

April 9, 2010

Electronic
Newsletter
Charlotte District
of the United
Methodist Church



Charlotte District

E-Connections

Impact Community Event, June 5th, Saturday before Annual Conference



*George Thompson
District Superintendent*

Imagine that as many as three thousand United Methodists of the Charlotte District going forth into neighborhood, parks, and communities on the Saturday before Annual Conference in order to serve others in the name of Jesus Christ. Imagine that this is not only a tradition and familiar practice in the life of many of our churches, particularly on each Saturday, but is indeed the vanguard of “rethinking church” for many other Charlotte District United Methodist congregations that will sustain this practice as one of the Holy habits of our denomination. Truly the DNA of Methodism is captured in the admonition of John Wesley, “Do all the good you can, in all the ways you can, to all the souls you can, in every place you can, at all the times you can, with all the zeal you can, as long as you ever can.” Imagine a large portion of the membership of our Charlotte District churches uniting together in this Wesleyan resolve.

On June 5th we shall be joined by nearly 1,200 congregations among the fifteen districts of our Annual Conference in this missional objective. The Impact Community Event is not an inauthentic charade by which we seek media attention to an uncharacteristic day of community service. It is a catalyst for our churches to link with on-going service opportunities in our communities as a witness to the love of Christ. Impact Community Day is an evangelistic experience. We want members to seek out non-members and non-Christian friends to join us in this activity of service.

A Charlotte District Task Force is currently compiling a list of service opportunities such as the Men’s Shelter, Urban Ministries, Bethlehem Center, Crisis Assistance, the Levine and Dickson Hospice House, and many others. Robin Hill of Sharon UMC is coordinating the task force. She is joined by Dwayne Campbell of St. Mark’s (Charlotte), Jeffery Hanson of First UMC, Belmont, Angela Hollar of Ebenezer, Mount Holly, Andrew Brown of Hawthorne Lane, Carol Shinn of Providence, Donna Pharr of Cokesbury, and Mark Barden of the WNC Conference Office.

The following website (www.impactcharlotte.org) is available containing a Charlotte District listing for the Impact Community Event at which members of all our churches will be encouraged to choose a ministry to perform and opportunity to purchase a special red T-shirt for this pivotal activity. A supply of T-shirts will be distributed by a coordinator at each service site. The website will provide a description of the service opportunities, directions for driving to the place of ministry, name of the coordinator of the task as this is updated, and contact information for follow-up questions. Volunteers will be encouraged to carpool to these sites. The work experiences will each be approximately five hours, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.; so volunteers will want to pack a light lunch.

Highlights in this issue...

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Impact Community *(Continued from page 1)*

By 3 p.m. all our volunteers from various destinations around the district will assemble at the American Legion Memorial Stadium, adjacent to Charlottetown Avenue (East Independence Boulevard) and East Seventh Street. Memorial Stadium will be the place for a gigantic, joyful celebration with live musical entertainment, a hot dog/hamburger cookout, and a festive gathering of as many as three thousand United Methodists and their many friends.

The Task Force has not planned the minutia of this ambitious event, and we elicit your involvement and participation in the planning; so, do not hesitate to contact any one of the members of the planning group listed here. The Charlotte District Office will be asking each church to provide some financial resource in order to pay for such an illustrious event. But the agencies of ministry we shall visit will provide the essential working materials needed for each project, unless otherwise designated by the coordinator of the specific task. We namely need willing and eager souls—enthusiastic volunteers, disciples, and servant leaders. We also need to start very consistent and continuous communication with our people until June 5th. Let's each work to inspire and recruit a plethora of responding volunteers who will sign onto this event via website linkage.

You will receive informational updaters in these intervening weeks as the special details for this mammoth event evolve.

