

# 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 II

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Issue 9

## EMERGENCY FUND MINISTRY

I am not that thrilled with the name but love the ministry we are undertaking by reaching out to those in need and addressing needs that might go unmet. When I first joined you at St. Matthew's, I suspected that many who came to us for assistance expected others to support them, especially churches. Doris and I work together with this ministry and she has been so helpful in establishing better ways to assured that those who are truly needy are getting our assistance.

In our search to verify legitimate needs we have learned to rely on one of three sources. Generally we refer people to **Cumberland County Community Action** on Green Street. This non-profit organization checks out peoples' stories and when they were helped last to assure that your gifts go to those who need assistance most. We work through Julie Griffin at CC Mental Health, who thoroughly checks out the needs of those who want our help. Finally, we rely on people we trust who personally know of an individual or family this ministry can help.

**We are working hard to be good stewards of the money you entrust to our care.** God's Teens have made generous contributions to the fund stating that they wish to help families with small children. Several groups in the church contribute regularly to this ministry.

A man and woman in their late forties who have no children are working to help a grandmother who was left with three young boys when her daughter came through town. This couple had been neighbors of the family when the boys were younger and had an emotional connection with them. The grandmother was recovering from a heart attack and felt overwhelmed. The mother left town and the brothers had few clothes. The Thrift Shop was able to help out and we gave some money to assist with other needs. The five year old was the only child who did not have a bicycle. Our good neighbor shopped around for an

inexpensive bike and we paid for it. The little one goes around telling everyone God gave it to him because the money came from the church.

One day I received a desperate call from a worker who was trying to assist a family with four children and a suicidal mother. The father worked but was under court order to pay child support for children from another marriage and could not make it on what was left. They could not pay the rent and buy food too. The mother tried to get disability for medical problems but was denied. She could not work and felt her children would be better off if she was dead. We were able to help this family get through this crisis financially until mental health could work to stabilize this family. **Your gifts made a real difference.**

Recently a church member discovered a family with a middle school child, two elementary age kids and a baby at home with a disabled father. The mother lost her job because their car broke down and school was starting. We used our resources to buy some school clothes for the kids and baby. Someone else provided school supplies. When the items were delivered people could not believe the poor condition of the trailer they lived in. They were thrilled with the school clothes and supplies.

The St. Mathew's 25 Challenge is based on our Lord's words *"When you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it unto me."* The more we give to this outreach ministry the more people in need we can help in Jesus name. Last year you gave \$6,038 to assist more than 217 people. This year you have given \$4,948 to assist 98 people thus far. Thank you for supporting this much needed ministry.

*Shalom,*

*Mike*

# GIFTED!

According to Jeremiah 1:5, God knew you at the moment of conception, gave you certain gifts and called you to be something special. Everyone has a unique personality, but we have discovered ways to help people understand themselves and others better. Those in our church who went through the Family First training enjoyed finding out some of their natural gifts and a way to discover how our differences make life interesting. **They agreed, "Everyone in the church could benefit by learning about this?"**

**GIFTED: Gathered In Faith To Empower Differences** is a workshop to help Christians better understand their own natural gifts and respect the gifts and differences of others. This knowledge can help couples appreciate each other more, parents and children get along better and church members work together more effectively. Even more important, it helps us discover our natural path to a deeper relationship with God.

Adults as well as youth from middle school up with good reading skills can benefit from this workshop. An inventory and worksheets will help you in this discovery process. **Sign up for the GIFTED Workshop, to be held Sunday afternoon September 8<sup>th</sup> from 3:00-6:00 p.m.** to give us an idea of how many want to attend.

# New Beginnings

Are you between the ages of 20 and 40 something?? If you are, then we would like to welcome you to the "**New Beginnings**" group. There will be an organizational meeting **Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.** at the church. Please bring ideas of activities, seminars, and missions that you would like to participate in. An "**Ice Cream Social**" will follow this meeting. Hope to see you there and bring a friend!!

# PRAISE

## TEAM

We are looking for people who like to sing and/or play an instrument to form a **Praise Team** to lead the congregation in learning and singing praise music. We plan to introduce this ministry during the Sunday School Hour on **Homecoming Sunday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>**. We will also have fun singing some of your favorite old hymns.

