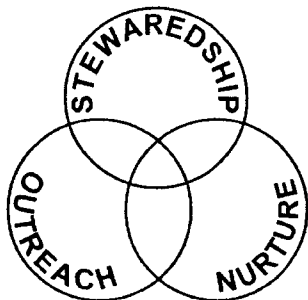


St. Matthew's UMC  
202 Hope Mills Rd  
Fayetteville, NC 28304



## 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 VI

January 2006

Issue 1

## A REASON TO CELEBRATE

Indeed Jesus is the reason for the season we are celebrating. Here at St. Matthew's we have another reason to celebrate and well we should. Due to your support and dedication our church paid all of our apportionments the week before Christmas. What an accomplishment! From what people tell me, the church has always struggled with its finances during its fifty year history. During the last four years we have made tremendous progress in planning a realistic budget and have increased giving to support that budget while average attendance has been declining. That means the faithful have committed themselves more than ever before.

When I first arrived the church was already behind in the budget almost \$5,000 which was needed to pay apportionments for the previous year. Each year we have had to end the year with a special appeal to pay for the previous years apportionment. This has been a standard practice for as long as anyone I have talked to can remember. There have been years when the church didn't meet its apportionment goals.

Last year was the first year St. Matthew's supported a full time pastor on its own since Ruth Harper, I believe. We met our apportionment goal by using about \$4,000 from parsonage fund interest to cover the pastor's housing allowance.

What a celebration to come back this year and pay the apportionment before Christmas in addition to increasing our giving to Rainbow Covenant Missions. This will be the fourth year in a row we have qualified as a Rainbow Covenant Church. That means we have not only gone the

first mile of giving by paying World Service & Connectional Ministries; Episcopal Fund; Inter-denominational Cooperation, Black Colleges, Africa University Fund; and Past Service Liability in full, but we have also gone the second mile in giving by supporting at least one ADVANCE SPECIAL from each lane:

- Lane 1 - World
- Lane 2 - National
- Lane 3 - Missionary Salary Support
- Lane 4 - UMCOR
- Lane 5 - Conference

As a matter of fact, thanks to your efforts, we have supported several mission projects in several of these areas of Advanced Giving.

Our support through UMCOR to aid disaster victims both here in American and abroad was outstanding. We shared over \$5,000 with those who needed our help.

On a local level your support for our Emergency Fund has steadily increased to the point it is four times more than when I first arrived over five years ago. One of my challenges to you then was for us to give as much to others as we spent on ourselves. I believe that is the mark of a true church. I also believe we cannot out give God. As our giving to others has increased we have at the same time seen the giving for our church increase. We have not yet reached the 50/50 level, but we have come a long way in that direction. The Church exists for the salvation of the world. Congratulations for you faithful support!

*Shalom,*

*Mike*

# January Workshops

## “In the Spirit of Worship”

Join Us at Hope Mills UMC on January 22, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. for a Worship-Full learning experience. Please respond by January 13, 2006 with your workshop choices and times to the District Office at (910) 485-2734.

### Events and Time

2:00 p.m. *Registration* in Church Fellowship Hall

2:30 -3:00 *Worship*

3:15 - 4:00 *1st Workshop* 45 min.

4:15 - 5:00 *2nd Workshop* 45 min.

### Opening Service

Liturgist: Rev. Curtis Mull

Opening Prayer & Welcome: Dr. John Tyson

Speaker: Rev. Eldrick Davis

### Workshops

1. Committee on Lay Leadership / Nominations - Dr. Dennis Sheppard
2. Evangelism - Vic Culberson
3. Mission Outreach - *A Form of Worship*

Salem - Myra Roberts  
Clinton First - Kay Raynor  
Campground - Becky Epperson

4. Worship - *Spirit Filled* - Scott Heersche
5. Children's Ministry - *Making Disciples of God's Children* - Dorothy Funkhouser
6. Youth Ministry - *Sharing God's Grace* - Jay Locklear
7. Spiritual Gifts - *God's Gifts in Worship* - Carline Johnson
8. Budget / Finance - Dr. Bruce Taylor
9. SPRC / PPRC - Dr. David O. Malloy
10. Trustees - Dr. John Tyson



As you read this, the Thrift Shop is completing one of it's **BEST** years ever. We have been able to help with many mission projects.

A very special **THANKS** to everyone who has had a part in the operation of the Thrift Shop in any way.

