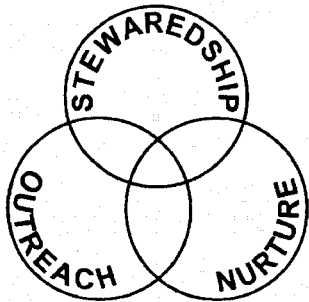


St. Matthew's UMC
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St. Matthew's 25 Challenge

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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

MAY 2006

Issue 5

'MY HOUSE SHALL BE CALLED A HOUSE OF PRAYER'

Jesus quoted these words upon entering the Temple in Jerusalem according to Matthew 21: 12-16 *"And Jesus entered the temple of God and drove out all who sold and bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons. He said to them, 'It is written, "My house shall be called a house of prayer"; but you make it a den of robbers.' And the blind and the lame came to him in the temple, and he healed them. But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the wonderful things that he did, and the children crying out in the temple, 'Hosanna to the Son of David!' they were indignant; and they said to him, 'Do you hear what these are saying?' And Jesus said to them, 'Yes; have you never read, "Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast brought perfect praise?'"*

Jesus makes it clear that the sanctuary is a holy place, a place of prayer. The money-changers did not honor that purpose. Jesus then revealed that it was an appropriate place for healing and praise. Jesus was quoting the prophecy of Isaiah 56:5-7 *"I will give in my house and within my walls a monument and a name better than sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name which shall not be cut off. 'And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD, and to be his servants, every one who keeps the sabbath, and does not profane it, and holds fast my covenant -- these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.'"*

God was speaking through the prophet Isaiah to tell of his plans for the temple to be a house of prayer open to all people; not just the Jews. Anyone who honored His name would be welcome. This is the reason I believe that the central city of Jerusalem should be declared an international city and Temple Mount became a place of worship for all people. This would include Jews, Christians, Muslims, and others.

We designate various areas of the church for different purposes. We have classrooms for study, a choir room for music, office space for Church business and a fellowship hall for fellowship and sharing. Like public schools, the hallways and entrances are great places to visit and share. But Christians honor God in Christ by making sure the Sanctuary is a "House of Prayer", Praise and Healing.

- **What would Jesus think of us and our church, if he walked in before worship and heard us talking and visiting with each other rather than preparing ourselves for worshipping Him?**
- **Would he think our talk about what we are wearing, what or where we are going for lunch or catching up on the latest gossip, honor our Heavenly Father's House?**
- **Would Jesus be pleased with our lack of reverence for a Holy place and our lack of respect for those who have come into His sanctuary as a "House of Prayer?"**
- **Would he want to drive us out of the sanctuary like he did the money-changers?**

Shalom,

Mike

TRUSTEES EXPLORE USE OF SPACE PLAN

At the last Trustee's Meeting, the Trustee's Ministry Team examined many issues related to Church and rental property. Goals and projects were reviewed and assigned to various members for implementation.

Several proposals had been submitted to the Trustees for consideration regarding the use of space within the church. The Trustees read the recommendations and took a site tour of the church to consider recommendations. It was decided to recommend to the Church Council to consider several reallocations of space.

One of the goals is to establish a Team to study and make recommendations about converting the large classroom next to the youth room into a **Church Parlor**. The Trustee's believe that a Church Parlor is needed, but if we are going to undertake the project we need to do a first class job with nice furnishings and décor or not do it at all. They suggested that custom built bookcases across the wall separating the two rooms could mean that the church library books could be moved to the parlor. One by one material now in the library could be moved to appropriate Sunday School classrooms.

Easter Sunday, The United Methodist Men's group committed \$1,000 to the Trustee's toward the bookcases or the Parlor project in preparation for our 50th Homecoming.

Another proposal concerned two recommendations concerning **Storage Space** inside the church. A team can work with the Trustee's on this project.

Another recommendation submitted to the Trustee's concerned a **Prayer Room** of some sort. Since the Trustee's meeting, there have been several suggestions concerning this project. Chairperson, Lynwood Griffin, believed that this project needed to be included in the recommendation to the Church Council meeting following lunch Sunday April 30th.

We need volunteers who are interested in these projects to let us know if they are willing to serve on these Design Teams. Plans and money will have to be made and raised for each project. Sign up sheets will be on the bulletin board or you can call the church office to volunteer.

