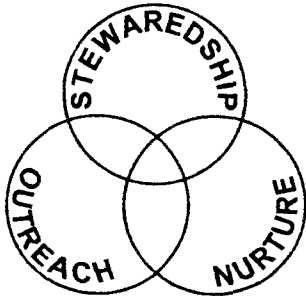


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Jesus said, "When you did it to one of these my brethren, you did it unto me." Matt. 25:40

Volume VI

AUGUST 2006

Issue 8

MAY BE ST. MATTHEW'S BEST YEAR EVER

Through Sunday July 16, 2006 we are having possibly our best financial year in the history of St. Matthew's. I remember three years ago when we were running in the black (up to date), a long time member said, "I thought it was a misprint, because I don't remember this church ever being ahead in giving since I have been a member here." Each year since then we have had times when we achieved that goal. **Thanks to your faithful giving and stewardship, we were slightly ahead of our weekly giving target through 7/16/2006.** Unfortunately, we went behind this week, but I am sure we will get back on target soon with your caring support.

It was reported at Annual Conference that North Carolina was one of only a few conferences in the Southeastern Jurisdiction that paid all its apportionments to the general church plus what we call second mile giving. St. Matthew's helped make that possible by being a Rainbow Covenant Church. That meant that we not only paid our apportionment to the Conference and general church, but we gave generously in five lanes of Advanced Giving to mission causes at home and around the world. That does not even recognize your generous local outreach giving that has grown each year through our Emergency and Discretionary Fund.

Following an article from the *NC Christian Advocate*, 1/25/05 that we quoted in our March 2005 Newsletter which talks about American's as a nation being stingy, a number of people were upset at the thought. Yet, compared to other nations responding to the Tsunami disaster, it was true.

As a nation, America might still be considered stingy compared to other nations. Following WWII, the US gave 15% of its budget based on percentage of gross national product and today we only give 1%. Sadly, we rank 21st among 22 nations in giving to the impoverished around the world. **The Good news is that American citizens give at least 3.5 times as much as our government does to help people in need around the world.** (Parade, 7/2/2006)

According to the *Giving USA Foundation*, in 2005, Americans charitable giving reached an all time high. Fully 76.5% comes from individual and the rest from foundations, bequests and Corporations. Individual Americans are coming forward and making a difference in our world through their charitable giving.

Those of you have been faithfully supporting our church are among these generous people. **Yet, tithers are a rare breed within our churches, despite biblical endorsement and**

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

United Methodist policy ("tithing is the minimum goal of giving in The UMC," paragraph 629.5, 2004 Book of Discipline). Our average gift in United Methodist churches represents less than 2% of the donor's annual income. *In the North Carolina Annual Conference, for the year 2004 with a total membership of 235,565, spent \$144,971,464 for all causes. This translates to \$615.42 per member. (This includes children, teens and inactive members in the church.) The total giving at St. Matthew's for all causes in 2004 was \$184,128.94 divided by a membership of 316 was \$590.16.* We are not yet even average in our giving, but we are making progress in the right direction. The great majority of this money we spend on ourselves.

I remember one woman in our church who lives out of town, went to her husband and told him she would like to tithe half of the family income to our church. Amazingly, her husband agreed. Another woman in our church made a commitment to increase her giving to the church and her husband said no, they were giving enough. Another person shared that they were giving 10% of their Income Tax Refund to the Church.

Obviously, there are many conflicting views on giving within our church. I am glad that more and more people are taking their stewardship more seriously. So many people say they are committed to the Lord and love this church, yet they do not support it with their tithes and offerings. If we don't give 10% of our income, we are not tithing. Scripture tells us we have not made an offering until we give beyond the tithe. The majority of our members simply share a gift with the church now and then when they feel led to do so.

Jesus tells us, "**For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.**" Matthew 6:21 It is clear that many church members today find that their treasure and the hearts are dedicated to something other than Christ and his Church. I don't know about you, but I feel I am not being particularly generous unless I give beyond the tithe.

I give thanks to the Lord for those of you who are truly generous in your giving through our Church. You are setting a wonderful example for others and are doing your part upholding the values of the Kingdom of God. Keep up your faithful response to God's goodness that others might follow your example.

