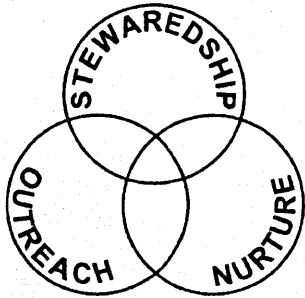


St. Matthew's UMC
202 Hope Mills Rd.
Fayetteville NC 28304



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

JULY 2004

Issue 7

CALLED TO FREEDOM

Interestingly enough the Lectionary reading for the fourth Sunday after Pentecost from Galatians 5:1, 13-16 focused on freedom: spiritual freedom. Many who came to the new world came here to find religious freedom. They wanted to be able to worship God the way they chose rather than be forced to worship their God the way a king or government demanded them to worship. We are so fortunate to live in America and we have never had to experience this kind of religious tyranny.

But that is a big difference between religious freedom and spiritual freedom. Religious freedom gives us the legal right to worship or not worship as we choose. Spiritual freedom is a gift of the Holy Spirit through the Christ Jesus to experience the wonderful freedom of being able to choose to live the holy life that our heavenly Father calls us to live.

Because of sin, we were actually slaves to fleshly and worldly living until Jesus set us free by his sacrifice upon the cross. When he conquered sin and death, we were given the great power to choose between living for Christ and the Spirit or living for the self-centered desires of the flesh and the world. That is why St. Paul taught us that merely following the Law could not save us. Leigh Thomson's Children's sharing was an excellent example for us all. Simply doing things as if this got us one more step up the ladder toward heaven would never work because we could never do enough good deeds to reach a holy God.

That is why salvation is a gift from God in Christ Jesus. That is also why Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to be our Guide. Only when we are led by the Holy Spirit can we be truly free from sin enough to make

the right choices. St. Paul warned us "do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another." Spiritual

Continued on page 2

DONATION LUNCH

*Sunday, July 4th
following worship*

TO SUPPORT A MISSION TO RUSSIA

Join us for a 4th of July lunch of hot dogs, hamburgers, chips, potato salad and baked beans as we celebrate Independence Day together and make a contribution to help the people in the Russian village of Telbhye. Jeff Anderson will be leaving on July 18th for two week on a work team originating at Haymount UMC. Fortunately, Jeff already has the money donated to pay his way. All the proceeds of the donation dinner will go to help the people from this poor village. We are also collecting some medical supplies like band aids, cold medicine, Tylenol, aspirin and personal hygiene items for the villagers. Let's celebrate in fellowship and help others at the same time. Our

Church Ministry Council

will report to you our progress on the Church Calendar and other business during the meal. A list of officers is on the table in the main entrance hall from the parking lot. Everyone is invited to participate. We look forward to seeing you Sunday.

freedom is so powerful that we can overcome our human limitations and resist sin with the help of the Holy Spirit. Not only can we resist the ugly sins of murder, stealing, violence and hatred, adultery, fornication, drunkenness and carousing, we can overcome our more everyday sins. When we are truly free in Christ we can resist enmity, strife, jealousy, anger, quarreling, dissension, factions and envy. Our spiritual freedom allows us to become free of these destructive behaviors which tear our personal lives and the life of the church apart. I praise God that the Holy Spirit has helped us to rely on Christ to put away many of these behaviors in the life of our church. But when we rely on our own strength we slip back into slavery to sin and forget that we are called to become slaves or servants to one another in love.

Only the spiritual freedom we gain through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit equips us to embrace the ministry of servanthood.

As we celebrate Independence Day let us also remember that our religious freedom's and all the other freedoms we enjoy in America have been purchased at the price of many who have defended those freedoms with their lives. Remember our service men and women and their families who are paying a price right now. But please don't waste your religious freedom by rejecting the spiritual freedom that is ours through the risen Lord. Let St. Paul's words inspire you, "For freedom Christ has set us free."

Shalom,

Mike

PRE-SCHOOL & AFTER-SCHOOL MINISTRY DESIGN TEAM

We now have some significant action based on our vision statement; a clear goal to investigate starting Pre-School and After-School Ministries as outreach into our community. Our Pre-School and After-School Ministry Design Team is working hard to develop this ministry to reach out to strangers in the community and make them friends by serving their child care needs. Six people volunteered to be a part of this team: Elaine Everts, Lynwood Griffin, Sandy Jones, Ruby Lucas, Adella Pray and Gail Terwilliger. We have had two productive ministry team meetings. Sandy Jones and Ruby Lucas

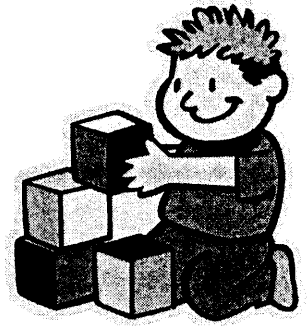
are co-leaders for the team. Ruby and Lynwood met with the director of the pre-school at Hay Street UMC to look over and evaluate our facilities for this ministry. Dr. Mike has provided information from the State of NC on Child Care the members have been studying. Individual team members have also visited other programs and brought back information to be discussed.