If that goes well, we hope to have the team lead the congregation in **Praise Music** between Sunday School and Worship each Sunday morning to prepare us for a more meaningful worship experience. Phyllis Jordan and Dr. Hale have been collaborating with others on getting this new ministry started. **Youth and Adults** who are interested in serving on this new ministry team are encouraged to **sign up on the Praise Team Sheet posted on the bulletin board.**

# WEDNESDAY NIGHT ALIVE

**Wednesday Night Alive** resumes **September 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.** with **Bible Study for Adults** with **Dr. Hale** in the fellowship hall. Adults will be studying the previous Sunday's Lectionary readings and can ask questions about points in the sermon. **God's Teens** will continue with their **Bible Study and Activities** will be planned for the **Children**. Come join us on Wednesdays!



## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Vacation times are winding down and it is time for us to get back into the "full swing" of the business of the women at St. Matthew's. We will need to make some definite commitments to our **Bazaar** at our September 9th General Meeting. We will need at least three people to head-up our main areas of the Bazaar: (1) **Baked Goods**, (2) **Crafts**, and (3) **White Elephant Sale**. We may want to consider having **Coffee** and **Donuts** or **Biscuits** on one or both mornings and **Hot Dogs** (or other) for lunch on Saturday. Our profits will be diminished this year due to the fact that we will not receive a portion of the Barbecue Plate money, so we need to have some "additional revenue" plans in the making. I hope everyone has done crafts this summer...if not get busy! We want our **Bazaar** to be as beneficial as last year.

Please check the bulletin board if you are in need of an Educational Scholarship. **Dr. Jane Lewis**, our **Scholarship Coordinator** for the Fayetteville District has sent the guidelines which I have posted for your convenience.

We have also received a "thank you" from the **Methodist Home For Children** which you may review from the bulletin board. It is always wise to stay abreast of the programs that we support.

Finally be in prayer for our **Nominating Committee** whose job it is to obtain a slate of officers for next year.

Mary Rozier, UMW President

### NIGHT OWLS CIRCLE

Our next meeting will be held September 12th at 7:00 p.m. Our project is to get "School Supplies". Also, please continue to make Crafts for the UMW Bazaar to be October 11th & 12th. Have a great month!

In Jesus Name,  
Shirley

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

Monday, September 9  
UMW General Meeting, 7:00 pm

Saturday, October 5 - UMW Annual Mtg. at  
Methodist College

Friday & Saturday, October 11-12  
Fall Bazaar

Sunday, October 27 - Fayetteville District  
Annual Mtg. at Clinton First UMC,  
2:30 pm

Saturday, November 30 - Cumberland/Hoke  
Sub-District Mtg. at Sandy Grove UMC,  
2:00 pm

Monday, December 2  
7:00 pm—UMW General Meeting, 7:00 pm

### RECIPE OF THE MONTH "FUDGE"

2 Cups Sugar                      4 Tbsp Cocoa  
1/2 Stick Margarine              1/2 Cup Milk  
1/2 tsp Vanilla Flavoring  
1 - 1 1/2 Cups Peanut Butter

Mix in a saucepan sugar, cocoa, margarine & milk. Cook on medium-high heat until it boils. Turn off & add 1 to 1 1/2 cups peanut butter & 1/2 tsp vanilla flavoring. Butter a platter or some other kind of dish & pour in fudge. Let it set a few minutes before cutting.



The following donations were made by the Thrift Shop:

- ◆ *Church Power Bill*
- ◆ *Emergency Fund*
- ◆ *Stamps for the Card Ministry*
- ◆ *\$500.00 to the Care Clinic*
- ◆ *\$150.00 to WFNC Fan Club*
- ◆ *Fayetteville Community Service*

Thanks to everyone who has been so faithful in giving their time and energy to make things run so smoothly during the summer months. A *Special Thanks* to *Lee Anna Sproul* and *Mary Schneider* for their faithful leadership.

### NEEDED: VOLUNTEERS

**J.W. Coon**, our Partner in Education has made us an incredible offer. They have an after school program, Monday - Thursday from 3:00 - 6:00 p.m. Anyone is welcome to volunteer. This is a golden opportunity for **teens** and **adults** who have extra time and cannot drive at night. They are most interested in help with enrichment activities such as **crafts, games, cooking skills, etc.** Please contact Doris or Amy if you would like to volunteer. A list will be composed for the school.

