

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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Review of St. Matthew's Giving for 2002

The Financial Secretary at St. Matthew's counts the weekly offerings and maintains the records of individual giving. I, Calvin Rome, have been the Financial Secretary since 2000. I also served as the Financial Secretary from 1994-1996. It takes most of each Sunday afternoon to count the offering, record the individual giving, make the weekly report and prepare the bank deposit. And then on Monday, the deposit must be made promptly so that the church treasurer can begin paying the many bills and making the payroll for the pastor and church employees. I am honored that the church has allowed me to fill this position of trust.

When I first took the job as Financial Secretary in 1994, it was a totally new experience for me. I felt rather strange knowing to what extent each member supported the church. It took me about six months to become accustomed to having this privileged view of giving. This is one of those jobs in the church where specifics are not discussed. However, once a year I am forced to take a close look at individual giving. When I total the annual giving and prepare the statements for mailing, I cannot help but make some observations on individual giving for 2002 at St. Matthew's UMC...

Table of Family Unit Giving

\$7,397	\$1,810	\$1,003	\$480
\$7,375	\$1,800	\$1,000	\$473
\$5,225	\$1,735	\$1,000	\$470
\$5,195	\$1,645	\$1,000	\$325
\$4,520	\$1,640	\$985	\$320
\$4,075	\$1,608	\$950	\$306
\$3,970	\$1,575	\$906	\$305
\$3,945	\$1,560	\$870	\$301
\$3,729	\$1,491	\$870	\$300
\$3,572	\$1,465	\$836	\$295
\$3,300	\$1,440	\$835	\$285
\$3,260	\$1,335	\$823	\$271
\$3,034	\$1,310	\$765	\$260
\$3,018	\$1,255	\$720	\$256
\$2,908	\$1,244	\$720	\$225
\$2,435	\$1,215	\$701	\$210
\$2,350	\$1,190	\$620	\$185
\$2,085	\$1,180	\$576	\$155
\$1,985	\$1,045	\$555	\$145
\$1,960	\$1,035	\$550	\$145
\$1,890	\$1,020	\$550	\$143
\$1,820	\$1,010	\$540	\$120

Some gave substantially to the church; others gave little or nothing. Some made pledges at the beginning of the year; others did not. Some gave more than their pledge, others fulfilled their pledge exactly, and still others fell short of their pledge. Some gave generously at the beginning of the year then less toward year's end. Others were generous toward the end of the year. Some who were consistent givers at the beginning of the year, increased their giving toward the end of the year; others decreased or stopped their giving toward the end of the year. Some gave throughout the year without specifically designating any amount; others made several designated offerings. Some have increased their giving a percentage each year; others have been giving the same weekly or monthly amount for the last 5-10 years. Some gave a large amount once or twice during the year, then less or sporadically the rest of the year. Some gave once a month; others gave each week. You could tell with some people when they were out of town or sick; there would be a missing entry that week in their record of giving. But then, some of those would double their giving the next week to make up for the lost Sunday, even placing two checks in the offering plate with one dated the previous week; others would not. Some would even double their giving the week before in anticipation of missing church the following week.

The Apostle Paul advised the Corinthians: "On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper..." (1 Cor 16:2). When we joined the United Methodist Church, we promised to "faithfully participate in its ministries by our prayers, our presence, our gifts and our service." The inserted table represents the giving of 88 family units of St. Matthew's UMC who gave over \$100. Another 25 family units gave \$100 or less. There were also many members of St. Matthew's who for whatever reason gave nothing. Where do you fit on the table?

St. Matthew's UMC has been greatly blessed this year. It has been a good year for us financially. In the previous 3 years, we had unrealistic budgets that were spiraling upward. Dr. Hale took the leadership in molding our budget into a more realistic tool

with increased accountability. The result is that we have come the closest to reaching our budget goal this year at 96.2% than we have in the past 10 years! With the end of year help of several members, we have paid 100% of our conference apportionments!! And the most money ever has been given toward the budget, \$133,929!!! See the inserted budget table for an eleven-year budget comparison.

