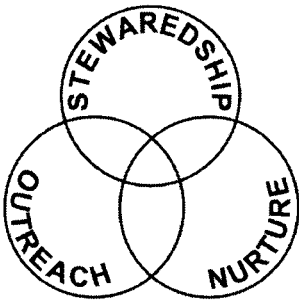


St. Matthew's UMC
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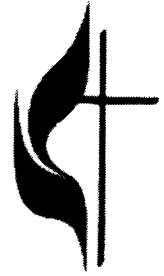


St. Matthew's 25 Challenge

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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 VII

JUNE 2007

Issue 6

THE SHEPHERD AND GUARDIAN OF OUR SOULS

Peter addresses members of the early church by saying, "For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls." (I Peter 2:25) The real question is, "Do we see ourselves as straying like lost sheep and are we willing to return to the Shepherd and Guardian of our souls, Christ Jesus?" Do we even admit we need a shepherd and guardian of our souls?

Due to our love of the 23rd Psalm we have a romantic attachment to the image of the shepherd and the sheep. We like the fact that Jesus called himself the Good Shepherd. What we don't know is that in Jesus day that was not a popular image. It probably turned people off. Why? The Jews were no longer a nomadic wandering people with flocks of sheep. They lived mostly in cities and towns, depending on trade and agriculture. Shepherds, for the most part, were usually hired help, just above beggars in society's order of things at that time. Maybe they a like the men who work on the back of garbage trucks today.

When Luke tells us that the angels appeared to the shepherds abiding in the fields, he was saying that God revealed the birth of his son to the lowest of people. The shepherds out in the field at night were especially low in the rank of things, because they didn't even have a sheepfold available at night.

It is precisely that humility and unworthiness Jesus wanted in his disciples and his people, the church. Remember, Jesus told us, "behold, I send you out as lambs in the midst of wolves." (Matt.10.16) That simply does not fit the proud image we have of ourselves. Jesus, as shepherd, humbled himself and became vulnerable to set an example for his church.

Until recently, American has not been very open to sheep and goats. I grew up on TV westerns and learned that Americans are cattle people. We eat beef

not lamb. In my devotions one morning, God revealed to me that American churches are a lot more like Cattle than Sheep. With our fierce sense of independence we don't really want to follow a shepherd. Like cattle on the range we need to be rounded up (evangelism), roped, (saved); branded (denominations); placed in herds, (congregations) large and small; and driven (program goals) in the direction we need to go in ministry. Now, if the trail-boss (pastor) and cattle hands, (staff and key volunteers) let down their guard, the cattle are likely to stray and drift apart or if they get upset, they might stampede and run over them.

Sheep on the other hand like to be together and are actually stressed by being alone. They naturally stay together and follow the shepherd. They find their strength and protection in the flock when threatened, whether out in the field grazing or in the sheepfold. Goats, by contrast are natured more like cattle. Is it any wonder that Jesus said, "When the Son of man comes in his glory, ... he will sit on his glorious throne. ...and he will place the sheep at his right hand, but the goats at the left. Then the King will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom...'"? Matt. 25:31-34. I realize I have grown weary of driving cattle and long to lead sheep. It is my sincere hope that the people of St. Matthew's will choose to follow the shepherd the Bishop and District Superintendent sends to be Pastor. As Terry Hunt reminded us on Native American Sunday, "Sheep begat sheep, that is not the pastors job, it is the work of the congregation." Pastor's lead people to good pasture outside of the sheepfold we call the Church.

Shalom,

Mike

ST. MATTHEW'S UMC DAY CAMP

JULY 2 - 6

AGES 6 YRS. - 12TH GRADE

COME JOIN THE FUN!!!

(This is a Tentative Schedule. A session of Praise and Worship will be held each morning before leaving the church. We will also have crafts. Pre-registration will be held at the church during the month of June so that I may arrange for transportation. Please contact Elaine Everts at 494-2427 or the church office at 425-0401 to get a registration form. Cost is only \$60.00 per child. Scholarships are available if needed.)



