

**Memorial and Honorary Giving
to The Matthew 25 Center**

In Honor of:

*Ms. Edna Paul, Mr. & Mrs. Addie Paul,
Mr. & Mrs. Perry Johnston, and
Ms. Janice Brown*

By Richard and Rebecca Paul

Jack Williams (Temple Baptist Church)
By William & Maxine Hobbs

*Mary Margaret Brooks
and Priscilla Tyree*
By Sandra Smith

*W. C. & Helen English's
50th Wedding Anniversary*
By Waitus & Kathy English

In Memory of:

Mary Ann Briley
By Priscilla Tyree
Sharon & Michael Baucom

Edwin J. Bullock
By Peggy Jones

Martha Rivenbark
By Sharon & Michael Baucom

In Kind Gifts:

*New Covenant Evangelical
Presbyterian Church*

Pender Correctional Institution

David Tyree

Wrightsboro Baptist Church

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Jimmy & Anita Joseph

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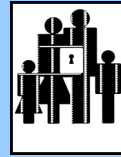
Debi Creech, Eugene Floyd, Sr.,
Nathan Teachey

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The Matthew 25 Center



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"A home away from home for families who visit their loved ones in prison"

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Playroom Renovations

Thanks to a grant from the RYE Foundation, The Matthew 25 Center has been able to do some renovations to the children's playroom which make the room more usable, safe and 'kid friendly.' In an effort to have as safe a facility as possible for children, we invited the Pender County Partnership for Children to do a safety audit of the Center. One thing that they noted was that the shelves in the playroom were not a type that is safe around children who might climb to get something out of reach.

We already had a lack of storage space for toys that children could easily reach, so we decided to replace the shelves and odd bookcases with cabinets. Pender Correctional Institution allowed an inmate to build a beautiful set of cabinets which are sturdy, safe and which put the toys in easy reach of children.

The new cabinets really dress up the room and make it more inviting. The kids love it! We do too!



Children's Christmas Party

Families in Crisis, a local ministry to inmate families, hosted a Christmas Party for inmate children at New Hanover Correctional Center on Dec. 18, 2009 and at Pender Correctional Institution on Dec. 19, 2009.

They asked The Matthew 25 Center to partner with them in this endeavor by providing the use of the Center as a base of activities to prepare the food and to gather and sort the toys that were donated for the children. The Center was a beehive of activity the week before the events! Some nights volunteers worked until 2:00 a.m.!



Food Preparation in Matthew 25 Kitchen



Toys to Be Given to Inmate Children

A total of 129 children from 65 inmate families participated in the event. Each child received a Christmas gift which was provided by Families in Crisis. In addition, the families enjoyed a great Christmas dinner, but the greatest gift of all was getting to spend quality time together as a family. Plans are already under way to repeat the event next year. Plan now to be a part of this effort!

One Day with God Camp

The One Day with God Camp is coming soon! The camp is scheduled for April 16-17, 2010. The Matthew 25 Center partners with Forgiven Ministry to sponsor this very important event. Scottie Barnes, Forgiven Ministry Director, estimates that we will need 150 volunteers to staff the event and approximately \$6,000.00 in donations. For more information on how to volunteer or donate, go to the Forgiven Ministry website (www.forgivenministry.org) or call The Matthew 25 Center (910-259-7133). Application deadline for the camp is March 15, 2010.

Matthew 25 Happenings

Inmate Families:

December - Hosted 38 inmate family members overnight

January - Hosted 16 inmate family members overnight

February - Hosted 5 inmate family members overnight through Feb. 8.

Events:

Dec. 18 & 19 - Families in Crisis Christmas Party for inmate children—New Hanover CC and Pender CI

Jan. 5 - 7 - Rock of Ages Prison Ministry Team - New Hanover CC Revival

Jan. 12 -14 - Rock of Ages Prison Ministry Team - Pender CI Revival

Jan. 23 & Feb. 6 - KAIROS Training for Pender Retreat #19

Upcoming Events:

Feb. 20 & March 6 - KAIROS Training for Pender Retreat #19

Feb. 27 - KAIROS Outside Training

March 12 - 13 - KAIROS Outside Retreat

March 17 -21 - KAIROS Retreat #19

2009 Highlights

- ◆ Hosted over 300 inmate family members and 250 prison ministry team members.
- ◆ Partnered with Forgiven Ministry to host One Day with God Camp
- ◆ Partnered with Families in Crisis to hold a Christmas party for 129 inmate children
- ◆ Hosted KAIROS Prison Ministry for two four day retreats at Pender CI.
- ◆ Hosted Rock of Ages Prison Ministry team for three weeks while they did revivals at Pender CI and New Hanover CC.
- ◆ Constructed a 1,500 sq. ft. outside play yard for children
- ◆ Renovated the playroom with new cabinets and better organization