

**Memorial and Honorary Giving
To the Matthew 25 Center**

In Memory of:

Mr. Russell Taylor
By James and Cherry Davis

Mr. Edwin Bullock
By Ms. Peggy Jones and
Mrs. Carlton Martin

In Honor of:

Jimmy and Anita Joseph
By the Maple Hill Presbyterian Women's
Circle

In Kind Gifts:

New Covenant Evangelical Presbyterian
Church
Burgaw, NC

Scotts Hill Baptist Church
Wilmington, NC

Women's Missionary Union
Burgaw Baptist Church
Burgaw, NC

Earl and Gladys Orr
Hampstead Baptist Church
Hampstead, NC

Sunset Park Baptist Church
Wilmington, NC

Sam and Judi Hamilton
Saint Joseph Catholic Church
Burgaw, NC

Directors:

Sam and Judi Hamilton

Board of Directors:

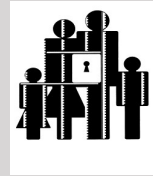
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Nathan Teachey

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Burgaw, North Carolina 28425
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The
Matthew 25
CENTER, INC.



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Happy Fourth of July



Save this Date

September 16, 2011

And Plan to attend Our

Fish Fry

**To help support the Efforts of the
The Matthew 25 Center**



Details are Forthcoming



From the Desk of the Directors

It only seems like yesterday that Judi and I assumed the roles as Directors of the Matthew 25 Center. From our guests coming and going, board meetings, group tours, the hosting of Kairos and Families in Crisis activities, and participation in the "In As Much Projects" by the Scotts Hill Baptist Church and the Burgaw Baptist Church, it indeed has been a very busy time.



The 2011 North Carolina General Assembly in its budget deliberations recommended the elimination of 25 of the 54 full time state-funded chaplain positions at low and medium security prisons. The House and Senate Appropriations committees approved this measure and, although the Governor vetoed the budget, the General Assembly overrode the Governor's veto. The budget language stipulated the current volunteer coordinator at each prison facility will assume the responsibility for the activities of all faith based volunteers alongside the many peripheral duties required of that position.

Without the presence of a full time trained clinical chaplain, many of the programs such as Kairos, Families in Crisis, and One Day with God will be in jeopardy. Sadly, too, the assurance of all ecumenical and inter-faith programs sorely needed by the residents of our prison system will also suffer.

The State of North Carolina dictates that when a state employee is to be eliminated, that person must be given a thirty day notice. With the anticipation of passing the proposed budget which would become effective July 1, 2011, it was decided in late May that 26 state-funded chaplains would be given their termination notice to be effective June 30, 2011. Unfortunately the state-funded chaplain's position at Pender Correctional Institution (PCI) was part of this process. The Community Resource Council at PCI which serves as the liaison between the local community and the prison is currently planning the solicitation of funds to contract for a community-funded chaplain in order to fill the void created by the actions of the General Assembly. As of this writing, Chaplain Joseph, a contract Chaplain, will remain in place at PCI for the time being. It is his hope that he will be able to remain at the PCI until the proposed chapel is completed.

As previously reported, the initial package for the proposed chapel at PCI was rejected by the State and was returned for suggested changes in the structural and architectural design. These issues have been resolved and we are now waiting the State's final stamp of approval. Through the efforts of the Community Resource Council, the necessary funds for the chapel have been solidified and the volunteer force organized by the North Carolina Baptist Men are eager to begin work. So, please continue with your prayers.

Matthew 25 Happenings

In March, April, May, and June we hosted 89 guests. They were from:

North Carolina – Sherrills Ford, Greensboro, Butner, Zebulon, Ramseur, Rocky Mount, Fayetteville, Concord, Sylva, Ash, High Point, Winston Salem, Burlington, Morganton, Mebane, Lexington, Elizabeth City, Grover, and Ashville

Out of State – Eugene, Oregon; Jacksonville, Florida; Chesapeake, Virginia; Sugar Grove, Virginia; and Union, New Jersey

The Matthew 25 Center also hosted Families in Crisis and Kairos in March, April and June, The State Employees Association in May, Operation In As Much from Scotts Hill Baptist Church in May, the Community Success Initiative in June, and Operation In As Much from Burgaw Baptist Church in June.

Upcoming Events:

July 26 - July 29 Rock of Ages Ministry

September 9 - 10 Kairos Outside

October 19 - October 23 Kairos Inside

Your Donations are Welcomed!!!!



It takes approximately \$3500 to fund the Matthew 25 Center on a monthly basis. To date, at the six month mark, we have collected \$25,400 in donations as we strive to reach our annual goal of \$45,000. Your donations, both in-kind and monetary, are truly appreciated and we thank each faith group, patrons, and guests who have contributed to the continued success of the Matthew 25 Center.

We always are in need of in-kind donations such as bathroom dispensable cups, paper towels, toilet tissue, Kleenex, plastic garbage bags, and laundry supplies. New window treatments could be used in the guest rooms and table clothes in solid or patterned seasonal colors are needed for the dining room. Please call the Center for additional information.

And as always your prayers are needed for the continued success in meeting the needs of families who are visiting their loved ones who are incarcerated.