**WISH LIST FOR TEACHERS AT COON** is located on the Bulletin Board inside the schools front entrance. Items needed in the classrooms are waiting for you to take, purchase and return to the designated teachers. Remember to step into the office and let someone know why you are there. You can make some students mighty happy by giving just a little. God will richly bless you!

### GOD'S TEENS

We want to share the "**good news**" with everyone! We have studied, planned and prepared '**THE JOB PROJECT**' just for you! Every ounce of love for God that we have within us has been used to glorify God. Please plan to attend. We promise dignity with hilarity, seriousness with nonsense - all of it to show how hard some may work to twist the Word of God. We want to portray how devoted we have become to our Faith. Our Faith comes from the Bible, and our spoof on the twisting proves that we know the difference.

#### YOUR SPECIAL INVITATION

**Who:** God's Teens

**What:** Presentation of "The Job Project"

**When:** September 29, 2002 "5th Sunday Celebration" Covered Dish Dinner - 5:00 p.m., Program (with intermission) - 6:00-8:00 p.m.

**Where:** St. Matthew's UMC Sanctuary  
May God move you to join us, and may the Lord be with you.

- Group



# Companions In Christ

Dr. Hale is offering to lead this two hour weekly Tuesday Morning Bible Study beginning September 17th from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.. It will teach us that the Christian life is a journey, and how the word of God is applied to our life by a daily thirty minute commitment and our weekly sharing together.

This study will teach us how to hear God through the depth of Scripture and allow our lives to be shaped by His word. We will experience new dimensions of prayer and an understanding of different kinds of prayers.

Dr. Hale asked me to review this material and I found it deals with practical everyday issues. If you are seeking a closer relationship with the Lord, this study is for you. Everyone interested, please sign the "**Companions in Christ**" sheet posted on the bulletin board.

Dorothy Taylor

### UMYF NEWS

August has been a different kind of month for our youth group. We have been experiencing some very serious growing pains. But with the help of **Dr. Mike** and **Mrs. Amy**, we have worked through them. We have been able to express our feelings in a positive way and help each other to grow. We have forgiven and forgotten. And by doing all of this, we are moving on as a more united unit and are excited about the ways God is working within us. We would like to thank everyone who prayed for us over the last few weeks. God does answer prayer and we thank him for that.

One of the ways that we feel God is working within us as a group is that we are leading another worship service. On September 8th, our youth group will be presenting God with another service. We hope that each of you will come and help us to praise God and show him how much we love Him and as we thank Him for helping each of us through our hard times.

God bless,

The Youth Group

### USHER & ACOLYTE TRAINING

There will be a class on the responsibilities of **Ushers** and **Acolytes** on **Thursday, September 26th at 7:00 p.m.** This class will cover all aspects of assisting in the Worship Service of the church. All current and perspective **Acolytes** and **Ushers** are encouraged to attend. The class will be conducted by the Worship Ministry.

## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS



- |  |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1 - Dorothy Taylor                                   | 17 - Ruby Lucas                     |
| 6 - Matt Unruh<br>Joann Terrier                      | 18 - Lyle Spidle<br>Laura Gallimore |
| 7 - Shawn Schultz                                    | 20 - Bob Lambert                    |
| 10 - Hilda Parker                                    | 21 - Julia Agnew                    |
| 11 - Kay Warbis                                      | 22 - Betty Zielinski                |
| 14 - Phyllis Jordan<br>Dustin Powell<br>Synthia Long | 24 - Sam Hubbard<br>Pam Thompson    |
| 15 - Karen Ogden<br>Melvin Lynn                      | 26 - Lucky Cabeza                   |
|  | 27 - Andy Edge                      |
|  | 28 - Kristine Lewis                 |

## UNITED METHODIST MEN

The St. Matthew's UMM met Sunday, August 18th at 8:00 a.m. for its regular monthly meeting. We had **19** men present. A delicious breakfast was prepared by **Julie & Lynwood Griffin** and **Lynn Graham**. I don't know what we have done to deserve this special treatment, but it sure is nice.

Dr. Hale gave the devotion on the Book of Judges. Highlights were about people straying from God and God appointing a judge, faithful and loyal to God. Crisis always bring people to God. Pride is the big issue with people not turning to God. Very informative—all men are invited to hear these educational devotions.

August 24th was our **Fall Church-Wide Family Picnic**. There were approximately **65 to 70** people in attendance. A few braved the heat to play games. There were inside games for the ones trying to beat the heat. **Dan Eberhardt** cooked **Hot Dogs & Hamburgers** for everyone. There were trimmings of all kinds topped off with **Cake & Ice Cream**. Thanks to **Wayne Everts** for the cakes.

