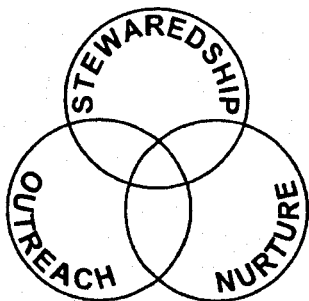


St. Matthew's UMC
202 Hope Mills Rd
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St. Matthew's 25 Challenge

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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 V

May 2005

Issue 5

SHEPHERDS, SHEEP AND FLOCKS

What is the reason so many of us are drawn to the 23rd Psalm? We have no real day-to-day experience with shepherds, sheep or flocks. Yet we are attracted to and comforted by those words. Maybe it is the image of the pictures of Jesus carrying the lost lamb that assures us. We sometimes feel like lost lambs in a harsh world. We certainly don't desire to be in want. We do want to be led to greener pastures and live beside quiet still waters. We desire to be restored and refreshed when we are low and fearless when facing tough times because our God is with us. It would be nice to have a festive table set before us and have so much that it overflows with abundance. There is no doubt that we long for goodness and mercy to follow us all the days of our lives.

I too, gain great comfort from this Psalm. But recently, I looked at it through the eyes of a shepherd. David, first and foremost was a shepherd who knew sheep and flocks. What did he experience, as a shepherd, when he prayed this prayer? He knew without a doubt that God was his shepherd and cared for him better than any shepherd could ever care for sheep. I am sure this was one reason why Jesus portrayed himself as the good shepherd. Of course people knew the difference between good and bad shepherds. They were a pastoral people.

"Pastoral" means the simple rural life. Caring for grazing animals seemed to precede cultivating plants as a way of life for the Hebrews from the time of Abraham. Even in Jesus day in the Holy Land shepherds were still an important part of the economy even though it was no longer

the central pastoral activity. The image of sheep, shepherds and flocks or folds were every day images for God's people. Jesus reminds us that, "I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold." John 10:16.

So the images of sheep, shepherds and flocks or folds became associated with God's people. David's psalms helped. But the prophets also used these images. "Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the LORD. Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the LORD." Jer. 23:2-4.

Again in Ezekiel, "I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD". I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak," Ezekiel 34:15-16.

Is it any wonder that Jesus would use some of these same images in his teachings and ministry? There is the story of leaving the ninety-nine sheep in the wilderness to finding the lost sheep. (Luke 15) "Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." 16 A second time he said to him, "Simon son of

John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "**Tend my sheep.**" 17 He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "**Feed my sheep.**" John 21:15-17.

Finally, Jesus tells us that the Judgment will be like separating the sheep from the goats. Those who are his sheep and enter the kingdom will be those who feed the hungry, gave water to the thirsty, welcomed the strange, clothed the naked, and cared for the sick. Then he said, "*When you did it to one of these my brethren, you did it unto me.*" Matt. 25:40

We like the image of the Good Shepherd, but **have we learned anything about the nature of our faith and the church?** Sadly, most of us, and I include myself in this, are attracted to the 23rd Psalm because it meets our individual needs to feel special in our relationship with God. We really don't think much about the other sheep, the flock, or the job of the shepherd. We just like to see ourselves as that cute little lamb in the arms of Jesus. To a degree that's OK.

What do all these images teach us as Christians about our lives and the church? Interestingly enough the word "**pastor**" comes from the Latin word which means "feed". It is the job of the pastor or shepherd to see that the sheep are fed, protected, and cared for when wounded, and found when lost. The green pastures are the good things that God wants us to feed on and the still waters is the living water that is given to us by our Lord. It is the pastors job to take people (his sheep) there as a flock (Church). It is up to the sheep to eat or not; to drink or not drink. It is the pastor's job to "prepare the table", a phrase which means the shepherd makes sure the pasture is free for poisonous plants, snakes and other threats to the sheep. The pastor's job is to point out the dangers in life that threaten people and their faith, but he cannot protect them from all dangers. The shepherd uses his rod and staff to fight off predators. The pastor's job is to use the sword of the spirit and the shield of faith to fight those ideas and situations that can overwhelm his flock. The shepherd anoints the wounds of wounded sheep and the pastor is called to bring healing to those wounded physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. Jesus says "*Which one of you, having*

a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it?" Luke 15:3 Pastors must trust the nature of the flock to stay together while he seeks the lost sheep and binds up the wounded.