We hope many of you read the series of articles on Child Care in Cumberland County published in the *Fayetteville Observer* between June 13-17. The need for quality programs outruns the availability.

Another article and editorials have emphasized how North Carolina has fallen behind in state rankings in terms of child well-being.

Cumberland County has real problems in this area. It is wonderful that our Church Ministry Counsel has approved exploring this ministry in more detail.

We are pleased to announce that our entire team has committed to attending the NC State training on Child Care programs presented by Child Care Training Associates. We will be involved in an all day workshop being held here in Fayetteville at the Courtyard Marriott Wednesday, June 30th. Once we have completed this training we plan to invite a Child Care Consultant from the Methodist Home for Children to work with us and advise us.



We have asked all Sunday School teachers to clean out their cabinets so we can set a clean up day to care for our classrooms in preparation for this ministry. We will need individual and group support to make this a successful ministry. Be sure to thank the team members for all their hard work the next time you see them. They are faithfully serving you and this community.

2004 ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN REVIEW:

First, and what will have the greatest impact on St. Matthew's UMC, is that as of this Annual Conference, we are no longer a charge with Grace UMC. We are a station church again with all the responsibilities that come with being a station church.

The biggest news to come out of Annual Conference is the retirement of Bishop Marion M. Edwards. He will officially retire 9-1-04. Bishop Edwards and his wife will be moving to Georgia. The new Bishop will be appointed this summer at Lake Junaluska.

Resolutions discussed and voted on:

1. Death Penalty—Annual Conference supports a moratorium on the death penalty in North Carolina until the process is adequately reviewed and appropriate corrections are made to ensure the penalty is being applied fairly and accurately on persons guilty of the crimes for which they are accused and urge state lawmakers in this review to reconsider the imposition of the death penalty in general and explore alternative means of deferring and punishing serious crimes. *PASSED*
2. TV Programming—NC Conference will seek ways to inform members of the church about the corrupting nature of the majority of today's TV programs and their contradiction to the teachings of the Bible and their impact on youth and adults, and take steps to inform sponsors of the shows the UMC of NC opposes, and contact other conference to ask they join in the effort to change TV programming. *PASSED*
3. Superintendents Salary Resolution—*DID NOT PASS*
4. Resolution Establishing A Conference Commission On Small Town And Rural Churches—Amended to be referred to "Structure Review Committee". Council on Finance recommends it to "Missions Development" for budget information. *PASSED*
5. Mt. Olive Pickle Co.—NC Annual Conference continues to witness to all sides in labor disputes. Regret the action taken by General Conference to support a boycott against Mt. Olive and commend Mt. Olive as an admirable and outstanding community. *PASSED*
6. Mental Illness Awareness—Request each congregation to lift up the concerns of Mental Illness in the following ways:
 - A. Unison Congregational Prayer during Worship Service in October each year
 - B. Publicize in Church Newsletter in October each years resources that are available
 - C. Utilize the video resource "Creating Caring Congregations" during the year
 - D. Request UM Childrens Home to host Awareness Training*PASSED*
7. Petition For A Conference Coordinator Of Mental Health Ministries—Calls for the creation for the position of a Mental Health Coordinator and add a line item to the budget, and a motion to refer to a "Structure Review Committee" to be represented next year.

Other News:

- Disciple Bible Outreach Sunday 8-22-04
- Pastors Health Insurance—Increase of \$116.26 per month for the church and \$16.90 for the Pastor
- Minimum Compensation for a Pastor—Increased 4.5% for 2005
- District Superintendents Salary—Increased 4.5% for 2005
- The Conference Budget for 2005—Increased 4.06% which will affect our apportionments for next year
- Special Offering on the 3rd Sunday of August for Golden Cross—A ministry that reaches out in love to members of emotional stress and financial need

If you have any questions about the events at Annual Conference, I have all the material and would be glad to share it with you.

