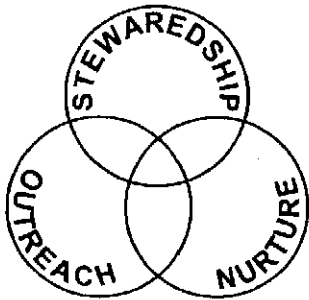


St. Matthew's UMC
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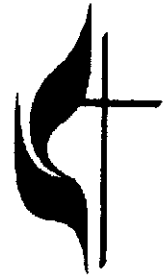


St. Matthew's 25 Challenge

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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 VI

April 2006

Issue 4

THE CINDERELLA COMPLEX IN THE CHURCH

A number of weeks ago while preaching on prayer, I told you that a familiar fairy tale kept intruding into my devotional time. Almost in frustration I surrendered and said, "Lord, are you trying to get a message through to me." To my surprise the answer was YES.

Effortlessly, the ideas started flowing into my consciousness. A lot of people look at the church like a fairy tale. It is often a Cinderella story. I had a little trouble with that at first. Then it began to make more and more sense. At first glance, we all want to identify with Cinderella. We want to be saved from our every day drudgery and get all dressed up and go to the ball and be the center of attention. It is a bit like the stories Jesus told about people from the highways and byways being invited to the celebration of the wedding feast and asked to sit at a place of honor at the head table. Jesus told us that the kingdom of God would be like that.

Sometimes, we think that being in the kingdom is a one time experience, and then it's back to our daily chores. Too many people live this way spiritually. They are saved, and it's like the excitement of being invited to attend the ball, but it can't last for ever. We even fall in love with the handsome prince, Christ Jesus. Unfortunately, we think this can't last for ever. It is not long before we are back to our everyday routine. But the story doesn't end there. The handsome prince comes looking for us. Jesus doesn't forget about us either. He searches for us until he finds us, he takes us back to his heavenly home and we live happily ever after. In some ways that is the gospel story. We have a God

who remembers us and seeks us out. In the Methodist church we call it "prevenient grace" or the grace that goes out to us even before we come to know him.

We like the idea of being rescued or saved. We like to identify with Cinderella because we often think we are overworked, mistreated and unappreciated. We are drawn to the idea of being recognized and placed in a position of prominence. In many ways Christ wants to do that for us.

But the story has other characters in it. There are also the wicked stepmother and the stepsisters. It is implied that they are not real members of the family; they are only taking advantage of the situation. They want all the attention and all the glory, while someone else does all the real work. They want to be the ones recognized by the prince. And they will do everything they can to try and fit their foot into the glass slipper.

Sadly, there are many people in the church just like the stepmother and stepsisters. They want the glory, attention, recognition and benefits of the church, not the responsibility. They let others support their share of the budget and pick up the slack in the things they don't like to do. These people suffer from the Cinderella Complex. They depend on the Cinderella's in the church to do their share of the work and/or giving. Jesus' parables makes it clear those whom he chooses.

Shalom,

Mike

Christian Quotes On Tithing, Finances, Money and Stewardship

Theirs is an endless road, a hopeless maze, who seek for goods before they seek for God.

Bernard of Clairvaux

You're rich if you've had a meal today.

Billy Graham

Money will buy a bed but not sleep, books but not brains, food but not appetite, finery but not beauty, medicine but not health, luxury but not culture, amusement but not happiness, a crucifix but not a Saviour, a temple of religion but not heaven.

Anonymous

I like to give willingly; when I give willingly, I enjoy it so much I give again.

Anonymous

What makes the Dead Sea dead? It is all the time receiving and never giving out.

Anonymous

When a church seeks a pastor, they want the strength of an eagle, the grace of a swan, the gentleness of a dove, the friendliness of a sparrow, and the night hours of an owl. And when they catch that bird, they expect the pastor to live on the food of a canary.

Anonymous

Givers can be divided into three types: the flint, the sponge and the honeycomb. Some givers are like a piece of flint - to get anything out of it you must hammer it, and even then you only get chips and sparks. Other are like a sponge - to get anything out of a sponge you must squeeze it and squeeze it hard, because the more you squeeze a sponge, the more you get. But others are like a honeycomb - which just overflows with its own sweetness. That is how God gives to us, and it is how we should give in turn.