The shepherd or pastor must see that the sheep are fed, protected, and cared for when wounded, and found when lost. It is up to the sheep to be fruitful and multiply. Our Bishop shared at the Fayetteville District Conference that **90% of the people who join the church come through invitations from family and friends of church members. Sheep reproduce sheep.** This is the way to be fruitful and multiply.

If members expect the pastor to be the one who brings in new members to the fold, then they will reach less that 10% of those who could be reached. **Shepherds are to reproduce shepherds**, who in turn see that the sheep are fed, protected, and cared for when wounded, and found when lost.

What happens when the shepherd or pastor spends the majority of their time building the walls of the sheepfold to protect the sheep and make them comfortable? And what happens when sheep decide to just stop reproducing? What happens when new sheep from other folds are brought in and not accepted by the flock? The flock eventually dies. **What kind of flock are we here at St. Matthew's?**

As long as we only use the 23rd Psalm as for our own personal comfort, we miss the point. Without learning what the images of shepherds, sheep or flocks really have to say about our place in the life and mission or the church we are lost. God grieves, "*My sheep were scattered, they wandered over all the mountains and on every high hill; my sheep were scattered over all the face of the earth, with no one to search or seek for them.*" Ezk. 34:6

When Jesus proclaimed that he was the Good Shepherd he was and is the fulfillment of God's promise, "I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep." May God's blessings and wisdom guide us in understanding and applying the images of shepherds, sheep or flocks to building a healthy church at St. Matthew's. Will we be judged sheep or goats by the Good Shepherd?

