



# 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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Last Sunday was Heritage Sunday and I thought it would be good to share how **Methodism** began, since we are approaching **Wesley's 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**. John Wesley and his brother Charles were part of a large family. Their father was an Anglican Rector (pastor) in Epworth, Lincolnshire. Their mother was from a Puritan background and both of these influences affected their sons. Both brothers went to Oxford University where John became not just a student, but also a **Fellow** of Lincoln College. A small group of students held regular meetings for Bible Study and prayer, a daily service of Communion and charitable services like visiting the sick, the poor, and those who were in prison. This earned them the nickname "**The Holy Club**" or "**Methodists**" for their methodical approach. John and his brother were the natural leaders of "The Holy Club". They saw Methodism as a religious society within the Church of England rather than a separate Church. John and Charles became priests in the Church of England. John went to Georgia to work among the pioneers and well-established settlers; he returned home after a less than satisfactory ministry there. Failing as a missionary, he was impressed with a group of **Moravians** who had the faith to kneel on the deck of the ship in prayer during a horrible storm on their trip home. He met a Moravian called Peter Bohler, and attended a Moravian service on May 24, 1738. Searching for that kind of faith, "in the evening I went unwillingly to a society on Aldersgate Street, where one was reading Luther and a preface to the Epistle to the Romans. About a quarter to nine, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone for salvation, and an assurance was given me that he had taken away my sins, and saved me from the law of sin and death." A recent biographer describes the evening thus: "With a troop of exultant friends, Mr. Wesley left the little room on Aldersgate Street, and sought out his happy brother...just around the corner. His two words "I believe", told the good news. The company voiced its rapture by singing the hymn which Charles Wesley had just written, "**How shall my wondering soul begin**". Prayers of thanksgiving were offered, and then the rejoicing company separated to seek their several homes. Surely, not one of them at

that moment realized what this night was to mean to millions of souls, through centuries to come, all around the world." The significance of this Aldersgate experience, which represented a definite religious conversion for Wesley, is that whereas John Wesley, with all his talents and finished technique, had preached for thirteen years with negligible results, after his experience at the meeting at Aldersgate, he preached up and down the land with extraordinary power. Another observer has expressed his experience as follows: "He finally and permanently shifted the center of gravity of his own life from himself to God." Charles had had a similar experience a few days earlier and the change in the two men was considerable. The Methodist Revival began when **George Whitfield**, a Calvinist preacher, invited John Wesley to preach in the open air. John continued to do this for the rest of his life. He was not only a good preacher, but a genius at organization. He organized people into classes of between 5 and 10 people and met together each week. John encouraged people to attend the services of Holy Communion at the parish church on Sundays, as well as attending the Methodist preaching service and the weekly society classes. However, the Church of England was not prepared for this. It put John's activities down to "enthusiasm" and would not cooperate. This eventually forced him to ordain ministers himself and, with Charles, made Methodism a church instead of a religious society within the Church of England. Not content with this, John Wesley was a great social reformer. He campaigned against the slave trade, pioneered proper education and was involved in care for the poor and in prison reform. For John this was a natural way of expressing the gospel of love. The Methodist societies as they were called grew at a fast rate. Some way of keeping in touch and organizing them was needed and John held what became an annual conference of Methodist preachers. In 1784 John Wesley made provision for the continuance as a corporate body after his death of the Yearly Conference of the People called Methodists. He nominated 100 people and declared them to be its members and laid down the method by which their successors were to be appointed. This is why we have "**Annual Conference**" today.