July 2 - Round-A-Golf & Skating (9am-3:30pm)

3 - Fascinate-U & Climbing Place (9am-3:30pm)

4 - Family Day at Lake Rim Park (9am-3:00pm)

5 - Fantasy Lake (9am-3:30pm)

6 - Chuck-E-Cheese (9am-1pm)



TRUSTEE MINISTRY TEAM

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

JUNE CHURCH FLOWERS

3 - (1) In honor of Lisa Rogers HS Graduation by Lin & Cindy Rogers, & (2) in honor of Taylor Ramos birthday by Grandma

10 - In memory of Margaret C. Walker by Ruth Caldwell

17 - In honor of Doris Miles 20th year as St. Matthew's Church Secretary

24 - In honor of Quinn Ashworth's birthday By Lynwood & Julie Griffin

(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.)

JUNE BIRTHDAYS



2 - David Norris
3 - Grace Bland
12 - Rhonda Miller
14 - Anne Alred
15 - Troy Willoughby

16 - Doug Stone
17 - Bob Galliera
19 - Jewel Sharpe
21 - Peter Rome
Glen Warbis

CELEBRANT SINGERS

The Church Ministry Council has passed the reins to me for preparation and return of the "**Celebrant Singers**" after an eleven year void. This causes me to ask how I and more importantly we can prepare for a service with the Celebrants? What is necessary to insure a great experience for everyone during their visit? The best way to start is with prayer that God will direct and bless the entire process of preparation. Then we get down to pre-arrival planning in order that the team will truly bless us. The concert will be held July 4th at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. The team will arrive around 3:00 p.m., set-up, test equipment, have a minimal rehearsal and then proceed to dinner at 5:00 p.m. I will greet the team and open the church. Twenty-five single members comprise the team. We need volunteers (hosts) to provide sleeping accommodations in your homes. There are twelve females and thirteen males. Ladies may sleep together, but males require separate beds. The men will dress in the Sunday Morning Bible Study and Peggy Pullman Classrooms, and the women will use Elaine Everts and Adella Prays Classroom keeping the Parlor open for us, as well as the team. During past concerts, the team was broken down into groups, and hosts from our church invited them to their homes. You may show them around Fayetteville if you like. The team must return to the church for breakfast at 7:00 a.m. as they depart for Murphy, N.C. at 8:00 a.m. Hosts may join the team for breakfast. Twenty-five sack lunches will be given to the team upon departure. A \$250.00 confirmation fee was donated by a church family. Thanks a million!!! We will be taking a Love Offering at some point during the concert. The team will have CD's, Cassettes and Memorabilia available for purchase. I need your help with food preparation, housing and many other items. I pray that we will have plenty of volunteers to make this a church-wide success. I know that July 4th is a holiday, but the concert will serve as an excellent ending to the Church Picnic. The concert will contain some patriotic music. Please pray that the Holy Spirit will guide each step and everyone will receive a blessing.

Thanks & God Speed! Bob Pray

CHURCH MINISTRY COUNCIL

The Church Ministry Council met Sunday, May 13th to approve two items. (1) The Celebrant Singers will perform July 4th, and (2) Elaine Everts will be the Chairperson for the Homecoming Committee with the same members as last year.



The UMM met Sunday, May 20th at 8:30 a.m. There were **25** men present. Calvin Rome gave the invocation, and we enjoyed a bountiful breakfast prepared by Calvin, Christy and Christopher

Rome. Thanks you all, it was delicious. Doug Stone volunteered (*got volunteered*) to be the cook for our next meeting on June 17th.

Our Treasurer, Troy Willoughby, opened the meeting by welcoming everyone. Our President, Raymond Gray is recovering from surgery. Our thoughts and prayers are with him and we all pray that he will have a speedy recovery.

Calvin gave a devotion on **"Toy Guns Or The Real Thing"** from **Psalm 1: 1-6**. The minutes were read and approved from last months meeting and seconded by Bob Lambert. Troy read the Financial Report. He also read a letter from **"Serving in America Ministry"** and passed out a sample information book. If you would like to order a copy, information is on the UMM Bulletin Board.