St. Matthew's Budget MARCH ACCOUNTS Page 1	DESIGNATED OR CASH EXPENSE	ANNUAL APPROVED 2005	PAID FOR MONTH	PAID Y-T-D	BALANCE of BUDGET plus GIFTS	Y-T-D% 100% YR 25.0%
NURTURE						
Adult Ministries		\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100.00	0.0%
Children's Music		\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100.00	0.0%
Children Ministries (Music 107.82)	\$ 107.82	\$ 350.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 457.82	0.0%
Church School		\$ 2,000.00	\$ 34.30	\$ 353.73	\$ 1,646.27	17.7%
Education (Day Camp 467.36)	\$ 467.36	\$ 500.00	\$ 203.50	\$ 353.73	\$ 613.63	36.6%
Kitchen Supplies		\$ 500.00	\$ 51.59	\$ 136.04	\$ 363.96	27.2%
Miscellaneous (Card M \$25)	\$ 25.00	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 125.00	0.0%
Worship (Memorial \$1810)	\$ 2,005.00	\$ 300.00	\$ -	\$ 86.61	\$ 2,218.39	3.8%
Copyright Fees		\$ 400.00	\$ 165.00	\$ 385.00	\$ 15.00	96.3%
Flowers		\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 200.00	0.0%
Music (\$10) (Praise Team \$30)	\$ 40.00	\$ 300.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 340.00	0.0%
<i>Village Florest</i>	\$ 395.00	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 340.00	\$ 55.00	
Young Adult Ministries (Scholarship)	\$ 545.00	\$ 102.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 647.00	0.0%
Youth Ministries (Breakway 717.30)	\$ 1,157.30	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,357.30	0.0%
NURTURE TOTALS	\$ 4,742.48	\$ 5,152.00	\$ 454.39	\$ 1,315.11	\$ 8,579.37	13.3%
OUTREACH						
	\$ 525.00		\$ 150.00	\$ 505.00	\$ 20.00	
Evangelism		\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ -		
One-By-One		\$ 300.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 300.00	0.0%
<i>Emergency Fund</i>	\$ 935.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 935.00	
Missions	\$ -	\$ 82.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 82.00	0.0%
Conference Apportionment		\$ 24,778.00	\$ -	\$ 2,040.00		
District Work Fund		\$ 1,648.42	\$ 300.00	\$ 800.00	\$ 848.42	48.5%
<i>Advance/Special Offerings</i>	1625.2	\$ -	\$ 20.00	\$ 1,484.20	\$ 141.00	
TOTAL OUTREACH	\$ 3,085.20	\$ 27,308.42	\$ 300.00	\$ 2,840.00	\$ 27,553.62	9.3%
STEWARDSHIP						
			\$ -	\$ -		
<i>NC Sales Tax</i>		\$ -	\$ 40.63	\$ 256.52		
FINANCE	\$ 948.04	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 40.60	\$ 115.80	\$ 1,832.24	5.9%
PASTOR-STAFF SUPPORT						
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Office Expenses	\$ -	\$ 1,600.00	\$ -	\$ 50.94	\$ 1,549.06	3.2%
Postage	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 206.08	\$ 793.92	20.6%
Total Ministry Office Expense	\$ -	\$ 2,600.00	\$ -	\$ 257.02	\$ 2,342.98	9.9%
Staff Salaries & Expenses:						
		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
Choir Director:		\$ 5,733.00	\$ 369.20	\$ 1,107.60	\$ 4,625.40	19.3%
Christmas Gifts 5@ \$30		\$ 150.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 150.00	0.0%
Guest Organist@\$100		\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ 50.00	\$ -	25.0%
Guest Speaker@\$100		\$ 600.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 600.00	0.0%
TOTAL Nursery Workers:		\$ 1,681.00	\$ 58.18	\$ 273.12	\$ 1,407.88	16.2%
Secretary:		\$ 6,615.00	\$ 509.08	\$ 1,527.24	\$ 5,087.76	23.1%
TOTAL Tax Church Match	\$ -	\$ 1,360.00	\$ 85.15	\$ 248.46	\$ 1,111.54	18.3%
<i>Individual SS/MC</i>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 85.15	\$ 248.46	\$ (248.46)	
<i>Federal Tax Withheld</i>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 48.00	\$ 161.08		
<i>Total Federal Deposit*</i>	\$ -	\$ 1,360.00	\$ 218.30	\$ 638.92	\$ 721.08	
<i>State Tax Withheld</i>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 70.00	\$ (70.00)	
TOTAL Ministry Staff Support	\$ -	\$ 16,339.00	\$ 1,021.61	\$ 2,065.81	\$ 14,273.19	12.6%
				\$ -	\$ -	0.0%
St. Matthew's Budget MARCH ACCOUNTS Page 1	DESIGNATED OR CASH EXPENSE	ANNUAL APPROVED 2005	PAID FOR MONTH	PAID Y-T-D	BALANCE of BUDGET plus GIFTS	Y-T-D% 100% YR 25.0%
St. Matthew's Budget	DESIGNATED	ANNUAL	PAID FOR	PAID	BALANCE	%

