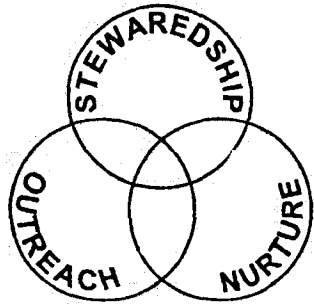


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St. Matthew's 25 Challenge

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



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WILL WE BECOME AN ACTS 2 CHURCH?

Church experts who study the modern church say we're in a unique place in history or a "crack in history" according to Bishop Al Gwinn's 2006 State of the Church Address at Annual Conference. This is a unique time in history for the church to be in ministry to the world around us; a time much like the biblical times in Acts 2.

Therefore, the Council of Bishops of the United Methodist Church has set forth **Seven Pathways** for making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. These include:

1. **Developing new congregations** because in every congregation over 10 years old it takes 72 members to win one person to discipleship in Jesus Christ; in churches 5-10 years old it takes 17 members to win one person to discipleship in Jesus Christ; yet in churches less than 3 years old it only takes 2 members to win one person to discipleship in Jesus Christ.
2. **Teaching the Wesleyan model of reaching and forming disciples of Jesus Christ.**
3. **Strengthening clergy and lay leadership**
4. **Reaching and transforming the lives of the new generation of children** because the millennial generation includes 75,000,000 children, the largest in our history, even larger than the baby boomer generation.
5. **Eliminating poverty in community with the poor**
6. **Expanding our racial/ethnic ministries** because North Carolina's Hispanic

population is the fastest growing state in the nation.

7. Transforming existing congregations

This is not impossible. It will stand on two legs. **Effective visionary clergy as servant-leaders** is the first leg upon which these ministries will stand. The Bishop said only ministers who are concerned with mediocrity and maintenance mentality ministry need worry about their future.

The second leg to carry this mission forward rest on **spirit filled healthy congregations** that are characterized by radical hospitality to reach people for Jesus, passionate prayer based worship, intentional spiritual formation from cradle to the grave, and risk taking mission and ministry to the world.

The Bishop pleaded lovingly "If you have been trying to run your church...**Stop it!** If you have been trying to control your church... **Stop it!** If you have been trying to save your church... **Stop it!** Fall on your knees and give your church back to Jesus, the Lord of the Church. The church belongs to God. We need more prayer meetings than planning meetings. We need more palms open to the heavens than fingers pointing at each other. We need more calloused knees than we need sharp tongues. We need more people asking deep questions rather than people with personal opinions and surface answers.Our congregations need to be mission centers for Jesus rather than ME centers... Become the heart of God in your community and the world."

Our Bishop challenges us to become an Acts 2 Church with spirit and fire that gives us the

passion to be in dynamic ministry. By 2008, he said we will identify 200 churches by name in the NC Annual Conference that are ACTS 2 Churches. These will be churches that reach the lost, un-churched, de-churched, children, youth, Hispanics and other minorities, not counting the costs. Acts 2 churches have prayer based, spirit led, vibrant worship services. They teach members to grow deeper not just wider in their faith by every member being in small groups to support, encourage and challenge them to grow in Christ. Acts 2 churches understand the gifts of the spirit and the role of gifts in their lives in order to build up Body Christ. These churches form strong, full partnerships between clergy and laity. They want leaders to equip and empower them and not do their ministry for them; leaders who challenge them not coddle them. Acts 2 churches are risk takers in attacking poverty, injustice and care for the needy. They are eager to give a person a hand up not just a hand out.

Bishop Al Gwinn has put into a formal challenge what I have been working toward as your pastor for the past six years. He has probably said it better that I have been able to say it. I believe with my whole heart that this is what the church is called to be. I also believe that the faithful members of St. Matthew's United Methodist Church can fulfill these goals for our church. Much has been accomplished in the past six years. We are celebrating our fiftieth anniversary as a church in this community. What a wonderful way to begin the next half century than to become one of the first 200 churches to be designated as an Acts 2 Church. I believe we can do it.

