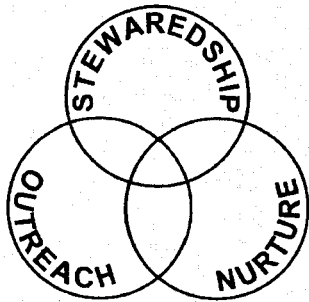


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St. Matthew's 25 Challenge

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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

JULY 2007

Issue 7

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." (1 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 are 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 a 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 trailboss (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, put 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

FROM YOUR NEW PASTOR:

Dear Christians,

"Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." (2 Corinthians 1:2)

Donna and I are looking forward to June 26th, when we arrive and will be among you in service to Christ and to serve with you in ministry. Our initial visit was exciting. We met warm and welcoming people, saw beautiful facilities that represent your stewardship, and heard about good things happening.

I come from a varied background. I've been a Methodist all my life. After college I was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Air Force and spent 20 years flying jets, managing and leading people, and meeting and living with all kinds of people from all over the world. After leaving the Air Force, I worked as a financial planner for seven years, motivating people (clients and staff) to set goals, make plans to meet them and execute their plan. We were in Italy for two and a half years when I finally decided to quit running from the Lord and serve him in ministry as a Methodist Pastor. I've been on both sides of the pulpit. I've been in your pew throughout most of my adult life. I have experienced paying a mortgage and my tithe. I know what it is like to balance a full time job, family needs and church work.

Donna has been working by my side for 15 years now as administrator in our business, and most recently as Director of Christian Education at our last two churches. She has lots of ideas and lots of energy. She studied music in college and has been a military wife (that means moving too often to have a career), a surgery assistant in an oral surgeon's practice, piano teacher, office manager, insurance agent, and the list goes on. We have four children and nine grandchildren. The family is spread out over the eastern part of the country from Goldsboro, to Charlotte, NC; to Winston-Salem, to Chicago, Illinois.

We will be with you soon and look forward to being in ministry with you all. See you in church.

Know God's love and know the special joy that comes from sharing that love with others.

Marc

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 JUNE 24, 2007	
Needed Weekly	\$3,289.00	Needed To Date	\$82,224.96
Average Weekly	\$3,363.69	Received To Date	\$84,092.18
Avg. Weekly Deficit	(\$74.69)	Deficit	(\$1,867.22)

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



We had **24** men present at our last meeting on June 17th. It was great to see everyone. We all paused for a moment of silence in memory of the passing of Claudette Miller. Our thoughts and prayers are with Lloyd and his family. Flowers were sent by the UMM to the Miller family.

Calvin Rome gave the invocation and then we enjoyed a delicious breakfast prepared by Doug Stone and family. We even had Fruit Cocktail for dessert. Thanks you all!

Charles Lucas opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and wishing them a "Happy Father's Day". We prayed that our President, Raymond Gray will get well and be back with us soon. It was great to see Peter Rome and Perry Smith. Our prayers are with Andy Hewitt and pray that he will get stronger and will be with us soon.

Calvin gave a devotion of "**The Godly Father**" Ephesians 6: 1-4. The minutes were read from last months meeting and approved by Ike Huffman. Troy Willoughby read the Financial Report and the financial giving and expenditures were discussed. Money received from the Father's Day Booklet will go toward scholarships for Day Camp. Thank You Cards were read thanking all the men for a great Mother's Day Service. **July Cooks** will be **Charles Lucas, Jack Spakes, Troy Willoughby & Frank Bagley**. **July Communion Team** will be **Calvin Rome, Troy Willoughby, Bob Lambert & Charles Lucas**. **July Ushers** will be **Heather Shackelford & Youth**.

A suggestion was made to nominate one UMM member per year to receive a Lifetime Membership into the UMM Charter paid by the UMM. This idea seems like a great "Ministry" and was received well by the UMM. More details and information will be provided at a future meeting. We all wish "Lucky" good luck and our prayers are with him as he travels to Georgia to have eye surgery. We also send our prayers to Hilda Pena, wife of Santos and wish her a speedy recovery. Happy Birthday, Bob Galliera!

We invite all men of the church whether you are a member or not to join us the third Sunday of every month at 8:30 a.m. We like to see new faces and hear new ideas. You are also welcome to help us with any of our great ministries. Calvin Rome closed the meeting with prayer.

Bill Stackhouse, UMM Secretary

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 & Movies (9am-3:30pm)

4 - Family Day at Lake Rim Park
Bring softball, gloves & bats
(9am-3:00pm)

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

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



TRUSTEE MINISTRY TEAM

A special thanks to **Frank Bagley** for being "**Trustee of the Month**" for the month of June. Our "**Trustee of the Month**" for July will be **Santos Pena**. We appreciate everything the men do to make our church a safe and attractive place to

JULY CHURCH FLOWERS

1 - Available

8 - In honor of Jason Caldwell & Candace Bone by Ruth Caldwell

15 - In honor of Phil & Karen Ogden's 45th Wedding Anniversary

22 - Available

29 - Available

(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.)

JULY BIRTHDAYS



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

18 - Verena Wright
Lisa Davis
20 - Jack Spakes
29 - Cindy Rogers
Wendy Johnson
Juli Pray
30 - Vicki Powell

UNITED STATES MAP

A father wanted to read a magazine, but was being bothered by his little girl, Shelby. She wanted to know that the United States looked like. Finally, he tore a sheet out of his new magazine on which was printed the map of the country. Tearing it into small pieces, he gave it to Shelby and said, "Go into the other room and see if you can put this together. This will show you our whole country today." After a few minutes, Shelby returned and handed him the map, correctly fitted and taped together. The father was surprised and asked how she had finished so quickly. "Oh," she said, "on the other side of the paper is a picture of Jesus. When I got all of Jesus back where He belonged, then our country just came together."