MARCH ACCOUNTS	OR CASH	APPROVED	MONTH	Y-T-D	of BUDGET	CHANGE
Page 2	EXPENSE	2005				25.0%
PASTOR'S COMPENSATION						
Continuing Education-Minister	\$ -	\$ 600.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 600.00	0.0%
MINISTER'S HOUSING	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	#DIV/0!
Housing-Minister*	\$ -	\$ 11,449.60	\$ 954.16	\$ 2,862.48	\$ 8,587.12	25.0%
Utilities	\$ -	\$ 3,932.25	\$ 327.68	\$ 983.04	\$ 2,949.21	25.0%
TOTAL Housing	\$ -	\$ 15,381.85	\$ 1,281.84	\$ 3,845.52	\$ 11,536.33	25.0%
MINISTER'S INSURANCE						
Hospital St. Matthew's	\$ -	\$ 11,016.24	\$ 918.02	\$ 2,754.06	\$ 8,262.18	25.0%
Life St. Matthew's	\$ -	\$ 213.00	\$ 17.75	\$ 53.25	\$ 159.75	25.0%
TOTAL Insurance	\$ -	\$ 11,229.24	\$ 935.77	\$ 2,807.31	\$ 8,421.93	25.0%
MINISTER'S TRAVEL	\$ -	\$ 4,896.15	\$ 408.00	\$ 816.00	\$ 4,080.15	16.7%
MINISTER'S PENSION						
PENSION: CPP St. Matthew's	\$ -	\$ 1,824.14	\$ 150.78	\$ 452.34	\$ 1,371.80	24.8%
PENSION: MPP St. Matthew's	\$ -	\$ 6,438.14	\$ 532.17	\$ 1,596.51	\$ 4,841.63	24.8%
TOTAL PENSION	\$ -	\$ 8,262.28	\$ 682.95	\$ 2,048.85	\$ 6,213.43	24.8%
MINISTER'S GROSS SALARY	\$ -	\$ 38,269.35	\$ 3,116.80	\$ 9,350.40	\$ 28,918.95	24.4%
FLEX		\$ 1,400.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,400.00	0.0%
PIP		\$ 1,200.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 900.00	25.0%
HEALTH		\$ 1,601.40	\$ 133.45	\$ 400.35	\$ 1,201.05	25.0%
CPP	\$ -	\$ 532.20	\$ 44.35	\$ 133.05	\$ 399.15	25.0%
MINISTER'S NET SALARY		\$ 33,535.75	\$ 2,839.00	\$ 8,517.00	\$ 25,018.75	25.4%
TOTAL MINISTER'S SUPPORT	\$ -	\$ 78,638.87	\$ 6,425.36	\$ 18,868.08	\$ 59,770.79	24.0%
TOTAL PASTOR-STAFF SUPPO	\$ -	\$ 97,577.87	\$ 7,446.97	\$ 15,133.48	\$ 82,444.39	15.5%
				\$ -	\$ -	
TRUSTEES (Alter 900.65)	\$ 900.65			\$ -	\$ 900.65	
Church Utilities	\$ -			\$ -	\$ -	
PWC	\$ -	\$ 12,381.00	\$ 746.23	\$ 2,238.33	\$ 10,142.67	18.1%
Sprint	\$ -	\$ 2,300.00	\$ 170.17	\$ 515.46	\$ 1,784.54	22.4%
Trash Service Silvas	\$ -	\$ 165.00	\$ -	\$ 40.50	\$ 124.50	24.5%
Total Church Utilities	0.00	14,846.00	916.40	\$ 2,794.29	\$ 12,051.71	18.8%
Property & Buildings (Lawn Care)	\$ 4,068.00	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 3,368.00	\$ 700.00	
Repair Fund (ARP 1582.03)	\$ 1,677.03	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -	\$ 144.00	\$ 3,533.03	3.9%
Exterminator		\$ 250.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 250.00	0.0%
Janitorial Supplies		\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ 113.90	\$ 386.10	22.8%
Copier-Printer		\$ 3,500.00	\$ 442.74	\$ 949.28	\$ 2,550.72	27.1%
Insurance-All Properties		\$ 2,100.00	\$ -	\$ 1,429.75	\$ 670.25	68.1%
Cleaning Service		\$ 7,320.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 5,820.00	20.5%
Total Property & Buildings	\$ 1,677.03	\$ 15,670.00	\$ 742.74	\$ 4,136.93	\$ 13,210.10	23.8%
TRUSTEES TOTAL	\$ 6,645.68	\$ 30,516.00	\$ 1,659.14	\$ 6,931.22	\$ 30,230.46	18.7%
STEWARDSHIP TOTAL	\$ 7,593.72	\$ 129,093.87	\$ 9,146.71	\$ 28,237.93	\$ 108,449.66	20.7%
	\$ 15,421.40	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
BUDGET TOTALS	\$ -	\$ 161,554.29	\$ 9,901.10	\$ 32,393.04	\$ 129,161.25	20.1%
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS/Rec	\$ 20,540.53	\$ -	\$ 10,844.88	\$ 39,499.98		
BUDGET RECEIPTS	\$ 14,465.02	\$ 161,554.29	\$ -	\$ 39,210.26	\$ 136,809.05	24.3%
TREASURER'S REPORT	\$ 50,439.97		\$ 10,844.88			
DIFFERENCE			\$ -			
St.. Matthew's Budget	DESIGNATED	ANNUAL	PAID FOR	PAID	BALANCE	Y-T-D%
MARCH ACCOUNTS	OR CASH	APPROVED	MONTH	Y-T-D	of BUDGET	100% YR
Page 2	EXPENSE	2005			plus GIFTS	25.0%