Bishop Al Gwinn and his Cabinet have put into motion a new system by which every pastor and every church will be judged on their effectiveness in meeting these goals. **The Pastor Parish Ministry Team** will have a training session on this new evaluation process Sunday, September 17 from 2-3 p.m. at Wesley Heights UMC off of Ramsey Street. **Will St. Matthew's UMC be named as an ACTS 2 Church in 2008. YOU ARE THE ANSWER!**

*Shalom,
Mike*

VIOLENCE IS WHEN...

Violence is when you give your brother a bloody nose. Twice. Not an accident.

*Violence is when you say "I hate you!"
And you truly mean it.*

*Violence is when you break something.
That you know is special to someone.*

Violence is when you get a divorce, instead of trying to work things out. And you know that all the attorneys, the court meetings, all the structured visits, and all the other stuff will be H#!! on Earth for us kids.

Violence is when you give up on someone who can't get it the first time because they have Cerebral Palsy.

VIOLENCE IS WHEN YOU DO ANYTHING TO HARM SOMEONE IN ANY WAY

Physically, Mentally, Spiritually.

Like I have.

Like my Brother has.

Like my Sister has.

Like my Mother & Father have.

Like my sister's teachers have

LIKE ALL HUMANS HAVE.

That's how it was, that's how it is, and that's why it's not going to stay the same because it's all going to change. Because I am going to show the world that if we could share, and all people, that if we could just get along there would be no violence, no hate, no treason, and no reason to have sour feelings toward each other.

There is a way.

If we could stop all terrorism.

If we could stop all making bombs.

And if we could stop all of the innocent people dying for no reason.

But the easiest way is to just love everyone.

Especially the people you SHOULD hate.

LOVE!

Love, is the light at the end of the Tunnel of Hate.

Written by:

Robert Anderson Ashworth V (Quinn)

Grandson of Lynwood & Julie Griffin



NURTURE

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

Our **Homecoming Committee** has finalized all our events for the month long celebration. We would like to **thank** our church family for all of their support and contributions to our fundraisers. Saturday, September 2nd, the Homecoming Committee will meet at 9:00 a.m. to set up our displays. On September 10th immediately following Worship Service, we will have a **"Donation Luncheon"**. Our menu will consist of **Pam's Chicken & Pastry, Vegetable, & Dessert. Church Wide Clean Up Day** will be Saturday, September 16th at 9:00 a.m. I would like to express a special **thank you** to each member who has served on this committee; everyone has attended many meetings and worked hard to achieve a common goal with the guidance of the Lord.

St. Matthew's is very honored to have four **Charter Members** who are still serving at our church. These members are **Hank Zielinski, Perry Smith, Adella Pray & Grover Green.**

50TH ANNIVERSARY HOMECOMING WEEK OF EVENTS

Sunday, September 17th

Worship Service starting at 10:30 a.m. in front of the Thrift Shop
Rev. Bob McKenzie, Guest Speaker

Sunday Evening, September 17th

New South River Boys will be performing
for us at 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, September 20th

Candlelight Memorial Service at 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 23rd

Church Wide Family Picnic at Lake Rim Park
2:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Dinner will be served at 4:30 p.m.

Following dinner we will meet back at the church
for a performance by the Jay Stone Singers

Sunday, September 24th

Breakfast will be served at 9:00 a.m.

Praise & Worship at 10:00 a.m.

Homecoming Worship Service at 11:00 a.m.

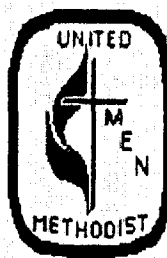
Rev. Tom Loftis, Guest Speaker

Church Wide Family Picture will be taken immediately
following the service, and then we will enjoy
a Covered Dish Lunch

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



The UMM met Sunday, August 20th at 8:30 a.m. for their regular monthly meeting. There were **27** men present. We enjoyed a delicious breakfast prepared by **Calvin, Christy and Christopher Rome** and assisted by **Brad Everts**. We were blessed to have a first time visitor **Myron Bailey**. Calvin

Rome's devotion was titled **"An Answered Prayer."**

The UMM donated **\$50.00** to the **Memorial Fund** in memory of **Randy Caldwell**. Also, **Brad Everts** volunteered to take over as UMM Secretary during his Father's absence.

The annual **"Church Family Picnic"** will be held at **Lake Rim Park** on Saturday, September 23rd from 2:00 - 6:00 p.m. **Doug Stone** and **Brad Everts** volunteered to cook for this event. Hamburgers and Hot Dogs will be served at 4:30 p.m.

