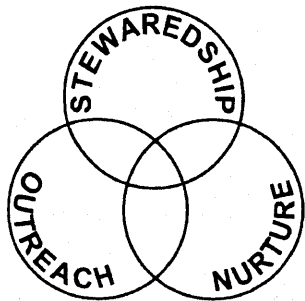


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St. Matthew's 25 Challenge

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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

AUGUST 2004

Issue 8

CONSUMER CHRISTIANS

Recently, my personal devotional time centered on the seventh and eighth chapters of St. Paul's letter to the Church at Rome. He is talking about the human tendency to try being a good person by our own efforts. As a former Pharisee, he was an expert at this practice. He says, "For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it." (7:18) He explained earlier in verse 14, "I am carnal, sold under sin." It reminded me that according to Paul there are three kinds of people in the world: Natural, Carnal and Spiritual. John Wesley called these three types Natural, Legal and Spiritual.

Natural people are people who live totally in the world and according to the passions and drives of the flesh. They might visit churches occasionally, but have made no commitment to God in Christ.

Carnal people are those who know God and may be "saved" but are still ruled by their passions and drives in the flesh. They basically know right from wrong but have the same problem Saul had before his Damascus Road experience with the living Lord, Jesus. Most Christians in our churches are in this group. Actually, we were all in this group at one time.

We don't talk about carnal Christians today. In fact, the term is only used by Paul once, but he makes a point because he is talking about his own understanding of his religious life. Carnal Christians are what we might call Consumer/Client Christians. They are the people who are primarily interested in Christianity as an insurance policy that protects them from "hell" and guarantees them a place in heaven.

Carnal or consumer Christians are saved and that's the important issue for them. They use the church when they want to meet their needs. Consumer Christians focus on the sins they don't commit. They pick and choose what parts of the

Christian faith they like and ignore the rest. They generally support the things at church they want and ignore the rest. They may even use the church as a place to exercise a certain amount of power over other people to meet their control needs. Maybe they need the church as a stage to showcase their talents and abilities. Where else could they get all this and give so little of themselves. Many of these are the "hard workers" in the church. But consumer Christians usually believe in early retirement. "I've done my part, it's time for someone else to take over."

Client Christians generally support "their" church but figure the church owes them. It's like having the church and the minister on a retainer. When I want something they had better deliver or I'll take my business elsewhere. We haven't even talked about the people who show up only for worship as spectators and slip out afterwards as fast as they can.

Sadly, according to Dr. George Hunter, less than a third of church members are interested in being spiritual Christians and disciples of Jesus. Over 66% are not interested in the call to move beyond salvation to sanctification. For all our lip service about loving God in Christ, most church members are not willing to trust Jesus and the Holy Spirit to transform their lives into what we are intended to be. Isn't that the point of the Christian faith? St. Paul wrote, "To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace." (8:6) I guess I'll never understand those who are so satisfied with what they have that they are unwilling to learn from Jesus about kingdom living. I want that life and peace now, don't you?

*Shalom,
Mike*



We have been truly blessed during the hot summer months with Donations, Workers, and Shoppers. As a result, we have been able to make the following contributions:

- ◆ Scholarship Fund
- ◆ Salvation Army "Kids-2-Kamp"
- ◆ Council on Older Adults "Fans for Needy"
- ◆ St. Matthew's Emergency Fund
- ◆ The Care Clinic
- ◆ St. Matthew's Church Day Camp
- ◆ Donated clothes and household items to several families

THANKS TO EVERYONE for your loyal support!!!

Mary Schneider, Chairperson
Lee Anna Sproul, Co-Chairperson

ATTENTION ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH FAMILY!

Thank you so very much for your support of "Day Camp" again this year. A special thanks to the Thrift Shop, United Methodist Men, Peggy Pullman Class, Mr. Spidle's Family and the many individuals for the Scholarships which enabled many children to attend Day Camp. We also thank Sandy Jones and Wilma Johnson for helping throughout the week.

On Monday, we had a total of 46 who traveled to the N.C. Zoo in Asheboro. Amazingly, we did not lose anyone, thanks to the support of many parents and friends who helped keep an eye on all of the young ones.