Since last month, we have given to the following organizations because of your support:

- |                                       |                          |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <i>The Care Clinic</i>                | <i>Salvation Army</i>    |
| <i>Urban Ministry</i>                 | <i>Samaritan's Purse</i> |
| <i>Red Cross</i>                      | <i>Safe Haven</i>        |
| <i>Homeless Coalition</i>             | <i>Cure Americas</i>     |
| <i>UMC in Mississippi</i>             |                          |
| <i>Methodist Home for Children</i>    |                          |
| <i>Hinton Rural Life Center</i>       |                          |
| <i>Medical Benevolence Foundation</i> |                          |

**THANKS TO ALL!!!**

**TO ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH:**

Thank you so much for all of your prayers, cards, letters, emails, and packages. I really appreciate them all. I apologize for not answering all of your letters and emails. I am so grateful for all of the support you have shown me and the support you have shown the U.S. Military for so many years. We all appreciate it. I am so glad to know that no matter where I go in life, that I have a home and a family at St. Matthew's. I wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year. I look forward to seeing all of you in late January or early February which I come home on leave for a couple of weeks.

Love & God Bless,  
Bradley Everts

**ADOPT A SOLDIER PROGRAM:**



This program is for anyone who would like to send letters or care packages throughout the year to a soldier stationed in Iraq, etc. If you are interested, please call Vickie Lee at 396-5401 or 396-8015.



The "**Stone Family**" presented the Methodist Men with a "**Christmas Breakfast**" on Sunday, December 19th for their monthly meeting. We had **20** men present for this occasion. Ashley is now the "**Grits Girl**" and Reena is the family "**Egg**

**Cooker**". Oh yes, Mama and Dad also helped. Thanks again to the Stones and you may do it again anytime you'd like.

After breakfast, Calvin gave a devotion on "**What Does Christmas Mean?**" It came from **John 3: 16-21**. The word "Christmas" does not appear in the Bible. It refers to Christ's Mass which refers to the Lord's Supper. Christians considered the mass to be the most important part of the celebration of Christ's birth. It began to be called Christmas. What does Christmas mean to us. If we submit to His plan for our lives, we will see our eternal need met first; all the other things we have need of will be taken care of.

Other business discussed was the "Christmas Eve Communion" to shut-in's. It is still in the planning stages and has not yet been finalized.

Our annual "**New Year's Dinner**" consisting of Black-Eyed Peas, Greens, Ham & Corn-Bread will be held on Sunday, January 1st immediately following the morning worship service. Everyone is welcome to join this fellowship.

The Methodist Men donated **\$100.00** to missions in memory of Betty Gray. Our hearts and prayers go out to Raymond and his family on their loss.

Also, put on your calendar our annual "**Sweetheart Banquet**" which will be held in February. We will have more on this next month.

Troy Willoughby,  
UMM Secretary

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



8 - Maria Stackhouse	22 - Debbie Hager
14 - Lisa Rogers	23 - Nan Blehi
Roxie Server	Betty Willoughby
15 - Joyce Christian	24 - Fred Rozier
18 - Brad Everts	25 - Eva Smith
Gidget Borst	27 - Dustin Graham
21 - Mary Schneider	31 - Reed Rozier



The Youth have had a very busy December. We started out by babysitting at the church for **"Parents Day Out"** on December 3rd. We had a very good time and hope that this allowed some parents to go shopping without having to worry about the cost of paying for a sitter.

On December 10th, we assisted the FFF by serving for the **"People Without Partners Dinner"**. We also bought Christmas presents for two of the Angels from the Angel Tree.

We finished out the year on a high note with our **Christmas Party** at the Everts house and **Christmas Caroling** to members of our church.

We have had a wonderful and productive 2005 and hope that 2006 will open up more ministry and mission opportunities.

In Christ,  
Mrs. Elaine

### LOOKING AHEAD:

**St. Matthew's UMC  
Presents  
East Carolina University  
Wesley Singers  
February 11-12, 2006**

### ATTENTION!!!

The Church Financial Records for 2005 will be closed on Sunday, January 8, 2006. Any checks received dated December 31, 2005 or earlier will be posted to the "2005 Record of Tithes and Offerings" until that date. Please contact Calvin Rome, Financial Secretary, before this date if you have any questions concerning your giving for 2005.

## SPECIAL OFFERINGS WERE GIVEN TO THE FOLLOWING:

### ARP FUND

- ◆ Doug & Dawn Stone
- ◆ Wayne & Elaine Everts
- ◆ Perry Smith

### CHURCH POWER BILL

- ◆ The Thrift Shop

### EMERGENCY FUND

- ◆ The Thrift Shop
- ◆ IMO Paul Sharpe by Mr. Charles Ives & family
- ◆ Sunday Morning Bible Study Class
- ◆ Doug & Dawn Stone
- ◆ James & Joyce DeBruhl
- ◆ IMO Lisa Faircloth by the Night Owls
- ◆ IMO Paul Sharpe by Leo C. Poole
- ◆ IHO Mary Rozier & Roberta Brown by Mary Morrow
- ◆ IMO Paul Sharpe by the Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle
- ◆ IMO Paul Sharpe by J.A. & Ginger Sessoms
- ◆ Wayne & Elaine Everts
- ◆ IMO Ruby Lucas' Daughter & Betty Gray by the Sunday Morning Bible Study Class

