

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

In Memory of:

Caroline Williams
By W. C & Helen English
Mission Baptist Church

Linda Gail Bunnell, Ervin James Bunnell & Mary Elizabeth Bunnell
By Sharon and Mike Baucom

Allie & Winifred Marshburn
By Ken & Faye Marshburn

In Honor of:

Ms. Edna Paul, Mr. & Mrs. Addie A. Paul, Mr. & Mrs. Perry Johnston, Ms. Janice Brown
By Richard & Rebecca Paul

Keith & Shelley Joseph
By Jimmy & Anita Joseph

W. C. & Helen English
By Waitus & Kathy English

In Kind Gifts:

*New Covenant Evangelical
Presbyterian Church*

*Joy Sunday School Class of
Hampstead Baptist Church*

Sunset Park Baptist Church

Memorial and honorary gifts are tax deductible.

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Jimmy & Anita Joseph

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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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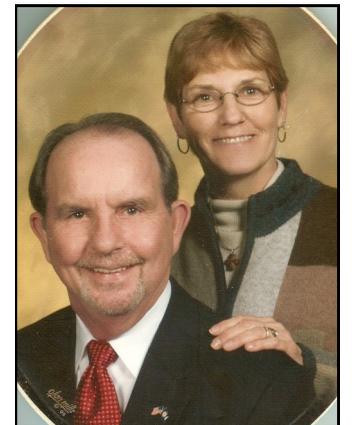
You're Invited!

*You are cordially invited to attend a
reception to say goodbye to the retiring
Directors of The Matthew 25 Center and
to welcome the new Directors on*

*Sunday
afternoon,
March 27,
2011 from
3:00 p.m.
until
5:00 p.m.*



Jimmy & Anita Joseph
Retiring Directors



Sam & Judi Hamilton
New Directors

New Directors Named

The Board of Directors of The Matthew 25 Center have selected Sam and Judi Hamilton to serve as the new directors of the Center. The Hamiltons began their service on March 1, 2011.

The Hamiltons bring a wealth of experience from various fields to the job. Sam, retired after working in the agribusiness field, also worked with inmates in substance recovery in Virginia before coming to NC. He also volunteers at Pender CI facilitating in community recovery programs and participating in KAIROS and Catholic services. Judi, retired from DuPont, volunteers with the KAIROS Outside prison ministry. The Matthew 25 Center will continue to have strong leadership with the Hamiltons assuming the responsibilities of directing the ministry.

Thank You!

As we retire as Directors of The Matthew 25 Center, we want to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have helped make the last 6 plus years a great experience in our lives. We owe a great debt to so many people who have supported The Matthew 25 Center with your gifts, your prayers, your time and energy.

The Center has been a blessing to many people over this span of time and we have been the recipients of the blessing of being directly involved with our guests. However, those of you who have selflessly supported our ministry are the ones to whom the blessing is due. You have made it possible for us to share God's love with those who have stayed at The Matthew 25 Center.

Sam and Judi will soon take over and our desire is that you support and encourage them as much as you have us. Thanks again for a great experience. We love you!

Jimmy & Anita Joseph

Gift of Christmas Program

Interested in volunteering with the Gift of Christmas program which helps inmates spend time with and give their child a Christmas gift? Then come to the Families in Crisis planning meeting set for April 7th from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at The Matthew 25 Center.

Matthew 25 Happenings

In December, January and February we hosted 75 guests. They were from :

North Carolina – Asheville, Bakersville, China Grove, Concord, Columbus, Fayetteville, Forest City, Grover, High Point, Kings Mountain, Lexington, Millers Creek, Morganton, Mount Holly, Ramseur, Sherrill's Ford, Shelby, Snow Hill, Statesville, Thomasville and Waxhaw

Florida - Jacksonville

Georgia - Jonesboro

Ohio - Columbus

Through a Family's Eyes

by Sharon Baucom

It's almost Spring but this Christmas story is not limited to its season. Gayle is the mother of an inmate at Pender Correctional Institute and a grandmother. In December when most of us were scheduling our Christmas parties Gayle was scheduling her grandson's visit with his dad in prison. She had heard of the Families in Crisis program called 'Gift of Christmas' and when she found out their family was one of the limited numbers chosen to participate, she shared the exciting news via email to friends and family. She allowed me to share it with you.

The message describes her feelings of being "blown away and reduced to tears". She goes on to say that "GOD IS SO GOOD" and considers this a "heavenly gift in the midst of this personal and family tragedy". Despite the dose of reality in the participation instructions that read "arrival and departure hugs only" she still talked about how fortunate they are to have been chosen. Due to the volume (800 inmates - only 36 slots) participation is limited because all of the needs cannot be met plus inmates must qualify through good behavior, application and screening.

She writes "GOD continues to minister to each of us offering comfort, hope and encouragement" and describes The Matthew 25 Center (where she will be staying) as "comfortable, clean, safe, relaxed, friendly and free – and serves breakfast"! Gayle's story is not just about her son being in prison but her faith. Faith that, against all odds, guides her through the struggles she faces while thanking God for everything.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 reads "Be joyful always; pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus". Please continue to lift Gayle, and all the families affected by incarceration, up in your prayers.