



# 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 III

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Issue 1

## TREASURES IN HEAVEN OR ON EARTH

This has been a strange holiday season for me spiritually. I don't know whether it is because I am getting older or that our world seems to be changing so much. I know that I have been truly blessed with a good life. I have a wonderful family. I have met and worked with so many good people here at St. Matthew's the past two years. I have shared births and deaths and baptisms and funerals with you. I have celebrated marriages as well as wedding anniversaries that have lasted a half century or more. I have shared moments of joy and excitement and times of sickness, pain and disappointment with you.

Maybe that is why I have been so concerned about the fact that I have so much and around me are people who have so little. I have been challenged to look at myself and ask whether I am a truly loving and generous person. I remember a time when I started into ministry when people seemed to be more open and generous. Now we live in a world where people have so much more and are preoccupied with protecting what they have rather than making a difference in the world by sharing with others.

John Wesley wrote, "Whosoever has food to eat, and raiment to put on, with something over, is rich. Whoever has the necessaries and conveniences of life for himself and his family, and a little to spare for them that have not is properly a rich man; unless he is a miser, a lover of money, or one that hoards." By his definition I am a very rich man and if I am not sharing what

God has given to me, then maybe I am a miser, a lover of money and one who hoards."

Wesley goes on to say, "Thou art convicted already of "setting thy heart" upon thy riches, if thou layest out all that thou has above the conveniences of life, on adding money to money, house to house, or field to field, without giving at least a tenth of thine income (the Jewish proportion) to the poor. By whatsoever means thy riches increase, whether with or without labour; whether by trade, legacies, or any other way; unless thy charities increase in the same proportion; unless thou givest a full tenth of thy substance, of thy fixed and occasional income; thou dost undoubtedly set thy heart upon thy gold and it will "eat thy flesh as fire!"

Then Mr. Wesley concludes, "Christianity, true scriptural Christianity, has a tendency, in process of time, to undermine and destroy itself? For wherever true Christianity spreads, it must cause diligence and frugality, which, in the natural course of things, must beget riches and riches naturally beget pride, love of the world, and every temper that is destructive of Christianity."

Thanksgiving and Christmas 2002 has challenged me to examine my own generosity and capacity for giving and loving more freely than I have before. Each person must decide whether they will build up their treasures in heaven as well as on earth.

*Shalom,  
Mike*

## **Responsibilities and Duties of a Pastor**

**¶ 331. Performance Evaluations:** Persons serving as pastors of congregations shall be evaluated in part on the basis of the following list of responsibilities and duties:

**Responsibilities and Duties of a Pastor—**The pastor(s) shall oversee the total ministry of the local church in its nurturing ministries and in fulfilling its mission of witness and service in the world by:

- (1) giving pastoral support, guidance, and training to the lay leadership in the church, equipping them to fulfill the ministry to which they are sent as servants under the Lordship of Christ;**
- (2) providing ministry within the congregation and to the world;**
- (3) ensuring faithful transmission of the Christian faith; and**
- (4) administering the temporal affairs of the congregation.**

In the context of these basic responsibilities, the pastor shall give attention to the following specific duties:

### **Ministering Within the Congregation and to the World—**

- a) To preach the Word, oversee the worship life of the congregation, read and teach the Scriptures, and engage the people in study and witness.**
- b) To administer the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper and all the other means of grace. It shall be the duty of all appointed pastors, before baptizing infants or children, to prepare the parents and sponsors by instructing them concerning the significance of Holy Baptism, the responsibilities of the parents and the sponsor(s) for the Christian training of the baptized child, and how these obligations may be properly discharged (see ¶ 225.1). All appointed pastors may select and train lay members with appropriate words and actions to immediately deliver the consecrated communion elements to members confined at home, in a nursing home, or in a hospital.**
- c) To encourage reaffirmation of the baptismal covenant and renewal of baptismal vows at different stages of life. The practice of re-baptism does not conform with God's action in baptism and is not consistent with Wesleyan tradition and the historic teaching of the church. Therefore, the pastor should counsel any person seeking re-baptism to participate in a rite of re-affirmation of baptismal vows.**
- d) To give oversight to the total educational program of the church and encourage the distribution and use of United Methodist literature in each local church.**
- e) To provide leadership for the funding ministry of the congregation and to encourage giving as a spiritual discipline.**
- f) To lead the congregation by teaching and example in a ministry with people with disabilities.**
- g) To be involved and to lead the congregation in evangelistic outreach that others might come to know Christ, be baptized, and become members.**
- h) To encourage people baptized in infancy or early childhood to make their profession of faith after instruction so that they might become professing members of the church.**
- i) To perform the marriage ceremony after due counsel with the parties involved. The decision to perform the ceremony shall be the right and responsibility of the pastor. Qualifications for performing marriage shall be in accordance with the laws of the state and The United Methodist Church.**
- j) To counsel those who are under threat of marriage breakdown and explore every possibility for reconciliation.**
- k) To counsel bereaved families and conduct appropriate funeral and memorial services.**
- l) To counsel with members of the church and community concerning military service and its alternatives.**

- m) To counsel persons struggling with personal, ethical, or spiritual issues.
- n) To visit in the homes of the church and community, especially among the sick, aged, and others in need.
- o) To participate in community, ecumenical, and interreligious concerns and to lead the congregation to become so involved through ministries of service and advocacy, relevant to specific and diverse community contexts; and to pray and labor for the unity of the Christian community.
- p) To search out from among the membership and constituency men and women for pastoral ministry and other church-related occupations; to help them interpret the meaning of the call of God; to advise and assist when they commit themselves thereto; to counsel with them concerning the course of their preparation; and to keep a careful record of such decisions.
- q) To give diligent pastoral leadership in ordering the life of the congregation for discipleship in the world.

## **2. Equipping and Supervising—**

- a) To give diligent pastoral leadership ordering the life of the congregation for nurture and care.
- b) To offer counsel and theological reflection in the following:
  - (1) The development of goals for fulfilling the missions of the congregation, the annual conference, and the general Church.
  - (2) The development of plans for implementing the goals of the congregation and a process for evaluating their effectiveness.
  - (3) The selection, training, and deployment of lay leadership within the congregation and the development of a process for evaluating lay leadership.
- c) To lead the congregation in experiencing the racial and ethnic inclusiveness of The United Methodist Church and to help prepare it for participation in the itineracy of all ordained men and women.
- d) To participate in denominational and conference programs and training opportunities and to seek out opportunities for cooperative ministries with other United Methodist pastors and churches.
- e) To be willing to assume supervisory responsibilities within the connection.
- f) To lead the congregation in the fulfillment of its mission through full and faithful payment of all apportioned ministerial support, administrative, and benevolent funds.

## **3. Administration—**

- a) To be the administrative officer of the local church and to assure that the organizational concerns of the congregation are adequately provided for.
- b) To be responsible for the process of goal setting and planning through which the laity take responsibility for ministry in the church and in the world.
- c) To administer the provisions of the Discipline and supervise the working program of the local church.
- d) To give an account of their pastoral ministries to the charge and annual conference according to the prescribed forms. The care of all church records and local church financial obligations shall be included. The pastor shall certify the accuracy of all financial, membership, and any other reports submitted by the local church to the annual conference for use in apportioning costs back to the church.

The PPR Ministry Team which met 12/17/02 discussed the fact that people always want more visitation, but felt that given the other duties of the Pastor, visiting those in the hospital and at home who are sick, and those who call with special needs is all that is reasonably expected given the limitations of the Pastor's time.



# UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

*GOD BLESS YOU AND HAVE A*

*"HAPPY & HEALTHY NEW YEAR"!*

*STAY TUNED FOR EXCITING NEWS*

*TO FOLLOW IN FEBRUARY!!!*

*Adella Pray, UMW President*

## RUTH-ETHEL SMITH CIRCLE

The Day Circle met on December 11th for our regular monthly meeting and Christmas Party. We had **24** members present. The first half was a business meeting. We voted to donate money left over in the treasury to the **Food Pantry** with someone buying the most needed items. Our **January Project** is to collect **Baby Items** for **Operation Blessing** which helps unwed mothers who keep their babies.

A New Year is upon us, and we would love to have new members join us. We love to help others who are less fortunate than ourselves and we are a caring group. We recently added 3 new members. Please make a commitment to join us at our next meeting on January 8th at 10:30 a.m. After the business was finished, we enjoyed a delicious feast and exchanged gifts.

Respectively submitted, Joyce Christian, Chairperson

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

#### MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3

- ◆ 7:00 pm - UMW General Meeting

#### MONDAY, APRIL 7

- ◆ 7:00 pm - UMW General Meeting

#### SATURDAY, MAY 3

- ◆ 6:00 pm - Mother-Daughter Banquet

#### MONDAY, JUNE 2

- ◆ 7:00 pm - UMW General Meeting

#### MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

- ◆ 7:00 pm - UMW General Meeting

#### FRIDAY & SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10-11

- ◆ UMW Bazaar

### RECIPE OF THE MONTH

#### "PORK & BEAN BREAD"

- |                           |                        |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 cup Raisins             | 1 tsp. Cinnamon        |
| 1 cup Boiling Water       | 1/2 tsp. Baking Powder |
| 3 Eggs                    | 1 tsp. Baking Soda     |
| 1 cup Oil                 | 1/2 tsp. Salt          |
| 2 cups Sugar              | 1 tsp. Vanilla         |
| 3 cups Flour              | 1 cup Nuts (optional)  |
| 1 16 oz. can Pork & Beans |                        |

Mix raisins with boiling water (set aside). Beat eggs, oil, sugar & beans till beans are well broken. Add dry ingredients & mix well. Drain raisins & add to mix with nuts & vanilla & mix well. Pour into 3 well greased loaf pans & bake at 325 degrees for 50 - 60 minutes.

Submitted by: Emma Spidle

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



7 - Cathy Collins	23 - Nan Blehi
14 - Roxie Server	- Betty Willoughby
15 - Joyce Christian	24 - Fred Rozier
18 - Brad Everts	25 - Eva Smith
21 - Mary Schneider	27 - Dustin Graham
22 - Debbie Hager	31 - Reed Rozier



The UMM met December 15th at 8:30 a.m. and enjoyed a delicious breakfast prepared by Lynwood Griffin & Crew. There were **21** men present.

Our only business discussed was to help purchase a **Fire-Proof Cabinet Safe** to store old important papers so they can be easily accessed.

**Head Ushers** were assigned for the year.

**January** will be **Troy Willoughby** with **Randy Caldwell, Charles Lucas, Hank Zielinski,** and **Bill Leggett** as **Ushers**.

Our next meeting will be January 19th at 8:30 a.m. All men are invited to attend!

Troy Willoughby, UMM Secretary

## NEW BEGINNINGS

We had a wonderful uplifting "**Progressive Dinner**" on December 14th. It ended with a slide show of the evening events at the Meixsell's home. We also celebrated with the children at "**Breakfast with Santa**". We will be having a seminar scheduled sometime in January.