Our business consisted of the October 11th **Barbecue Sale**. Tickets will be on sale very soon. Operation Inasmuch was cancelled this October since it was the same weekend as the Bazaar.

Lynwood gave us an explanation on **Fire Codes** concerning chains & latches. They had to be removed in order to meet the **Fire Code** requirements.

The UMM gave **\$300.00** to the **Maintenance Fund** to help in their efforts to keep things working. Seems to be a lot of repairs being done that we never notice. **Thanks** to Lynwood and the Trustees.

The Thrift Shop Workers and Head Usher for September were assigned. To the men who missed the last meeting, we still are looking for you. Our next meeting will be September 15th at 8:00 a.m.

Troy Willoughby

## SPECIAL OFFERINGS

- ◆ **EMERGENCY FUND**
  - from God's Teens for Families with Children
  - from the Sunday Morning Bible Study Class
  - from the Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle
  - from Paul & Jewel Sharpe
  - from Joyce Christian in honor of Julia Agnew's birthday (Sept. 21)
- ◆ **POWER BILL** from the Thrift Shop
- ◆ **SCHOLARSHIP FUND** from Wayne & Elaine Everts
- ◆ **MUSIC FUND** from Marty & Linda Webb

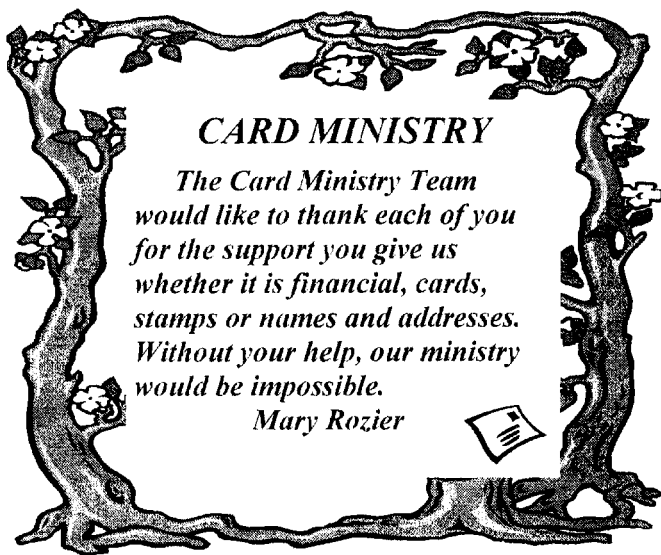


**YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED  
TO JOIN THE ADULT CHOIR  
AS THEY PRACTICE THEIR  
CHRISTMAS CANTATA  
"JESUS, OUR EMMANUEL"  
EACH WEDNESDAY AT 7:30 P.M.  
THROUGH DECEMBER 11, 2002  
IN THE CHOIR ROOM  
LOOKING FORWARD  
TO SEEING YOU THERE!**

## CARD MINISTRY

*The Card Ministry Team  
would like to thank each of you  
for the support you give us  
whether it is financial, cards,  
stamps or names and addresses.  
Without your help, our ministry  
would be impossible.*

*Mary Rozier*



## ST. MATTHEW'S SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### SEPTEMBER

- 12 - Fall Operation Inasmuch (Fayetteville Urban Ministry, 7:00 p.m.)
- 22 - Homecoming (Bob McKenzie, Guest Speaker followed by Covered Dish Meal)
- 29 - Fifth Sunday Service (Covered Dish Supper followed by "The Job Project" with God's Teens)

### OCTOBER

- 3 - Fall Operation Inasmuch (Fayetteville Urban Ministry, 7:00 p.m.)
- 6 - World Communion Sunday
- 11-12 - UMM Barbecue Sale & UMW Bazaar
- 20 - Laity Sunday
- 25 - Youth Lock-In
- 31 - Fall Festival

### NOVEMBER

- 8-10 - Pilgrimage for UMYF (Crown Coliseum)
- 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.