Shalom,

Mike

CHURCH PARLOR ESTABLISHED

Thanks to the hard work of Bob Pray and the Trustees, we now have a Church Parlor and prayer room set up for use by church members. We will use gifts to upgrade what we have started as funds are available and as the Parlor Ministry Team makes recommendations. The focal point of the room is the Altar Table and kneeler from the original church which started in the Thrift Shop. The cross on the altar was made by the father of the church's first Pastor, Rev. Robert McKinsey. Visit the parlor when you get a chance by going through the double doors at the end of the hall, take a left and enter the first door on your left.

In other business the Trustees discussed a problem with the roof overhang at the front door of the sanctuary and the roof connecting the educational building and the sanctuary. It was suggested that an A-Frame rafter tie into the sanctuary on the south side and repairs be made to the overhang out front. Gifts designated to the ARP Fund would be used to make these improvements once bids are in.

The trustees are investigating the cost of raising current church sign higher and installing a larger marquis below it.

The Peggy Pullman Class has given money to have six lights in their classroom replaced with fluorescent fixtures. Replacement lights cost \$72.00 each. The Trustees will also replace the six lights in the hallway to classrooms and the six lights in the new Prayer Parlor. Monies left in the Light, Door and Altar accounts will be used to finance this project. (\$833.48) The Trustee Account will pay to have an electrician install a spotlight over the altar in the Prayer Parlor and check what can be done to the outlet over the counter.

The Thrift Shop needs extra storage space. The Trustees gave permission to have the large cedar tree at the Thrift Shop removed with stump ground down. They would then purchase a nice storage building for extra space. All costs and labor would be absorbed by the Thrift Shop. Thanks to our Trustees for their important work!



During the past couple of months, we have been very blessed with both donations and sales of goods. Thanks to everyone that has been a part of the operation. It is not possible to name all the individuals because I would leave someone out, but a **VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU** to all! If you would

like to be a part of this special group of people, please call Julie Griffin at 425-4269 to find out what you can do and when you can help.

Missions that have been accomplished are:

- Church Insurance**
- Emergency Fund**
- The Care Clinic**
- Church Power Bill**
- Salvation Army**
- American Red Cross**
- Council on Older Adults**
- Better Health of Cumberland County**

One of the latest accomplishments was the cutting of the cedar tree to make room for a storage area to be used for out of season and extra materials. Gifts to Community Services and individual families continue to be given on a regular basis. **KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!**

“IN APPRECIATION”

Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote *“What lies behind us and lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us.”* Today we want to let you know there is joy in knowing that Mother shared the joys of life and had a heart of gold, sharing, caring, helping and loving **all** people. Her mission in life encompassed **96** blessed years of giving from the heart. Her job on earth is complete and now we rejoice that God called her home to join those who have gone before. On behalf of our entire family, we wish to **thank** each and everyone who offered condolences, prayers, telephone calls, cards and memorials in the loss of our beloved Mother, **Gladys O. “Peggy” Pray**. Your sympathies have made it easier to accept the loss of a Mother of five, Grandmother of thirteen, Great-Grandmother of thirty-three, and Great-Great-Grandmother of three. Your acceptance, sharing and kindness has been truly gratifying and will be long remembered.

Thank you!
Bob, Adella, Juli, Xavior &
the rest of the GO Pray Clan



The UMM met on Sunday, July 16th with **21** men present. We all enjoyed a delicious meal served by Wayne and Brad Everts. Calvin Rome and Brad Everts graciously volunteered to prepare breakfast at our next meeting in August .

The UMM asked that we all continue to keep the Caldwell family in our prayers as we mourn their loss. We praise God for the ministries that Randy Caldwell participated in here at St. Matthew's. He will truly be missed by many.

August Communion Teams will be Troy Willoughby, Lynwood Griffin, Calvin Rome, Santos Pena, Bob Lambert and Charles Lucas. 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.

A motion was made by Jack Spakes for the UMM to donate **\$200.00** to the Homecoming Committee to be used as needed. Motion was passed. A short discussion was held concerning our annual **Barbecue Sale**. We are still in need of a volunteer to chair this project. If you are interested, please see Fred Rozier.

Our next meeting will be **August 20th at 8:30 a.m.** Hope to see all the men of the church. Visitors are also welcome to attend. Ushers for the month of August are Santos Pena, Calvin Rome, Doug Stone and Robert Parker.

Wayne Everts, UMM Secretary

A BIT OF ADVICE

- Forget the honor as soon as you receive it,
- Forget each kindness as soon as you have done it,
- Forget the gossip before you can repeat it,
- Forget the criticism when you meet it,
- Forget your problem because you can defeat it,
- Remember your promises and keep them,
- Remember your happiness and enjoy living,
- Remember your family for they are precious,
- Remember Satan for he will test you,
- Remember God and He will bless you.
- Do this and whether you are young or old,
- Life will be more enjoyable and meaningful.

