fortunate to have such an active Youth Group in our church. **Special thanks** to their leader, **Wayne Hager**. There will be a **Spaghetti Fund Raiser Lunch** on **March 17th** after the Worship Service to help support the Youth in their activities. We hope you will support this worthy cause to help our Youth. Mark your calendar for **Saturday, May 18th** for our **Church-Wide Picnic**. This date is pending on the return of Douglas Stone who is serving in Bosnia. We will be asking for a few donations as we have in the past. Some future activities are **Father's Day Booklet** in June, **Picnic** in September, and our **Barbecue Sale** in October during the Bazaar. The highlight of our activities came from Dr. Hale. He proposed to the men that they conduct the **Mother's Day Worship Service**. This is only a proposal, but it sounds interesting. There will be more next month. March 16th, the men will offer their services to help in "**Operation Inasmuch**" which helps repair homes for the needy. So far, we have **6** volunteers, but could use more. If you would like to help, please call Troy Willoughby or the church office. Our next meeting will be March 17th at 8:00 a.m. If you are not attending, come and see if you are missing anything.

Troy Willoughby, President, UMM



CARD MINISTRY

Our Card Ministry Team is growing. We now boast 4 Youth have joined our team. Truly, more hands make less work for individuals and God is blessing us with a growing team. Please don't hesitate to join us on Wednesday evenings at 5:00 p.m. at the Pizza Palace for prayer, card signing and dinner (optional). Thanks for supplying our names, addresses, cards and stamps.

Card Ministry Team



MARCH



BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 - Charles Lucas | 13 - Ginger Sessoms |
| 3 - Stephanie Brackett | 19 - Amber Webb |
| 6 - Gina Keller | 24 - Wayne Hager |
| 8 - Paul Long | - Harold Taylor |
| 9 - Jeff Anderson | 27 - DeAnn Trevathan |
| 11 - Dejah Anderson | 29 - Carolyn Davis |
| 12 - Dale Mitchell | 31 - Brandi Makarov |

HELP'N HANDS



The Senior Adults had an enjoyable time together at **Kinlaw's Grill** on February 21st. The fellowship was great and the food was delicious. Our **Eldercare Program** is going well with everyone keeping in touch. We welcome anyone who is interested in helping us.

Eva Smith, Coordinator

YOUR SOCIAL LIFE CAN IMPROVE YOUR HEALTH

Is there any connection between your social life and your health? Researchers have recently examined the connection between our social relationships and our health in various unrelated studies. These studies have produced some exciting and unexpected results that reveal just how important it is to stay connected to our community, not just for our personal happiness, but for our health.

The following quiz from the Mayo Clinic **HealthQuest** newsletter will help you evaluate whether your social network is enough to benefit your health.

Rate Your Social Safety Net True (T) or False(F)

- (T)___(F)___ I can talk with my family about my problems.
(T)___(F)___ I can count on my friends when things go wrong.
(T)___(F)___ I talk with family, friends, neighbors, coworkers, and members of groups to which I belong at least once every 2 weeks.
(T)___(F)___ There's someone I could call on for help if I were confined to bed.
(T)___(F)___ There's a special person with whom I can share my joys and sorrows.
(T)___(F)___ I have someone I can turn to for advice.
(T)___(F)___ I have someone to love who makes me feel wanted.
(T)___(F)___ I have someone to get together with for relaxation.

If you had 4 or more "True" answers, you're doing fine. Keep it up! If you had 3 or fewer, try to increase the number by reaching out to others, either in a group (club, church, volunteer organization, support group, or class) or by making new friends.

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

- ◆ **EMERGENCY FUND**
 - ⇒ from the Sunday Morning Bible Study Class
 - ⇒ from the Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle
 - ⇒ from Paul & Jewel Sharpe
 - ⇒ in honor of Mary Bryne from Eva Smith
 - ⇒ in honor of Mary Byrne from Mary Rozier
- ◆ **POWER BILL** from the Thrift Shop

GOD'S TEENS

Our class has had an eventful set of weeks. As you already know, we celebrated our **1st birthday** on January 31st. However, that only came after an academic analysis of the **Ark of the Covenant**. We had fierce debates, enlightening scripture readings and countless surprises. Our class voted by majority to pick Jerusalem as the location of the **Ark** with a few votes for Ethiopia. However, we may never be sure as to all of the answers regarding this major biblical artifact.

Sincerely,

God's Teens





UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Again, I feel compelled to start by saying **thank you** to the United Methodist Men for the outstanding Sweetheart Dinner they gave the women. It was delicious! **Thanks**, also, to the Youth for the fabulous service.

Camp Rockfish has acknowledged our continued support. Their note states that with the help of organizations such as ours, they are able to serve over 12,000 persons each year. (See note on bulletin board.)

Our next **General Meeting** will be **Monday, March 4th at 7:00 p.m.** We will make plans for our **Mother's Day Booklets, Mother-Daughter Banquet** and **Father's Day Worship Service**. Your help is needed, so please plan to attend.

BREAKING NEWS! We have received our first contribution towards our Bazaar! Thanks to Ruth Caldwell, Lee Anna Sproul, Shirley Pitchford and Gail Terwilliger a quilt has been completed and sold. Let the crafts begin (if you haven't already started.) Bazaar time will be here before we know it. Great job, ladies! Keep up the good work!