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL:

Come join us at the "Circle G. Ranch" for Vacation Bible School which will be held June 5 - 9. Supper will be from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. and Classes will be held from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. The "Circle G. Ranch" is "Where God is at the Center and the Love Never Ends."

An Adult Class will be held each evening. The following positions are open for "Ranch Hands" to herd the little buckaroos each evening:

- ♦ Chuck Wagon Master (Snacks)
- ♦ Song Leader
- ♦ Pre-School
- ♦ Middle & Young Elementary
- ♦ Pre-Teen & Teen
- ♦ Storyteller



If you would like to help, please call Julie Griffin at 425-4269.

ST. MATTHEW'S UMC DAY CAMP
(6 years - 12th grade)
July 4 - 8
Come join the fun!!!

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

Monday, July 4, 2005
NC Aquarium at Ft. Fisher



Tuesday, July 5, 2005
Round-A-Golf & Skating

Wednesday, July 6, 2005
Pope Bowling Lanes & Wilson Park



Thursday, July 7, 2005
Fantasy Lake

Friday, July 8, 2005
Chuck-E-Cheese
(9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.)



PRE-REGISTRATION AT THE CHURCH:
June 18, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
June 19, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Cost \$60.00
(Scholarships available if needed)

For more information, please contact Elaine Everts at 245-2281.



The St. Matthew's UMM met on Sunday, April 17th at 8:30 a.m. with 15 men and 1 lady present. A delicious breakfast of Bacon, Eggs and Grits with all the trimmings was prepared by Troy, Doug and Randy. We also had fresh fruit available.

Calvin gave a devotion on reflection. We all need to look at ourselves. (Hebrews 12: 1 & 2) There are things we forget to do or don't want to do, there are people we forget; some on purpose or unintentional. Look to Jesus as your guide because He never faltered and He ran the course on time.

Our lady visitor was **Hilda Pena**, wife of **Santos**. She thanked us for allowing her to attend. The Methodist Men has an open door policy; anyone is welcome to attend anytime. Hilda, we were glad to have you.

Our business was the "**Mother's Day Service**". All is going well. We are expecting all Mothers to attend. We only show off once a year, and it will be on Mother's Day.

We will have a "**Father's Day Booklet**" to recognize all the Fathers. Calvin Rome will handle the booklet this year. Inserts will begin appearing in the bulletin soon.

Dr. Hale gave an update on the **Day Care**. Registration will begin this summer for the Fall Session.

Doug Stone reported that someone broke into his truck in the church parking lot on April 10th during the worship service. Remember to lock your vehicles if you have any valuables inside.

Respectively submitted,
 Troy Willoughby, UMM Secretary

ONE-BY-ONE:

One-By-One is coming to a close for the year. We started off slow this school year, but we took off during the second half.

A special thanks to all of you who helped me through this year. I am so grateful.

Our last day will be **May 23rd**. Plans for next year will be announced at a later time.

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 |
| 15 - Lucille Spell-Thompson | Melanie Jones |
| 16 - Maria Strickland | 30 - Doris Miles |
| 18 - Dawn Stone | |



April has just flown by. Our youth have been busy preparing for their **Summer Breakaway**.

On April 16th, we cancelled our **Car Wash** due to the weather, but thanks to all the goodies that Mr. Wayne baked, we raised **\$150.00** from our **Bake Sale** on Saturday and Sunday. **Tom**, the manager at **Auto Zone** invited us to set up our Bake Sale in front of their store. They also gave us a nice donation.

