

# 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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## *Lessons From the Early Church*

As Christians and Methodist we must rely heavily on Scripture to understand God's truth revealed for our lives as individuals and the church through his Holy Word. John Wesley taught that we should rely on Scripture, tradition, reason and experience to understand the will of God, but Scripture comes first. That is also our Protestant heritage. Since it is the time of year to begin preparing for **Charge Conference**, the following passage seems appropriate.

**Acts:6-7** "Now during those days, when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution of food. 2 And the twelve called together the whole community of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should neglect the word of God in order to wait on tables. 3 Therefore, friends, select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task, 4 while we, for our part, will devote ourselves to prayer and to serving the word." 5 What they said pleased the whole community, ... 6. They had these men stand before the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. 7 The word of God continued to spread; the number of the disciples increased greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith."

**Apparently, there was complaining even in the early days of the church. Why not?** God's people delivered from slavery in Egypt put God and Moses to the test with their continuous complaining. Even the twelve Jesus chose as leaders from among all his disciples complained and argued among themselves. Peter and Paul as well as other early church leaders had conflicts with one another. As long as there are two or more people gathered together there will be disagreements, conflicts and complaining. **The**

**important issue for us, as a church is how we handle these challenges.**

The early church in this passage reveals that they did not get caught up in taking sides on the issue at hand nor continually complaining, but moved to solve the problem in a way that would help establish a pattern for the future organization of the Church.

The apostles called the people together and pointed out that they had not been called to neglect the word of God by taking care of everything that was happening in the church. They believed God called them to be devoted to prayer and to serving the word. **The solution** was for the people to select from among themselves people of good standing who would be appointed and consecrated by the apostles to take care of the operational tasks of the early church.

Ideally that is what we are called to do at Charge Conference when electing members of ministry teams. Some how the modern church has arrived at the idea that clergy are hired by the church to handle the details of running the church and the laity are the employer. In reality Christ employs both clergy and laity together to carry out his mission to go make disciples in the world around us. Why are clergy paid?

**Biblically, the primary calling of clergy** is to devote themselves to prayer as well as the study and service of the word in order that they function as the spiritual leaders of local churches. One minister shared with his church, "You actually pay me so I don't have to "work" so I can devote myself to being your spiritual leader." The real work is God's work. This is an important lesson from the early church and when we follow the word, we too will see the number of disciples increase greatly in our church as well.

*Shalom,  
Mike*

**TO: ST. MATTHEW'S UMC**  
**FROM: TRUSTEES MINISTRY TEAM**  
**RE: YARD MAINTENANCE**

The Trustees Ministry Team has the responsibility of maintaining the Church and Rental property as well as the Church grounds. We are facing a decision on how to best maintain our church grounds. We are investigating the possibility of having a Lawn Service do the mowing, trimming, cleaning out flower beds, trim hedges and remove limbs where necessary. Our very own United Methodist Men have gladly accepted this responsibility for a number of years, and have done a very good job. We don't like to admit it, but we are getting older, our health is not as good as it once was, and we are finding it harder to have people commit to the job of mowing and maintaining our yard. Our mowing equipment is worn out and is in need of replacement. We would like you, the church congregation to consider paying \$300.00 a month for three months out of the year which is a total of \$900.00 for a Lawn Care Service. The United Methodist Men and the Thrift Shop have accepted the challenge for a three month commitment each. This would be a financial commitment of \$1,800.00. We know that you will give this matter every consideration as you have always supported us anytime we have asked for help. Thank you for your consideration.



Lynwood Griffin, Chairperson  
Trustees Ministry Team

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**OLD FASHION WORSHIP SERVICE**  
**SUNDAY, AUGUST 31**

**11:00 A.M.**

**FEATURING OUR UMM CHOIR**  
**COVERED DISH SUPPER**

**6:00 P.M.**

**FOLLOWED BY PROGRAM**

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**QUIZ BOWL - AUGUST 31**

*Last chance to sign up is August 3rd. Go ahead and get your Teams together and sign up so that we will have time to prepare. The sign-up sheet is outside the office. Anyone can help with donations for a prize pack. Please contact Dawn or Lorri.*

*-Nurture-*

## **GOD IS LIKE.....**

A fifth grade teacher in a Christian School asked her class to look at TV commercials and see if they could use them in some way to communicate ideas about God. Here are some results:

God is like BAYER ASPIRIN - He works miracles.

God is like A FORD - He's got a better idea.

God is like COKE - He's the real thing.

God is like HALLMARK CARDS - He cares enough to send the very best.

God is like TIDE - He gets the stains out that others leave behind.

God is like GENERAL ELECTRIC - He brings good things to life.