The **UMM Barbecue Sale** will be held on Friday, October 13th. **Raymond Gray** has taken on the responsibility of being the Chairman this year. The cost for a Barbecue Plate will be only \$6.00. Please see any member of the UMM for tickets.

The UMM continue to serve **Communion** to our homebound members. If you know of someone desiring to be served Communion, please notify Calvin Rome or call Doris at the church office. This ministry continues to be a blessing to all involved.

Ushers for the month of September are **Troy Willoughby (Head Usher), Charles Lucas, Hank Zielinski** and **Bill Leggett.**

Brad Everts, UMM Secretary

MEMORIAL SERVICE

There will be a **"Memorial Service"** on Wednesday, September 20th at 7:00 p.m. If you are the family member of a deceased church member, you should have received a letter from the **Homecoming Committee**. If you have not received a letter and would like to participate in the Memorial Service, please contact Sandy Jones at 867-5442 or Email her at sandyjones@nc.rr.com.

TRUSTEES MINISTRY TEAM

A special thanks to **Frank Bagley** for being **"Trustee of the Month"** in August. Our **"Trustee of the Month"** for September 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!



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS



- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 - Dorothy Taylor | 17 - Ruby Lucas |
| 4 - Lloyd Miller | 18 - Lyle Spidle
Laura Gallimore |
| 6 - Matt Unruh
Joann Terrier | 20 - Bob Lambert |
| 7 - Shawn Schultz | 21 - Julie Agnew |
| 10 - Hilda Parker | 24 - Santos Pena
Pam Gallimore
Sam Hubbard |
| 11 - Kay Warbis | 26 - Anthony Cabeza |
| 14 - Phyllis Jordan
Dustin Powell
Sarah Hager | 28 - Kristine Lewis |
| 15 - Karen Ogden
Melvin Lynn | 30 - Amanda Jones
Jerry Brown |
| 16 - Dr. Michael Hale | |

SPECIAL OFFERINGS WERE GIVEN TO THE FOLLOWING:

ARP FUND

- ◆ Jack & Dorothy Spakes
- ◆ Doug & Dawn Stone

EMERGENCY FUND

- ◆ In memory of Randy Caldwell & Peggy Pray by the St. Matthew's Choir
- ◆ In memory of Randy Caldwell by Marty & Linda Webb
- ◆ Wayne, Elaine & Brad Everts, The Thrift Shop, Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle, Steven & Lisa Davis, Sunday Morning Bible Study Class, William & Gertrude Schultz, Juli Pray, Margaret Lewis

HOMECOMING FUND

- ◆ Wayne & Elaine & Bradley Everts, United Methodist Men, Perry Smith, Lucille Cook, Lloyd Miller
- ◆ In honor of Roberta Brown by her Secret Prayer Partner
- ◆ In honor of Julie Griffin by Mary Morrow

LIGHTS

- ◆ Lynwood & Julie Griffin

MEMORIAL FUND

- ◆ In memory of Randy Caldwell by Beryl King, Bald Creek UMC, James & Joyce DeBruhl, COL Joseph & Olga Malinoski, John & July Laughridge
- ◆ In memory of Eugene Smith (brother-in-law) by James & Joyce DeBruhl
- ◆ In memory of Millie Sessoms by Leroy Sessoms
- ◆ In memory of Peggy Pray by Martha C. Bowen

RAINBOW COVENANT

- ◆ W.A. Stewart Bible Study Class

ROOF

- ◆ Charles & Ruby Lucas
- ◆ Wanda J. Ward

SUMMER DAY CAMP

- ◆ Claudette Miller



The little "*Cinder-Block Building*" where everything began on September 9, 1956 still stands tall and serves many needs for the community. For those of you that don't know, St. Matthew's UMC began its community mission in the

building that is now the "*St. Matthew's Thrift Shop*". The Thrift Shop began under the leadership of *Dorothy Taylor* to help pay off bond indebtedness. This building was used by *Lafayette Baptist Church* prior to our moving in to meet the needs of a growing community.

