



St. Matthew's 25 Challenge

202 Hope Mills Road • Fayetteville, NC 28304
Office 910-425-0401 • Fax 910-425-9393
Website stmattnc.org • E-mail stmattumc@stmattnc.org



Jesus said, "When you did it to one of these my brethren, you did it unto me." Matt. 25:40

Volume IV

APRIL 2004

Issue 4

HOLY THURSDAY SERVICE

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday and ends with the celebration of Easter. It is a week of remembrance; a week of emotional ups and downs. The people celebrated the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. He entered through the eastern gate that was foretold as the gate through which the Messiah would ride. A few days later, no doubt some of those same people were crying "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!"

For those who have seen Mel Gibson's *The Passion of the Christ*, a new sense of the suffering our Lord endured for us is now more real. What faith a person must have to be committed to that degree. To love the Heavenly Father so much that you would do anything to please him by accomplishing the purpose he has called you to.

I have been so proud of those in our congregation who have been faithfully reading *The Purpose Drive Life* during Lent. The church has been buzzing with comments about this powerful book that has helped all of us examine our faith more closely. The discussions in Sunday School and Wednesday Evenings have been great. The problem is we just haven't had enough time to discuss everything it provokes in us.

I also appreciated the responses you have had to the sermons each week on the major themes of the book. It is exciting to hear how people are applying what they are learning to their personal lives. There seems to be a growing desire to see our church improve its commitments in these areas.

As we enter Holy Week we will be examining the fifth purpose: that we are made for a mission. Imagine looking at the mission God is calling us to fulfill as Christians. We will be celebrating the impossible mission Jesus was completing. Holy Week is a time for us to

embrace the possibility that we too can faithfully fulfill our mission.

On Holy Thursday, April 8 at 7:00 P.M. we will attempt to reenact a drama Christians have been celebrating for centuries. We are planning a very special musical Holy Communion Tenebrae Service with Foot Washing for those who wish to participate.

Our Choir joined by some members from Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church choir will be performing the musical Tenebrae *The Shadow of the Cross* by Lloyd Larson. Cindy Long, cellist, will play during communion accompanied by Phyllis Jordan.

The Tenebrae Service is based on an ancient rite of the Church focusing our attention on the passion and death of our Lord and Savior, Christ Jesus. Seven extra candles are placed on the altar and lit. They are then extinguished one by one as the church is gradually darkened.

Plans are underway to share Holy Communion in a dramatic setting. This will be followed with a Foot Washing Service for those who wish to participate. Not everyone is expected to be ready for this experience. Some may be uncomfortable. Remember how the disciples were reluctant to participate when Jesus rose from the table after the meal and knelt to wash their feet. This is such an intimate moment it is threatening to some. It is all about humble service and receiving the grace that is extended to us through this act. Join us for a most memorable Holy Thursday Service.

*Shalom,
Mike*



The Thrift Shop made the following contributions:

- ◆ **Church Emergency Fund**
- ◆ **Teddy Bears for the Child Abuse Center**
- ◆ **Clothes for a Needy Family**
- ◆ **A gift to Sea Level UMC for damages caused by Hurricane Camille**

Mary Schneider, Chairperson
Lee Anna Sproul, Co-Chairperson

UNITED METHODIST MEN:

The UMM met Sunday, March 21st at 8:30 a.m. with **19** men present. A delicious breakfast was served by **Fred Rozier, Randy Caldwell** and **Wayne Hager**.

Devotion was given by **Calvin Rome** on Colossians 9: 1-10 "**What Is My Purpose?**" Food for thought. It follows the theme in accordance with "**The Purpose Driven Life**". Is my life going according to the plan God has for me? Who am I? Think about it!

Welcome was extended to **Ike Huffman** and **Anthony Cabeza** after a period of being absent. Also missing of our regulars was Charles Lucas, Raymond Gray, Lynwood Griffin, Perry Smith, Doug Stone, and Grover Green.

A "**Thank You Card**" from **Clarice Edge** was read thanking the men for building a "**Handi-capped Ramp**" at her home. Many thanks to the men who helped in this project.

We are sorry about the Spring Picnic which was cancelled. The Fall Picnic is still in the process and will take place in September or October.

It was mentioned to the men about a new stove for the kitchen. It was tabled until the Trustees approve it. Much discussion was made in regard to a gas stove over an electric.

An "**Easter Sunrise Service Breakfast**" will be hosted by the UMM on April 11th. We will have **Sausage & Egg Biscuits, Juice, Coffee, Sweet Rolls** and **Fruit**. Make plans to attend the Sunrise Service at 6:00 a.m.

