

## Matthew 25 Happenings

In March, April and May 2013 we had 24 visiting family members. While working on the chapel the Baptist men stayed several nights.

We had a large group from Kairos that filled the house.  
The Mount Holly Baptist Church visited.

The Burgaw Baptist "Operation Inasmuch" volunteers came out in April with young and old to clean up the flower beds, pull weeds, and add new pine straw. They did such a good job. It looks beautiful. Jimmy has been spraying for bugs, replacing filters, changing batteries and yard spraying.

We want to say thanks to: Lynn Taylor for her accounting services — Patsy Perhala and her group for cleaning, organizing and yard work — Lynn LaCour for power washing the Center — Travis Horrell for the new flags — Joyce Lanier for Children's books that she authored.



## Pender CI Chapel Project Update

Work on the Pender Correctional Institution Chapel is progressing well. After years of planning and fund raising and enduring frustrating delays awaiting approval by various governmental agencies, construction on the chapel at Pender Correctional Institution began on October 15, 2012. The building has been framed and the brick facade applied. The roof will be installed in June. The plumber, electrician and heat and air installer have completed their respective rough-ins and Standard Glass of Wilmington is finalizing the installation of the large window in the worship area. When these items are complete and inspected, we will be able to install insulation and sheet rock. If we do not encounter any unexpected delays, the building could be complete by the end of the summer.

A cooperative venture between NC Baptist Men and the Pender CI Community Resource Council, the project will provide much needed space for the 768 inmates at the prison. The 4,200 sq. ft. building will provide a 216 seat auditorium, two classrooms, two chaplains' offices, a clerk's office and work room, restrooms and storage space. The building will allow all the religious activities to be housed under one roof and to function in space specifically designed to promote worship.

The work is progressing well, but much work still needs to be done. While most of the work has been done by men from south eastern NC, we have had significant help from teams from across the state. In the coming weeks we will need painters, finish carpenters, ceramic tile installers, carpet installers and other skills. If you would like to help with this project, please contact:

Joey Hardee, Project Volunteer Coordinator, (joeyhardee58@gmail.com (910) 540-5318) or Jimmy Joseph, PCI Chaplain, (chaplainjj@gmail.com (910) 795-9643). Monetary donations are still needed to purchase building supplies. Checks can be made to the Pender Development Fund and sent to P. O. Box 1058, Burgaw, NC 28425.



**A friend of the Center writes...** I was so glad to receive your email this morning updating us on The Matthew 25 Center work. I live in Portland, OR, the far Northwest corner of our country, but I feel so connected to your ministry. I grew up on the Penderlea Highway. My interest in The Matthew 25 work began when my dear friend passed away and I gave a small gift in her memory and got on your mailing list. I have intended to write to you, and it just may be that maybe I did share my experience with you a year or so ago. I "thought" this so many times but I want to make sure you do know how far-reaching your ministry is. Even if this is a repeat, it may encourage you today. One day while shopping in a store I rarely visit, I noticed a clerk looking so down-cast that I asked her if she was alright. She replied that it was a hard day with her son so far away and she wanted so badly to see him—that she was saving her money for a plane ticket to visit him, but she had a place to stay when she got there. Later in the conversation, I learned that he was in prison in Burgaw and that she would stay at your center. She was overwhelmed that he was in my hometown on my very road and that I knew all about The Matthew 25 Center!! To say the least, she and I were utterly amazed at how small the world is-how could this possibly be true that I would be her connection that day to where her son was so far from her? I told her our encounter could have been orchestrated by God—a real God plan. I kept going back to that store just to keep contact with her and indeed she did finally visit her son. She was over-joyed to stay at your Center to be so close to her son. Without your provision there, she would not have afforded the trip and been able to have that wonderful time with her son. It meant the world to her.

**Blessings and keep ministering to the families.**



The **Matthew 25 Center** is supported by the love offerings from individuals, area Churches and fundraisers. It is the hearts of people that make this ministry flourish. The more opportunities we have to share the more opportunity people have to give. We are called with a calling "Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began," (2 Tim 1:9 KJV). Call us to come and speak at your Men's or Ladies' meeting, Church or Social event and we will tell you about the Center and do a devotion if you would like.

**The Matthew 25 Center 259-7133**

Operation Inasmuch is a Nationwide organization that trains and equips churches to hold a single service day each year in which 50-75% of those attending Sunday services volunteer to serve the "least of these" in their communities.



If you would like information about Operation Inasmuch call 865.951.2511.

**In honor of...**

*Admah and Mabell Lanier's 68th  
Wedding Anniversary by Joyce Lanier*

**In memory of...**

*Ed Bullock a love gift was given by  
Peggy Jones*

**In kind gifts...**

*Ann Debnam for paper goods  
Victory Christian Fellowship for  
various items  
A. C. Owens for fresh fruit*

**Always a need...**

- ◆ Raise the Roof Fund, with your help we can get the needed roof.
- ◆ Trash bags
- ◆ Toilet paper
- ◆ Coffee
- ◆ Liquid hand soap
- ◆ Laundry detergent, softener
- ◆ Non-perishable foods such as: soups, canned meats, cereal (individual servings), breakfast bars, snack items, etc.

*We thank you for the prayers,  
love, and support you continue  
to pour into*

**The Matthew 25 Center.**

**Come take a tour of the Center  
and bring a friend with you.  
You'll be glad you did.  
Just call 910-259-7133.**

**Interim Directors:** Rev. Jimmy and Anita Joseph

**Board of Directors:**  
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**A Home Away from Home...!**

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**The Matthew 25 Center**  
 1196 Penderlea Highway  
 Burgaw, North Carolina 28425

**A Home Away from Home...!**

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The  
**Matthew 25**  
 CENTER, INC.

"...inasmuch as you have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, you have done it unto

www.matthew25center.org  
 Email: matthew25@bizcc.rr.com (910) 259-7133

1196 Penderlea Highway  
 Burgaw, North Carolina 28425

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**Danke schön! - Merci à vous! - Grazie! - ¡Gracias -  
 Tack så mycket! - Dank u, Thank you!!!**

**The Quarter Auction was great— All because of YOU!!!  
 A special SHOUT OUT of thanks to all the donors and  
 vendors who provided the auction items to which the  
 WINNERS were happy to have.**

**We had an awesome turn out-and many made out like  
 bandits. We even had what some would call "lucky num-  
 bers." \$1549 was raised because you came. Thank you.**

**SAVE THE DATES**

**We have some dates for you to save because  
 summer will be over before you know it.  
 Our annual BBQ is set for September 20th,  
 and our next  
 Quarter Auction will be November 16th.  
 Be sure to put them on your calendar.**