**LEADERSHIP TRAINING  
WORKSHOP  
WILL BE HELD  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 12TH  
2:45 - 5:00 P.M.  
HAY STREET UMC**

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE  
JANUARY 8TH!**

## 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 the Thrift Shop
- ◆ from Lee Anna Sproul
- ◆ from Mary A. Morrow
- ◆ in honor of Joyce Christian's birthday (1-15) from her Secret Prayer Partner
- ◆ from Rebecca Ramirez

**POWER BILL** from the Thrift Shop

### SCHOLARSHIP FUND

- ◆ from Wayne & Elaine Everts
- ◆ from UMYF & God's Teens

### YOUTH RETREAT

- ◆ from Gail Terwilliger
- ◆ from Marty & Linda Webb

### MEMORIAL FUND

- ◆ in honor of J.A. & Ginger Sessoms from Lynwood & Julie Griffin

## CARD MINISTRY

**RESUMES**

**WEDNESDAY**

**JANUARY 8TH**

**AT 5:00 P.M.**

**AT**

**THE PIZZA**

**COME AND**

**JOIN US!**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!!**





*A special thanks* to everyone who gave, shopped, and worked in any capacity at our Thrift Shop. Keep up the good work. Our store will re-open on *January 7th*. See you there!

### ST. MATTHEW'S UMC SERMONS

Since April 2001, with a few exceptions, the sermons at St. Matthew's have been recorded each Sunday morning. The sermons are then transferred from tape to computer and uploaded to the St. Matthew's UMC web site <http://www.stmattnc.org>. The sermons are usually available on the web site by 3:00 p.m. each Sunday afternoon. Any visitor to the web site can listen to the current sermon that Sunday afternoon or listen to one of the other 90 archived St. Matthew's sermons.

At the end of each month, an audio sermon CD that will play in a typical audio CD player is produced with that month's sermons. Semiannually a digital sermon CD for use on computers is produced with 6 months of sermons. These CDs are available for free and located on the table in the hallway just outside the sanctuary. Feel free to take a sermon CD for your own use or to use as a ministry to shut-in's, church friends who have moved away, family members living out of town, etc. The thin plastic CD cases can be mailed by simply putting it in an unpadding manila envelope. First class postage is less than \$1.00.

Hosting and maintaining the St. Matthew's UMC web site and producing the sermon CDs is part of my ministry in the church. May we all work together for the glory of the Lord.

Calvin Rome

### HELP'N HANDS

The Seniors enjoyed a wonderful Christmas Show at the Rudy Theatre in Selma on December 13th. If you have never been before, you have really missed a good time.

The New Year is upon us, so why not join with us for good Christian Fellowship!

### GOD'S TEENS "MEMORIES"

Memories exist so that we can say we have learned. They give us a foundation upon which to grow. What has being a member of God's Teens given to us?

Let's walk down the lane now that we're TWO  
To see what it was that we wanted to do.  
The Bible - what is it? What is it to us?  
Is it just a scrambled up muss?

Why were we here? We wanted to know.  
What was in that Book that people loved so?  
We didn't understand so very much,  
And we were afraid of some questions to touch!

As we came together, one at a time,  
Soon there were more than could fit on a dime.  
We climbed in numbers and so we grew,  
But what we would gain, we had not a clue.

It was not the quantity, but the quality we know.  
It was not very long before God touched us to GROW.  
God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Ghost,  
Let us understand that we had to give our most.

We invited others so they could see,  
What was happening to us - you and me.  
God spoke to us so we'd land on our feet,  
To rise to occasions He'd ask us to meet.

We know we have done what He wanted us to.  
And it has been hard to do things new.  
When He said, "Give what you have Today."  
We knew how to use it...the exact way!

So began our emergency funds,  
To go to families with little ones.  
A project was needed to show,  
Just how patient we had to grow.

"The Job Project" brought out of us all we had,  
To share with others how we could be glad,  
To have started that book written from above,  
To show everyone what we'd learned about Love.

In two years we've not gone so far,  
In that wonderful book that we keep ajar.  
We're just getting Moses to go on the trip,  
That God commanded, "Out of Egypt!"

It is inside that we have made the change,  
To read The Good Book and follow its range.  
Today we feel good that we will continue to grow,  
As GOD'S TEENS from which God's Spirit can flow.

# HAPPY NEW YEAR!

## THANKS FROM THE CHOIR

**Spiritually moving!  
The best of the best!  
No way to top this!**

Just a few of the comments from the congregation after hear "Jesus, Our Emmanuel."

