

Matthew 25 Happenings



September we had 8 family members to stay with us from Arden and Monroe, North Carolina and Colorado Springs, Colorado. The great room began its make over first with it being painted and then new blinds were put up. Kairos started their training for their October closing.

October Three family members came to stay from Lilesville and Statesville, North Carolina. The beginning of the month Kairos finished their training and from the 12th—16th they stayed here with us while they shared the love of God with the inmates for nearly 12 hours a day and on Sunday were able to hear what it meant to the men they had a chance to spend time with. The car drawing took place and it was won by a man in Teachey.

November Five family members traveled in from Statesville and Harrisburg, North Carolina. The center was awarded azaleas from the 31st Annual Azalea Celebration and picked up 30 plants for the prayer garden. Jerry has already started planting them around the garden and some out front by the crepe myrtles. We were invited back by the Rotary Club to speak about the center, in the new dining area of the Pender Memorial Hospital, it looks great. The Belk Charity Sale took place, board members sold tickets ahead of time, took shifts at both the Belk stores selling pre-sale tickets, and volunteered the day of the event to assist Belk employees with all of the pre-sale pick-ups. We took part in the Burgaw Tree Lighting event. We also had a great group of young people and their parents come out to help decorate for the Christmas holiday, it was a volunteer 4H project. The center's face lift continues into the bedrooms, they all have been given a fresh new look.



From the Presidents desk...

So much has happened with the center this year. The roof has been replaced and much needed interior painting has been done. The place looks beautiful. If you haven't been by in a while please come and visit. I'm so grateful that we have directors and board members who care about maintaining the building as their own home. We have been very blessed throughout the years past too with those who understood the need for maintaining the structure.

Now I want to talk about the mission and its beauty. This year we hosted 34 families of inmates. They came in search of a place to stay. What they found was not only a "place to stay" but they found a place that represents Christ. The center has a warmth when you walk in that you don't feel anywhere else, sometimes in our very own homes. It holds a sense of embrace and welcome for those who are making a trip that they wish they didn't have to make for a visit they wished was under different circumstances.

Some may think our volume of guests is low compared to the population of almost 800 inmates at Pender Correctional Institution alone. I've always thought of it this way. God sees to it that those who need to come are the ones we see. Only He knows their struggles and their needs. What I know for sure is that families appreciate the center and express it. Some can't believe it exists, others just say what an answer to prayer it is for them at this time in their lives. God tends to all of us one person at a time and that's how we see it at the center. Read a few guest comments below.

Please pray for all who come our way and for those God is working with trying to get them here.

Sincerely & Merry Christmas 2016!
Sharon



Everything is truly amazing. Always a pleasure to stay. Thank you so much for your services.
Teresa

Real nice, I enjoyed my stay and it was real clean. Jerry

Thank you for making a long trip more pleasurable and comfortable. May God always Bless your work.
Wanda

I thank God for this place. Extremely clean and organized. The staff so sweet and helpful. Michelle