Budget Comparison 1992-2002

Year	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998	1997	1996	1995	1994	1993	1992
Annual Budget	\$139,284	\$154,692	\$148,833	\$143,153	\$118,924	\$115,291	\$111,315	\$103,232	\$99,500	\$93,502	\$93,731
Needed Weekly	\$2,679	\$2,975	\$2,862	\$2,753	\$2,287	\$2,217	\$2,141	\$1,985	\$1,913	\$1,798	\$1,803
Average Weekly	\$2,576	\$2,339	\$2,526	\$2,514	\$2,137	\$1,950	\$2,023	\$1,691	\$1,785	\$1,624	\$1,695
Weekly Deficit	\$103	\$636	\$336	\$239	\$150	\$267	\$118	\$294	\$128	\$174	\$108
Received EOY	\$133,929	\$121,605	\$131,338	\$130,715	\$111,132	\$101,384	\$105,202	\$87,931	\$92,840	\$84,456	\$88,131
Deficit EOY	\$5,355	\$33,087	\$17,495	\$12,438	\$7,792	\$13,907	\$6,113	\$15,301	\$6,660	\$9,046	\$5,600
%Received EOY	96.2%	78.6%	88.2%	91.3%	93.4%	87.9%	94.5%	85.2%	93.3%	90.3%	94.0%

The Apostle Paul tells us: "The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body..." (1Cor 12:12). Here Paul was talking about spiritual gifts but the same principle applies to financial support. Each member of St. Matthew's UMC is important in our striving to meet our goals. By just looking at the Table of Family Unit Giving, you can easily see how the loss of support by just one or more "parts of the body" through death, sickness, transfer, job loss, etc could greatly affect the results.

I believe that giving is a reflection of individual spiritual maturity. I have been blessed with a special view of a spiritual growth at St. Matthew's. I have seen members who have given little or nothing in the past pledge and become consistent givers. I have seen members who have moved away and now attend another church recommit to supporting St. Matthew's. I have seen members who have always been consistent givers increased their giving and I have seen the sick and shut-ins who attached little notes to their gifts saying that they wished that they could do more. I have seen pledge cards where the member has written in an amount that was an increase in their normal giving but then strike through the amount and write in a larger amount. And I have seen members respond to requests to give a little extra in order to meet our conference apportionment. In 1 Corinthians we are told: "Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." (1Cor 9:6-7).

Yes, we had a good year in 2002 but I am concerned for 2003. Last year at this time we had 56 pledge cards returned pledging \$92,000. For 2003, we have received only 34 pledge cards pledging \$54,000. Of course, last year we sent our three mailing and this year we sent out only one letter. If you have not sent in your pledge or estimate of giving for 2003, please send it in today. If you need another card please call the office. I ask that you prayerfully consider your giving for 2003.

CALVIN ROME
FINANCIAL SECRETARY

"Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house, and thus put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts; see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing." (Malachi 3:10)



During the year 2002, the Thrift Shop gave \$18,398.32 to Missions and the Church. Recipients were...

- * *Better Health of Cumberland County*
- * *Care Clinic*
- * *Samaritan's Purse*
- * *Methodist Home for Children*
- * *Salvation Army*
- * *WFNC Fan Club*
- * *Care Center of S.S.*
- * *Hinton Rural Life Center*
- * *Birthday Card Ministry*
- * *Emergency Fund*
- * *Children's Music Fund*
- * *Bibles for God's Teens*
- * *Renovation of Ladies Restroom*
- * *Medical Benevolence Foundation*
- * *NC Conference "Stop Hunger Now" for School Kids*
- * *Red Cross*
- * *Andean Rural Health*
- * *Card Ministry*
- * *Church Power Bill*
- * *Bible School*
- * *Picnic Tables*

In addition to these gifts, money was also spent on improvements and upkeep to the Thrift Shop, and we also donated items to Grace Baptist Church for the poor & needy in Maxton. A special **thanks** to everyone who has helped to make this possible. A **Winter 1/2 Price Sale** is scheduled for **February 18 -28**.

Lee Anna Sproul, Chairperson
Mary Schneider, Co-Chairperson

ONE-BY-ONE

Those who participate in our program are still plugging along. For those of you who are new to St. Matthew's. **One-By-One** is a reading, remediation and tutoring program designed to help people in our church, our community and our schools. If there are any who could use our services, please contact me. Our students range from **six** to **75** years of age. We meet on Monday nights, from 7:00 until 8:00 p.m. here at the church. There is no charge. Anyone who enrolls must meet three requirements: The student must want to be here, any schoolwork materials should be brought and transportation must be reliable.