- -Billy Joe Thrasher- -

TRUSTEES MINISTRY TEAM

A special thanks to **Jack Spakes** for being *“Trustee of the Month”* in July. Our *“Trustee of the Month”* for August will be **Frank Bagley**. 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!

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 JULY 23, 2006
Needed Weekly \$3,227.82	Needed To Date \$96,834.51
Average Weekly \$3,179.75	Received To Date \$95,392.52
Avg. Weekly Deficit (\$48.07)	Deficit (\$1,441.99)

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS



2 - Dave Dominie	Megan Harrison
6 - Christy Rome	Charles Couch
8 - Chris Strickland	19 - Mary Byrne
9 - David Dominie	20 - Tommy Stewart
10 - Kenneth Merritt	21 - Betty Jennings
11 - Mary Morrow	Betty Nalls
12 - Roberta Brown	22 - Joyce DeBruhl
Ashley Stone	25 - Reena Stone
Lorri Shackelford	30 - Katie Jordan
16 - Jeanette Ward	Joanne Bland

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Below is a list of members who are deceased. The Homecoming Committee would like to contact their families to invite them to a Memorial Service. If you know the address of a relative on this list, please contact Sandy Jones at 867-5442 or Email her at sandyjones@nc.rr.com or call the church office.

Bill Alden	Francis Lopeman	Maggie Averitt
Kathleen Melcher	Martha Bailey	Margaret Monk
Mary Bowen	Hazel Owen	Donald Brigman
Willie Reed	Byron Comer	Mary Roth
Edwina Davis	Janice Rudd	Ruby Dendy
James Spell	Alva & Mary Dixon	Alex Stadler
Helen Foley	Gene Thomas	Stella Hawk
Miles Thomas	Daniel High	George Wagner
Doug Hood	Carl & Bobbie Whitney	Josephine Gier

50TH ANNIVERSARY HOMECOMING COMMITTEE UPDATES

The Homecoming Committee would like to thank everyone for their support and contributions toward our fundraisers. We will continue to take orders and money for the Anniversary Plates until August 13th. The cost of the plates with stands is only \$20.00; please see Pam Gallimore or Amanda Call to place your order. We will also be having a **"Donation Dinner"** on **August 13th** following the Worship Service.

The week of **September 17 - 24**, we will be celebrating our Homecoming with several activities. One of which is a **"Candlelight Memorial Service"** for our deceased members. Sandy Jones and Adella Pray are sending letters out to family members asking if they would like a candle lit in memory of their lost loved one. They are having some difficulty in locating families. If you know how to contact any of these family members, please see **Sandy Jones** or **Adella Pray**.

Once again, thank you for all of your support and contributions to this committee.

SPECIAL OFFERINGS WERE GIVEN TO THE FOLLOWING:

ARP FUND

- ◆ Jack & Dorothy Spakes
- ◆ Perry Smith
- ◆ Doug & Dawn Stone
- ◆ Lee Anna Sproul
- ◆ In memory of Randy Caldwell by the Sunday Morning Bible Study Class
- ◆ Lynwood & Julie Griffin

EMERGENCY FUND

- ◆ The Thrift Shop
- ◆ Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle
- ◆ Sunday Morning Bible Study Class
- ◆ Brad Everts
- ◆ James & Joyce DeBruhl
- ◆ In memory of Peggy Pray & Randy Caldwell by Sam & Shirley Pitchford & Lola Smith
- ◆ In memory of Gladys Olney (Peggy) Pray by Gary & Dorothy Boothe
- ◆ Steven & Lisa Davis
- ◆ In memory of Randy Caldwell by Mary Sue Grady, Peggy Sautter, Lee Anna Sproul, & Bob & Betty Probst

HOMECOMING

- ◆ Perry Smith, Wayne, Elaine, & Brad Everts

MEMORIAL FUND

- ◆ In memory of Randy Caldwell by the Thrift Shop, Danny Wright & Family, Kenneth & Kathleen Anderson, Paul & Allene Spence, Joseph & Katherine Griswold, & Milton & Margaret Young