The UMM will be in charge of the "**Mother's Day Service**" again this year. The men will fill the choir and have some Special Music along with a Guest Speaker.

Troy Willoughby,



UMM Secretary

FRAYED & FRAZZLED FLOCK:

Although all our schedules seem so busy that we couldn't possibly squeeze another thing in, we still have time for each other. We have some exciting things going on and great fellowship. We don't have scheduled meetings, but we do try to keep our activities on a regular schedule, and invite you to join us whenever you can. We have changed our cooking and visitation to the 4th Saturday of each month.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

SATURDAY, MARCH 27

9:00 am - Cook and Visitation at church. (If you like to cook, please join us. If you don't like to cook, but feel you would like to be part of a visitation team, please come. We try to go in pairs, so you're not alone.)

11:30 am - Book Discussion Group at Pizza Palace. (This month's book is "Bamboo & Lace" by Lori Wick.)

SATURDAY, APRIL 10

9:00 am - Small Group Bible Study (Place to be announced) Although this group is full, if you would be interested in starting a small group Bible Study in your home, please see an FFF person. We would be glad to share our resources with you and help you get a group started. A group of 5 to 6 seems to work best. We are having so much fun learning and growing and sharing with each other.

SATURDAY, APRIL 24

9:00 am - Cook and Visitation at church

11:30 am - Book Discussion Group at Pizza Palace (Book: "A Time To Embrace" by Karen Kingsbury) The FFF will also be organizing the program for the "Mother-Daughter Banquet". You don't want to miss it!!!

ONE-BY-ONE SENIOR COMPUTER CLASS TEENS HELPING TEENS

These programs are still "swinging." We are discussing some changes to each in order to make them even more effective.

PLEASE NOTE!

Teens Helping Teens will start meeting on **Monday nights** instead of Thursday night. Their schedule will be the same as One-By-One.



APRIL BIRTHDAYS



- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 2 - Shannon Gibson | 21 - Margaret Lewis |
| 8 - Barry Gallimore | 25 - Lola Smith |
| 9 - Joe Bledsoe | 27 - Connie Miller |
| James DeBruhl | 28 - Jean Lambert |
| 17 - Joshua Hager | 29 - Edna Parker |
| 20 - Clarice Edge | 30 - John Williams, Jr. |

GOD'S TEENS

God's Teens have been very busy. Our **Mission Retreat to Spruce Pines** is scheduled for **June 1, 2, 3**. Thank you, everyone for your financial and moral support. We are really looking forward to interacting with the Youth from the Spruce Pines UMC. Who knows what may come of this trip. It is exciting to us to know that they have no Wednesday night programs except choir practice. Maybe they will want to start a God's Teens, too!

We are back to Bible Study, and we are settling down after our fundraisers. We went to Mrs. Amy's and Mr. Dan's for a Saturday cookout and Spiritual time. It was a very satisfying afternoon.

God's Teens

A SPECIAL NOTE:

Dear Church Family,
I just wanted to take a moment to thank you for your prayers during my trip to Honduras. The trip was an amazing experience that has greatly changed my perspective on life and my walk with Christ. While in Honduras, our team spent a lot of time in Elementary Schools with children whose families could not always afford to feed them. Seeing the smiles and happiness on the faces of these children truly moved me to see how privileged and spoiled we are in the U.S. These children know there is a God because they are still alive and have the opportunity to go to school. We don't always celebrate our lives as gifts from God, but these children see them as gifts. This trip has served to help me grow a great amount. Your prayers and monetary gifts have served as a great help in my trip. So thank you so much for the prayers. May God truly bless you all.

Love,
Meghann Dominie

SPECIAL OFFERINGS WERE GIVEN TO THE FOLLOWING FROM:

EMERGENCY FUND

- ◆ Sunday Morning Bible Study Class
- ◆ Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle
- ◆ Paul & Jewel Sharpe
- ◆ In honor of Sherrie Leggett's birthday (March 26th) from her Secret Prayer Partner

CHURCH POWER BILL

- ◆ The Thrift Shop

ARP FUND

- ◆ Sunday Morning Bible Study Class in memory of Dot Green & in honor of Betty Zielinski
- ◆ Wayne & Elaine Everts
- ◆ Frank Bagley
- ◆ Margaret King

SUMMER BREAKAWAY

- ◆ Wayne & Elaine Everts

CARD MINISTRY

We are continuing to meet each Wednesday evening at 5:00 p.m. to send cards and have dinner at the Pizza Palace. Please help to keep us supplied with names and addresses of those who may need to be remembered with a card or note. Thanks for all your support with stamps, cards and most of all your prayers for this important ministry.