Due to the distance and the cost of gas, our youth group decided to go **Ice Skating** instead of going to the **Conference Youth Rally**. A great time was had by all.

If you know of a mission opportunity for our youth, please contact one of our adult leaders. The youth would also like to thank everyone for their support.

May God Bless You,
Elaine Everts

LOOKING AHEAD:

May 15
Youth Donation Spaghetti Lunch



June 20 - 25
Youth Summer Breakaway

ATTENTION!!!

WE ARE IN NEED OF THE FOLLOWING SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS WHICH WILL BEGIN ON MAY 29TH. IF INTERESTED, PLEASE CONTACT JEAN LAMBERT OR CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE.

4TH & 5TH GRADE
6TH & 7TH GRADE
(Currently these two classes are combined)

SPECIAL OFFERINGS WERE GIVEN TO THE FOLLOWING FROM:

ARP FUND

- ◆ Gail Terwilliger IMO Michael Johnston

CHURCH POWER BILL

- ◆ The Thrift Shop

DAY CAMP

- ◆ Wayne & Elaine Everts

EMERGENCY FUND

- ◆ Carol & James Cox IMO Joseph Murphy
- ◆ Wayne & Elaine Everts IMO Joseph Murphy
- ◆ Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle
- ◆ The Thrift Shop
- ◆ Sunday Morning Bible Study Class IMO Margaret King
- ◆ Paul & Jewel Sharpe
- ◆ Sunday Morning Bible Study Class IMO Michael Johnston

MEMORIAL FUND

- ◆ Louise & Peter Saari IMO Margaret King
- ◆ James & Joyce DeBruhl IMO Margaret King
- ◆ Ruth Caldwell IMO Margaret King
- ◆ Joseph & Yolanda Leahy IMO Margaret King

YOUTH SUMMER BREAKAWAY

- ◆ Sunday Morning Bible Study Class IMO Ray Averette, Joan Lopeman's brother
- ◆ Eva Smith

MAY FLOWER CHART

1 - In honor of Perry Smith's 89th birthday
by Bob & Adella Pray

8 - In honor of Jean Rozier & Helen
Underwood by Fred & Mary Rozier

15 - Available

22 - Available

29 - In honor of Julie Griffin's birthday
by her family

The "2005 Flower Chart" still has spaces available for you to sign-up to give recognition to a friend or loved one. Flowers are only \$20.00. Please make your check out to St. Matthew's UMC and put "flowers" in the memo section. and place in the offering plate.



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

As a deaconess, **Marilyn Benson** is assigned to outreach ministries with children and families through **Mary's Cradle Maternal and Infant Resource Center**. By means of direct services and systematic change, Mary's Cradle Center seeks to respond to the needs of pregnant women, new mothers, and their families, especially those at risk. Marilyn Sue Benson can be reached at **Mary's Cradle, 401 College Avenue, Bluefield, WV 24701** or at **maryscradle@frontiernet.net**. Her birthday is **May 15**. As we celebrate **Christian Home Month** and **National Family Week**, let us pray for Marilyn

and her work as well as all other missionaries. May 2 at 6:00 p.m., we will meet to assemble the **Mother's Day Booklets**. If you would like to help, please feel free to join us in the fellowship hall. May 7th at 6:00 p.m. will be our **Mother-Daughter Pot-Luck Banquet** in the fellowship hall. If you have no Mother or Daughter to bring, come alone and someone will adopt you or adopt a friend and bring them with you. June 6 at 11:00 a.m., we will hold a **General Meeting** in the fellowship hall and will serve a light lunch.

Adella Pray, President UMW

RUTH-ETHEL SMITH CIRCLE:

Our circle met Wednesday, April 13th at the church and went to **Carolina Healthcare Center** for our monthly meeting to celebrate **Edna Parker's** birthday. She came in with a big smile and was delighted that we had our meeting with her. We made around **22 Adult Bibs** for the patients at the Center. They consisted of many different colors which were bright and cheerful. The staff was so glad to get them. It is always a joy to do a project like that. Our May meeting will be held on the 11th. Our project will be focused on the **Church Food Pantry**. I hope you will all plan to attend. We will have our regular business meeting followed by a **Guest Speaker**. Don't forget to attend our **UMW Meeting** on May 2nd at 6:30 p.m. Also, remember the **Mother-Daughter Banquet** on May 7th at 6:00 p.m. **ALL MOTHERS** are invited to attend even if you don't have a daughter. You will have an enjoyable evening.

