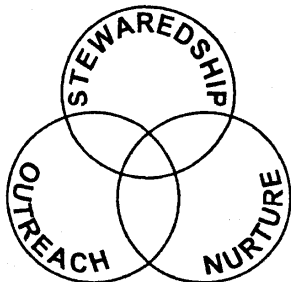


St. Matthew's UMC  
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## St. Matthew's 25 Challenge



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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 IV

MAY 2004

Issue 5

## VISIONS for the Future

Twenty-five faithful people attended our Visions for the Future Workshop here at the church Saturday from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Everyone began by exploring their own personal visions before we moved to looking at the ideas on the Church's vision and purpose. After looking at the difference between purpose and vision The Reverend Benny Melvin, a retired UM pastor, talked to us about his 11.5 years service at Pittsboro UMC. He shared that it was after his sixth year that the church really started growing and that he was busy just following up on all the visitors who attended their two worship services on Sundays was a big job. People invited people and the church kept growing and developing programs as they grew.

Later we looked at how the community may look at us and examined the original purpose for this church when it started in the Thrift Shop building in 1956. Back then this was almost in the country. Once formed the next major purpose was building the sanctuary and meeting in houses on the site for Sunday School. The next major purpose was building the education building and fellowship hall. Things were going well then although the church had a hard time financially. When asked what the next driving purpose for the church was the only answer was "paying off the mortgage." Maybe this was necessary but it certainly was not inspiring growth. Some one said, "I think we believed that if we build it, they will come." Even in the movie "Field of Dreams" the bigger issue was the dream about the sport of baseball. The field was a means to a greater end. It was a part of a

bigger issue, a bigger dream than just building a baseball field.

One thing we learned from this is that if building buildings becomes the driving purpose of a church then once you have them, paying off the mortgage is not enough to inspire people to give. We may have a purpose, but without a vision that is bigger than just buildings we lose momentum. We need a vision for ministry so large that it is always a little beyond our reach. Goals should be attainable. Visions need to make us stretch a little.

The Reverend Hope Vickers who is leaving Cumberland UMC after six years shared how they developed a vision for ministry that turned a declining membership with financial problems into an exciting

*Continued on page 2*

### **YOUTH DONATION CHICKEN PASTRY DINNER**

*Sunday May 2  
following worship*

read more about this fundraiser and their planned activities in the Youth Article on page 3

### **CHURCH MINISTRY COUNCIL**

*following Donation Dinner*

this will be a brief meeting to coordinate calendar events and deal with a few other matters. This way we will not have to schedule another meeting until next month.

*Continued from page 1*

growing congregation that has accepted a cross racial appointment for the coming year. The secret was having members seeing a need and committing to ministries they believed in. Members then recruited others to buy into their vision. The two things they had to work with were faith and space. Three programs that emerged were Scouting ministries, ministries to families with young children, and concern for middle school children who got in trouble after school.

Hope thought the Scouting Ministry was the easiest to start because Scouts have their own structure and programs. All you need are the volunteers to run the program. She said they did not believe in just letting people use their space unless there was someone in the church who saw the program as a part of their Christian commitment. Next they started a four day a week early childhood program for families with pre-schoolers. There were several people in the church who were committed to this ministry. The program has grown to the point that at this point they are already filled for next fall and have a lengthy waiting list. Fees pay for the workers and supplies. The preschool program just spent \$10,000 dollars for new playground equipment on the church property.

The third program was an after school ministry for middle-schoolers called "Escape Place." They use the old parsonage for this ministry because the church has gone to a housing allowance rather than providing a parsonage. They were able to form a partnership with John Griffin Middle School and also received a \$20,000 grant from the juvenile justice system to pay most of the cost of the program.

Because of their outreach into the community and personal commitment to these ministries the church has experienced significant growth in membership and finances. Cumberland UMC has received many new members through contacts in the Scouting and pre-school programs.