The Lord has blessed all who give of themselves and their talents in order to help others. Students are blessed by increasing self-esteem and by improving grades. **One-By-One** has had our God's hands to lead us.

With Love in Christ,
Amy Eberhardt



The youth will be assisting the UMM as waiters and waitresses for the **Sweetheart Banquet** on February 14th. They are also working on their **Youth Service** for February 23rd, and a donation **Continental Breakfast** to be held Sunday, March 2nd from 9:00 - 9:45 a.m. They are raising money with hopes of attending **Summer Breakaway** at Louisburg College June 16 - 21. An auction to provide **Youth Services** will be available by donations. The cost for each youth at attend **Summer Breakaway** is only \$185. **Summer Breakaway** is a structured spiritual experience with the theme "**My Heart is Christ's Home.**" They are planning to attend the **Annual United Methodist Youth Rally** at NC Wesleyan College in Rocky Mount on Sunday, April 27th from 3:00 - 6:00 p.m.

IT'S OVER !!!

Our big day has come and gone and the race is finally over. The week of January 12th was full of doubts, emotions, and probably fear, but we can now put this one in the books. Mandi finished the grueling **26.2 miles** at **Disney World** in about **6 1/2 hours** with much anticipation and doubt from her step mom. (*If you could have seen her after mile 17*). Now she has the **Mickey Mouse Medallion** to prove it. I personally want to **thank** everyone who supported her in this endeavor with their money and prayers.

Glyndetta Hubbard

GOD'S TEENS

We have had an eventful past two months. In December, we stuffed stockings for our "**Families First**" family, and began viewing **The Prince of Egypt** as an accompaniment to the Book of Exodus. In January, we finished **The Prince of Egypt**; however, the most prominent moment of January was our two-year anniversary celebration. It occurred on January 29th and featured a variety of activities that looked back at what has already happened and what still lies ahead. As a fun way to reminisce about the past two years, we took "**The God's Teens Quiz.**" It covered such various topics as the *Job Project*, *visitors* and *seminars*, *bible readings*, and general God's Teens information. We discussed our plans for our third year and refreshments followed. Our lasting faith and strength through that faith has brought us through two great years so far in the life of God's Teens. We would like to **thank** the entire church for their ongoing support of God's Teens. We are all very grateful to be so blessed as a part of St. Matthew's, and look forward to another great year.

Until next time, God's Teens

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS



- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 2 - Linda Webb | 18 - Tyler Manship |
| Sue Rutledge | 20 - Marty Webb |
| 4 - Mark Webb | Calvin Rome |
| 5 - Cathy Edwards | Bob Probst |
| 10 - Leigh Thomson | 21 - Phillip Powell |
| 11 - Jean Biggs | 25 - Julie Anderson |
| 12 - Catherine Morgan | Edna Galliera |
| 13 - J.A. Sessoms | 26 - Bill Parker |
| 14 - Connie Knight | 27 - Raymond Gray |



There were **22** men present at our January meeting. A delicious breakfast was served by Julie Griffin and her crew. **Thanks again, Julie!**

Our new President, Charles Lucas presided and expressed his thanks to all the men who are supporting the men's projects. We are going to continue to make the UMM appealing to all men. Please try to attend our meetings and give us your input. Our next meeting will be **February 16th at 8:30 a.m.**

Our devotion was led by Lynwood Griffin. It was entitled "**Spinach and Lima Beans**". His text was *Exodus 12: 31 and 16: 1-11*. Read these scriptures and set an example to work for God. Look at the positive life style and eliminate the negative side of issues. We can take a closer look at our life styles and work together.

Our **Black-Eyed Sunday** was a week later than last year, but it was enjoyed by all who took part. We had approximately **75** people who enjoyed *Ham, Peas, Yams, Collards, Cornbread, Dessert & Beverage*. **Thanks** to Dan and his crew for preparing the food, and also to the ladies who brought the cakes.