THE DAVINCI CODE

On May 19th the movie, *The DaVinci Code*, will be opening in theaters around the country. Not only has the book been a world-wide best seller of over 40 million copies, the movie is directed by Ron Howard and stars film icon Tom Hanks.

At an age when people are suspicious of big government, big business and big bureaucracies, there is an attraction to conspiracy theories and cover-ups, where the truth is hidden from the public. The basic premise of *The DaVinci Code* story is a cover-up by the early church that Jesus married Mary Magdalene and had a child. According to the story line there has been a conspiracy by the church to hide this from the public. This is not true, but it makes for a great story. Half truths are more seductive than lies.

Because of our natural suspicion of organizations in recent times, there are likely to be people who will respond to this movie as if it is factual. Conservative pastors will doubtless cry out about an attack on the Church by the media and film industry. Preacher's who love media attention themselves, will be stirring up emotions of church people to rally against such a "blasphemous" film. This occurred a few years ago with the movie *The Last Temptation of Christ*.

Jesus and the Church are always targets for criticism. People do not understand the incredible power faith holds over peoples lives. The Christian message is so truly radical that it defies human reason and understanding. That is the Good News!

While some see such movies and books as threats to the Christian way of life, **I see them as opportunities for us to dialogue with those who are suspicious of the church and the Christian Faith.** Certainly, we have given people good reason to be suspicious of our intentions. We proclaim such a morally high call to live a Christ-like life while our every day actions proclaim another story all together. What we say and how we live often differ.

There were many extra-canonical books written in the early days of the Church that are not included in what we call the Bible. **Most Christians have very little knowledge of how, what we call Holy Scripture, came into being and why.** When intelligent people outside and within the church start to question our sacred traditions, we have little to share with them that is convincing. Then we become the ones who look like fanatics. It is better to be informed Christians as well as faithful ones.

Let us use this opportunity to witness to curious people concerning the truth of the New Testament.

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 stmatthumc@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

THE YEAR OF JUBILEE AT ST. MATTHEW'S UMC

We would like to extend a special **"Thank You"** to everyone who participated in our **"Church-Wide Photo"** which was taken on Easter Sunday. Please make sure you see **Pam Gallimore** to schedule your **Family Portrait** for our new **Church Directory**. We are collecting items of our church history to be displayed during the month of September. If you have any items relating to our history which you would like us to display, please contact Elaine Everts or Pam Gallimore. Our next meeting will be Sunday, May 7th immediately following worship service.

In Christ, Elaine Everts

Leviticus 25: 11-12: 11 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. 12 For it is a jubilee. It shall be holy to you. You may eat the produce of the field.

RUTH-ETHEL SMITH CIRCLE

Our Circle of friends met Wednesday, April 12th. We welcomed everyone and had great attendance. Devotion and prayer was given by Margaret Clyde. Minutes were read and the Treasurer's Report was given from the last meeting. Our April Mission Project was to give funds to the youth for their Summer Breakaway. Our May Mission Project will be to help the Care Clinic. We discussed upcoming events and went to Hudson Bay Seafood for a wonderful lunch. All women are invited to join us for a great time of Christian fun and fellowship. See you next month!

Lola Smith



The UMM met on April 16th following the Easter Sunrise Service. We had **11** men present. Once again, we enjoyed a wonderful meal served by our fantastic youth. Thank you all very much for the delicious breakfast. We appreciate everything our youth do in support of our church. Doug Stone & Troy Willoughby graciously volunteered to prepare breakfast for our next Meeting on May 21st. Our devotion was given by Calvin Rome entitled **"The Five Easters"**. Our Communion Teams Leaders for May will be Troy Willoughby & Santos Pena. If you know of anyone who would like to be served Communion, please notify Calvin or Doris. This ministry is truly a blessing to those serving as well as to those being served. The UMM are busy preparing to lead our **"Mother's Day Service"** on May 14th. Troy Willoughby is Chairman. We welcome any man in the church to take part in this service. Choir Practice dates are forthcoming, so do not delay in warming up your vocal cords. The UMM have pledged financial support as well as man power support to the Trustees in support of the many activities being taken to spruce up the church for Homecoming and beyond. Our next meeting is scheduled for May 21st at 8:30 a.m. All men of the church as well as visitors are welcome to participate. Ushers for the month of May are **Troy Willoughby, Charles Lucas, Hank Zielinski & Bill Leggett**.