*Card Ministry
Team*





UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

"...I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me" (Matthew 25: 35-36)

With the theme for the year being "**Expanding Mission**", I would encourage each of you to use the scripture from Matthew as a guide for your daily lives. As Spring arrives, we have a few dates to bring to your attention.

Monday, April 5, 6:30 pm - **United Methodist Women General Meeting** (Light Supper will be served.)

Saturday, May 1, 6:00 pm - **Mother-Daughter Banquet** (If you do not have a Mother or Daughter adopt one. We expect to have a wonderful time, so make plans to join us.)

Sunday, June 20, 11:00 am - United Methodist Women in charge of "**Father's Day Worship Service**". Please help out if you are asked to assist in any way.

Adella Pray, UMW President

RUTH-ETHEL SMITH CIRCLE:

Our Circle met March 10th in the fellowship hall. We had **12** present and had a great meeting. Afterwards, we car-pooled to **Fuller's Buffet Restaurant** and enjoyed a great lunch with lots of fellowship.

Our March project was to buy turbans for cancer patients. We collected enough extra money to purchase **10** turbans.

We will meet at the church on April 14th at 10:30 a.m. and go to **Carolina Health Care Nursing Home** and have our meeting and a light lunch with one of our members, **Edna Parker**. We want to make this special for her since her birthday is in April. Please make plans to attend and bring a dish that can be handled with fingers. Dessert will be taken care of. God's blessings to all during this most Holy Season and always.

Catherine Morgan, Chairperson

NIGHT OWL CIRCLE:

The Night Owls met on March 11th. Roberta Brown opened with prayer. There were **13** members present. Mary Rozier presented the program and served as our hostess. Money was collected to replenish the Sunshine Fund which was used to assist **Meghann Dominie** on her **Mission Trip to Honduras**. We also voted to take money from the fund to help send **Josh Hager** to the **Global Mission Conference**. We will collect money at our next meeting to replenish our fund for future projects. Our May project is to assist the youth with their **Summer Breakaway Retreat to Louisville College** in June. We discussed the **District Spiritual Day Apart** to be held at St. Matthew's on Saturday, March 20th. Adella Pray has requested cookies and drinks for this event. Our next meeting in April has been changed to Thursday, April 1st. May God bless you and fill you with his peace.

Yours in Christ,
Linda Webb

RECIPE OF THE MONTH "VEGETABLE STIR-FRY"

- 2 small yellow squash, thinly sliced
- 1/4 cup onion, sliced
- 1/4 cup bell pepper, sliced
- 1 teaspoon chives
- 1/8 teaspoon ground black pepper



Heat the oil in a non-stick skillet on medium heat. Add squash, onion, and bell peppers. Use green, red, and yellow bell peppers for a more colorful appearance. Sprinkle with chives and ground black pepper. Stir lightly until vegetables are tender. Cook for 10 minutes. Serve warm. Broccoli or cauliflower can be substituted for the squash.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 EASTER EGG HUNT - 2 pm MOVE CLOCKS AHEAD ONE HOUR BEFORE BEDTIME
4 Passion/Palm Sunday Daylight Savings Time Begins UMYF - 4:00pm Praise Team - 5:30pm	5 UMW General Mtg. - 6:30pm One-By-One & THT -7:00pm	6 Prayer Group - 6:30pm	7 Card Ministry - 5:00pm WNA & B.Study-6:30pm Choir Practice - 7:30pm	8 HOLY THURSDAY SERVICE 7:00pm		10 FFF - Bible Study
11 EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE 6:00am	12 NO One-By-One & THT	13 Prayer Group-6:30pm	14 Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle - 10:30am Card Ministry - 5:00pm WNA & B.Study-6:30pm Choir Practice - 7:30pm	15	16	17 FFF - 9:00am
18 UMM Breakfast Mtg. - 8:30am UMYF - 4:00pm	19 One-By-One & THT - 7:00pm	20 Prayer Group - 6:30pm	21 Home Extensions-9:30am Card Ministry - 5:00pm WNA & B.Study-6:30pm Choir Practice - 7:30pm	22 Help'N Hands Senior Group - 11:00am	23	24 Vision Workshop 10am-2pm (Lunch provided) Book Club at Pizza Palace - 11:30am
25 CONFERENCE YOUTH RALLY WESLEYAN COLLEGE	26 One-By-One & THT - 7:00pm	27 Prayer Group - 6:30pm	28 Card Ministry - 5:00pm WNA & B.Study-6:30pm Choir Practice - 7:30pm	29	30	

A Place to Belong... A Place to Become...
A Place to Belong... A Place to Become...



St. Matthew's



St. Matthew's

United Methodist Church

**202 Hope Mills Road
Fayetteville, NC 28304
910-425-0401**