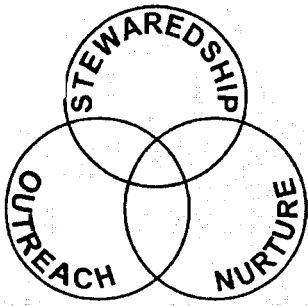


St. Matthew's UMC
202 Hope Mills Rd
Fayetteville, NC 28304



St. Matthew's 25 Challenge

Office 910-425-0401 • Fax 910-425-9393

Website stmattnc.org • E-mail stmattumc@stmattnc.org

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



Volume VII

MAY 2007

Issue 5

NAILS IN THE FENCE

The other day someone sent me this story. I think they know me well enough to know about my difficulty with anger.

There once was a little boy who had a bad temper. His Father gave him a bag of nails and told him that every time he lost his temper, he must hammer a nail into the back of the fence. The first day the boy had driven 37 nails into the fence. Over the next few weeks, as he learned to control his anger, the number of nails hammered daily gradually dwindled down. He discovered it was easier to hold his temper than to drive those nails into the fence.

Finally the day came when the boy didn't lose his temper at all. He told his father about it and the father suggested that the boy now pull out one nail for each day that he was able to hold his temper. The days passed and the young boy was finally able to tell his father that all the nails were gone. The father took his son by the hand and led him to the fence. He said, "You have done well, son, but look at the holes in the fence. The fence will never be the same. When you say things in anger, they leave a scar just like this one. You can put a knife in a man and draw it out. It won't matter how many times you say I'm sorry, the wound is still there. A verbal wound is as bad as a physical one."

How many holes are there in the life of the church because people are angry about the way things went that didn't please them? So many

times these times of anger are over misunderstandings because people jump to conclusions without checking out the facts. Then like a cancer, their anger spreads through the church as they tell and re-tell their one-sided story to gain sympathy and support.

Unfortunately, there are some genuinely mean spirited people in the life of the church who thrive on causing trouble. Others are well meaning people who easily get their feelings hurt because they fail to go to the person they think has wronged them to address the issue in Christian love, as Scripture requires. Have you ever heard about someone having a problem with you and gone to them to find out what the problem is all about? You discovered the person is angry and upset because they told their story to others and upset them. When you apologize for anything you may have done, they say, "I don't have a problem but others did."

How many nails will we drive into the heart of the church before we learn the lesson the father taught the little boy in the story? Even when we say we are sorry, on rare occasion's, consider all the holes we leave in the Body of Christ with our anger. Our Lord experienced the pain of nails and the holes they left so we don't have to. How can we show our appreciation to Him?

Shalom,
Mike



A Special Thanks to all the workers, shoppers, and donations to our shop. The Thrift Shop made over **\$2,000** last month to be used for missions. Keep up the great work!

We also made contributions to the following:

- ◆ **Church Power Bill**
- ◆ **Emergency Fund**
- ◆ **UMCOR (Florida Storm Damage)**
- ◆ **American Red Cross**
- ◆ **Salvation Army (Bed & Breakfast Club)**
- ◆ **Curamericas**
- ◆ **Easter Egg Hunt**

TRUSTEE MINISTRY TEAM

A special thanks to **Lloyd Miller** for being "**Trustee of the Month**" for April. Our "**Trustee of the Month**" for May will be **Jack Spakes**. We appreciate everything the men 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.

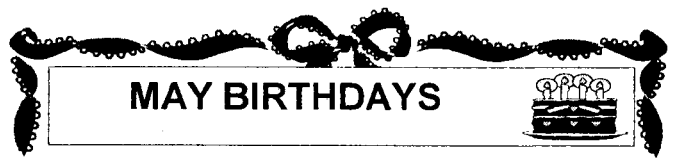
ANNUAL BUDGET - \$171,027.91		AS OF APRIL 22, 2007	
Needed Weekly	\$3,289.00	Needed To Date	\$52,623.97
Average Weekly	\$2,998.40	Received To Date	\$47,974.43
Avg. Weekly Deficit	(\$290.60)	Deficit	(\$4,649.54)



MAY CHURCH FLOWERS

- 6 - In honor of Brad & Amy-Jo Everts graduation by Wayne & Elaine
- 13 - In memory of Helen Underwood & in honor of Jean Rozier by Fred & Mary Rozier
- 20 - Available
- 27 - (1) In honor of Robert Parker's 60th birthday by Skeeter & Kids, (2) In honor of Julie Griffin's birthday by her family

(The "2007 Flower Chart" is available for you to sign and place flowers in Honor or Memory of a loved one. Cost is only \$22.00.)