God is like SEARS - He has everything.

God is like ALKA SELTZER - Try him, you'll like Him.

God is like SCOTCH TAPE - You can't see him, but you know He's there.

God is like DELTA - He's ready when you are.

God is like ALLSTATE - You're in good hands with Him.

God is like VO-5 HAIRSPRAY - He holds through all kinds of weather.

God is like DIAL SOAP - Aren't you glad you have Him? Don't you wish everybody did?

God is like the U.S. POST OFFICE - Neither rain, nor sleet, nor ice will keep Him from His appointed destination.



## **BEAUTY TIPS FOR WOMEN**

For attractive lips, speak words of kindness.

For lovely eyes, seek out the good in people.

For a slim figure, share your food with the hungry.

For beautiful hair, let a child run their fingers through it once a day.

For poise, walk with the knowledge that you never walk alone.

People, even more than things, have to be restored, renewed, revived, reclaimed, and redeemed; never throw out anyone.

Remember, if you ever need a helping hand, you will find one at the end of each of your arms.

As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands; one for helping yourself, and the other for helping others.

By: Audrey Hepburn



During the month of June the Thrift Shop contributed to the following:

- ◆ **Church Power Bill**
- ◆ **New Roof for the Thrift Shop**
- ◆ **Emergency Fund**
- ◆ **The Red Cross**

A special thanks to our volunteers and to everyone who continues to support our Thrift Shop.

Mary Schneider, Chairperson  
Lee Anna Sproul, Co-Chairperson

### FINANCE MINISTRY TEAM

The Finance Ministry Team wishes to **THANK YOU** for all your support during the past 7 months. As you can tell from the bulletins, we are still in the + for our giving this year. We appreciate all that you have done and are continuing to do to make this possible. Budget time is almost upon us. All Ministry Team Leaders are asked to please start thinking about your budget needs for the year **2004**. These requests need to be made in writing and turned in no later than October 10th.

### BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

We selected *"The Proposal"* by *Lori Wick* as this month's selection. It is the first book in *The English Garden Series*. The public library has several copies of this book. If it is not available at the branch you use, you can have it reserved and transferred to that branch. You may also purchase it at Wal-Mart for only \$7.97. Many thanks to Gail Terwilliger for her support, information and enthusiasm that she has shared with us. We will meet at the Pizza Palace on August 23rd at 11:30 am.

### CARD MINISTRY

*The Card Ministry has enjoyed some time off this summer, but will resume our regular schedule starting August 6th. Please join us at the Pizza Palace at 5:00 pm each Wednesday (dinner optional.) Bring names and addresses of anyone who may need "lifting up" for a special concern or celebration. We finish in time for Bible Study and Choir Practice.*

*Come join us!!!*



The St. Matthew's UMM met Sunday, July 20th at 8:30 a.m. There were **21** men present. A delicious breakfast was prepared by **Lynwood, Julie, Lynn and Marvin**. It was enjoyed by all. Our

Guest Speaker was **Homer Cates** from Wachovia Banks Financial Planning Division. He gave us ideas on how to manage finances and budget money. The main topics were planning for emergencies, living within your means, helping others and tithing your money. Lynwood presented a proposal on maintaining our church lawn and gardens. Read the Trustees Report in this newsletter for specific details. The UMM agreed to help on this proposal. Also, there is a plan in the future to secure the rear door entrance from the parking lot. Raymond Gray accepted the chairmanship of the **Barbecue Fundraiser** at the Bazaar on October 10th. There will be tickets available around September 1st. Cost will be the same as last year only **\$5.00** a plate. The youth were given **\$175.00** toward scholarships for **"Day Camp"**. We were glad to help our youth in their activities.

Respectively submitted,  
Troy Willoughby, UMM Secretary

### GOD'S TEENS

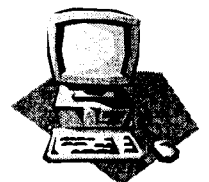
**Welcome back!!!** God's Teens will meet on August 6th at 6:30 p.m. It will be wonderful to have us all back together again to study the **Word of God!** Please consider inviting a friend to come with you. We will begin with a mutual sharing time. Then, we will resume our study in **Exodus 27**. God does bless you all. We will dive back into the excitement of the Lord!!!

Until then, with God's Love,  
Mrs. Amy

### SENIOR ADULT COMPUTER CLASSES

Those seniors who have shown an interest in learning more about the computer, start getting ready! We are almost ready to start teaching. Notification will be in the church bulletin. We have four computers available, and three adults have expressed a desire to take classes. The ONE-BY-ONE program will do all it can to meet your needs. It is with much excitement that we begin this new venture.