Anonymous

Grace binds you with far stronger cords than the cords of duty or obligation can bind you. Grace is free, but when once you take it you are bound forever to the Giver, and bound to catch the spirit of the Giver. Like produces like, Grace makes you gracious, the Giver makes you give.

Eli E. Stanley Jones



As this article is being written clothes are changing from winter to summer at the Thrift Shop. We appreciate everyone's hard work to make this happen. There are, as of this writing, lots of Easter items. If you are in need, check it out. Thanks to everyone for your hard work which keeps our shop up and running. We appreciate being able to work for missions, as well as helping to provide for the needs of the church. Stay tuned for more news next month on the happenings at the Thrift Shop.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

This years VBS will be held all in one day, **Saturday, June 3rd**. The day will begin with Breakfast at 8:00 a.m., and end with a Cook-Out at 6:00 p.m. Lunch will also be served. Our theme for Bible School this year will be **"Treasure Seekers"**. Come and find a Treasure! Workers are needed for all ages. If you would like to help, please see Julie Griffin or call her at 425-4269.



ATTENTION ALL GRADUATES!!



June is just around the corner, and we will be honoring our **"2006 Graduates"**. To make sure that we don't overlook anyone who is graduating from **High School** or **College**, please call Doris at 425-0401 or Julie Griffin at 425-4269. You may also send an Email to the church at stmattdumc@earthlink.net or to Julie at juliegee1@earthlink.net. Graduation is a time for celebration, and we certainly don't want to miss any of our church family.

Thank you, Julie Griffin

TRUSTEES MINISTRY TEAM

A special thanks to **Jack Spakes** for being **"Trustee of the Month"** in March. We appreciated him opening up the church, turning on the lights, air, and securing the doors. Our **"Trustee of the Month"** for April will be **Frank Bagley**. Thank you Frank! The Trustees want you to know that painting will be taking place in the sanctuary soon, and plans are underway for striping the parking lot. Also, the wood around the windows in the sanctuary will be replaced, and the walkways and signs will be pressure washed. Have you noticed how nice the hallways and floors are looking?



The UMM met Sunday, March 19th. We had **29 men and 1 woman** present. A wonderful meal was served by our incredible youth. Thanks you all very much. Thanks also to **Elaine Everts, Pam Gallimore and Lorri Shackelford** for their assistance. The youth raised **\$200.65** toward their youth ministries. Our devotion was given by **Calvin Rome**.

It was titled **"A Silent Sermon"**. We had two first time visitors, **Ralph Wright** and **Greenman Bygrave** and were blessed by their presence. April Communion Teams will be **Troy Willoughby** and **Raymond Gray, Santos Pena** and **Bill Stackhouse**. If you know of anyone who would like to be served Communion, please notify Calvin or Doris. This ministry is a blessing to those serving, as well as to those being served. The youth will prepare Breakfast following the **Easter Sunrise Service** on **April 16th**. Dr. Hale spoke to the men about the **Rainbow Covenant** giving. We chose to help support **Lucknow Publishing House**, a company that publishes Christian Literature in India. A gift of **\$220.00** was given, as well as our pledge to support them with our prayers throughout the coming year. Ushers for the month of April are **Wayne Everts, Doug Stone, Santos Pena, Calvin Rome** and **Robert Parker**.

Wayne Everts, UMM Secretary

A BIT OF HUMOR

- The Dentist Hymn - Crown Him with Many Crowns
- The Weatherman's Hymn - There shall be Showers of Blessings
- The Contractors Hymn - The Church is one Foundation
- The Tailor's Hymn - Holy, Holy, Holy
- The Golfer's Hymn - There is a Green Hill Far Away
- The Politician's Hymn - Standing on the Promises
- The Optometrists Hymn - Open My Eyes That I Might See
- The IRS Agent's Hymn - I Surrender All
- The Gossip's Hymn - Pass It On
- The Electrician's Hymn - Send Out Thy Light
- The Shopper's Hymn - Sweet By and By

For those speeding on the Highway, a few hymns for you:

- 45 mph - God will Take Care of You
- 55 mph - Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah
- 65 mph - Just a Closer Walk With Thee
- 75 mph - Nearer My God To Thee
- 85 mph - This World is Not my Home
- 95 mph - Precious Memories
- 100 mph and over - Lord, I'm Coming Home

If these hymns sound interesting to you and you enjoy singing, the St. Matthew's Choir would love to have you join us. We practice on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. Please come and join us!