On Tuesday, we were blessed with 32 who attended "Round-About Golf & Skate". Prior to leaving, we watched the movie "The Prince of Egypt" along with our Praise and Music Time. Three of our Day Campers learned how to skate, and it was a blessing to see their faces shine when they were skating without assistance.

Meghann Dominie, Amanda Hughes, Amanda Jones, Melanie Jones, Chris Lunsford, John Paul, Ashley Stone and Reena Stone were wonderful assistants for our Day Camp. Meghann and Chris were our Music Counselors and Ashley assisted them. They did a wonderful job. We were blessed with many Christian Songs; some were new to several of our children.

Wednesday, many of us returned from Fantasy Lake with pink faces even though sunscreen was applied twice.

Thursday, we went to the Pope Bowling Center and enjoyed ourselves after Ms. Elaine made a wrong turn and had to go through the Fort Bragg check point twice. After bowling, we enjoyed a short time on the playground at Wilson Park.

Friday, we went to "Chuck-E-Cheeze" for a time of fun and relaxation along with Pizza and a Drink.

Again, THANK YOU for your generous support of our future Church and Community Leaders. May God bless each and every one who made this years Day Camp a success.

Sincerely,
Elaine D. Everts

AUGUST FLOWER CHART

- 1 - In memory of John Williams, Sr. & Doris Henry by John & Linda Williams
- 8 - None
- 15 - In honor of Tim & Cindy Roger's 30th Anniversary by Lisa Rogers
- 22 - In memory of Betty Huffman by Ike Huffman
- 29 - In honor of Katie Jordan's 26th Birthday

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



THANKS TO GOD

Hello God,
I called tonight
To talk a little while.
I need a friend who'll listen
To my anxiety and trial.
You see, I can't quite make it
Through a day just on my own...
I need your love to guide me,
So I'll never feel alone.
I want to ask you please to keep
My family safe and sound.
Come and fill their lives with confidence
For whatever fate they're bound.
Give me faith, dear God, to face
Each hour throughout the day,
And not to worry over things
I can't change in any way.
I thank you God for being home
And listening to my call,
For giving me such good advice
When I stumble and fall.
Your number, God, is the only one
That answers every time.
I never get a busy signal,
Never had to pay a dime.
So thank you, God, for listening
To my troubles and my sorrow.
Good night, God, I love You too,
And I'll call again tomorrow!

Submitted by: Doris Miles

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS



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



The UMM met Sunday, July 18th at 8:30 a.m. and were served a delicious breakfast of Eggs, Potatoes, Sausage, Biscuits and all the trimmings. The meal was prepared by Randy and Eric.

After the meal and invocation, Calvin gave a devotion of **Forgiveness**. Read **1 Peter 3: 8-9**. It's hard to forgive those who hurt you. We must pray for those people. **God is Love—Jesus is Love!** If we are not able to forgive, then how do we expect to follow God and Jesus' teachings? If you accept Jesus wholeheartedly, your life will change and forgiveness will be easy.

There was no meeting in June due to Father's Day. However, a meal was prepared for the Fathers who had no family in the area who could take them to Breakfast. We had **19** men who attended.

Wayne Everts gave a report on Day Camp. There were **46** who went to the Zoo in Asheboro on Monday. There were **32** kids in attendance for the activities during the rest of the week.

It was mentioned that the Pastor was on vacation. If there are any emergencies during the week, there are Ministers standing by to aid in these emergencies.

Lynwood spoke to the men about the **Lawn Care Service, Rental Property and Child Care Ministry**. In regard to the Lawn Care Service, there is a need for funding for the rest of the season which will be only \$900.00.

The Rental Property at 203 Eucalyptus is in need of major repairs. The foundation is sinking and floors are buckling. The estimated cost to repair it is in the neighborhood of \$20,000.

The Child Care Ministry is still in the planning stages. There is a definite need for this in the community. A decision for Pre-School or After-School Care has to be made. There are grants and money available to assist in these programs.

Mark your calendar for our "**Church-Wide Family Picnic**" at **Lake Rim Park on October 2nd**. There will be more information on this later.