After Rev. Vickers spoke we re-evaluated our vision statement St. Matthew's developed two years ago. **Our Vision** is for God's grace in Christ to transform our lives and Church through exciting, creative ministries that embody St. Matthew's 25 Challenge by faithfully serving the poor, hungry, naked, imprisoned, sick and strangers in our own community, as if ministering to Christ himself, for Jesus said, "As you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it unto me." *Matthew 25:40*

We realized that we needed to set some specific ministry **Goals** to accomplish this mission. Our vision expanded to include suggestions of a prison ministry, ministry to seniors, expanding our food distribution ministry, scouting ministry, community visitation ministry, pre-school ministry, and an after-school ministry.

We had a lengthy discussion about how hard it was to get volunteers for the One-By-One program which has fallen in numbers. It was also noted that there were children who really needed the program but their parents were not committed enough to bring them and pick them up.

Volunteers seemed to be the issue we had some control over. So we asked if anyone had a burning call to volunteer and lead the programs which required volunteers. (Scouting, Seniors, Food Distributing, Visitation, or Prison ministries) No hands went up.

It was pointed out that the pre-school ministry and after-school ministry would have a paid staff and charge fees. There might even be church members who might want a part time job in one of these areas. It was also suggested that it might be easier to start with pre-schoolers rather than older elementary or middle schoolers. Finally, we asked how many people would be willing to work on a Ministry Design Team to explore these two ministries with the possibility of getting at least one started around the beginning of the next school year. Six people volunteered to be a part of this team: Elaine Everts, Lynwood Griffin, Sandy Jones, Ruby Lucus, Adella Pray and Gail Terwilliger. We now have some significant action based on our vision, a clear goal and a Ministry Design Team.

Those who attended agreed that this was a big step but as one members shared, "If we don't reach out and attract some families with younger children, we are going to die!" We also discussed the importance of seeing our efforts today as only a beginning. We must involve others in visioning for the future. We decided that we needed to meet as a Church Ministry Council at least once a month to review things already on the calendar and set aside a portion of every meeting to continuing the visioning process.

Whether you are officially on the Church Ministry Council or not, you are invited to meet with us Sunday May 2<sup>nd</sup> following the youth donation dinner and share your hope and dreams for our church ministries. Let us get excited about reaching out to our community and attracting new members. There is no reason we cannot be a great church for Jesus Christ in this community. God expects nothing less of us.

Our visions, purposes and goals for the future must be about ministering to those in need in our community as if we are ministering to Christ Jesus himself. This is our challenge. *Share the vision.*

*Shalom,*

*Mike*



We have been very busy this past month. Things have been switched over for Spring. New donations are being received daily and smiles come in and go out daily. Thanks to every ones support, we have been able to give **\$1,000.00** to the **Sea Level UMC** to help with their hurricane storm damage. Help was given to **Meghann Dominie** to allow her to go on a **Honduras Mission Trip**. Gifts were also given to the following:

- \* **Maranatha House**
- \* **Red Cross**
- \* **National Benevolence Foundation**
- \* **Hinton Rural Life Center**
- \* **Council on Older Adults.**

Thanks to your support, you made all of this possible.

Mary Schneider, Chairperson  
Lee Anna Sproul, Co-Chairperson



The Youth are still in need of **\$873.00** for **Summer Breakaway Trip**. So we are planning quite a few fundraisers to raise more money. They are: Sunday, May 2nd at 12:00 p.m. a **Donation Chicken & Dumplings**