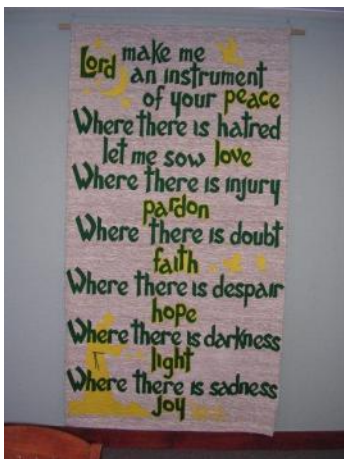
Please help make the Impact Community Event to be a pivotal occasion by which many will truly “rethink church” by observing United Methodism’s principle calling to engage in Kingdom building through faithful obedience to Christ. The Evangelist reminds us that “God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good....” (Acts 10:38)

May the Charlotte District earnestly pursue the direction of the Holy Spirit as thousands of us join in heart, hand, and voice.

Grace and peace,

George

George Thompson, Charlotte District Superintendent



District Superintendent as Consultant

If the WNC Annual Conference is to achieve its Power of Three goals and objectives, its leadership cannot conduct business as usual. Bishop Larry Goodpaster is helping the Cabinet to explore the role of the superintendency and to examine more efficient and effective ways of conducting business. To this end, the Cabinet took time in February to attend a retreat at the Franciscan Center in the Northeast District under the direction of Rev. Janice Virtue and Russell Moxley who work with the Reynolds Leadership Program. Over the past year members of the Cabinet have been studying the role of consultation. The curriculum of this retreat was the work by Peter Block, *Flawless Consulting: A Guide to Getting Your Expertise Used*.

During the coming years, our bishop encourages each district superintendent to dedicate a portion of our schedule for the purpose of working with healthy churches that wish to remission and clarify their mission. Since the disciplinary requirements of this role require specific tasks such as Charge Conferences, leadership of essential committees, and consultation with all pastors; it is not possible for a superintendent to provide qualitative consultation to more than three churches per year.

Contact my office for an application form if your church would like to utilize my services for consultation in the 2010-2011 conference year.

Baptism at Grace with Anticipation of Resurrection Theme, March 21st



On the Fifth Sunday of Lent the gospel lesson from John the eleventh chapter carried out the theme of new life at Grace UMC. The story of Jesus' bringing Lazarus from the tomb was the theological backdrop for the entire service of worship. The church celebrated the baptism of Jadiel Reade Juarez with his parents Christopher Juarez and Amanda Richardson. Carol Bradley, a member of the choir, was a very proud and grateful great-grandmother who rejoiced with all worshippers upon this sacred occasion. Rev. Sheila Bishop conducted the service of baptism and preached on the theme of the gospel passage—Jesus' power to bring life out of death.

New, More Spacious Location for Sanctuary UMC

It took less than a couple of years after launching Sanctuary UMC, our newest mission congregation in the Charlotte District, for the new worshippers to outgrow their renovated space on York Center Drive, behind a carwash on South Tryon Street. The new location is 11301 Granite Street—just off the busy intersection of I-77 and Westinghouse Boulevard. Average attendance has moved from a little over one hundred to approximately 350 per Sunday! The new spacious environment has been adapted to the church's expanded programs: offices, worship space that can accommodate to gathering around circular tables, kitchen facilities, and ample classroom space. Sanctuary UMC defines itself as a multi-cultural faith community that is transcending tradition, erasing boundaries and courageously committed to sharing the love of Jesus Christ. The overt mission of the church is stated in three dimensions: **Reaching Up - to God** by conducting God honoring worship, **Reaching Out - to others** with love and compassion, **Reaching In - to discover** and grow into the fullness and likeness of Jesus Christ. Sanctuary has a Theatrical & Arts Ministry, and during March the actors presented a play entitled, "Men Say Women Say," provoking much discussion and relevant interest.

Your District Mission Society apportionment money has paid for utilities and rent at both the old and new locations; but the leadership of the church is anticipating the time in the near future in which its mission will be self-sustaining. The WNC Conference Office of Congregational Development reports that this newest of congregations is now meeting its projected benchmark financial goals. The whole Charlotte District joins in affirming these brothers and sisters in Christ, as we continue in prayers of intercession and praise!