PRAYER PARLOR

- ◆ In honor of Wayne Everts & Doug Stone by W.A. Stewart Sunday School Class
- ◆ In memory of Peggy Pray by Sunday Morning Bible Study Class, Mary Sue Grady & Peggy Sautter
- ◆ In memory of Randy Caldwell by George & Glenda Newton Gail Terwilliger & The W.A. Stewart Bible Study Class
- ◆ W.A. Stewart Sunday School Class

AUGUST CHURCH FLOWERS

6 - Available

13 - Available

20 - (1) In memory of Betty Huffman by Ike Huffman & (2) IHO Joyce DeBruhl's birthday

27 - In honor of Katie Jordan's 28th birthday



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

"Take these hands, teach them to carry. Take these hands, don't make a fist. Take this mouth, so quick to criticize. Take this mouth—give it a kiss."

The lyrics from the U2 song "***Yahweh***", reminds us that our hands are for helping and our mouths are for healing! Though too often in today's world, we take on the talk show mentality, using our mouths and hands to hurt.

People tend to throw heavy words around lightly - heavy words that cut and break down rather than heal and build us up. You have the power to help change their destructive ways. Through your actions and words, you can help them see the truth in this quote. ***"Our hands were meant to help, and our mouths were meant to heal"***. Gandhi said ***"be the change you wish to see in the world."*** In order to be that change, we must use our hands and our mouths for good works - to help those around us. Don't try to be the best in the world. Be the best for the world.

If you are using your hand to help and your mouth to heal, then you are doing great things for our world. I would like to challenge each of you to use your hands and mouth to help someone during this month. Use the hour that you would spend in circle meetings to help and heal. Thank you for everything that you do to work for missions.

Adella Pray, UMW President

FFF NEWS:

We had a great book discussion on July 29th at ***JK's***. It's so amazing how God works in people's lives. We followed that up by going to the church and doing our monthly cooking.

Our next meeting will be ***August 26th at 8:30 a.m.*** at ***JK's*** to discuss our next book. We will be reading another series by ***Terry Blackstock***. It's called the ***"Cape Refuge"*** series.

The books are as follows:

- * ***Cape Refuge***
- * ***Rivers Edge***
- * ***Southern Storm***
- * ***Breaker's Reef***

Even if you don't want to come to the book discussions, meet us at church between 10:00 - 10:30 a.m. and cook with us. We have a great time!

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

"EGG SALAD WRAPS"

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 4 hard-boiled eggs, chopped | 2 Tbsp pickles, chopped |
| 1 Tbsp fresh dill weed, chopped | 2 Tbsp red onion, chopped |
| 3 Tbsp light mayonnaise | 4 (8-inch) flour tortillas |
| 2 cups shredded lettuce | 1 tomato, finely chopped |
| Alfalfa sprouts (optional) | 1/4 tsp salt |



In a large bowl combine eggs, pickles, dill weed, onion, mayonnaise, and salt. Spread mixture evenly on each tortilla; top with lettuce, tomato, and sprouts. Fold in sides of each wrap; roll up. Cut each in half. Serve immediately. Yield: 4 servings

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Prayer Group – 6:30pm	2 NO Card Ministry FFF Bible Study-6:30pm NO Choir Practice	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
		Prayer Group – 6:30pm	Card Ministry - 5:00pm FFF Bible Study-6:30pm Choir Practice – 7:30pm			
13 Donation Lunch – 12:00pm	14	15	16 Home Extensions-10am	17	18	19
		Prayer Group – 6:30pm	NO Card Ministry FFF Bible Study-6:30pm NO Choir Practice			
20 UMM Breakfast Mtg. – 8:30am Welcome Service for new DS Carol Goehring at Reeves Auditorium-6:00pm	21	22	23	24	25	26 FFF & Book Club at JK's - 8:30am
		Prayer Group – 6:30pm	Card Ministry – 5:00pm FFF Bible Study-6:30pm Choir Practice – 7:30pm			
27 UMYF – 12:00pm	28	29	30	31		
		Prayer Group – 6:30pm	Card Ministry – 5:00pm FFF Bible Study-6:30pm Choir Practice – 7:30pm			



**ORDER YOU FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY PLATES NOW!
THEY WILL MAKE NICE CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR YOUR CHILDREN
AND OLD FRIENDS WHO WERE ONCE MEMBERS.**

Each full color 8" plate with a plate stand cost \$20 each.

**CALL THE CHURCH AT 910-425-0401 TO PLACE YOUR
ORDER OR CONTACT A MEMBER OF THE
HOMECOMING PLANNING TEAM ON SUNDAY.**