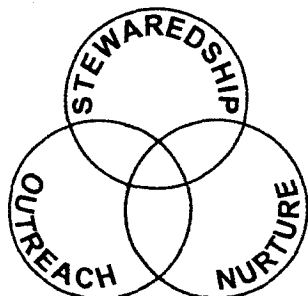


St. Matthew's UMC  
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*Jesus said, "When you did it to one of these my brethren, you did it unto me." Matt. 25:40*

Volume VI

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Issue 7

## A DECLARATION IN DEPENDENCE

Many who came to the new world several hundred years ago, came to find religious freedom. They wanted to be able to worship God the way they chose rather than be forced to worship their God the way a king or government demanded them to worship. We are so fortunate to live in America. We have never had to experience this kind of religious tyranny.

There is a big difference between religious freedom and spiritual freedom. Religious freedom gives us the legal right to worship or not worship as we choose. Spiritual freedom is a gift of the Holy Spirit through the Christ Jesus to experience the wonderful freedom of being able to choose to live the holy life that our heavenly Father calls us to live. It is much easier to lose our spiritual freedom in Christ Jesus than it is to lose our legal religious freedom.

Because of sin, we were actually slaves to fleshly and worldly living until Jesus set us free by his sacrifice upon the cross. When he conquered sin and death, we were given the power to choose between living for Christ and the Spirit or living for the self-centered desires of the flesh and the world.

That is why salvation is a free gift from God in Christ Jesus. That is also why Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to be our Guide. Only when we are led by the Holy Spirit can we be truly free from sin enough to make the right choices. St. Paul warned us, "do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another." <sup>Galatians 5:13</sup> Spiritual freedom is so powerful that we can overcome our human limitations and resist sin with the help of the Holy Spirit. Not only can we resist the vile sins of murder, stealing, violence

and hatred, adultery, fornication, drunkenness and carousing, we can overcome our more everyday sins. When we are truly free in Christ we can resist enmity, strife, jealousy, anger, quarreling, dissension, factions and envy. Our spiritual freedom allows us to become free of these destructive behaviors which tear apart our personal lives, the life of the church, nations and our world. I praise God that the Holy Spirit has helped us to rely on Christ to put away many of these behaviors in the life of our church. But when we rely on our own strength we slip back into slavery to sin and forget that we are called to become slaves or servants to one another in love. No earthly government can guarantee this freedom or service.

Only the spiritual freedom we gain through belief in Jesus Christ and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit equips us to freely embrace a ministry of servanthood. This requires a **Declaration In Dependence** upon God in Christ Jesus through the Holy Spirit.

As we celebrate Independence Day let us remember that our religious freedoms and all the other freedoms we enjoy in America have been purchased at the price of many who have defended those freedoms with their lives. Remember our service men and women and their families who are paying a price right now. But please don't waste your religious freedom by rejecting the spiritual freedom that is ours through the risen Lord. Affirm St. Paul's **Declaration In Dependence**, "For freedom Christ has set us free." <sup>Gal.5:1</sup> Then we are free to depend on God in Christ.

*Shalom,*

*Mike*

# MORNING PRE-SCHOOL

Registration  
Call: **425-0401**

Notice our banners for Morning Pre-School Registration? After a number of delays, we are moving forward with registration for a Morning Pre-School Ministry. The Child Care Ministry Team has worked hard getting ready for this program. Thanks to your generosity, we have been able to upgrade our equipment and furnishings in two of our children's classrooms, paint, and decorate. Donations of play equipment and our fencing have added much to our outdoor children's ministry.

We plan to have banners up the first full week in June to advertise Registration for this **Morning Pre-School Program** which will operate from **8 a.m. - 12:00 noon Monday's through Thursday's** each week. We will follow the Cumberland County traditional school calendar for starting, holidays and severe weather closings. The Registration Fee will be \$50 and a material fee of \$50 will be required to hold a place for the start of school. The Monthly fee will be \$160 which is mid-range compared to other similar programs. Ideally, we would like to serve about 30 children ages 2-5 through this new ministry. Our goal is to start a program that is self-supporting in terms of covering the cost of salaries and supplies.

People can call the church for more information about registration, forms, curriculum and employment. We will be advertising for a Director, Lead teachers, and Assistants. If you know anyone who would be interested in one of these part-time positions, have them contact the church or send a resume. We will be scheduling appointments for parents who would like to come by and see the facilities throughout the summer.