*(Copied in part from the website of the United Methodist Church.)*

## MAY BIRTHDAYS



- |                       |                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 - Mae Roberson      | 18 - Dawn Stone      |
| 2 - Jamie Alexander   | Angie Norton         |
| 9 - Perry Smith       | 19 - Connie Williams |
| 10 - Mary Couch       | 20 - Dorothy Spakes  |
| 12 - April Lewis      | 27 - Robert Parker   |
| 14 - Nick Unruh       | 29 - Julie Griffin   |
| Heather Strub         | 30 - Doris Miles     |
| 16 - Maria Strickland |                      |

## ONE-BY-ONE

May 19 will be our "**Last Night**" for One-By-One for this school year. Our last hour will be broken down into 20 minute segments. Everyone who has been involved in any capacity will be asked to fill out our End-Of-Year Evaluation Form. Then, we will gather in the Sanctuary for a brief **Awards Ceremony** followed by refreshments in the Fellowship Hall. This is the only time during the year that we are together for whole group fellowship. This is our "So long" until next school term.

Special thanks to **Glyndetta Hubbard, Shirley Dominie** and **Dawn Stone** for helping to hold things steady for us. They worked very hard to assist in the administration of the program. We are grateful for all they have done.

I need to tell you a little story.

See the little 3rd grade boy. See him cry. See him so sad. His teacher told him about One-By-One. He was so excited, because he knew he needed special help with his schoolwork. Happily, he took the papers home to Mom. He returned the blank papers to school the next day. "Momma says she don't have no time." See the little boy cry. See him so sad. This is the reality of most of the lives in the St. Matthew's neighborhood. We try. We really do. We just keep on keeping on, in spite of our broken hearts.

This year, we piloted to **Lloyd Auman School**. We began with their 4th grade, then picked up a 1st grader. Next year, we plan to expand at Auman and to pilot at **Cumberland Road School**. We are still Partners in Education with **Coon Elementary**. Hopefully, more students will keep our volunteers busier next term.

We have had good success this year. We unfortunately had more volunteers than students. Perhaps this "marvelous dilemma" will not repeat itself. Our End-of-Year Report still sounds pretty impressive. We had **36** volunteers, **26** students (3 adults), **4,026** volunteer hours of parents, teachers, students & support personnel. The biggest joy came when total program hours were added back to our beginning in Feb. 1999. As of May 1, 2003, One-By-One has rendered **11,336** hours for and by this church and community! God gave us those hours, and we are all so humbled that He would bless this ministry as He has. Thanks be to God. Thank you to all here who have helped so much to make it possible. This is something we shall never forget.

With Christ we stand, Amy Eberhardt

## SPECIAL OFFERINGS

### EMERGENCY FUND

- ◆ from the Sunday Morning Bible Study Class
- ◆ from the Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle
- ◆ from the Thrift Shop
- ◆ from Betty Priest
- ◆ from Rebecca Ramirez
- ◆ from Paul & Jewel Sharpe
- ◆ in honor of Christy & Don's 1st Wedding Anniversary from Joyce Christian
- ◆ in memory of Dot Green from Ruth Caldwell
- ◆ from Frank Bagley

### POWER BILL from the Thrift Shop

### SCHOLARSHIP FUND

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

### MEMORIAL FUND

- ◆ in memory of Dot Green from Vernon & Jessie Jackson, John, Theresa & Vernon, Jr.

ARP FUND from Gail Terwilliger



On April 27th, our youth group went to Rocky Mount for the **Conference Youth Rally**. The theme was "**Holy Rollin**". We had an awesome time in fellowship with other youth

from our conference. A special thanks to **Mrs. Lorri** and **Mrs. Dawn** for transporting us to and from Rocky Mount.

The youth is having a "**Continental Breakfast**" on May 4th from 9:00 - 9:45 a.m. at the church. At the breakfast, we will accept donations in order to help us fund our trip to "**Summer Breakaway**" at Louisburg College. We would like to **thank** the United Methodist Men, Peggy Pullman Class, and other individuals for contributing to our Summer Breakaway Fund.

On May 10th, the youth will have a "**Car Wash**" from 9:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at the church. All proceeds will go toward Summer Breakaway. Everyone is invited to come and leave with a sparkling clean car. We have 8 youth who plan to attend Summer Breakaway from June 16 - 21. We are looking forward to growing in our relationship with the Lord, as we meet other youth from around the state. The youth are busy raising money for this event, so please help support our fundraising efforts.