Sanctuary's displays its mission.



Worship setting in Sanctuary's new space.

Youth Sunday at Providence UMC

A highlight each year at Providence UMC is the Youth Sunday. This year's planners were apparently inspired by January's DLC presentation by Scott Bader Saye; for they chose the theme, "NO FEAR." Approximately seventy-five youth participated in the February 28th service by singing in the choir, serving as greeters, ushers, liturgical dancers, liturgists, and proclaimers of the word. Scriptural texts related to the chosen theme. One of the liturgists read from the story of the vision that came to Abram, saying, "Do not be afraid..." Genesis 15:1ff. Responsively the congregation was led by the opening line of Psalm 27: "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom should I fear?" The gospel lesson from Luke 13 focused upon the courageous words of Jesus as he stood up to the threats of an evil Herod. A fifty-voice youth choir sang the anthem, "The Lord Is My Light." The Proclamation was provided by three very mature youth reflections on the theme. These sermons were presented by Jordan Arey, Michael Braxton, and David Gordon. Tim Boland sang the haunting words of a solo entitled, "Who Am I?" ending with the words, "Who am I? That the eyes that see my sin would look on me with love and watch me rise again. Who am I? That the voice that calmed the sea, would call out through the rain, and calm the storm in me. Whom shall I fear? I am yours." Rev. Teresa Dunn, Director of Youth Ministries at Providence, worked with the youth participants. Each year the high school seniors especially look forward to their opportunity to provide special leadership to this highly-anticipated and well-attended service of worship.



Teresa Dunn (bottom right), Director of Youth Ministry, Providence UMC, with youth before service.



Youth Choir at Providence assembling after Youth Sunday worship.



Michael Braxton, who brought the Proclamation on Youth Sunday.



Olivia Rick--Liturgical dancer.

Sanctuary Renovation at Dilworth UMC

As a result of a very generous legacy of several deceased members of Dilworth UMC and the work of a conscientious Building Committee, the Dilworth congregation celebrated the consecration of a renovated sanctuary and edifice on February 28th. Nearly all of the past year has been spent on this major construction project. A chair lift for the new choir loft was installed. All the pews were removed for update and repair. The lighting was thoroughly upgraded. Old carpet was removed and a carpet runner for the aisles was installed. A new sound system was provided. The masonry and stones of the exterior were repaired and sealed to prevent leakage. Beginning this month, the stonework and stained glass restoration on the back of the sanctuary building will begin. Carla Powell, Tripp Beacham, Mike Standley and Kurt Lovekamp served with distinction and vision on the Building Committee.

At the invitation of Pastor Ben Devoid, several former pastors and their spouses returned for this momentous occasion. Bishop Tom Stockton and his wife Jean, Dr. Russell Montfort and his wife Ruth, Rev. Duke Ison and his wife Vickie came to this historic event and participated in the worship, ritual of consecration, and festivities. The theme of worship was “radical hospitality,” with Charlotte District Superintendent George Thompson preaching the sermon. The families of Beth Ballard, Flora Lee Bobbitt and Margaret Nabors were honored in an expression of gratitude. Robert (Bob) Pritchard, who has served as Dilworth's director of music since September 1998, took great pride in the improved acoustics, and directed the Chancel Choir in the singing of Ralph Vaughan Williams’ “O How Amiable.”

Back in 1922 some Methodists decided they needed to expand and buy land on East Boulevard. James B. Duke, when asked to contribute to the building fund, agreed - but only if the church were built of stone. And so it was. Mr. Duke gave \$50,000, and the total cost was \$250,000. In 1926 Dilworth Methodist Church moved into its new sanctuary building. Not much has been done through the years to maintain the original stone structure. It was the site for one of our Annual Conference sessions.