## THE CARPENTER

An elderly carpenter was ready to retire. He told his employer-contractor of his plans to leave the house-building business and live a more leisurely life with his wife enjoying his extended family. He would miss the paycheck, but he needed to retire. They could get by.

The contractor was sorry to see his good worker go and asked if he could build just one more house as a personal favor. The carpenter said yes, but in time it was easy to see that his heart was not in his work. He resorted to shoddy workmanship and used inferior materials. It was an unfortunate way to end a dedicated career.

When the carpenter finished his work the employer came to inspect the house. He handed the front-door key to the carpenter. "This is your house," he said, "My gift to you!" The carpenter was shocked! What a shame! If he had only known he was building his own house, he would have done it all so differently.

So it is with us. We build our lives, a day at a time, often putting less than our best into the building. Then with a shock, we realize we have to live in the house we have built. If we could do it over, we'd do it much differently. But we cannot go back.

You are the carpenter!! Each day you hammer a nail, place a board, or erect a wall. Your attitudes and the choices you make today, build the "house" you live in tomorrow. Build wisely!

Remember...

Work like you don't need the money,  
Love like you've never been hurt,  
Dance like nobody is watching.

Submitted by: Andy Hewitt

*Please keep Andy in your prayers as he waits for a heart and liver transplant at the Mayo Clinic. He, Eva and Perry Smith have been patiently waiting at the Gift of Life House in Rochester. Andy says, "The waiting has not been as difficult as some have thought it would be. It seems each time I become frustrated, anxious or down in the dumps about the wait, I read something or a thought comes to mind that seems to even out the roller coaster ride."*

## SEVEN MILES OF PENNIES PROJECT

Here is an update on our **Seven Miles of Pennies Project** for the **4th - 7th Grade Sunday School Class**. As of last week, we have raised **\$31.50** towards our goal. We received several pennies today, but have not yet counted them. A special **thanks** to all who have supported this ministry. If you have any questions concerning this fundraiser, please see Wayne Everts or a member of the class.



The UMM met Sunday, June 18th and had **26** men present. We enjoyed visiting with John Gray, son of Raymond Gray who was from beautiful Hickory, NC. All present enjoyed a wonderful breakfast served by Randy, Jason and Troy. Wayne and Brad have graciously volunteered to prepare breakfast at our July meeting.

**July Communion Teams** are **Bill Stackhouse, Brad Everts, Doug Stone, Troy Willoughby, Calvin Rome** and **Santos Pena**. If you know of anyone desiring communion, please notify Calvin or Doris. This ministry is truly a blessing to those serving as well as to those being served.

The UMM raised **\$405.00** from the Father's Day Booklet Project. A sincere **thank you** to **Calvin Rome** for taking on this challenge. The proceeds from this project will be used to support **Summer Day Camp**. Thank you to all who helped to make this project a success.

The UMM ask for continued prayers for Ruby Lucas as she recovers from surgery. Also, we ask all of you to keep Peter Rome and his family in your prayers as he begins his military training. We are very proud of all he has already accomplished and know he will continue to excel in his endeavors.

A short discussion was held concerning our annual **Barbecue Sale**. If anyone would like to volunteer to chair this project, please see Fred Rozier.

Our next meeting is scheduled for July 16th at 8:30 a.m. Hope to see all men of the church and visitors are always welcome to attend. Ushers for the month of July are our youth, with Andrew Evans as Head Usher.

Wayne Everts, UMM Secretary

## NURTURE

### "The Year of Jubilee at St. Matthew's UMC"

Our committee met recently working on ways in which we can raise money for **"Homecoming"** events. We are collecting items of our church history to be displayed during the month of September. If you have any items of our history which you would like us to display, please contact Elaine Everts or Pam Gallimore. If you know of someone who has family members who may wish to attend our **"Candlelight Memorial Service"** during the week of Homecoming, please see Sandy Jones.

### 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.

In Christ, Elaine Everts

## A SPECIAL THANK YOU!

I would like to extend a special **Thank You** to everyone who has made it possible for our Day Camp to offer so many scholarships. This is a special week for these young people and if you have ever helped with Day Camp, you know how much of a blessing you receive just watching these young people. When they accomplish something that they do not think they can do, the excitement is very evident on their faces and in their voices. Also, **Thank You** to all who have volunteered to drive and/or assist with Day Camp.