MAY BIRTHDAYS



- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 - Mae Roberson | 19 - Connie Williams |
| 2 - Edgar Lineberger | 20 - Dorothy Spakes |
| 4 - Bill Stackhouse | 27 - Robert Parker |
| 9 - Perry Smith | 29 - Julie Griffin |
| 12 - April Gunter | Melanie Jones |
| 16 - Maria Strickland | 30 - Doris Miles |
| 18 - Dawn Stone | |

FOOD PANTRY CONTRIBUTIONS

On Monday, April 16th, **Cub Scout Pack 748**, which meets at **Camp Ground UMC**, donated **69** bags of groceries for our Food Pantry. The next day, members of the Food Pantry Ministry Team, Anne Alred, Betty Jennings and myself, together with the able assistance of Bob Pray, spent over two hours rearranging shelves and sorting groceries. The Food Pantry is now overflowing with food thanks to the generosity of these young scouts. In addition, we want to acknowledge the generous donation of food we received from the "**Jesus-And-Me**" group of Camp Ground UMC in March, as well as from **Lloyd Miller** and all of our members who have given so generously through the years. Our Church Secretary, Doris Miles, continues to see to the proper distribution of the food in a timely manner. With God's help and His blessing, and the continuous support of so many volunteers, this outreach mission started by **Linda Snyder** can continue to help those in need, especially during these difficult times in which we live.

Marie Parker, Food Ministry Team

ST. MATTHEW'S FAMILY & FRIENDS:

*May the light always find you on a dreary day.
When you need to be home, may your find your way.*

We have been on a mission for a year, to see Andy have a chance for a good life. His heart transplant was August 24, 2006 and liver transplant was April 7, 2007. He is doing well and if it all continues, we will leave Rochester on April 30th. We have been blessed by good friends and family like you who prayed for us, called and gave us moral support. It meant so much to us. The Lord has really blessed us and we put Him first in our lives.

Thank you again!
Perry & Eva Smith
Andy Hewitt



The UMM met Sunday, April 15th at 8:30 a.m. There were **24** men present. It was great to see everyone. Calvin Rome gave an invocation and then we enjoyed a delicious Italian Breakfast prepared by **Bob Galliera** and friends. A special thanks to Calvin Rome for volunteering to cook in May.

Our President, Raymond Gray, opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and he hoped that everyone had a great Easter. It was great to have **Perry Smith** back home. Raymond received many thanks from the church members for the new **Gas Stove** in the kitchen. Thanks to everyone involved in making this ministry happen so smoothly and quickly. A special thanks for the support from the **Thrift Shop**. You all are great!!!

Calvin gave a devotion on "**Foxhole Faith**" from **Psalm 66**. Minutes were read from last month's meeting and seconded by Lloyd Miller. Treasurer, Troy Willoughby, read the "Financial Report" and discussed the financial giving and expenditures. A donation was sent to the "**Serving in America Ministry**". Information about this outreach ministry is available on the **UMM Bulletin Board**.

Calvin thanked the Communion Team Leaders who administered communion to our shut-in's on April 1st. This ministry continues to be a blessing to all involved. **May Communion Team** will be **Raymond Gray, Troy Willoughby, Bob Lambert, Lloyd Miller, Charles Lucas** and **Santos Pena**. **May Ushers** will be **Head Usher - Troy Willoughby, Bill Leggett, Hank Zielinski** and **Charles Lucas**.

We invite all men of the church (member or not) to join us for our **UMM Monthly Meeting**. We meet on the 3rd Sunday of each month at 8:30 a.m. We love to see new faces and hear new ideas. Calvin closed the meeting with prayer.

SEE YOU NEXT MONTH & BRING A FRIEND!

Bill Stackhouse, UMM Secretary

MOSES MATHIS MINISTRY

The Bicycle Man has finally completed his moves. He is now located at **3469 Black & Decker Road**. The Computer Workshop is at **1314 Hillsboro Street**. Hours vary in both cases. If you have anything that you would like to donate such as computers or bikes, please contact me at 864 -1207 or 309 -1788, and I will pick them up and deliver them as pre-arranged. So far this year, I have delivered:

- ◆ **Seven complete Computers**
- ◆ **Three extra Monitors**
- ◆ **One extra Tower**
- ◆ **Seven Printers**
- ◆ **Five Speaker Sets**
- ◆ **Fourteen Bicycles**
- ◆ **Three Tricycles**
- ◆ **Two extra Keyboards**
- ◆ **Thirty-two Children's Books**



St. Matthew's has been very supportive in this outreach, and I am truly thankful. Moses is also accepting year-round monetary donations. You may give your donation to me in a sealed envelope addressed to Moses Mathis, or you can mail it to the following address:

The Bicycle Man
624 Platinum Street
Fayetteville, NC 28311

Thanks and may God continue to bless you!
Bob Pray

**YOU ARE INVITED
TO ATTEND
ST. MATTHEW'S
MOTHER'S DAY BANQUET
SATURDAY, MAY 12TH
6:00 P.M.**

A Pot-Luck Meal will be served. If you do not have a Mother or Daughter, please borrow one and join us for a great evening. The FFF has planned a wonderful program for everyone. The Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle will clean-up, and the Night Owl Circle will set-up.