In 1941 the J.A. Jones Educational Building was completed to provide additional Sunday school rooms and a fellowship hall. Mr. Jones was a church member and contributed substantially to its construction. Adjoining the building, beside the sanctuary, the Jones Prayer Chapel was built in memory of Maude Boren Jones. In 1940 Louie Mae Langford started one of Charlotte's first kindergarten programs. In 1996 Dilworth United Methodist Church celebrated its 100th birthday.

The consecration service on February 28th was indeed an act of appreciation for the many who have contributed to a profound legacy of faithfulness in the Dilworth community.



Ben Devoid (Senior Pastor, Dilworth UMC); Bishop Tom Stockton (former pastor) with wife, Jean; Dr. Russell Montfort (former pastor) with wife, Ruth; and former pastor and current Greensboro DS, Rev. Duke Ison.



Director of Music: Robert (Bob) Pritchard, smiling as he gazes upon a bright sanctuary with carefully planned accustical improvements. Bob has served as Dilworth's director of music since September 1998.

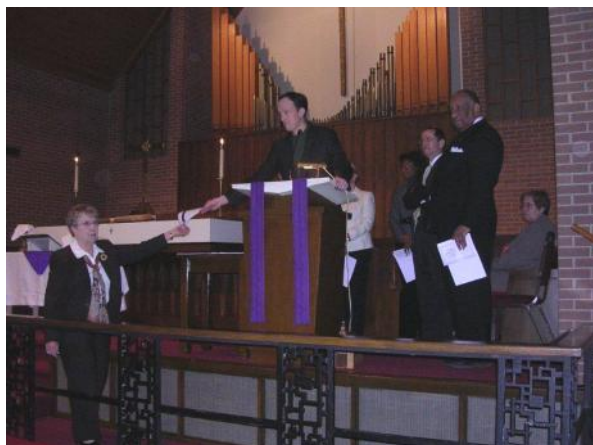


Kevin Siers is political cartoonist for the Charlotte Observer, here shown with his wife Jean.

Charlotte District Lay Speakers Graduation

Throughout the fall season of Charge Conference, Charlotte District churches presented applications for the annual Lay Speakers training, scheduled for the Monday nights of February. Betty Warner, serving as the Director, helped recruit a strong team of laity and clergy for leading the classes. She also scheduled a time for sharing lesson plans by those recruited to teach. The Graduation service at Grace UMC on Sunday, February 28th, was an exceptional night of thanksgiving and connectional unity. District Lay Leader, Irma Ellwanger, put the evening in context by stating that these trained leaders will become visionary, servant leaders for their congregations. The “Basic” course was taught by the following to novice students and those who were renewing their certification: John Harmeling of Myers Park, who gave last year’s Laity Address at Lake Junaluska; Rev. Paul Milton, newly appointed pastor at St. Mark’s in Charlotte; and Liz Holdbrooks of Park Street, Belmont. The Advanced classes, reserved for those who have completed the Basic, were led by the following clergy: Rev. Mark Andrews, First Belmont; Rev. Judi Hunt, Associate Pastor, Matthews; Rev. Angela Pleasants, Central UMC.

Each set of classes was presented by the leader with the superlative of “the best” as newly trained lay speakers were greeted with cheers and applause. The Eucharist was led by Dr. George Thompson, and the time of worship was concluded by the singing of “Go, Make of All Disciples.” Participants gathered in the fellowship hall of Grace for a time of refreshments and class reunion.



John Harmeling of Myers Park, who taught the basic training is here at the lectern, Betty Warner, Director of this year's school, is shown distributing certificates. Pictured also are instructors Paul Milton, Mark Andrews, and Charlotte District Lay Leader, Irma Ellwanger.



Lay Speakers Graduation event also provides a time for class reunion. Pictured here is Rev. Judi Hunt of Matthews UMC with her grateful class.



Charlie Rivens, Fredrick Bowman, and Emmanuel Yiadom support the members of their church who were recognized for their participation in the Lay Speaking Ministries training.