Respectively,
Troy Willoughby, Secretary UMM

SPECIAL OFFERINGS WERE GIVEN TO THE FOLLOWING FROM:

ARP FUND

- ◆ Marie Parker
- ◆ Wayne & Elaine Everts
- ◆ Night Owl Circle in memory of Clara Hall
- ◆ Sunday Morning Bible Study Class in memory of Sally Merritt

CHURCH POWER BILL

- ◆ The Thrift Shop

EMERGENCY FUND

- ◆ Sunday Morning Bible Study Class
- ◆ Wayne & Elaine Everts
- ◆ Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle
- ◆ Paul & Jewel Sharpe
- ◆ The Thrift Shop
- ◆ Betty Priest
- ◆ Lynwood & Julie Griffin
- ◆ Davison & Tiffany Morse
- ◆ Sunday Morning Bible Study Class in honor of Betty Zielinski & in memory of Harry Sherman

MEMORIAL FUND

- ◆ Kenneth Merritt in memory of Sally Merritt
- ◆ Connie Miller in memory of Sally Merritt
- ◆ Jack & Dorothy Spakes in memory of Sally Merritt
- ◆ John & Barbara Kessler in memory of Sally Merritt
- ◆ J. Patrick & Laura Raynor in memory of Sally Merritt
- ◆ James & Martha Grant in memory of Sally Merritt
- ◆ Virginia & Jim Ritchie in memory of Sally Merritt

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

- ◆ Wayne & Elaine Everts
- ◆ Bob & Betty Probst in honor of Cliff & Catherine Morgan



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Summer is quickly passing and St. Matthew's has had the typical "signs" of vacation. I pray that each of you have taken some time for yourself whether out of town or in town.

We now have five months remaining to accomplish our UMW goals for 2004. Shorter yet, we have just a little more than 2 1/2 months left before the **Bazaar**. Have you given your share of time, resources, and talents that God has given you?

We will need lots of volunteers for the Bazaar which is scheduled for **October 15 & 16**. Would you take a "**step in faith**" and volunteer? Be thinking before your September Circle Meeting and let your readers know what you can do. "**Many hands make small work**" so as you enjoy these hot days of summer, please be crafty and make some extra crafts for the Bazaar.

The August meeting is **Monday, August 2 at 6:30 p.m.** A light supper will be served. We have a number of items to discuss, so please try to join us.

May God Bless You!
Adella Pray, UMW President



RECIPE OF THE MONTH "SOUTHWEST CHICKEN SALAD"

2 tbsp Olive Oil	Spring Mix Salad Greens
1 Clove Garlic, pressed	Cherry Tomatoes
1 tsp Chili Powder	Avocado Slices
1 tsp Cumin	Sliced Black Olives
1 tsp Oregano	Shredded Cheddar Cheese
1/2 tsp Salt	Tortilla Chips, Salsa, Guacamole, & Sour Cream (optional)
4 Boneless, Skinless Chicken Breasts	

Combine olive oil and seasonings in a small bowl. Brush over both sides of chicken, coating well. Place in a baking dish and broil 5 minutes on each side or until chicken is no longer pink. Remove from oven and cut into strips.

Place salad greens on 4 serving plates. Top with chicken slices, tomatoes, avocado slices, olives, and cheese. Serve with chips and top salad with salsa, guacamole, and sour cream if desired.

AUGUST**ST. MATTHEW'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH****2004**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	UMW General Mtg. - 6:30pm	Prayer Group - 6:30pm	Card Ministry - 5:00pm Choir Practice - 7:30pm			
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 FFF - 10:00am
Bridal Shower in F.H. - 2:00pm		Prayer Group - 6:30pm	NO Card Ministry NO Choir Practice			
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
UMM Breakfast Mtg. - 8:30am	Pre & After School Ministry Team Mtg. - 6:00pm	Prayer Group - 6:30pm	Home Extensions-9:30am			
			Card Ministry - 5:00pm Choir Practice - 7:30pm			
22	23	24	25	26	27	28 Book Club at Pizza Palace - 11:30am Wedding - 6:00pm
		Prayer Group - 6:30pm	NO Card Ministry NO Choir Practice		Wedding Rehearsal - 6:00pm Rehearsal Dinner - 7:30pm in F.H.	
29	30	31				
Old Fashioned Worship Service - 11:00am Covered Dish Dinner - 6:00pm		Prayer Group - 6:30pm				
		Prayer Group - 6:30pm				