

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

In Memory of:

Ms. Eunice Taylor
By Mount Holly Baptist Church,
Burgaw, NC

Mr. Dan Baucom
By Mr. & Mrs. Richard Paul
Sumter, SC

In Kind Gifts:

Anthony Rizzo, Kairos
Wilmington, NC

Pete Peterson, Manager
Piggly Wiggly, Burgaw, NC

Patsy and George Perhala, Kairos
Wilmington, NC

New Covenant Evangelical Presbyterian
Church, Burgaw, NC

Hampstead Baptist Church, The Joy Club
Hampstead, NC

Christmas Wish List:

New Roof for the Center
Landscaping

Website Redesign
Annex Refurbishment

Garden Hose Reels

Relocation of Playroom/doors

Relocation of Chapel doors

Window Treatments

Dining Room Table Clothes

Walkway to Outside Play Area

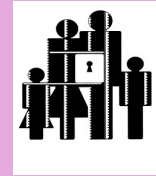
*Call the Center for more information on the
above projects.*



Directors: Sam and Judi Hamilton
Board of Directors:
Sharon Baucom, President;
Jill LaCour, Vice-President; Priscilla
Tyree, Treasurer; Judy Siko, Secre-
tary; Lyn Blizzard, Tammy Blizzard,
Pete Cowan, Bryant Crosson,
James Davis, Waitus English, Donna
Grimbergs, Marian James, Lynn La-
Cour, Dr. Dennis Long, Ex-Officio;
George Perhala, Patsy Perhala, Rev.
Ray Mendenhall, Katrina Midgette,
Jerry Schwefel, Paula Schwefel, A, Q,
Smith, Nathan Teachey
Trustees:
Debi Creech, Sophia Floyd, Eugene
Floyd, Sr., Nathan Teachey

The Matthew 25 Center
1196 Penderlea Highway
Burgaw, North Carolina 28425
Address Service Requested

Bulk Mail
US Postage Paid
Burgaw, NC 28425
Permit No. 3



The
Matthew 25
CENTER, INC.



1196 Penderlea Highway, Burgaw, NC 28425

Phone/Fax: (910) 259-7133

Email: matthew25@bizec.rr.com

www.matthew25center.org

Volume VII, Number 4

December 2011

From the Staff and Board of Directors of The
Matthew 25 Center



"Oh Little town of Bethlehem how still we see thee"

May the message of Christmas bless you with God's
Hope and Peace

From the Desk of the Directors

Our design for this newsletter is highlighted with the liturgical color for Advent, a period in which we await the coming of the Christ Child and a period in which we slow down and reflect on the past and anticipate what the future may hold.



And what an exciting and fantastic year we have had at The Matthew 25 Center. From hosting various ministries such as Kairos, Families in Crisis, and Rock of Ages to welcoming our many guests, ministering to the families of the incarcerated and indirectly to the residents of Pender Correctional Institution highlights our ecumenical response to the social justice challenge offered by Jesus in his final parable from the Gospel of Matthew.

So what does the future hold? As noted in a previous section, we have been successful in meeting our fundraising goal for 2011. While it would be good to “rest on our laurels” and take a deep breath, the need to push forward to achieve even greater goals is paramount for the Matthew 25 Center to continue in its successes. If you take a look at our Christmas Wish List, it is evident that our facility is in need of repairs and updating to meet environmental, public awareness, and public safety guidelines. And to achieve all of this, of course, will require a financial commitment which can only be met through the efforts of our dedicated patrons, the ecumenical community at large, our guests, and the “blood, sweat, and tears” of our many volunteers. To achieve the items on our wish list, our new fundraising goal for 2012/2013 has been set at \$116,000. We will be introducing the Sugar Bowl 365 Campaign in early 2012 where by we will be asking individuals, churches, and businesses to consider pledging anywhere from \$1 to \$5 per day for 365 days to The Matthew 25 Center. Or more simply put to set aside those amounts and place it in your “sugar bowls” for use on a rainy day like Grandma used to do it. So look forward to an announcement of this fundraising effort coming to you in the mail.

Before we begin the Sugar Bowl 365 Campaign, we are excited also to announce that we will be launching our new Matthew 25 Center website after the first of the new year. Our new enhanced website will be bold in appearance and will offer our patronage a vehicle to make donations in an on-line venue. Additionally the ability of our guests to make on-line reservations will be enhanced and with improvements in our webhosting, we will have a greater presence on the world wide web making it easier to be located during on-line searches for hospitality centers for families of the incarcerated such as The Matthew 25 Center.

Good News!..the Community Resource Council for the Pender Correctional Institution reports the Chapel Project has been approved by the State and now awaits the signing of the lease. Once the lease is in hand, a groundbreaking will be scheduled and then construction can commence.

As this year draws to a close, Judi and I would like to thank each and everyone of you for your thoughts, prayers, words of encouragement, and financial support during 2011. We have enjoyed working for you and hope to become acquainted with more of you as time goes on.....so come by for a cup of coffee and sit a spell.....

Just for today, keep it simple and be kind to others...Peace! Sam & Judi Hamilton

Matthew 25 Happenings

During September through December we hosted 67 guests. They were from:

North Carolina – Concord, Elkin, Weaverville, Morganton, Charlotte, Reidsville, Clyde, Winston Salem, Elizabeth City, Granite Falls, and Franklinville

Out of State – Sugar Grove, Virginia; Portland, Oregon; Yonkers, New York; Atlanta, Georgia; and Marietta, Georgia

The Matthew 25 Center also hosted Kairos Outside, Kairos Inside, and Families in Crisis. Yokefellow Ministries utilized the Matthew 25 Center facilities for food preparation and storage for the annual Volunteer Dinner held at the prison. We also hosted one individual who participated in the “Green Corn” festival held annually for the Native American residents at Pender Correctional Institution.

Upcoming Events:

January 2012—Rock of Ages Ministry March 2012—Kairos Outside
February 2012—One Day with God Ministry April 2012—Kairos Inside

Your donations are always welcomed!!!!



A huge thanks to all that donated funds to the Matthew 25 Center during 2011. Your financial support coupled with the successful BBQ fundraiser in September enabled the Center to slightly exceed our annual fundraising goal of \$45,000. As we go forward, your continued financial donations will be critical for the Matthew 25 Center to continue to minister to the families of the incarcerated. Please consider extending your support throughout 2012 either through direct donations or participating in the Sugar Bowl 365 Campaign. (Read more about this effort in “From the Desk of the Directors.”)

We always are in need of in-kind donations such as bathroom dispensable cups, paper towels, toilet tissue, Kleenex (small box size), plastic garbage bags (all sizes), and laundry supplies. Non-perishable foods such as soups, canned meats, coffee, sugar, and creamer would help as well.

If you really want to become adventurous, see our Christmas wish list. Please call the Center for additional information if you are interested in helping out.....

And as always, your prayers are needed for our continued success !