Please come and enjoy the evening!



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Lynette D. Thomas, a Church and Community Worker gives us this month's **MISSION MOMENT**. Help! Our house has burned down! An electrical fire had destroyed Penelope West's Mt. Pleasant S.C. home. Penelope takes care of her mother, a disabled nephew, and her 12 year old son. **The United Methodist Relief Center** moved a donated three bedroom house to the property after it was cleared, added a fourth bedroom, and reconstructed the house to fit the family dynamics. The volunteer services exceeded **2,000 hours** on this project. This grateful family was displaced for over a year, but they never complained. Instead, Penelope West echoed to her family and the community that, **"for the rest of my life, I cannot thank them enough."** **FAITH-IN-ACTION** has given us **coupons** to shop at **Macy's, May 2 - 6**. If you are interested, please see Adella for your coupon. This is a very small **Thank You** for the things you do to help out in the community. If you are interested in the **Reading Program**, the books are located in the **Kindergarten Sunday School Class**. Some of the titles of the new books that are in are **Ice Drift by Theodore Taylor, True Blue by Jeffery Lee** and **Ending Hunger Now by McGovern, Dole, & Messer**. As we approach the summer months, we have business to take care of:

Adella Pray, UMW President

DATES TO REMEMBER:

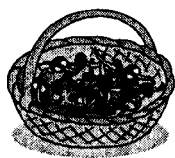
- May 4 - Church Women United Day
- 5 - Fayetteville District Racial Justice Workshop
- 7 - UMW General Meeting (to put Mother's Day Booklet together)
- 12 - Mother's Day Banquet

NIGHT OWL CIRCLE

Our group gave a huge response to our April project. It was to bring **Art & Craft Supplies** or **Toiletries** to be donated to the **Pinetop Assisted Living Home**. Our next meeting will be **May 10th at 7:00 p.m.** Our May project is to bring a new **Fan** or **Money** to purchase one. The fans will be given to the elderly to use during the hot summer months. Our June project will be to **donate money** for **Day Camp Scholarships**.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH "CHOCOLATE TRUFFLES"

2 cups sugar	1/2 cup milk
1/2 cup (1 stick) unsalted butter	1/2 cup unsweetened cocoa
2 1/4 cups toasted pecans, almonds, or walnuts (reserve 1 cup plus 1 Tbsp)	2 cups quick-cooking rolled oats
	1 tsp vanilla extract (or 1/2 tsp almond extract)



In a medium saucepan, combine sugar, butter, and milk. Simmer 3 minutes, stirring frequently. Remove from heat and whisk in cocoa, oats, 1 cup plus 1 tablespoon nuts, and vanilla. Chill mixture for about 1 hour. Shape into 36 balls and roll in remaining nuts. Refrigerate in covered container (to produce a rich and creamy truffle) or allow to dry at room temperature (for a more crisp and fudgy truffle). Makes 12 servings.

RUTH-ETHEL SMITH CIRCLE

Our circle of friends met Wednesday April 11th. We welcomed everyone, had prayer, and remembered the ones who were unable to attend. We received **"Thank You Letters"** from **Cumberland County Mental Health** and **The Care Clinic**. The Minutes were read and the Treasurer's Report was given. A special thanks to **Sherrie Haan, Catherine Morgan, and Mary Schneider** for helping at The Care Clinic last Friday. Our project for May & June will be to give a monetary gift to **Moses Mathis** for his **Mission**. We sang "Happy Birthday" to four of our circle members. **Marie Parker** gave a very inspirational program and ended it with prayer. The meeting adjourned with The Lord's Prayer and lunch was served.

See you next month! Lola Smith

MAY

ST. MATTHEW'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
		Prayer Group – 6:30pm	Card Ministry – 5:00pm Bible Study – 6:30pm] Choir Practice-7:30pm			
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	UMW General Mtg. – 6:00pm		Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle - 11:00am Card Ministry – 5:00pm Bible Study – 6:30pm Choir Practice – 7:30pm	Night Owls Circle – 7:00pm		MOTHER'S DAY BANQUET 6:00 PM
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
MOTHER'S DAY		Prayer Group – 6:30pm	Card Ministry – 5:00pm Bible Study – 6:30pm Choir Practice – 7:30pm			FFF & Book Club - 8:30am
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
UMM Breakfast Mtg. – 8:30am		Prayer Group – 6:30pm	Card Ministry – 5:00pm Bible Study – 6:30pm Choir Practice – 7:30pm	Help-N-Hands Seniors - 11:00am		
27	28	29	30	31		
	MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	Prayer Group – 6:30pm	Card Ministry – 5:00pm Bible Study – 6:30pm Choir Practice – 7:30pm			