Lorri Shackelford

**ST. MATTHEW'S UMC
DAY CAMP JULY 5 - 9
KIDS 6 YRS. - 12TH GRADE**



We will be taking individual day trips. Prior to leaving the church, we will have a time of praise and worship. The cost for the week is only \$60.00 which includes lunch, snacks and admission to all activities. Please make your check out to St. Matthew's UMC and put your child's name & day camp in the memo section of your check. If your child is in need of a scholarship or 1/2 scholarship, please see Elaine Everts. This information will be strictly confidential. It is very important that you pre-register to ensure ample transportation. If you have any questions, call Elaine Everts at (Cell) 494-2427 or (Home) 848-0342. Here is our schedule of activities for the week:



Mon., July 5 - NC Zoo (8:00 am-6:00 pm)

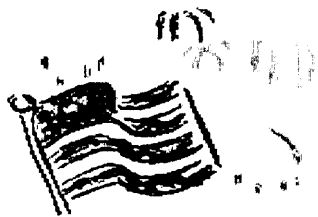
**Tues., July 6 - Round-A-Golf & Skating
(9:00 am-3:30 pm)**

**Wed., July 7 - Bowling & Wilson Park
(9:00 am-3:30 pm)**

**Thur., July 8 - Fantasy Lake & Picnic
(9:00 am-3:30 pm)**

**Fri., July 9 - Chuck-E-Cheese
(9:00 am-1:00 pm)**

**GOD BLESS AMERICA!
JULY 4TH**



**INDEPENDENCE DAY
218 YEARS IT HAS BEEN A DAY
OF CELEBRATION FOR OUR
FREEDOM. GOD BLESS OUR
COUNTRY AND OUR
MILITARY!!!**

JULY FLOWER CHART

- 4 - In honor of Earl A. Edwards by his children
- 11 - In honor of Wayne & Elaine Everts Anniversary by Brad & Amy-Jo & in honor of Christy Khondaker's birthday by Joyce Christian
- 18 - In memory of Dan McIntyre by Hank & Betty Zielinski
- 25 - In honor of Jason Caldwell & Candace Bone by Ruth Caldwell

The following dates are available if you would like to place flowers in the church. The cost is only \$20.00. Make your check out to St. Matthew's UMC and put flowers in the memo section.

DATES AVAILABLE:

- August 8
- September 26
- October 31
- November 14



THE PASSION OF JESUS CHRIST



Isaiah 53: 3 - He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces, he was despised and we esteemed him not.

1 Corinthians 15: 3b-4 - That Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he has buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.

- ◆ Who killed Jesus?
- ◆ Why did Christ have to suffer so much?
- ◆ What did Christ achieve by his passion?
- ◆ What great thing was happening on Calvary for the world?
- ◆ What did God achieve for sinners like us in sending his Son to die?

The Sunday Morning Bible Study Class invites you to come and let's find out together the fifty reasons why Christ came to die.

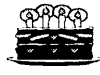
Dorothy Taylor

ATTENTION SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS!!

Please clean out the cabinets in your Sunday School Classrooms by July 17th so that we can set a work day to give the rooms a thorough cleaning from top to bottom.

Thanks for your cooperation!

JULY BIRTHDAYS



- | | |
|---|--|
| 4 - Jacob Gallimore
Jeff Brown | 11 - Wayne Everts
Christy Khondaker |
| 5 - Marie Parker | 15 - Eric Snyder |
| 6 - Gail Terwilliger | 20 - Jack Spakes |
| 7 - Danny Colon
Peggy Williams | 21 - Margaret King |
| 10 - Gertrude Schultz
Elizabeth Gibson | 29 - Juli Pray
Wendy Johnson |
| | 30 - Vicki Powell |

GOD'S TEENS:

On our trip to the mountains in Spruce Pine, God's Teens did several recreational activities. Some of our activities included visiting a **Gem Museum**, **Gem Mining**, **Mt. Mitchell**, and eating out at **Western Sizzlin**.

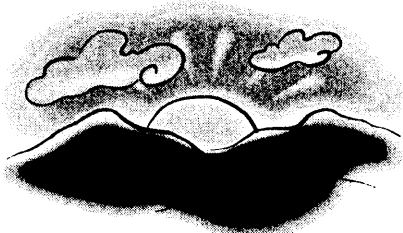
At the **Gem Museum**, we learned about all of the gems that we would be looking for when we went **Gem Mining**. A few of us bought souvenirs and felt the gems that were on display before leaving.

At the **Gem Mine**, we all got to pick what bucket of gems we wanted to search for. They had Rubies, Sapphires, Emeralds, and many others. Some of us had better luck than others, but we all had a good time going through our buckets.

We also enjoyed visiting **Mt. Mitchell**. Along the way to the top, we stopped at several overlooks and enjoyed the wonderful scenery. Finally, we arrived at the top and some in the group went on the **Tower** at the very top of Mt. Mitchell. It was a beautiful site! We visited the **Gift Shop** and then started our long drive back down the mountain.

For our last dinner in Spruce Pine, we ate at **Western Sizzlin**. The food was great and we had a good time.

And, of course, God's Teens also had a large quantity of **Spiritual Time**. The mountain setting was idyllic for being with the Lord and communing in His presence. We were blessed to have a sheltered picnic site to use for Bible Study. Spiritual growth was very prevalent. We thank everyone who helped us go on this retreat. God bless you all!