### MEMORIAL FUND

- ◆ Doug & Dawn Stone
- ◆ IMO Eddy & Jimmie Adams by Verena Wright
- ◆ IMO Paul Sharpe by James & Joyce DeBruhl

### MUSIC FUND

- ◆ Doug & Dawn Stone

### SCHOLARSHIP FUND

- ◆ Wayne & Elaine Everts

### SUMMER BREAKAWAY

- ◆ Bradley Everts

### JANUARY FLOWERS

- 1 - Available
- 8 - In honor of Maria Stackhouse's birthday by Bill Stackhouse
- 15 - Available
- 22 - In honor of Bradley Everts by his family
- 29 - (1) In honor of Fred & Reed Rozier's birthday & (2) In memory of Doris & Clifton Monahan by Bill & Maria Stackhouse

(The 2006 Flower Chart is available for you to sign and have flowers placed in honor or memory of a friend or loved one.)

## REGIONAL PRAYER CONFERENCE

*The Fayetteville District* is hosting a *Regional Prayer Conference* with renowned speaker and author *Dr. Terry Teykl*.

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS::

Saturday, February 18, 2006

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. - *Prayer Workshop* with Dr. Teykl at *Trinity UMC* in Fayetteville.

Sunday, February 19, 2006

3:00 - 4:30 p.m. - *District Lay Rally* at *Haymount UMC* with Dr. Teykl, Guest Speaker

Monday, February 20, 2006 - *Pastor's Retreat* with Dr. Teykl at *Rockfish Outdoor Center*

These events can be a powerful tool for equipping our churches and our region for prayer evangelism. Please do not miss this opportunity to revive the ministry and work of your local congregation.

Registration will be **\$35.00** per person for Saturday. This registration will cover a **Continental Breakfast, Lunch** and a **Workbook** by Dr. Teykl for the conference.

Dr. Teykl is a **United Methodist Pastor** that has energized our denomination in prayer. He brings a humorous presentation with serious teaching on prayer that will help your church make a difference in the lives of people in your community. If you would like more information on Dr. Teykl visit [www.renewalministries.org](http://www.renewalministries.org)

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

### "COME TO THE POTTER FOR MOLDING IN 2005"

We have worked this year to understand that **"We are the clay you are the potter; we are all the works of your hand."** - *Isaiah 64: 8*

We have accomplished many things during this year and look forward to continuing these tasks as we...

### "COME TO THE POTTER...FOR STRENGTH IN 2006."

**"They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint."** *Isaiah 40: 31*

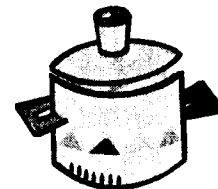
The **Cumberland-Hoke Sub District Meeting** is scheduled for Saturday, January 14, 2006 at Harry Hosier UMC on Yadkin Road at 2:00 p.m. Please plan to attend and be a part of the total United Methodist Women's Programs.

Please watch your bulletin next week for information on **"Tired of Cooking"** dinners to be held on Friday night in late January.

Thanks to each of you for your support in 2005, and we look forward to working together in 2006.  
Adella Pray, President UMW

### RECIPE OF THE MONTH "CROCK-POT CHICKEN STEW"

- 1 pound boneless, skinless chicken breasts  
cut into bite-sized pieces
  - 3 cans fat-free cream of chicken soup
  - 1 pound frozen stew vegetables
  - 3 tablespoons butter or margarine
  - Can vegetable oil spray
- Spray the inside of crock-pot with vegetable oil spray. Add ingredients, cover, and cook on low for 9-10 hours. Yield: 4 servings.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <b>HAPPY NEW YEAR</b>	2	3 Prayer Group – 6:30pm	4 Card Ministry – 5:00pm WNA & B.Study-6:30pm Choir Practice – 7:30pm	5	6	7
8	9	10 Prayer Group – 6:30pm	11 Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle – 11:00 am Card Ministry – 5:00pm WNA & B.Study-6:30pm Choir Practice – 7:30pm	12 Night Owl Circle – 7:00pm	13	14
15 UMM Breakfast Mtg. – 8:30am	16	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 January Workshops Hope Mills UMC - 2:00pm	23	24 Prayer Group – 6:30pm	25 Card Ministry – 5:00pm WNA & B.Study-6:30pm Choir Practice – 7:30pm	26 Help-N-Hands – 11am	27	28
29	30	31 Prayer Group – 6:30pm				