But, without the desires of the choir and their undaunted diligence this would not have been possible.

Not only do we extend our appreciation to the wonderful people of Mount Pisgah and the Fayetteville Christian School Praise Team, but also to those behind the scenes. Of particular note, we extend special thanks and appreciation to:

- ♦ Darrell Collins for lending his time, material and talents with a fantastic sound system.
- ♦ Sam Hubbard for recording the entire concert on video for posterity.
- ♦ Terry Jordan for recording and getting us on WAZZ so that others may be inspired spiritually.
- ♦ The United Methodist Women for all the wonderful delicacies for the reception.
- ♦ Pam Thompson, the Go-Get-It-Girl!
- ♦ Anne Alred, Betty Jennings, Lola Smith, Elaine Everts and especially Ann Mulvaney for their wonderful work to ensure the reception went without a flaw.

**ALCOLADES TO ALL!!**

May the feelings of this Worship Service inspire you and remain with you throughout the Season and the New Year. May His and your light shine.

Phyllis Jordan



## "SPECIAL INVITATION"

You are invited to an Awesome Celebration

**GUEST OF HONOR:** Jesus Christ

**DATE:** Everyday - He is always around.

**TIME:** Whenever you're ready. (Please don't be too late though, or you'll miss out on all the fun.)

**PLACE:** In your Heart—He'll meet you there. (You'll hear Him knock.)

**ATTIRE:** Come as you are. Grubbies are OK. He'll be washing our clothes anyway. He said something about New White Robes and Crowns for everyone who stays till the end.

**TICKETS:** Admission is free. He has already paid for everyone. (He says we would not have been able to afford it. See, it's cost Him everything he had.)

**REFRESHMENTS:** New wine, bread and a far out drink He calls "Living Water, I hear it's the BOMB! Followed by a Supper that promises to be out of this world.

**GIFT SUGGESTIONS:** Your Heart! He already has everything else. (He's very generous in return though, just wait until you see what He has for you.)

**ENTERTAINMENT:** Joy, Peace, Truth, Light, Life. Real happiness, Communion with God, Forgiveness, Miracles, Healings, Eternity in Paradise and much more! (All rated "G", bring your family and friends.)

**RSVP:** Very important! He must know ahead so he can reserve a place for you at the Table. Also He's keeping a list of His Friends for future reference. (He calls it the "Lamb's Book of Life".)

**PARTY GIVEN BY:** His Kids (I'm one of them)

**Pray To See You There!!**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 HAPPY NEW YEAR!	2 Youth Spiritual	3 Life Retreat	4 Rockfish Center
5 Leadership Training Workshop 2:45 – 5:00pm Hay Street UMC	6 One-By-One – 7:00pm	7 Companions in Christ Bible Study – 10am Prayer Group-7:00pm	8 Ruth-E. Smith Circle – 10:00am Card Ministry – 5:00pm WNA & B.Study-6:30pm Choir Practice – 7:30pm	9 Night Owls Circle – 7:00pm	10	11
12	13	14 Companions in Christ Bible Study – 10am Prayer Group-7:00pm	15 Home Extensions-9:30am Card Ministry – 5:00pm WNA & B.Study-6:30pm Choir Practice-7:30pm	16	17	18
19 UMM Breakfast Mtg – 8:30am	20 Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	21 Companions in Christ Bible Study – 10am Prayer Group – 7:00pm	22 Card Ministry – 5:00pm WNA & B.Study-6:30pm Choir Practice – 7:30pm	23	24 Help 'N Hands Senior Group 11:00am	25
26	27 NO One-By-One	28 Companions in Christ Bible Study – 10am Prayer Group – 7:00pm	29	30	31	
One-By-One – 7:00pm	One-By-One – 7:00pm	Prayer Group – 7:00pm	Card Ministry – 5:00pm WNA & B.Study-6:30pm Choir Practice – 7:30pm			