**Luncheon**, Saturday, May 8th from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. a **Car Wash & Bake Sale**, and Sunday, May 23rd at 9:00 a.m. a **Donation Continental Breakfast**. We are also selling **St. Matthew's License Plates** for only **\$5.00**. You can purchase one from any youth member. On April 4th, we held our **Donation Spaghetti Luncheon**, and would like to thank **Dawn Stone, Lorri Shackelford, Pam Thompson, Shirley Dominie, Leigh Thomson, and Elaine Everts** for quickly putting together the meal and helping us clean up. We would also like to thank all the support "behind the scenes." We earned a total of **\$596.00**. We really appreciated all the help and the donations. If I forgot to mention anyone, please accept my sincerest apologies. By the time you receive this, we would have already been to **Youth Rally Day**. It is an afternoon gathering of youth groups from local churches across the Conference. The Rally is a time for fellowship in faith, worship, and a celebration of the place and role of youth in the life of the church. The theme is **"Souled Out"**. When we as Christians are "souled out", we have given ourselves fully and completely to God so that we may become vessels to be used as God's will. Nothing else takes priority. Scripture teaches us, *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all the strength and with all your mind and love your neighbor as yourself."* The day consisted of a carnival of recreation and fellowship activities. We would like to thank all of our drivers and parents who came along. We would like to thank the church for all the donations. Please be mindful that God's Teens and the Youth Group may be the same group of teens, but we do different things while worshipping God. So please remember, money that goes to God's Teens is not supportive to the Youth Group. Thank you.

May God bless all of you,  
Ashley Stone



The UMM met Sunday, April 18th at 8:30 a.m. with **20** men present. Breakfast consisted of **Chip Beef Gravy, Biscuits, Sausage Links and Eggs**. It was prepared by **Randy Caldwell, Wayne Hager, and Jeff Anderson**. It was enjoyed by all! Our President, Wayne

Everts was away in New York attending a funeral. His wife, Elaine, had a death in her family. Our sympathy and prayers were with them. Our **"Mother's Day Service"** is planned for Sunday, May 9th. The UMM will fill the choir and provide special music. We will also have a speaker or speakers who will provide inspiration to the service. The UMM will again this year prepare a meal for **Vacation Bible School** during the week of **June 6 - 10**. Lyle Spidle thanked the men for their visits, calls and cards during his last illness. He is much better after his treatment. Charles Lucas was with us today after having **Pacemaker Surgery** at UNC Chapel Hill. This happened suddenly and was repaired rather quickly. It was good to have Charles back and in better condition. Joshua Hager sent the men a **"Thank You Note"** for their help in sending him to New York City and Washington, D.C. for the **Global Vision**. The UMM are proud to be able to assist the Youth in their Missions. Reading his letter, we felt like it was a rewarding trip and that it made him a better person. Good luck to you always.

Troy Willoughby, UMM Secretary

### ONE-BY-ONE—THT—SENIOR CLASS:

We are coming to the end of another year. We have not been as full as we have in the past year, but God always has a reason. As we are learning in **"The Purpose Driven Life"**, my question to you is this. Are you interested in **"Service"** or **"Serve Us"**? I will be honest with you, if we are unable to get more support for our classes on Monday night, we will have no choice but to end our outreach of tutoring to the community. We need both **Teachers** and **Students**. There is no better and fulfilling outreach than helping a child with their education or helping an adult learn how to read. Also, we need someone to take over these great ministries. Amy Eberhardt needs some time off from this program. We need someone who is willing to go to the surrounding schools and recruit more students. Please help us keep **One-By-One, Teens-Helping-Teens, and the Senior Computer Class** up and running. If you are interested, please see **Glyndetta Hubbard, Shirley Dominie, or Dawn Stone**. May God put a seed in your heart to help us in **"Service"** not **"Serve Us"**.

God bless, Dawn Stone



## MAY BIRTHDAYS



1 - Mae Roberson	19 - Connie Williams
9 - Perry Smith	20 - Dorothy Spakes
10 - Mary Couch	27 - Robert Parker
12 - April Gunter	29 - Julie Griffin
16 - Maria Strickland	30 - Doris Miles
18 - Dawn Stone	

## THE MOTHER'S DAY OFFERING IS A ONCE A YEAR APPROACH TO OUR CONGREGATIONS

The need for the Benevolent Care Fund is ongoing, but the Mother's Day Offering is the **ONE TIME** in the year the **The United Methodist Retirement Homes** directly asks congregations of the NC Annual Conference to help.