Annual District Spring Seminar

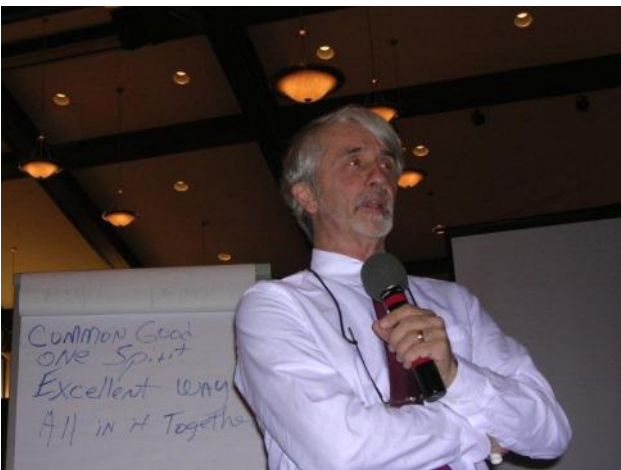
2010 Spring Seminar at Myers Park's Jubilee Hall

This year's Spring Seminar, March 7-8, was the first in these seven years with a specialized theme—**Cooperative Ministry**. Our guest was Jerry D. Chapman, author of **Together We Can: Twelve Ways to Start and Strengthen Cooperative Parish Ministries**. Jerry proved to be as affable and winsome as he had been described by his friend Bishop Larry Goodpaster, who recommended him for this presentation. Jerry brought to the Seminar decades of experience in which he has served as a pastoral leader of a cooperative parish in the Mississippi Conference. He now lives in Ocean Springs in his home state but travels widely to share insights into his experience with a successful practice of cooperative ministry.

Representatives from nineteen of our churches came to learn about how congregations can become stronger through sharing a cooperative mission. Rev. Chapman's experience has taught him that cooperative parishes work most effectively when a cluster of congregations settle upon a mission to the community that no one church is able to fulfill. By sharing resources, leadership, and a passion for faithfulness a cooperative ministry can accomplish great things. Jerry illustrated from a variety of successful programs around the nation. His insights were practical and inspiring.

In this period following the Seminar, all our churches are challenged by Charlotte District Superintendent George Thompson to explore ways in which a large mission may be embraced by cooperative relationships. Through cooperative ministry, large congregations with abundant resources can reach out to smaller ones in order to develop multi-racial, multi-cultural experiences. Programs of Christian education can be developed by clusters of cooperative churches in ways that could never be achieved by ministry in isolation.

Pastors of the Charlotte District are encouraged to report to their superintendent their efforts to achieve patterns of cooperative ministry as a result of this challenging seminar. We shall invite Jerry Chapman back to the district in late fall as a consultant to specific projects. Preparation for this exciting opportunity can be a breakthrough for several of our struggling, small churches and an invitation to connectional strength by larger, resourceful congregations.



Jerry Chapman, 2010 Spring Seminar Instructor



Jerry Chapman giving special advice to guests from Carraway UMC, a Cooperative Parish in Greensboro.

Annual District Spring Seminar (continued)



Rev. Caren Bigelow Morgan, St. Mark's, Belmont.



Rev. Paul Milton and Loretta Howze of St. Mark's, Charlotte, and Rev. Peggy Bridgers of Commonwealth.



Daniel Khang and Ge Lee, leaders of First Hmong, in attendance at the Spring Seminar.



Lake Norman District cluster of pastors attending the Seminar: Rev. Jim Humphries, Christ UMC; Rev. Alexis Coleman, Homestead UMC; and Rev. Madeline Gray, Thrift.



Xia Her, member of First Hmong, and Syvany Om, member of St. John's UMC in attendance at the Spring Seminar.