During the past month, the Thrift Shop was able to rent a van to be used for *Day Camp*, and also, bought *Postage Stamps* for the *Card Ministry*. The large cedar tree beside the Thrift Shop was removed to make room for a *Storage Building* complete with supplies. New *Blinds* were purchased for the Thrift Shop and contributions were made to the following:

- ◆ *Cure Americas*
- ◆ *Hinton Rural Life Center*
- ◆ *Medical Benevolence Foundation*
- ◆ *Two families were also assisted with needed items*

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 AUGUST 27, 2006

Needed Weekly	\$3,227.82	Needed To Date	\$112,973.59
Average Weekly	\$3,091.09	Received To Date	\$108,188.31
Avg. Weekly Deficit (\$136.73)		Deficit	(\$4,785.28)

SEPTEMBER CHURCH FLOWERS

3 - In honor of Bill & Sherrie Leggett's 19th Anniversary

10 - Available

17 - In honor of Ruby Lucas' birthday by Charles Lucas

24 - In honor of St. Matthew's 50th Anniversary by (1) Perry Smith & family & (2) Bob & Adella Pray



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

There will be **NO** General Meeting in September due to Labor Day. We will resume our monthly meetings on **Monday, October 2nd at 6:30 p.m.** with a light Supper being served.

Hopefully, as we all wind down from the Summer, we will be able to remember to pray for our friends and neighbors just because they are who they are, and not only for special needs and requests. Also, remember those folks serving in **Missions** throughout the world.

The **Circle Leaders** will have information on upcoming events for the District and Conference UMW. Hopefully, we will be able to get a group together to attend some of these sessions.

Hope you have had a great Summer and are looking forward to getting back into the groove again.

Adella Pray, President UMW

DATES TO REMEMBER:

October 14 - Conference Annual Meeting at Methodist College

October 22 - District Annual Meeting at Erwin UMC

RUTH-ETHEL SMITH CIRCLE:

Our circle of friends met on August 9th for a **Call Meeting**. We voted on **Mission Pins** and items to place in baskets for a Homecoming fundraiser. **Marie Parker** received a "**Volunteer of the Year**" certificate for all her time given to the Food Pantry, Thrift Shop, helping Doris get the Newsletter's ready to be mailed each month, as well as serving in Sunday School. We are so happy that she was chosen.

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer. I am looking forward to seeing you on September 13th at 11:00 a.m.

Lola Smith

RECIPE OF THE MONTH "EXTRA MOIST LEMON CAKE"

1 box yellow cake mix
1/4 cup water
3/4 cup apricot nectar (in juice aisle)
*glaze recipe below



3 tsp lemon extract
3/4 cup oil
4 eggs

Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Spray a 9 X 13 inch pan or casserole dish with cooking spray. Mix all ingredients, and bake for 50 minutes. Remove from oven, and punch holes in cake with knife. Pour glaze over cake, and bake for 10 additional minutes. Makes 12 servings.

*For glaze, combine 2 cups powdered sugar and 3 tablespoons (or more if desired) of lemon juice.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Homecoming Committee Sets Up Church
3	4 LABOR DAY CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	5 Prayer Group – 6:30pm	6 Card Ministry – 5:00pm Bible Study – 6:30pm Choir Practice – 7:30pm	7	8	9
10 Donation Lunch – 12:00pm UMYF meet after Lunch	11	12 Prayer Group – 6:30pm	13 Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle - 11:00 am Card Ministry – 5:00pm Bible Study – 6:30pm Choir Practice – 7:30pm	14 Night Owls Circle – 7:00pm	15	16 Church Wide Clean Up Day 9:00am
17 UMM Breakfast Mtg. – 8:30am Worship – 10:30am Rev. Bob McKenzie New South River Boys – 6:00pm	18	19 Prayer Group – 6:30pm	20 Home Extensions-10am Card Ministry – 5:00pm Candlelight Memorial Service – 7:00pm	21	22	23 Church Family Picnic at Lake Rim Park – 2-6pm Jay Stone Singers - 6:30pm
24 Breakfast – 9:00am Praise Service-10am 50 TH Homecoming Celebration – 11am Rev. Tom Loftis Covered Dish Lunch – 12:00pm	25	26 Prayer Group – 6:30pm	27 Card Ministry – 5:00pm Bible Study – 6:30pm Choir Practice – 7:30pm	28 Help-N-Hands-11am	29	30 FFF & Book Club - 8:30 am