Wayne Everts, UMM Secretary

ST. MATTHEW'S DAY CAMP JULY 3 - 7 (6 yrs. - 12th grade)

This year due to the rising cost of fuel, all events will be scheduled in our local area. We are planning on having our **"Family Day"** on Tuesday, July 4th. I have not finalized our schedule, but will do so prior to the June Newsletter. We plan on having **"Praise & Worship"** along with lots of fun activities during the week. Cost is only \$60.00 per child. Scholarships are available if needed. Please contact Elaine Everts at (919) 499-5806 or 494-2427 for more information.

YOU MUST PRE-REGISTER OR YOU WILL NOT GO!!!

Pre-registration will be held at the Church:

June 17th, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

June 18th, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

TRUSTEES MINISTRY TEAM

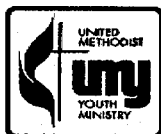
A special thanks to Frank Bagley for being **"Trustee of the Month"** in April. Our **"Trustee of the Month"** for May will be **Santos Pena**. We appreciate everything the men of our church do to make our church a safe and attractive place to worship our Lord. God bless you all!



MAY BIRTHDAYS



- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 - Mae Roberson | 18 - Dawn Stone |
| 4 - Bill Stackhouse | 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 |



The youth would like to thank our church family for their support during our recent fundraisers. The **"Donation Breakfast"** which was held after the Easter Sunrise Service, and the **"Donation Lunch"** which was held on April 30th. We are planning a fun and fellowship trip to **Lake Junaluska** and go **"White Water Rafting"** during the Memorial Day weekend.

Lisa Rogers, UMYF Secretary

HELPING OTHERS - SERVING GOD

The **W.A. Stewart Sunday School Class** has undertaken a mission to recognize people who are helping others and serving God in their own way. These are people who work behind the scenes and always put God's work in its proper place. These people will be recognized once a quarter throughout the year.

The Sunday School Class takes a donation each Sunday to be placed in the **Prayer Parlor Fund** in their honor.

The first persons to be honored were **Dorothy Spakes** and **Jean Lambert** for their long service with the **Thrifty Shop** as **Treasurer** and **Co-Treasurer**. They also package and send clothing for the **Homeless** and **Abused Women's Shelters**. They make sure that all donated **Teddy Bears** go to the proper police channels. These things don't just happen, someone makes them happen.

There are many people in our church that are doing God's work by helping others who are not as fortunate as we are. If you know of any of these people, let someone in our class know about them, or better yet come and join us at 9:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you in advance!

Troy Willoughby

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 APRIL 23, 2006
Needed Weekly \$3,227.82	Needed To Date \$54,872.89
Average Weekly \$3,044.17	Received To Date \$51,751.04
Avg. Weekly Deficit \$183.65	Deficit \$3,121.85

SPECIAL OFFERINGS WERE GIVEN TO THE FOLLOWING:

ARP FUND

- ◆ Lee Anna Sproul
- ◆ Charles & Ruby Lucas
- ◆ Marty & Linda Webb (Light Fixtures)
- ◆ Prayer Parlor IHO Dorothy Spakes & Jean Lambert by W.A. Stewart Bible Study Class
- ◆ Joyce Christian
- ◆ Doug & Dawn Stone
- ◆ Perry Smith

EMERGENCY FUND

- ◆ The Thrift Shop
- ◆ Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle
- ◆ IHO Lee Anna Sproul by her Secret Pal
- ◆ Sunday Morning Bible Study Class
- ◆ Doug & Dawn Stone

HOMECOMING FUND

- ◆ Wayne, Elaine, & Bradley Everts
- ◆ Pamela Gallimore
- ◆ Night Owls
- ◆ Gail Terwilliger
- ◆ Amanda Call

RAINBOW COVENANT

- ◆ W.A. Stewart Bible Study Class

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

- ◆ Wayne & Elaine Everts

THRIFT SHOP

- ◆ IMO George & Ruby West by Nancy Gann
- ◆ IMO George & Ruby West by Nancy Talbert

YOUTH BREAKAWAY

- ◆ Scotty & Margaret Clyde
- ◆ Bradley Everts
- ◆ Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle

MAY CHURCH FLOWERS

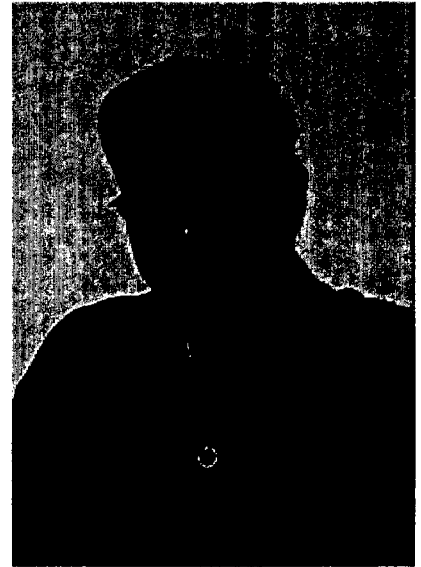
- 7 - None
- 14 - In memory of Helen Underwood by Fred, Mary & Reed Rozier
- 21 - None
- 28 - In honor of Julie Griffin's birthday By her family

(There is plenty of spaces available if you would like to place flowers in the Church. Cost is only \$22.00.)

GARY LOCKLEAR MISSIONARY, CHURCH & COMMUNITY WORKER

I give thanks to God for my many friends and congregations that have supported me and my work financially as a missionary over the past few years. While I have only been a missionary for six years now, I feel I have gained a lifetime of experience in doing the work of a missionary and for you and your congregation making that possible, I will forever be grateful. Your gift each year has made a tremendous difference in the lives of many people in this part of North Carolina.

I am one of **47** missionaries, Church and Community Workers, of the General Board of Global Missionaries of the United Methodist Church. Presently, I am studying for commissioning as a Home Missioner, a program approved by the 2004 General Conference and anticipate commissioning in the spring of 2007. I am Native American and serve a Cooperative Ministry in rural North Carolina primarily in Robeson County.



This is my community and as a Lumbee Indian, I want to make life better for my people, I want to help make ***"Disciples of Jesus Christ"*** among my own people. I grew up and was educated here. I spent **30** years in education and private industry before becoming a missionary. This is my sixth year as a missionary. I never dreamed of this calling ten years ago, but I have accepted this call to do God's work and will remain in His service. Now, I have been part of all I have mentioned above. Your support for my work has been invaluable in my being able to continue this work in these **14** churches and communities. I trust you and the membership of your church will find ways to continue to support my work at the ***Rockingham District Native American Cooperative Ministry.***

Become a covenant partner with Gary and St. Matthew's UMC by sending your contribution to the church. We will put all of your gifts together and send them in for Missionary Support.

QUOTES ON TITHING

"A checkbook is a theological document, it will tell you who and what you worship."

Billy Graham

"People go through 3 conversions: their head, their heart and their pocketbook.

Unfortunately, not all at the same time.

Martin Luther

"The world asks, 'What does a man own?' Christ asks, 'How does he use it?' "

Andrew Murray

"He who is not liberal with what he has, deceives himself when he thinks he would be liberal if he had more."

William S. Plumer

"Money never stays with me. It would burn me if it did. I throw it out of my hands as soon as possible, lest it should find its way into my heart."

John Wesley

MAY**ST. MATTHEW'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH****2006**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 Sexual Ethics Training at Jonesboro UMC, Sanford - 9:30am - 4:00pm Card Ministry - 5:00pm Bible Study - 6:30pm Choir Practice - 7:30pm	4	5	6
7 Homecoming Committee Mtg. & UMYF - 12:00pm	8	9 Prayer Group - 6:30pm	10 Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle - 11:00am Card Ministry - 5:00pm Bible Study - 6:30pm Choir Practice - 7:30pm	11 Night Owls Circle - 7:00 pm	12	13 MOTHER DAUGHTER BANQUET 6:00 PM
14 Mother's Day Worship Service by UMM - 11:00am	15	16 Prayer Group - 6:30pm	17 Home Extensions-10am Card Ministry - 5:00pm Bible Study - 6:30pm Choir Practice - 7:30pm	18	19	20 FFF & Book Club - 8:30am
21 UMM Breakfast Mtg. - 8:30am UMYF - 12:00pm	22	23 Prayer Group - 6:30pm	24 Card Ministry - 5:00pm Bible Study - 6:30pm Choir Practice - 7:30pm	25 Help-N-Hands Senior Group - 11am	26	27
28	29 Memorial Day Observance	30 Prayer Group - 6:30pm	31 Card Ministry - 5:00pm Bible Study - 6:30pm Choir Practice - 7:30pm			