A special thanks to the Christian Appalachian Project Newsletter for the humor.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS



- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 8 - Barry Gallimore | 25 - Lola Smith |
| 9 - Joe Bledsoe | 27 - Connie Miller |
| James DeBruhl | 28 - Jean Lambert |
| 17 - Joshua Hager | 29 - Amanda Call |
| 20 - Clarice Edge | Edna Parker |
| 21 - Margaret Lewis | 30 - John Williams, Jr. |



Our youth group has been busy again. During our meetings, we decided on many things. We are still trying to take on more leadership in the group. We are also going to continue collecting aluminum cans as our project throughout the year and for many years to come to help fund our missions. We will be having an **Easter Egg Hunt** on Saturday, April 15th from 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. Any non-chocolate candy donations will be greatly appreciated. We will have lots of fun and excitement. The Youth will be sponsoring a **"Donation Breakfast"** after the **Easter Sunrise Service** on April 16th. We will also be holding a **"Donation Lunch"** on April 30th and will be serving **Chicken & Pastry** and **Desserts**. The youth would like to thank all the church members for your support. Lisa Rogers, Youth Secretary

THE YEAR OF THE JUBILEE AT ST. MATTHEW'S UMC

The **Homecoming Committee** has been hard at work. We have discussed many options for our **50th Year Celebration**. We are collecting items from our church history to be displayed during the month of September. We have scheduled our **Church-Wide Family Photo** to be taken on Easter Sunday. We are also planning to have individual family portraits taken in the near future so our directory will be ready in September. If you have any items from our church history, that you would like displayed, please contact Elaine Everts or Pam Gallimore. Our next meeting is **Sunday, April 2nd** following worship service. In Christ, Elaine Everts

(That fiftieth year shall be a jubilee for you; in it you shall neither sow nor reap what grows of itself nor gather the grapes from the undressed vines. For it is a jubilee. It shall be holy to you. You may eat the produce of the field. Leviticus 25: 11-12)

We have promised to participate in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts and our service.

BUDGET - \$167,846.48	AS OF MARCH 26, 2006
Needed Weekly \$3,227.82	Needed To Date \$41,961.62
Average Weekly \$3,142.20	Received To Date \$40,848.72
Avg. Weekly Deficit \$85.62	Deficit \$1,112.90

SPECIAL OFFERINGS WERE GIVEN TO THE FOLLOWING:

ARP FUND

- ◆ Perry Smith
- ◆ Lynwood & Julie Griffin
- ◆ Doug & Dawn Stone
- ◆ Jimmy Autry

CHURCH LAWNMOWER

- ◆ Donated by Frank Bagley

DAY CAMP

- ◆ Wayne, Elaine & Amy-Jo Everts

EMERGENCY FUND

- ◆ The Thrift Shop
- ◆ Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle
- ◆ Wayne & Elaine Everts
- ◆ Sunday Morning Bible Study Class
- ◆ Gidget Borst
- ◆ Bill & Maria Stackhouse
- ◆ IMO Helen Underwood by Sam & Shirley Pitchford

FRAYED & FRAZZLED FLOCK

- ◆ Wayne & Elaine Everts

OUTREACH MINISTRIES

- ◆ Wayne & Elaine Everts

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

- ◆ Doug & Dawn Stone
- ◆ Wayne & Elaine Everts
- ◆ IMO Helen Underwood by Sunday Morning Bible Study Class

RAINBOW COVENANT

- ◆ W.A. Stewart Bible Study Class

YOUTH BREAKAWAY

- ◆ Wayne & Elaine Everts

APRIL FLOWERS

- 2 - In honor of Richard Sibbett & Matt Jamison's birthday by their loving In-law's
- 9 - (1) In memory of Earl W. Wilson & in honor of Diana Bone by Ruth Caldwell & (2) In honor of James DeBruhl's birthday by Joyce
- 16 - In honor of Laura & Catherine Ashworth's 12th birthday by their Grandparents
- 23 - Available
- 30 - Available