On August 1st, our youth will have a "**Dinner & Dance**" at the church. This will be a chance for the youth to display their skills that Mrs. Amy and Mr. Dan taught them. More details will follow.

God bless, Mrs. Elaine

## FINANCE



## COMMITTEE

On May 17th a **Church-Wide Yard & Bake Sale** will be held from 8:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Please check your closets, storage rooms or attics and bring items such as tools, sporting equipment, fishing items, plants, furniture, or anything you no longer need or want (*please price them if possible*). We will accept donations at the church Monday, May 12th through Friday, May 16th. We'll let you know about the time & place in the bulletin. There will also be a **Bake Sale** at this time. Lee Anna will be getting in contact with us about this, but please plan to help out on May 17th to join us in work and fellowship. We appreciate all the help and participation.

Adella Pray, Finance Chairperson

## TEENS HELPING TEENS

We are off to a slow start with an average of Two Teachers and Two Students a night. Our group has decided that we would like to open this ministry to students from all High Schools, even if they don't attend church. This ministry is a branch of ONE-BY-ONE and is intended to help students who are having trouble in core subjects.



A "**Sunrise Service Breakfast**" was held on April 20th by the UMM instead of their regular meeting.

Items on the calendar for the UMM in May are the "**Mother's Day Service**" which will be May 11th. The men will conduct the full service as they did in the past. They will meet for choir practice on May 7th at 7:30 p.m.

On Saturday, May 17th, the men are sponsoring a "**Church Family Picnic**". Games & Fun will begin at 3:00 p.m. and Food will be served at 5:00 p.m. Dan Eberhardt may be asking for those with Ice Cream Freezers to make Ice Cream and someone to bake Cakes. We will also have Hamburgers and Hot Dogs with all the trimming. We are looking for a good turn out.

Lynwood Griffin asked the men if they were interested in saving the church money by painting the trim around the entire church building. It needs to be done as soon as possible. If you would like to help, see Lynwood.

Troy Willoughby, Secretary UMM

## GOD'S TEENS

God's Teens is still reading and focusing on the book of **Exodus**. Although through reading Exodus, we have found that many of the teens have questions concerning their faith and faith in general. Mrs. Amy brought together questions about where each member of God's Teens faith stands that was kept confidential.

As a group, we are deciding on whether God's Teens will meet during the summer and on what day.

We are celebrating and praising God that we are getting new members attending Wednesday Night Alive regularly. We all thank God for his many and continuous blessings on each of us and God's Teens.

God bless, Krystle Horlebein



## ATTENTION GRADUATES!!!

It's that time of year again, when we recognize our "graduates" for all their hard work and success. If you know of someone within our church family who will be graduating from **High School, Technical School or College**, please turn their names in to Jean Lambert, Dr. Mike, or Lorri Shackelford. Don't worry about their name being turned in more than once. We would rather have that than to miss someone. Please provide as much information as you can about where they are graduating from and their plans.

## NO HUNGRY NEIGHBORS

Do you realize that **19** out of every **100 infants and children** within the boundaries of our Annual Conference, are not assured of eating everyday?

This years Annual Conference will be hosting a "**Two Mile Run/Walk**". The money collected will be used to help alleviate hunger in our 12 districts.

If you would like to make a donation and sponsor our representative to Annual Conference this year, please contact Lorri Shackelford or Dr. Mike.

## SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY CLASS

Just when you think you've learned everything in the Bible, you find there's more to learn. Just when you think you know a scripture well, when you read it again, you get a whole new message. The Bible is an endless source of spiritual comfort, inspiration and knowledge. The Sunday Morning Bible Study Class invites you to study with us at 9:45 each Sunday. We're reading and studying the letter of Apostle Paul to the churches in Galatia. Come join us to learn more about the **WORD OF GOD** and the **GOD NEWS OF JESUS** and his teachings.