In Christ, Elaine Everts

## 5TH SUNDAY CELEBRATION JULY 30TH



We will have **Dinner** at 6:00 p.m. followed by a **Talent Show**. If you or your group would like to participate, please see Amanda Call or Justine Cole. A sign-up sheet has been placed on the bulletin board in the hallway.

## 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 plan on having **"Praise & Worship"** along with lots of fun activities scheduled for this week. Cost is only \$60.00 per child. Scholarships are available if needed. Please contact Elaine Everts at (919) 499-5806 or (910) 494-2427 for more information. Come join the fun!!! As of now this is the tentative schedule.

Monday, July 3rd  
Tuesday, July 4th  
Wednesday, July 5th  
Thursday, July 6th  
Friday, July 7th

Round-A-Bout Golf & Skating  
Family Day at Lake Rim Park  
Bowling & Pope AFB Park  
Fantasy Lake  
Chuck-E-Cheese

## TRUSTEES MINISTRY TEAM

A special thanks to **Doug Stone** for being **"Trustee of the Month"** in June. Our **"Trustee of the Month"** for July will be **Jack Spakes**. 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!

## JULY BIRTHDAYS



4 - Jacob Gallimore  
 Jeff Brown  
 5 - Marie Parker  
 6 - Gail Terwilliger  
 7 - Peggy Williams  
 10 - Gertrude Schultz  
 11 - Wayne Everts  
 Christy Khondaker

20 - Jack Spakes  
 29 - Cindy Rogers  
 Juli Pray  
 Wendy Johnson  
 30 - Vicki Powell

## "AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL"



May it always stay that way, but to keep "OLD GLORY" flying, there's a price that we must pay. For everything worth having, demands work and sacrifice, and FREEDOM is a GIFT from GOD that

commands the HIGHEST PRICE. For all our wealth and progress are as worthless as can be, without the FAITH that made us great, and kept OUR COUNTRY FREE. Nor can our nation hope to live unto itself alone, for the problems of our neighbors must today become our own. And while it's hard to understand the complexities of war, each one of us must realize that we are fighting for the principles of freedom and the decency of man. And as a Christian Nation, we're committed to God's Plan. And as the LAND of LIBERTY and a great God-fearing nation, we must protect our honor and fulfill our obligation. So in these times of crisis, let us offer no resistance in giving help to those who need our strength and our assistance, and "THE STARS and STRIPES FOREVER" will remain a symbol of a rich and mighty nation built on FAITH and TRUTH and LOVE.

### A SPECIAL NOTE!

Peter (PJ) Rome is now at the West Point US Military Academy. He started Cadet Basic Training (CBT) on June 26. He would love to receive mail from his church family. Please no first names and no decorated or flashy envelopes. A new cadet is not allowed to have a first name until they finish CBT. He is also not allowed to receive any packages while in CBT. This CBT mailing address is only good through August 12 when he completes CBT:

New Cadet Rome  
 P.O. Box 3855, CBT Co: H-1  
 United States Military Academy  
 West Point, NY 10997-3855

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 JUNE 25, 2006
Needed Weekly \$3,227.82	Needed To Date \$83,923.24
Average Weekly \$3,201.11	Received To Date \$83,228.95
Avg. Weekly Deficit \$ (26.71)	Deficit \$ (694.29)

## SPECIAL OFFERINGS WERE GIVEN TO THE FOLLOWING:

### ARP FUND

- ◆ Lee Anna Sproul
- ◆ Doug & Dawn Stone

### DAY CAMP

- ◆ Wayne & Elaine Everts
- ◆ Night Owls Circle
- ◆ UMM Father's Day Booklet
- ◆ Ike Huffman

### EMERGENCY FUND

- ◆ The Thrift Shop
- ◆ Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle
- ◆ Sunday Morning Bible Study Class

### HOMECOMING FUND

- ◆ IMO Lyle & Emma Spidle's Son by Sunday Morning Bible Study Class

### PRAYER ROOM

- ◆ Lyle & Emma Spidle

### RAINBOW COVENANT

- ◆ W.A. Stewart Bible Study Class

### SCHOLARSHIP FUND

### TRUSTEES ACCOUNT

- ◆ Marty & Linda Webb (Hallway Light Fixtures)
- ◆ Perry Smith (Cabinet Project)
- ◆ Jimmy Autry (Parlor Fund)