Mary Rozier, UMW President

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Monday, March 4
7:00 p.m. - General Mtg. (Bring Soup or Sandwiches to share.)
April - Compile Mother's Day Booklets
Saturday, May 4
6:00 p.m. - Mother-Daughter Banquet
Monday, June 3
7:00 p.m. - General Mtg.
Sunday, June 16
11:00 a.m. - UMW lead Father's Day Service

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

"VANILLA WAFER CAKE"

BY: RUBY LUCAS



6 Eggs	1/2 cup Milk
2 cups Sugar	2 sticks Margarine
1 cup chopped Pecans	1 (3 1/2 oz) can or (7 oz.) bag of Coconut
1 (12 oz) pkg of Vanilla Wafers, crushed	

Cream together Margarine and Sugar, add Eggs one at a time, beat well after each egg. Add Cookie Crumbs and Milk alternate, add Cococut and Pecans. Spoon batter into a greased and floured 10 inch Tube Pan. Bake at 300 degrees about 1 hour and 15 minutes. Cool in pan for 20 minutes before turning on rack to cool. Also good with Whipped Cream.

RUTH-ETHEL SMITH CIRCLE

Our ladies met on February 13th and had a great turn out. We had **19** ladies present. Jean Lambert and Dorothy Spakes served as our hostess.

At our meeting, in addition to our business, we voted to take part in the **BEAR WITNESS PROGRAM**, sponsored by our local Law Enforcement Agencies. This program will touch your heart. These Bears (sizes 9 to 12 inches in height) will be shared with children and the elderly in times of crisis. New Bears are requested, **please**. If anyone in the Church has a desire to purchase a Bear for this worthwhile project, please bring them to the Church before our meeting on March 13th. Give them to me or leave them outside Doris' office and I'll get them. Another small project we voted on was for each of us to bring at least **1 New Dish Towel** to replenish the kitchen.

Easter Season is upon us. Let's all take a little more time out of our daily routine to thank our Heavenly Father for His only Son who died that we might have life eternal. Think about it! Could we have done that? God is so good! Let's not abuse it.

God bless you all and have a Blessed Easter!
Catherine Morgan

ST. MATTHEW'S SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

MARCH

- 9 - Confirmation Class, 3:00-6:00 p.m.
- 10 - One Great Hour of Sharing
 - Nurture (Discuss 5th Sunday Program after church)
 - Call To Discipleship, 2:00-7:00 p.m. (light meal)
- 16 - Project Inasmuch
- 17 - Family First Ministry Team at Urban Ministry, 2:00-5:00 p.m.
- 23 - Easter Egg Hunt, 2:00 p.m.
- 24 - Passion/Palm Sunday
- 28 - Holy Thursday Service, 7:00 p.m.
- 31 - Easter Sunrise Service at Grace UMC, 6:30 a.m.

APRIL

- 28 - UMYF Pancake Breakfast, 8:30 a.m.

MAY

- 4 - Mother-Daughter Banquet, 6:00pm (sponsored by UMW)
- 12 - Mother's Day (UMM lead Worship Service)
- 19 - Call To Discipleship, 2:00-7:00 p.m. (light meal)
- 26 - Peace With Justice Sunday

JUNE

- 2 - Graduate Sunday
- 9 - Promotion Sunday
- 16 - Father's Day (UMW lead Worship Service)
- 23-27 - Vacation Bible School (Donation Dinner 5:30-6:30pm, Classes 6:30-8:00pm)
- 30 - Fifth Sunday Service

JULY

- 8-12 - Camp Rockfish Day Camp

AUGUST

- 25 - Church-Wide Family Picnic (sponsored by UMM)

SEPTEMBER

- 22 - Homecoming
- 29 - Fifth Sunday Service

OCTOBER

- 6 - World Communion Sunday
- 11-12 - UMM Barbecue Sale & UMW Bazaar
- 20 - Laity Sunday
- 25 - Youth Lock-In
- 31 - Fall Festival

NOVEMBER

- 10 - Honor Veterans
- 17 - Harvest Dinner/Children's Program, 6:00 p.m.
- 24 - UM Student Day/Angel Tree/Community Thanksgiving Service
- 27 - Thanksgiving Eve Service, 7:00 p.m.

DECEMBER

- 1 - Hanging of the Greens & Chrismon Service, 7:00 p.m.
- 15 - Christmas Cantata
- 24 - Christmas Eve Communion Service, 6:00 p.m.

MARCH

ST. MATTHEW'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

2002

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 Children's Choir - 9:30am UMYF - 4:00pm	4 UMW General Mtg. - 7:00pm NO One-By-One	5 Prayer Group - 7:00pm Doorstep Evangelism Ministry Team-7:30pm	6 Card Ministry - 5pm WNA & B.Study-6:30pm Choir Practice-7:30pm	7	1 WITNESSING METHODIST	2 WORKSHOP COLLEGE
10 Children's Choir - 9:30am Nurture - 12:00pm Call To Discipleship 2:00-7:00pm UMYF - 4:00pm	11 Pastor at _____ Trinity Center One-By-One - 7:00pm	12 Stewardship Wksp. - Emerald Isle Prayer Group - 7:00pm	13 Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle - 10:30am Card Ministry - 5pm WNA & B.Study-6:30pm Choir Practice - 7:30pm	14 Night Owl Circle - 7:00pm	15	16 PROJECT INASMUCH
17 UMM Break- fast Mtg. - 8:00am Spaghetti Lunch - 12:00pm Family First Mini- stry Team at Urban Ministry-2-5pm	18	19	20 Home Extensions-9:30am Card Ministry - 5pm WNA & B.Study-6:30pm Choir Practice - 7:30pm	21 Help-n Hands Senior Group - 11:00am	22	23 Easter Egg Hunt - 2:00pm
24 PALM SUNDAY Children's Choir - 9:30am UMYF - 4:00pm	25 One-By-One - 7:00pm NO One-By-One	26 Prayer Group - 7:00pm	27 Card Ministry - 5pm WNA & B.Study-6:30pm Choir Practice-7:30pm	28 Holy Thursday Service - 7:00pm	29	30
31 EASTER Sunrise Service at Grace UMC-6:30am						