Bless you all,  
Amy



## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS



- |                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 2 - Dave Dominie     | 19 - Mary Byrne      |
| 6 - Christy Rome     | 20 - Elinor Stewart  |
| 8 - Chris Strickland | Tommy Stewart        |
| 9 - David Dominie    | 21 - Betty Nalls     |
| 10 - Kenneth Merritt | 22 - Joyce DeBruhl   |
| Sally Merritt        | Mary Ann Mitchell    |
| 11 - Mary Morrow     | 23 - Jeremy Anderson |
| 12 - Roberta Brown   | 25 - Reena Stone     |
| Ashley Stone         | Cathleen Manship     |
| Lorri Shackelford    | 30 - Katie Jordan    |
| 16 - Jeanette Ward   | Joanne Bland         |
| Charles Couch        |                      |

## YOUTH NEWS

- ◆ August 3, 5:00 pm - Youth will meet to finalize schedule for August 8th. (Let us know if you plan to bring a Guest.)
- ◆ August 8, 7:00 pm - Dinner/Dance/Lock-In (Guests must leave by 11:00 pm)
- ◆ August 17, 5:00 pm - Youth Meeting. Theme is UNITY. The message will be given by Ashley Stone and Krystle Horlebein.
- ◆ September 7, 5:00 pm - Youth will resume meeting at 5:00 pm every Sunday.
- ◆ Looking Ahead - Youth Pilgrimage November 7 - 9 at the Crown Coliseum. Cost is only \$15.00 per person. Please let me know as soon as possible if you are planning to attend.  
God bless! Elaine Everts

### A SPECIAL THANK YOU!!!

*Day Camp was a great success thanks to many people. We would like to thank the UMM, Night Owls, and many others who gave scholarships for our campers. A special thank you to Dawn Stone, Wilma Johnson, Debbie Winter, Dan Eberhardt, Wayne Everts, Nichole Massey and Michelle Schimp for chaperoning. We were also blessed by Amy-Jo Everts for teaching the campers a song in sign language and playing the piano in the fellowship hall during our praise time. A nice treat of watermelon was donated to our campers by the Shackelfords. Thanks to all who made our week a success.*

*God bless! Elaine Everts*



**ATTENTION CHILDREN!!!**  
**KINDERGARTEN - 5TH GRADE**  
**YOU ARE INVITED TO**  
**"SING & PRAISE"**  
**WEDNESDAY NIGHTS**  
**6:30 - 7:30 P.M.**  
**SNACKS WILL BE PROVIDED**  
**SEE YOU THERE!!!**

## SPECIAL OFFERINGS

### EMERGENCY FUND

- ◆ in honor of Peggy Williams birthday (July 7) from her Secret Prayer Partner
- ◆ from the Sunday Morning Bible Study Class
- ◆ from the Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle
- ◆ from The Thrift Shop
- ◆ from Paul & Jewel Sharp
- ◆ from Betty Priest

POWER BILL from the Thrift Shop

### ARP/TRUSTEE FUND

- ◆ from Lynwood & Julie Griffin
- ◆ from Wayne & Elaine Everts

### SCHOLARSHIP FUND

- ◆ from Wayne, Elaine, & Brad Everts
- YOUTH PILGRIMAGE from Wayne & Elaine Everts

## ONE-BY-ONE & TEENS HELPING TEENS

Parents, Students, Teachers: It is time for our tutoring and remediation to begin. The following information applies to all students. Upon teacher (or other) referral, a registration/application form must be completed. Close attention should be given to filling out the forms completely. We have specific qualifying rules: The student **MUST** want to be in the program, bring materials for study, provide dependable transportation. Any student who cannot comply will be dismissed from the program. Parents, we hope you understand the necessity for this. We have a teacher committed to being here for each student and very few spaces available. Our waiting list is long. Registration/Application Forms should be brought to the church on the first night. Opening class for ONE-BY-ONE will be Monday, September 15, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. Parents, please drop off your student by 6:55 at the church office entrance, and pick them up at 8:00. We encourage you to escort younger children into the building. All students will wait just inside the door for pick-up. This assures you and us that your student is safe. First night for Teens Helping Teens will be Thursday, September 18th, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. Our best work is done when students are in place by 7:00. We can provide calculators and computers for specific needs in math and other core classes. We ask that you keep this information posted where you can refer to it easily. To eliminate any questions about class meetings, here is the guideline: If the Cumberland County Schools are closed for any reason, so are we. This includes holidays, workdays, vacation days, and bad weather. Should bad weather occur while we are in class, we will do everything we can to keep your child safe. We give our all to help your student grow in self-esteem, have good grades, and make a positive difference in their life. **MOST IMPORTANT!!!!** Our first semester meeting dates are listed below.