### YOUTH SUMMER BREAKAWAY

- ◆ Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle
- ◆ UMC SEJAC

## JULY CHURCH FLOWERS

- 2 - (1) In memory of W.A. & Elinor Stewart by Brian, Sandy, Melanie & Amanda Jones & (2) In honor of Hilda Pena's birthday by Santos Pena
- 9 - In honor of Wayne & Elaine Everts 25th Anniversary
- 16 - In honor of Candace Bone & Jason Caldwell by Ruth Caldwell
- 23 - In memory of Roxie & LeeRoy Sherman by the Robert Parker Family
- 30 - Available

(Space is still available if you would like to place flowers in the Church. Cost is only \$22.00.)



## RUTH-ETHEL SMITH CIRCLE

Our circle of friends met Wednesday, June 7th with **23** present. Everyone received a warm welcome. **Margaret Clyde** gave the devotion and prayer. **Mary Schneider** read the minutes from last months meeting and **Sherrie Leggett** gave the Treasurer's Report. We collected money for our **Sunshine Fund** and **Mission Project** which was for the **Youth Breakaway**. We reminded everyone that **New Officers** need to be elected in August for our **UMW**, as well as, **Mission Pins**.

The reason we met early this month was because one of our members, **Jewel Sharpe**, who joined in the early sixty's was moving to Wilmington, and we wanted to recognize her time with us and wish her a wonderful and happy life in her new surroundings. We will certainly miss her!

To help us set up for this special meeting, **Bob Pray** placed fresh floral arrangements on the tables with chartreuse accented with lavender and purple plates, cups and napkins. **Anne Alred** and **Betty Jennings** were the hosts. Other members from the church joined us. **Mary Rozier** read something she had chosen that morning off the internet on **Friendship**. It was very impressive!

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer and lunch was enjoyed by all. Have a wonderful summer. Oh! Thanks for all your help! See you in September!

Lola Smith

## FFF NEWS

We will be meeting at **8:30 a.m.** at **JK's** on **Saturday, July 29th** to discuss "**Leave A Candle Burning**" by **Lori Wick**. It is the final book in the **Tucker Mills Trilogy**. This book has just recently come out, and we have been waiting to read it.

On June 21st, we had a great discussion at "**MiCasita's**" and a great turn out. Some of us who didn't really enjoy our last book got a lot more out of the discussion than we did the book. That's what's so good about our study groups, whether it is Bible Study or our Book Club.

Immediately after our Book Club, we will head over to the church to do our monthly cooking. If you know of anyone in our church family that would like a meal and a visit, just let one of us girls know.

### RECIPE OF THE MONTH "GERMAN CHOCOLATE CHIP CAKE"



1 box yellow cake mix  
1/2 cup water  
1/2 cup oil  
4 eggs  
1 cup sour cream  
1 3 oz package instant vanilla pudding

1 4 oz package German sweet chocolate, finely grated in blender or food processor  
1 6 oz package mini semi-sweet chocolate chips  
\*glaze recipe below

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Spray a bundt pan with cooking spray. With a mixer, mix all ingredients except chocolate chips. Fold in the chocolate chips. Bake for 55-60 minutes. Cool 20 minutes, and remove from pan. Makes 12 servings.

\*For glaze, combine 1 cup powdered sugar with 2 tablespoons milk, and drizzle over top of cake.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Independence Day DAY	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> CAMP	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Prayer Group - 6:30pm	<b>12</b> NO Card Ministry FFF Bible Study NO Choir Practice	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> UMM Breakfast Mtg. - 8:30am UMYF - 12:00pm	<b>17</b> YOUTH	<b>18</b> CONFERENCE	<b>19</b> Card Ministry FFF Bible Study Choir Practice	<b>20</b> METHODIST	<b>21</b> COLLEGE	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Prayer Group - 6:30pm	<b>26</b> Home Extensions-10am NO Card Ministry FFF Bible Study NO Choir Practice	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> FFF & Book Club at JK's - 8:30am
<b>30</b> Old Fashion Worship Service 11:00 am Covered Dish Supper - 6:00 pm followed by Talent Show	<b>31</b>	<b>Prayer Group - 6:30pm</b>	<b>Card Ministry FFF Bible Study Choir Practice</b>			