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
- ◆ In honor of Marie Parker's Birthday from her Secret Prayer Partner
- ◆ Betty Priest

CHURCH POWER BILL

- ◆ The Thrift Shop

ARP FUND

- ◆ In memory of Ralph Sherman, brother of Mary Couch & Skeeter Parker from the Sunday Morning Bible Study Class
- ◆ In memory of Elizabeth May Stewart, Niece of Cheryl Cone & Cindy Rogers from the Sunday Morning Bible Study Class
- ◆ Wayne & Elaine Everts

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

- ◆ The Thrift Shop
- ◆ Wayne & Elaine Everts

SUMMER DAY CAMP

- ◆ Wayne & Elaine Everts
- ◆ Cliff & Catherine Morgan
- ◆ Peggy Pullman Class
- ◆ In honor of Lyle E. Spidle for Fathers Day from Patti, Grandchildren & Great-Grandchildren

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

Randy Caldwell
718 Stoneykirk Drive
Fayetteville, NC 28314
Phone 876-5662

Archie & Margaret Clude
5333 Dairy Drive
Fayetteville, NC 28304
Phone 425-4401

Karen Link
370 Conifer Drive
Fayetteville, NC 28314
Phone 864-3706

Valerie Walters
7311 Acropolis Lane
Parkton, NC 28371
Phone 426-2242



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

It was the day of the big race at the Seattle Special Olympics. There were nine contestants all physically or mentally disabled assembled at the starting line for the 100 yard dash. As the flag waved they all started out. Not exactly in a dash, but a desire to run the race to the finish line and win. All that is except for one little boy who stumbled on the asphalt, tumbled over a few times and began to cry. The other eight runners heard the boy cry. They slowed down and looked back. Then they **ALL TURNED AROUND** and **WENT BACK**, every one of them. One little girl gave him a kiss and said "this will make it better." Another hugged him and helped him up. And then to the astonishment of the crowd, all nine runners linked arms and walked together toward the finish line.

Could this be an example of what it means to "live justly?" Putting the well being of others before our own ambition. Linking arms and crossing the finish line together, not racing ahead to make it there first with little concern of what becomes of those we have passed along the way. I think the **United Methodist Women** are great for turning around. You turn around and link arms with the poor and the oppressed. You stop what you are doing to pick someone up. You dry tears and give words of encouragement. May we always have the desire and will within our hearts to live justly and walk humbly linked together by the **Love of Jesus Christ**.

To all who helped make the "**Father's Day Worship Service**" a tremendous success...**THANKS!!!** To Roberta Brown, Donna Meixsell, Morgan Edwards, Mary Rozier, **Phyllis Jordan**, Leigh Thomson and those that sang in the choir a **SPECIAL THANKS** for making the service a success. Barry, we didn't put you in a dress, but **THANKS** for helping us out on this special day.

Summer is here, find some time for yourself, but don't forget that our October "**BAZAAR**" is just around the corner. Why not enjoy making crafts and set aside at least one project for our upcoming event? I pray you have a safe and faith-filled summer. Do some relaxing and I'll see you in church. God Bless!

Adella Pray, UMW President

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

"Enchilada Pie"

2 cans El Paso Enchilada Sauce (Hot or Mild)
1 (7 oz) Can Herdez Salsa Ranchera Mexicana
1 1/2 lb Hamburger (Fried & Drained)
1 Can Tomato Sauce (15 oz.)



Fry and drain Hamburger. Add rest of above ingredients.
Simmer approximately 10 minutes. Set aside.

8 oz Cheddar Cheese (Grated)
10 or 12 Flour Tortillas
1 cup Diced Onion

Arrange in 9 X 13 pan the following way:

1. Line bottom of pan with tortillas
2. Cover tortillas with sauce
3. Sprinkle diced onion over sauce
4. Cover with grated cheese

(Repeat this three times)

Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes or until cheese melts. Let stand at least 10 minutes. This also freezes well. As a side dish, I serve Pinto Beans and a Salad. If desired, put Sour Cream on top of each serving. **ENJOY!**

By: Catherine Morgan

JULY

ST. MATTHEW'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 Independence Day Donation Dinner – 12:00pm	5 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	6 DAY CAMP Prayer Group – 6:30pm	7 ACTIVITIES Card Ministry – 5:00pm Choir Practice – 7:30pm	8 WEEK	9	10 FFF – 9:00am
11	12 Pre & After School Ministry Design Team Mtg. – 6:00pm	13 Prayer Group – 6:30pm	14 NO Card Ministry NO Choir Practice	15	16	17
18 UMM Breakfast Mtg. – 8:30am	19	20 YOUTH	21 Home Extensions-9:30am ANNUAL	22 CONFERENCE	23	24 FFF – 9:00am Book Club @ Pizza Palace – 11:30am
25	26	27 Prayer Group – 6:30pm	28 NO Card Ministry NO Choir Practice	29	30	31