God bless you all, Cathy

NIGHT OWL CIRCLE:

Members of the Night Owl Circle have been very busy. In March, we collected money to assist **David Dominie** with his mission project. Members also provided goodies for the **Easter Party**. In April, we sent a donation to **Safe Haven**, a neutral location for divorced couples to meet with their children. We also collected items and money to assist **The Haven**, an animal shelter in Hoke County. We are pleased that **Amy-Jo Everts** and **Meghann Dominie** have agreed to present the program for the **Mother-Daughter Banquet** to be held on Saturday, May 7th. Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 12th at 7:00 p.m. All women of the church, members and visitors are encouraged to visit with us. We would love to see you there. These meetings are a special time for us to get to know one another better. It gives us a chance to share our joys, our concerns and to carry on the ministry of the church through projects that directly help our church and other projects which reach out to the surrounding communities.

Linda Webb, President

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- May 1 - Deadline for placing names in the Mother's Day Booklet
- May 2 - UMW General Mtg.
- May 6 - Church Women United May Friendship Day
- May 7 - Mother-Daughter Banquet, 6:00 pm

RECIPE OF THE MONTH "BLACK BEAN TACOS"

- 8 6-inch flour Tortillas
- 15 oz. can Black Beans, drained & rinsed
- 1 jar mango Salsa or regular Salsa

- 1/4 cup Hot Barbecue Sauce
- 2 cups fresh Spinach or Lettuce, shredded



Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Stack tortillas and wrap tightly in foil. Heat in oven for 10 minutes to soften. Combine beans and barbecue sauce in a saucepan; heat through. Fill each tortilla with bean mixture, spinach or lettuce, and salsa. Top with salsa. Makes 4 servings.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 UMW - 6:00pm One-By-One - 7:00pm	3 Prayer Group - 6:30pm	4 Card Ministry - 5:00pm WNA & B.Study-6:30pm Choir Practice - 7:30pm	5	6	7 MOTHER DAUGHTER BANQUET 6:00 PM
8 Mother Day Service by UMM - 11:00am	9	10	11 Ruth/Ethel Smith Circle - 11:00am Card Ministry - 5:00pm WNA & B.Study-6:30pm Choir Practice - 7:30pm	12 Night Owls Circle - 7:00pm	13	14
15 UMM Breakfast Mtg. - 8:30am Donation Spaghetti Lunch - 12:00pm	16 One-By-One - 7:00pm	17 Prayer Group - 6:30pm	18 Home Extensions - 10am Card Ministry - 5:00pm WNA & B.Study-6:30pm Choir Practice - 7:30pm	19	20	21
22 11:00 Am Graduate Sunday & Teacher Recognition FELLOWSHIP CONNECTION 6-8 P M	23 LAST ONE-BY-ONE 7:00 PM One-By-One - 7:00pm	24 Prayer Group - 6:30pm	25 Card Ministry - 5:00pm WNA & B.Study-6:30pm Choir Practice - 7:30pm	26 Help-N-Hands - 11:00am	27	28 FFF - 8:30am Book Club - 11:30am
29 PROMOTION SUNDAY 11:00 AM	30 MEMORIAL DAY CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	31 Prayer Group - 6:30pm	<p>The FELLOWSHIP CONNECTION is a special time for new or perspective members and those who want to discover ways to be more connected to our church, its people and our ministries. Designed by the Pastor Parish and Lay Leadership Teams, we invite you to a casual time of fellowship to meet people, have fun, learn a little and enjoy an Ice Cream Social. We will be here to share with you and child care will be provided Sunday evening May 22, 6-8 PM</p>			
	Prayer Group - 6:30pm					