Our new business discussed was our upcoming **Sweet-heart Banquet**. This year it will be held on **Friday, February 14th at 6:00 p.m.** Please fill out the bulletin insert so we can get an accurate attendance count. A project is scheduled to clean and re-arrange the storage building behind the fellowship hall. If you have anything stored there, let Dan or Lucas know so it will not be discarded.

We received a **Thank You Card** from the *Volunteer Services of Cumberland County Mental Health* thanking us for helping the less fortunate.

Respectively,
Troy Willoughby, Secretary UMM

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 Betty Priest
- ◆ from Joyce Christian in memory of her Mother, Ruth David
- ◆ From Paul & Jewel Sharpe

POWER BILL from the Thrift Shop

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

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

ORGAN FUND

- ◆ from Joyce Christian in honor of Christy (Barber) Khondaker

BUILDING FUND

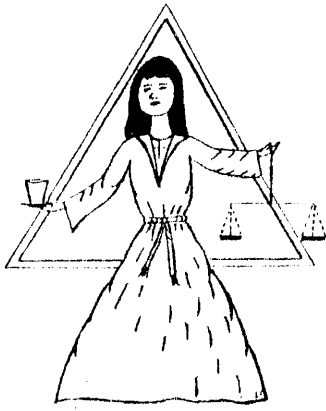
- ◆ from Gail Terwilliger in honor of George Terwilliger's 90th birthday & Thyra Vestal's 95th birthday

CARD MINISTRY

We are now in our 4th week of ministry into the New Year and the need continues. We are averaging 10 - 15 cards a week for both concerns and celebrations. Please continue to supply our team with names and addresses of those who may need to be remembered. Pray that our ministry will continue to nurture and help fill the voids for those who we serve. Thanks for your support.

*Happy New Year!
Card Ministry Team*





UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

ORDINARY PEOPLE WITH AN EXTRAORDINARY MISSION

2003 - Doing Justice

He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you, but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? Micah 6:8 (NRSV)

The woman is a representative of all United Methodist Women in the NC Conference. Around the neck she wears a cross symbolizing our salvation through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and our belief that to keep the faith, we must take up our cross daily and follow Christ. She is superimposed on an equilateral triangle which represents the Trinity. Following the perfect model of Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we were created by the Trinitarian Community to be in community with God and our neighbors. In one hand she holds the scales of justice. Without a blindfold she is able to see the injustice around her and she weighs on her scales the actions she needs in order to right those wrongs of society wherever she can. In the other hand she holds a glass of water. Offering a drink of pure, fresh water to the thirsty symbolizes the mission of the United Methodist Women as we strive to make our world a better place for all humanity.

Please plan to join us on **February 3rd at 7:00 p.m.** for our **UMW General Meeting** to help us get the year off to a busy start. Light refreshments will be served and we plan to adjourn by 8:00 p.m. Some items on the agenda are *Reading Program, Mission Studies, Programs Desired, Calendar of Activities for 2003, and others.*

Adella Pray, President UMW

RUTH - ETHEL SMITH CIRCLE

We met on January 8th for our regular monthly meeting. Joyce Christian called the meeting to order. Betty Jennings read the minutes which were approved as read. Betty also gave the Treasurer's Report. Our Project this month was collecting baby items for unwed mothers at Operation Blessing. Our February Project is to donate money and help children with their school supplies at a local school. Our new UMW booklets were handed out to everyone. A big **thank you** to Catherine Morgan for her tireless effort in getting this booklet out to us. Lola Smith gave the program and we then enjoyed a great lunch. We would like to invite each lady in the congregation to join us at our next meeting on February 12th.

Respectfully submitted, Joyce Christian

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

"VEGETABLE LASAGNA"

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 4 cups thawed frozen spinach | 2 eggs beaten |
| 1/4 cup grated parmesan cheese | 1 cup chopped onion |
| 4 1/2 cups grated mozzarella cheese | 9 cooked lasagna noodles |
| 2 cups finely grated carrots | 3 cups sliced zucchini |
| 2 cups sliced mushrooms | 3 cups cottage cheese |
| | 3 1/2 cups tomato sauce |



In a large bowl, combine spinach, zucchini, cottage cheese, mushrooms, carrots, onion, eggs & parmesan cheese; mix well. Alternate layers of sauce, noodles, mozzarella cheese and mixture in a 13" X 9" nonstick baking pan. Bake in 350 degree oven, uncovered, for 15 - 20 minutes, until cheese is melted. Let stand 15 minutes before cutting.