## OLD GEEZERS

At sporting events, during the playing of the national anthem, *Old Geezers* hold their caps over their hearts and sing without embarrassment. They know the words and believe in them.

*Old Geezers* remember World War I, the Depression, World War II, Pearl Harbor, Guadalcanal, Normandy and Hitler. They remember the Atomic Age, Korean War, Cold War, Jet Age and the Moon Landing, not to mention Vietnam.

If you bump into an *Old Geezer* on the sidewalk, he will apologize. If you pass an *Old Geezer* on the street, he will nod or tip his cap to a lady.

*Old Geezers* trust strangers and are courteous to women. *Old Geezers* hold the door for the next person and always, when walking, make certain the lady is on the inside for protection.

*Old Geezers* get embarrassed if someone curses in front of women and children, and they don't like any filth on TV or in the movies. *Old Geezers* have moral courage. They seldom brag unless its about their grandchildren.

It's the *Old Geezers* who know our great country is protected, not by politicians or police, but by the young men and women in the military serving their country.

This country needs *Old Geezers* with their decent values. We need them now more than then ever. Thank God for *Old Geezers!*

(I received this E-mail which said to pass this on to all the Old Geezers you know. I disagree, I say pass it on to all the young people, they are the ones who need it most.)

## YOU TOOK MY PLACE

A man on a weekend business trip took Sunday morning off to be with the Lord. He found a nearby church, arrived there early, parked his car, and got out. Another car pulled up beside him and the driver got out and said, "Excuse me, sir, I always park there! You took my place!" The visitor went inside for Sunday School, found an empty seat, and sat down. A young lady from the church approached him and stated, "Sir, that's my seat." He was somewhat miffed by this rude welcome, but said nothing.

After Sunday School, the man went into the sanctuary and sat down. Another member walked up to him and said, "That's where I always sit, you must be new here...You're in my place!" Even more disturbed by this treatment, he still said nothing. Later as the congregation was praying for Christ to dwell among them, the visitor stood up, and his appearance began to change. Horrible scars were clearly visible on his hands and on his sandaled feet, as his suit changed into a robe. As He walked out someone noticed him and called out, "What happened to you?"

As a tear fell from His eye, He looked back and said, "I TOOK YOUR PLACE!"

Submitted by: Dan 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>	<b>3</b> Youth Bake – 8:00-10:00am
<b>4</b> Donation Continental Breakfast 9:00am UMYF – 5:00pm Praise Team – 6pm	<b>5</b> One-By-One – 7:00pm	<b>6</b> Prayer Group – 7:00pm	<b>7</b> Card Ministry – 5:00pm WNA & B.Study-6:30pm Choir Practice – 7:30pm	NO THT <b>8</b> Night Owls Circle & THT – 7:00pm	<b>9</b>	Mother-Daughter Banquet – 6:00pm <b>10</b> Youth Car Wash – 9:30am-2:00pm FFF – 10am-12pm
<b>11</b> Mother's Day Worship Service by UMM – 11:00am UMYF – 5:00pm Praise Team-6pm	<b>12</b> One-By-One – 7:00pm	<b>13</b> Prayer Group – 7:00pm	<b>14</b> Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle 11:00am Card Ministry – 5:00pm WNA & B.Study-6:30pm Choir Practice – 7:30pm	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Yard & Bake Sale – 8:00am-1:30pm Church Family Picnic – Games 3pm & Food 5pm
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> One-By-One – 7:00pm	<b>20</b> Prayer Group – 7:00pm	<b>21</b> Home Extensions-9:30am Card Ministry – 5:00pm WNA & B.Study-6:30pm Choir Practice – 7:30pm	THT – 7:00pm <b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> FFF – 10am-12pm
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Last One-By-One – 7:00pm Memorial Day Observed	<b>27</b> Prayer Group – 7:00pm	<b>28</b> Card Ministry – 5:00pm WNA & B.Study-6:30pm Choir Practice – 7:30pm	NO THT <b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>