### ONE-BY-ONE

Sept. 15, 22, 29 Oct. 6, 13, 20  
 Nov. 3, 10, 17, Dec. 1, 8, 15

### TEENS HELPING TEENS

Sept. 18, 25, Oct. 9, 16, 23,  
 Nov. 6, 13, 20, Dec. 4, 11, 18

### TEACHER TRAINING WORKSHOP

August 25, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.



## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

As the Summer Vacation time draws to a close, I want to remind you to be thinking about and praying for our Bazaar which will be held October 10 - 11.

Please continue to read. A new list of books will be available in late September to add to those that we already have.

We have received a request from the District Social Action Person. There are some folks in dire need of 3X or larger clothes. If you know of anyone that has any to share, get them to me and I will pass them on to the appropriate person.

Please check the bulletin board to see about mission projects as you get ready for the Fall. We could help a person or two by participating in these projects.

Thanks you for your work throughout this year!

Adella Pray,  
President UMW

### RECIPE OF THE MONTH "PORK CHOP LOAF"

6 3/4 inch Pork Loin Chops  
1 cup chopped Onion  
4 cups Bread Cubes, partially dry  
1 cup chopped Celery  
1/4 cup chopped Parsley  
1/4 cup Butter  
1/2 tsp Pepper  
1 Tsp Salt  
Fat



Brown chops lightly in hot fat. Cook onion & celery in butter until golden, but not brown. Combine remaining ingredients. Add onion & celery. Place a chop fat side up at each end of a 10x5x3 loaf pan. Alternate chops and stuffing. Run skewers through chops. Bake in slow oven at 325 degrees for 1 hour or until done. Garnish with glazed apple rings. Serves six.

### LOOKING AHEAD:



SEPTEMBER 8  
UMW General Mtg., 7:00 pm

OCTOBER 10 & 11  
UMW Bazaar

OCTOBER 11  
UMW Annual Conference Mtg.

OCTOBER 26  
UMW District Mtg.  
Divine St. UMC, Dunn NC

DECEMBER 7  
Cumberland/Hoke Sub-District Mtg.  
Victory UMC, 2:30 pm

| Sunday   | Monday   | Tuesday  | Wednesday   | Thursday  | Friday   | Saturday   |
|--|--|--|---|-----------|--|--|
| <b>3</b><br>UMYF – 5:00pm  | <b>4</b>   | <b>5</b><br>The Way of Forgiveness<br>- 6:30pm<br>Prayer Group – 7:00pm  | <b>6</b><br>Card Ministry – 5:00pm<br>God's Teens & Children's Choir – 6:30pm<br>Praise Team – 7:00pm<br>Choir Practice – 7:30pm                            | <b>7</b>  | <b>1</b>   | <b>2</b>   |
| <b>10</b>  | <b>11</b>  | <b>12</b><br>The Way of Forgiveness<br>- 6:30pm<br>Prayer Group – 7:00pm | <b>13</b><br>Card Ministry – 5:00pm<br>God's Teens & Children's Choir – 6:30pm<br>NO Praise Team<br>NO Choir Practice                                       | <b>14</b> | <b>15</b><br><b>8</b> Youth<br>Lock-In/Dinner/<br>Dance – 7:00pm | <b>16</b><br><b>9</b><br>FFF – 10:00am                                     |
| <b>17</b><br>UMM Breakfast<br>Mtg. – 8:30am<br><br>UMYF – 5:00pm   | <b>18</b>  | <b>19</b><br>Prayer Group – 7:00pm                                       | <b>20</b><br>Home Extensions-9:30am<br>Card Ministry – 5:00pm<br>God's Teens & Children's Choir – 6:30pm<br>Praise Team – 7:00pm<br>Choir Practice – 7:30pm | <b>21</b> | <b>22</b>  | <b>23</b><br>Book Discussion<br>Group meet at<br>Pizza Palace –<br>11:30am |
| <b>24</b>  | <b>25</b><br>One-By-One Teacher<br>Workshop – 7:00pm | <b>26</b><br>Prayer Group – 7:00pm                                       | <b>27</b><br>Card Ministry – 5:00pm<br>God's Teens & Children's Choir – 6:30pm<br>Praise Team – 7:00pm<br>Choir Practice – 7:30pm                           | <b>28</b> | <b>29</b>  | <b>30</b>  |
| <b>31</b><br>Old Fashion<br>Morning Worship<br>Service with UMM<br>Choir – 11:00am<br>Covered Dish Meal<br>– 6:00pm followed<br>by Program |  |  |   |           |  |  |