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

On Friday, March 24th, we finished our third **"Tired of Cooking"** dinners earning **\$207.00** for our budget for missions. Everyone seemed to have a good time. It's my understanding that with the assistance of Pam Gallimore, the youth will be offering **"Chicken & Pastry"** in April, so we will take a break and ask that you support the UMYF in their projects. A very special

THANK YOU to everyone that has helped with our **"Tired of Cooking"** dinners for the past three months. Especially those that participated by eating.

Be sure and mark your calendar for **Saturday, May 13th** which will be our **"Mother-Daughter Banquet"**. If you do not have a mother or daughter, borrow one for the evening and join in the fun!

Shoebboxes are available if you would like to start filling one for **"Operation Christmas Child"**. They are located on the UMW book cart in the Kindergarten Sunday School Class. Our next meeting will be **Monday, April 3rd at 6:30 p.m.** with a light supper being served. Thanks for all your support!

Adella Pray, UMW President

RUTH-ETHEL SMITH CIRCLE

Our circle of friends met Wednesday, March 8th at 11:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Everyone was welcomed. Margaret Clyde gave the devotion and prayer. Minutes were read from the last meeting and the Treasurer's Report was given. We collected our Sunshine Fund and items for the **Stanton Hospitality House**. Items for our mission was purchased at Sam's Club and delivered by Dorothy Spakes. It was well received and appreciated.

Our guest speaker was **Dr. Michael Hale**. He showed us slides of his trip to **Ireland**. It was very informative. We enjoyed seeing the countryside of Dublin, Ireland. Thank you, Dr. Hale.

We sung Happy Birthday to two of our members. We then said Grace and enjoyed a delicious lunch. Our next meeting will be held **Wednesday, April 12th at 11:00 a.m.** I'll see you then!

Lola Smith

RECIPE OF THE MONTH "CUBED STEAK CASSEROLE"

3 Potatoes
1 medium Onion
2 Tbsp Margarine
1/4 tsp Dry Mustard
1 can Cream of Mushroom
Soup, undiluted



4 Carrots
1 1/2 lbs. Cube Steak
1 cup Buttermilk
1/4 tsp Pepper
1 tsp Salt

Cut potatoes, carrots, and onion into 1/2-inch thick slices. Brown cube steak on both sides in margarine, then cut into 2 - to - 3 inch cubes. Mix mushroom soup, buttermilk mustard, salt, and pepper together. Layer steak and vegetables in greased casserole dish. Add sauce and bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes to 1 hour until vegetables are tender. Yield: 4 servings.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 Daylight Savings Time Homecoming Com. - 12:00pm Pension Planning Mtg. @ St. Luke UMC, Sanford, NC - 3:00pm	3 UMW General Mtg. - 6:30pm	4 Prayer Group - 6:30pm	5 Card Ministry - 5:00pm Bible Study - 6:30pm Choir Practice - 7:30pm	6 Night Owls Circle - 7:00pm	7	1 Safe Sanctuary Training at Salem UMC-9am-12pm 8 Youth Lay Speaker Training Methodist Bldg. Raleigh-10am-4pm
9 Passton/Palm Sunday	10	11 Prayer Group - 6:30pm	12 Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle - 11:00am Card Ministry - 5:00pm Choir Practice - 7:30pm	13 HOLY THURSDAY SERVICE 7:00 PM	14	15
16 EASTER Sunrise Service - 6:30 am Donation Breakfast to follow	17	18 Prayer Group - 6:30pm	19 Home Extensions-10am Card Ministry - 5:00pm Bible Study - 6:30pm Choir Practice - 7:30pm	20	21	22
23 UMYF - 12:00pm	24	25 Prayer Group - 6:30pm	26 Card Ministry - 5:00pm Bible Study - 6:30pm Choir Practice - 7:30pm	27 Help-N-Hands - 11am	28	29 FFF & Book Club - 8:30am
30 Native American Ministries Sunday Donation Spaghetti Lunch - 12:00pm						