CHOIR NOTES:

First off, words cannot fully express my thanks and appreciation for all the support given during the past year. The loss of a loved one and family sickness have taken a toll, but with God's help and yours, we have survived. Thanks again.

On a lighter note, the choir is hoping to come up with some innovative things this year. We have approved hosting a modified **Dinner Theater**. Full details will be announced upon approval of the Church Ministry Council which meets in early February. The Menu will feature **Prime Rib** or **Lavender Cornish Hen** and all accouterments. Sit down in a relaxed atmosphere and be served while enjoying an evening with the **Hay Street Four** (a smaller group from the Hay Street Ramblers). They will be performing gospel and oldies. We have set the date for **March 15th** at **6:45 p.m.** with dinner at 7:15. **Door prizes** will be awarded.

We are working on an additional fund raiser. The **Christmas Cantata** has been recorded on a **CD**. Upon receipt of copies, we will be selling them. The recording is truly outstanding, thanks to Darrell Collins.

The choir voted to give any profits from the dinner to the church budget. The CD sales profits will go for copyright fees, new music and the expenses associated with any presentation.

Once again thanks for your continued support.

In God's name,
Phyllis

A NOTE OF THANKS:

Dear St. Matthew's,

Thank you for supporting Mental Health with the adoption of the children. You helped to make the Christmas season so special for these families. God bless you all!

Love you,
Julie Griffin

NEW BEGINNINGS:

Our "New Beginnings Group" have discussed plans to go **bowling**, but no date has been set at this time. Our next planning meeting will be **Sunday, February 9th at 9:30 a.m. in the 1st & 2nd Grade Classroom**. Please bring ideas of missions and activities you would be interested in doing.

YOUR LITTLE BOY?

Mama had a little boy
His soul was white as snow
He never went to Sunday School
Cause Mama wouldn't go.
He never heard the love of Christ
That thrilled the childish mind.

While other children went
This child was left behind.
And as he grew from babe to youth
She saw to her dismay
A soul that once was snowy white
Had turned to ugly gray.

Realizing he was lost
She tried to win him back.
But now the soul that was once white
Had turned to Christ his back.
She even started back to Church
And Sunday School, too.

She begged the preacher,
"Isn't there a thing we can do" ?
The preacher tried and failed and said
"We're just so far behind.
I tried to tell you years ago
But you would pay no mind."

And so another soul is lost
That once was white as snow
Sunday School would have helped
But Mama wouldn't go.

Author Unknown



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Church Ministry Council – 2pm UMYF – 4pm Praise Team – 6pm	3 UMW General Mtg. & One-By-One – 7:00pm	4 Prayer Group – 7:00pm	5 Card Ministry – 5:00pm WNA & B.Study-6:30pm Choir Practice – 7:30pm	6	7	8
9 New Beginnings – 9:30am SS Teachers Mtg. – 2:00pm UMYF – 4pm Praise Team – 6pm	10 One-By-One – 7:00pm	11 Prayer Group – 7:00pm	12 Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle - 10:30am Card Ministry – 5:00pm WNA & B.Study-6:30pm Choir Practice – 7:30pm	13 Night Owls Circle – 7:00pm	14 SWEETHEART BANQUET 6:00 PM	15
16 UMM Breakfast Mtg. – 8:30am UMYF – 4:00pm Praise Team – 6pm	17 PRESIDENT'S DAY CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED One-By-One Peer Tutoring Class-7pm	18 Prayer Group – 7:00pm	19 Home Extensions-9:30am Card Ministry – 5:00pm WNA & B.Study-6:30pm Choir Practice – 7:30pm	20	21	22
23 Youth Worship Service – 11:00am UMYF – 4:00pm Praise Team – 6pm	24 One-By-One – 7:00pm	25 Prayer Group – 7:00pm	26 Card Ministry – 5:00pm WNA & B.Study-6:30pm Choir Practice – 7:30pm	27 Help-N Hands-11am	28	