The UMM received a letter from the **Summer Day Camp Ministry** requesting assistance with their expenses. Calvin made a motion to allocate **\$400.00**. It was seconded by Jack Spakes and motion was passed. Proceeds from the **Father's Day Booklet** will help with this mission.

Lloyd Miller suggested that at least one member of the UMM be recognized annually for a **Lifetime Membership** into the **UMM Charter**. It was agreed by everyone. More information will be discussed at a later meeting.

Bill Stackhouse made a motion to the UMM to send Claudette Miller some flowers. It was seconded by Jack Spakes. Our prayers are with the entire Miller family.

Calvin thanked everyone who helped with Communion last month. Wayne Everts who was home visiting from overseas volunteered to help with this ministry. Thanks Wayne! It was great seeing you and our prayers are with you for a safe and speedy return home. We miss you! Our **Communion Team for June** will be **Bob Lambert, J.A. Sessoms, Troy Willoughby, Bill Stackhouse, Calvin Rome, Santos Pena** and **Dave Norris**. Our **June Ushers** are **Head - Bob Lambert, Kenneth Merritt, Perry Smith,**

James DeBruhl and Frank Bagley.

We invite all men of the church (member or not) to join us for our UMM Monthly Meeting. We meet on the third Sunday of each month at 8:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall. You are welcome to share your ideas and enjoy a great breakfast along with good Christian fellowship. We hear Doug is a pretty good cook. It was great to see Perry and Eva Smith. Get well soon Andy, we miss you and will keep you in our prayers. Troy Willoughby closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Stackhouse, UMM Secretary

RUTH-ETHEL SMITH CIRCLE

Our Circle of Friends met Wednesday, May 8th at 11:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall. We welcomed everyone and remembered the ones who were unable to be with us.

Margaret Clyde gave the devotion and prayer. We all read the **"Purpose of the United Methodist Women."** The minutes from the last meeting and the Treasurer's Report was given. We collected money for our Sunshine Fund and gave a monetary gift to **Moses Mathis, The Bicycle Man** which was our mission project for May.

We sang **"Happy Birthday"** to Dorothy Spakes. Anne Alred gave the program which was about **"Mother's"**. It was enjoyed by all. A delicious lunch was served.

We will have a short meeting on June 13th at 11:00 a.m. and then go to **Captain Hook's** for lunch. The meeting was adjourned.

See you next month! Lola Smith

RECEPTION FOR DR. MIKE

A **"Reception"** will be held for **Dr. Mike** Sunday, June 17th following the morning worship service. *Everyone is invited to attend!*

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 May 27, 2007	
Needed Weekly	\$3,289.00	Needed To Date	\$69,068.96
Average Weekly	\$3,430.33	Received To Date	\$72,036.89
Avg. Weekly Deficit	(\$141.33)	Deficit	(\$2,967.93)

(Please note that the "deficit" lines have the numbers in parenthesis which indicates that it is a surplus on the deficit line.)

JUNE

ST. MATTHEW'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 GRADUATE SUNDAY & RECEPTION	4 UMW General Mtg. - 6:30pm	5 Prayer Group - 6:30pm	6 Card Ministry - 5:00pm Bible Study - 6:30pm Choir Practice - 7:30pm	7	8	9
10 Promotion Sunday & Teacher Recognition Prayer Parlor Dedication	11	12 Prayer Group - 6:30pm	13 Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle - 11:00am Card Ministry - 5:00pm Bible Study - 6:30pm Choir Practice - 7:30pm	14 ANNUAL	15 CONFERENCE	16
17 FATHER'S DAY UMM Breakfast Mtg. -- 8:30am Father's Day Service by UMW - 11:00 am Reception for Dr. Mike - 12:00pm	18	19 Prayer Group - 6:30pm	20 SUMMER NO Card Ministry Bible Study - 6:30pm NO Choir Practice	21 BREAKAWAY Night Owl Circle-7pm	22	23
24	25	26 Prayer Group - 6:30pm	27 Card Ministry - 5:00pm Bible Study - 6:30pm Choir Practice - 7:30pm	28 Help-N-Hands Seniors - 11:00am	29	30 FFF & Book Club - 8:30 am