**That is why it is so important that each congregation receive an offering on Mother's Day. We need to reach every United Methodist with this message. Please give the members of your church the opportunity to respond. Their gift and yours will make the difference in our ability to enhance the quality of life for many residents in our communities.**

The UM Retirement Homes considers **Benevolent Care** to be a vital part of our ministry. When our independent living and assisted living residents outlive their resources, benevolence funds make up the difference in the daily rate. When residents move to healthcare, benevolence funds make up the difference in what we receive from a resident or third party payer and our daily rate for providing care. With the aging of our population, demand for Benevolent Care continues to grow in our retirement communities.

During the 2002-2003 fiscal year The UM Retirement Homes provided 1.4 million in care to older persons who were not able to pay the full daily rate. As these figures indicate, The UM Retirement Homes has been generous to many persons.

The majority of persons receiving Benevolent Care are United Methodists. They have been pastors, missionaries, commissioned church workers, or dedicated lay persons. It has been our privilege to provide care for all these persons.



## SPECIAL OFFERINGS WERE GIVEN TO THE FOLLOWING FROM:

### EMERGENCY FUND

- ◆ Sunday Morning Bible Study Class
- ◆ Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle
- ◆ Paul & Jewel Sharpe
- ◆ The Thrift Shop
- ◆ Betty Priest
- ◆ Wayne & Elaine Everts
- ◆ God's Teens for families with children

### CHURCH POWER BILL

- ◆ The Thrift Shop

### ARP FUND

- ◆ Sunday Morning Bible Study Class in honor of Lyle "Spike" Spidle & in honor of Edna Parker & Clarice Edge's Birthday
- ◆ Fred & Mary Rozier
- ◆ Ruth Caldwell
- ◆ Wayne & Elaine Everts
- ◆ Perry Smith
- ◆ Connie Knight

### SUMMER BREAKAWAY

- ◆ Amy-Jo Everts
- ◆ Wayne & Debbie Hager
- ◆ Gail Terwilliger
- ◆ Fred & Mary Rozier

## RUSSIAN MISSION TRIP

This summer, I have volunteered for a **Mission Trip to Telchye, Russia**, where we will be working in a local **Orphanage** doing repairs, painting, and whatever else they may need. We also hope to be a shining example of God's Word in providing service to others. This is an opportunity to serve God, and I have looked forward to doing this for some time. I feel God has answered my prayers in this regard. However, due to the depressed dollar and rising fuel prices, the overall cost of the trip has increased significantly. Please be in prayer that all goes well in the planning of this mission opportunity and that I will be able to find the necessary support I need.

We will also be taking basic Medical Supplies to be used in the orphanages. Please consider donating some basic over-the-counter medical supplies, such as **Tylenol, Cold Medicines, Bandages, or Antiseptics/Antibacterial Creams.**

Thanks for your prayer support.

God bless you,  
Jeff Anderson



## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

By the time you receive this, we will probably have had a wonderful Mother-Daughter Banquet. I would like to offer a special thanks to the **Night Owls** for setting up, the **Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle** for cleaning up, and the **FFF** for the program. **THANKS FOR EVERYTHING!!!**

**Adella Pray, President UMW**

### DATES TO REMEMBER:

- \* **MAY 1 - Fayetteville District Racial Justice Worship, 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. at Harry Hosier UMC**
- \* **MAY 14-15 - Conference UMW Spiritual Enrichment Retreat at Louisburg College**  
Registration form enclosed.
- \* **JUNE 9-12 - Annual Conference at Methodist College**
- \* **JUNE 26 - Mission Study - Study of Mexico Part 11 at Hay Street UMC,**  
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
- \* **JULY 28-31 - School of Christian Mission at Methodist College**  
Registration form enclosed