### *HOMECOMING*

*SEPTEMBER 22, 2002*

### *GUEST SPEAKER*

*REV. BOB MCKENZIE*  
*(ST. MATTHEW'S FIRST PASTOR)*

### *FOLLOWED BY*

### *COVERED DISH MEAL*

*IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL*



## ONE-BY-ONE

For those who are new to St. Matthew's, we'd like to give you some information about this very special opportunity. For those who still may have questions, this one's for you! With all sincerity, **ONE-BY-ONE** is here to serve the Lord. Our program derives from the acronym **R.E.A.D. Remediation, Education, Advancement, Diversity** make up the areas which are taught. Our partnership is broad within our community. Our church is a Partner in Education with **J.W. Coon Elementary**, our closest school. There are many other facets, which will be addressed later. The elementary school is our main source of students. The partnership itself is steady, and it works successfully for the children and for the school. They received a good-sized Federal Grant this year, partly based on our tutoring and helping with remediation. In turn, they were able to offer some supplies to us.

Our partnership began with the school four years ago. As our program grows, so do the numbers of students from the school grow. As their children move to middle school, they are kept in our program. There is almost always a waiting list for children. We are currently above our capacity due to physical plant space at the church. It requires a great deal of room in which to work with students **ONE-BY-ONE**. We have grown through this partnership into many other areas within the realm of our program. Our church has reaped many benefits from **ONE-BY-ONE**. We supply the work-site, teachers, most materials and supplies, but it is in the giving that we receive. Our teachers are from our own church and others throughout the county. Teachers range from 6th graders (peer tutors) through great-grandparents. Some of our younger teachers have stated that they want to pursue teaching as a career. One of our older gentlemen broke into tears at an evaluation conference. His words were, "I cannot believe how this has changed my life!" Another, a young mother, who brought her third grader because she couldn't help her child with her homework, burst into tears when informed that we teach adults also. This has been a beautiful story. Her learning gaps were identified. She quickly finished high school level within one year. Her self-esteem soared, and she applied at Campbell University as a full-time evening student. Today, she is making A's and B's and is "giving back" to **ONE-BY-ONE** as a teacher! Several of our students have helped get their families into a church. Thanks to a grant from **Cumberland Community Foundation**, we have recently begun another phase of the program. Our teens are helping senior citizens who wish to learn computer skills. We are excited about the way helping six students with homework has turned into a God-led experience that encompasses our church, neighborhood schools and reaches into all areas of the county.

**ONE-BY-ONE** and **St. Matthew's** has received many awards over the years. The two most outstanding for us have been the "**Governor's Award for Excellence in Volunteering**" and "**The Fayetteville District Laity Award for Lay Ministry of the Year**". We love to serve the Lord. If you have just 25 hours to give to a student from Sept. 23 - May 19, please listen to your heart. Your time, talents and devotion can really help to change the life of one who needs you. There are so many who are waiting. Pray about joining us in **ONE-BY-ONE**.



With Hope in Christ,  
Amy Eberhardt

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> LABOR DAY CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	<b>3</b> Prayer Group – 7:00pm	<b>4</b> Card Ministry-5:00pm WNA & B. Study-6:30pm Choir Practice-7:30pm	<b>5</b> Pastor-Parish Ministry Team-7pm	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> Youth Worship Service – 11:00am Gifted Workshop – 3:00 – 6:00pm	<b>9</b> Pastor at _____ UMW General Mtg. – 7:00pm	<b>10</b> Duke Divinity Prayer Group – 7:00pm	<b>11</b> School Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle - 10:30am Card Ministry – 5:00pm WNA & B. Study-6:30pm Choir Practice-7:30pm	<b>12</b> Night Owls Circle – 7:00pm	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> UMM Breakfast Mtg. – 8:00am New Beginnings & UMYF – 4:00pm	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Companions in Christ – 10:00 am – 12:00 pm Prayer Group – 7:00pm	<b>18</b> Home Extensions-9:30am Card Ministry – 5:00pm WNA & B.Study-6:30pm Choir Practice-7:30pm	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> HOMECOMING Bob McKenzie, Guest Speaker – 11:00am Covered Dish Lunch – 12:00pm	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Prayer Group – 7:00pm Prayer Group – 7:00pm Church Ministry Council – 7:30pm	<b>25</b> Card Ministry-5:00pm WNA & B.Study-6:30pm Choir Practice-7:30pm	<b>26</b> Usher & Acolyte Training – 7:00pm	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Service Covered Dish Meal - 5:00pm The Job Project – 6:00pm	<b>30</b> One-By-One – 7:00pm					
	One-By-One – 7:00pm					