I really love this and it is so true.....

Submitted by:

Catherine Morgan

NURTURE

A special thank you is extended to **Lola Smith** and **Catherine Morgan** for organizing the meal after the services for the family and friends of Claudette Miller. Thank you also to the **United Methodist Women** for serving and providing the meal for this family. Let us continue to keep this family in our thoughts and prayers.

On the fifth Sunday, we will have a **Covered Dish Dinner** at 6:00 p.m. followed by music by **Kia Walker**, Jazz Vocalist, Guitar, Piano, and Voice Instructor. We will have a **Love Offering** for this service. Please mark your calendars for this time of fellowship and worship.

In Christ, Elaine



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

MISSION MOMENTS: This year we have rightly celebrated the life of Mrs. Rosa Parks, an icon to those who are committed to racial justice and civil rights. (Max met her and Dr. King in 1957!) We stood before the Westminster Abbey observing the ten statues of modern-day Christian martyrs, which include Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Esther John of Pakistan. These symbolize that the 20th century was the greatest

century of Christian martyrdom. We were with Esther a week before she was murdered in Pakistan, by a family member, because she had converted from Islam. Truly the lives of Rosa Parks, Bonhoeffer, Dr. King, and Esther John create a light that shines in darkness. (This mission moment was submitted by Max and Mary Lowdermilk from Arizona. They are retired missionaries to Pakistan.) We would like to take this opportunity to wish Dr. Hale and Jane the best of luck on their new adventures into another stage of their lives. We also look forward to Rev. Werner and Donna joining the St. Matthew's Team. A special THANK YOU to the family of Claudette Miller for choosing the mission program of the United Methodist Women for memorial gifts. She was such a strong supporter of this program at her church in Brooklyn and expressed wishes to be able to be a part of this at St. Matthew's. These gifts will keep her love for the UMW and Missions active. Remember to read and sign the covers of the books. You still have time to read four books before the deadline for completion of the 2007 Reading Program.

Adella Pray, UMW President

RUTH-ETHEL SMITH CIRCLE

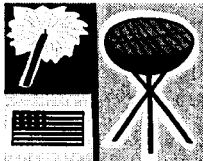
Our Circle of friends met on June 13th. We welcomed everyone and recognized members who were unable to attend. The **"Purpose of the UMW"** was read. The Minutes from the last meeting was read and the Treasurer's Report was given. Our **Mission Project for May and June** was to give a **Monetary Gift to Moses Mathis, the Bicycle Man**. Our **Mission Project for September** is to replenish **Dish Towels** for the kitchen. **A special thanks** to everyone and especially the men of the church who so graciously helped with our **Yard Sale**. It was a huge success! We all went to **Captain Hooks Seafood** for lunch. It was enjoyed by all. Have a safe and blessed summer and will see everyone in September!

Lola Smith, Chairperson

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

"Chocolate Dessert Wraps"

1/2 cup Creamy Peanut Butter	4 (8 inch) Flour Tortillas
1/2 cup Miniature Semi-Sweet Chocolate Chips	1 cup Miniature Marshmallows
Chocolate Shavings, optional	Vanilla Ice Cream



Spread 2 tablespoons of peanut butter on each tortilla. Sprinkle 1/4 cup marshmallows and 2 tablespoons chocolate chips on half of each tortilla. Roll up, beginning with the topping side. Wrap each tortilla in heavy-duty foil; seal tightly.

Grill, covered, over low heat for 5-10 minutes or until heated through. Remove foil and place tortillas on dessert plates. Serve with ice cream. Garnish with chocolate shavings if desired. Yield: 4 servings

DATES TO REMEMBER

July 4, 7pm - The Celebrant Singers. A great way to spend the "4th". They will be performing Patriotic Music in their Praise Celebration.

July 15, 12:00pm - Reception for Rev. Marc Werner and his wife, Donna. Please plan to join everyone as we try to get to know one another better. Also, remember to prepare something for the reception. If you have any questions, call Ashley Stone with the FFF as she is heading up this event.

July 29 - Fifth Sunday Evening - Kia Walker will return. If you missed their performance on July 1, you really missed a treat, so please plan to come join in the fun.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		DAY _____ Prayer Group – 6:30pm	CELEBRANT SINGERS 7:00 P.M.	CAMP _____		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
		Prayer Group – 6:30pm	Card Ministry – 5:00pm Bible Study – 6:30pm Choir Practice – 7:30pm			
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
UMM Breakfast Mtg. – 8:30am Reception for Rev. Marc & Donna Werner – 12:00pm		Prayer Group – 6:30pm	NO Card Ministry Bible Study – 6:30pm NO Choir Practice			
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	Youth _____	Annual _____	Conference _____	Methodist _____	College _____	FFF & Book Club – 8:30am
29	30	31				
Old Fashion Worship Service 11:00am 5 th Sunday Dinner 6:00pm Kia Walker Performs		Prayer Group – 6:30pm	Card Ministry – 5:00pm Bible Study – 6:30pm Choir Practice-7:30pm			
		Prayer Group – 6:30pm				