### RUTH-ETHEL SMITH CIRCLE:

Our circle met on Wednesday, April 14th. We had our meeting at **Carolina Health Center** on Cumberland Road. We were there to honor **Edna Parker**, one of our members, and to celebrate her birthday. She was so delighted to see us, and I believe we brightened her day. There were **19** members present. It was a joy to be a part of this meeting. Please don't forget the **Mother-Daughter Banquet** on May 1st at 6:00 p.m. This should be an enjoyable evening for women as it has always been. If you don't have a Mother or Daughter, then adopt one no matter what the age. Come and enjoy the entertainment and fellowship. It will be a **Covered Dish Meal** which is always good. The Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle will be in charge of **CLEAN-UP....**so, let's all chip in and we will be finished before you know it. Our May 12th meeting will be held in the fellowship hall at 11:00 a.m. Please make plans to attend. **"Happy Mother's Day"** to all Mother's, and God's blessings to everyone.

**Catherine Morgan, President**

### RECIPE OF THE MONTH

#### "SHRIMP PRIMAVERA"

2 Tbsp. margarine	2 cups 1% milk
1 lb. fresh shrimp, peeled & deveined	1 pkg. Lipton Golden Onion soup mix
1 cup fresh asparagus broken into bite-size pieces	1 Tbsp. cornstarch
1 cup fresh broccoli florets	1/3 cup cold water
6 baby carrots, thinly sliced	1 cup white American cheese, grated
1 cup fresh mushrooms, sliced	Cooked spaghetti

Melt margarine in a large skillet. Add shrimp, asparagus, broccoli, carrots, and mushrooms. Saute until shrimp are pink and vegetables are crisp-tender. Stir in milk and soup mix, mixing well. Combine cornstarch and water in a small bowl. Add to skillet, stirring to thicken. Reduce heat and add cheese, stirring until cheese is melted. Serve over hot spaghetti. Makes 4 servings.



**MAY**

**ST. MATTHEW'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**2004**

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
<b>2</b> Chicken & Dump- ling Lunch – 12pm followed by Church Ministry Council Mtg. Praise Team – 5:30pm	<b>3</b> One-By-One & THT – 7:00pm	<b>4</b> Prayer Group – 6:30pm	<b>5</b> Card Ministry-5:00pm WNA & B.Study-6:30pm Choir Practice-7:00pm	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b> Mother Daughter Banquet – 6pm
<b>9</b> Mother's Day UMM Worship Service – 11:00am	<b>10</b> CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED Last One-By-One & THT	<b>11</b> Prayer Group – 6:30pm	<b>12</b> Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle - 11:00am Card Ministry – 5:00pm WNA & B.Study-6:30pm Choir Practice – 7:00pm	<b>13</b> Night Owls Circle - 7:00pm	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Car Wash & Bake Sale- (sponsored by Youth) FFF – 10:00am
<b>16</b> UMM Breakfast Mtg. – 8:30am UMYF – 4:00pm	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Prayer Group – 6:30pm	<b>19</b> Home Extensions-9:30am Card Ministry-5:00pm WNA & B.Study-6:30pm Choir Practice-7:30pm	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> Graduate Sunday Continental Break- fast – 9:00am (sponsored by Youth)	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Prayer Group – 6:30pm	<b>26</b> Card Ministry – 5:00pm WNA & B.Study-6:30pm Choir Practice – 7:00pm	<b>27</b> Help'N Hands Senior Group – 11:00am	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Book Club meet @ Pizza Palace – 11:30am
<b>30</b> Pentecost Old Fashion Worship Service – 11:00am UMYF – 4:00pm	<b>31</b>	<b>Prayer Group – 6:30pm</b>	<b>Card Ministry – 5:00pm WNA &amp; B.Study-6:30pm Choir Practice – 7:00pm</b>			