A Journey to Hope at St. Mark's UMC, Belmont

As part of the concept, "Rethink Church," the congregation of St. Mark's UMC in Belmont entered the Lenten pilgrimage by pursuing the worship theme, "A Journey of Hope." On the Third Sunday of Lent the gospel lesson was from Mark 10:35-44—the story of James and John wanting ascendancy in Christ's Kingdom, concluding with Jesus' admonition, "Whoever wants to be great must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be the willing servant of all." Rev. Morgan applied the text to the invitation of the gospel to the members of this small congregation to be engaged in humble service in the various ministries of St. Mark's—putting the needs of others above one's self. The children's sermon carried out this theme as well as the congregation sang "Jesus' Hands were Kind Hands." Through the journey of Lent, the worship services at St. Mark's have highlighted the following *mile markers on the Journey of Hope*: relationships, self-esteem, work, temptation, money, suffering, communion (Maundy Thursday), and cross (Good Friday).



Rev. Caren Bigelow Morgan with Jeanne Dibble who coordinates much of the art work related to the sanctuary at St. Mark's.



Pat Luckel, Chair of Finance Committee at St. Mark's of Belmont, with her mother Pat Luckel Sorensen .



Rev. Caren Bigelow Morgan with church Lay Leader, John Weant.

Peacemaking in the Middle East: A Workshop at Sharon UMC

Lissa Caldwell is a member of First UMC, Waynesville, who has devoted much of her life to pursuing matters of peacemaking in the Middle East. Part of her childhood was spent in Arab countries through family business in the region. She and her husband Raymond have gone to Israel for at least twenty-five times in recent years in order to make contact with the diminishing Christian community in the West Bank, Gaza, and Galilee regions. She has often been the guest of Father Elias Chacour, recipient of the World Methodist Council's Peace Award. She has led mission teams into Bethlehem and maintained friendships with artisans and leaders within the Palestinian community. Lissa was the special guest of Sharon UMC in Charlotte and conducted an insightful workshop. The event on Saturday, March 13th, was co-sponsored by the Western North Carolina Conference's Methodist Federation of Social Action. A busload of participants arrived from Brooks-Howell Home in Asheville with Rev. Don Turman at the steering wheel. These former missionaries provided a wealth of knowledge related to global political and theological currents. Mrs. Caldwell brought many carvings to sell from artisans in the West Bank who are now cut off from commercial interaction with tourists. A highlight of the day was the presentation of a delicious Middle Eastern lunch. Lissa Caldwell is available for presentations in Charlotte District churches upon request. You may contact her at lissacald@charter.net or (828) 452-5961.



Lissa Caldwell, special guest of Sharon UMC on March 13th.



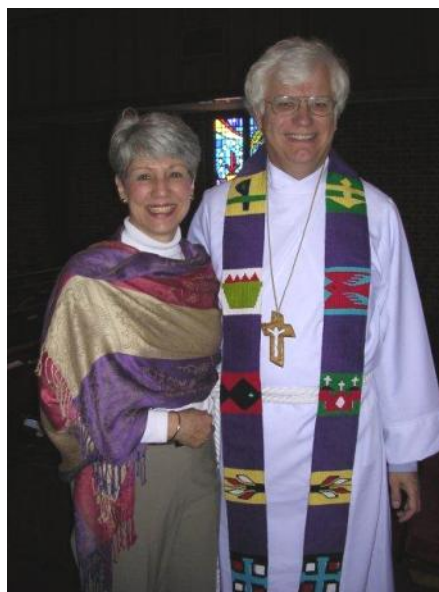
Rev. Don Turman and wife Ramona from Asheville, former missionaries to Indonesia.

March 14th Worship at St. Andrew's UMC

Rev. Jack Knoespel, Senior Pastor at St. Andrew's UMC, is leading the congregation during Lent through the themes of Bishop Robert Schnase's *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*. On the Fourth Sunday of the season, March 14th, the theme was "Risk-Taking Mission and Service." In the sermon, Rev. Knoespel illustrated how the congregation's reaching out to the nearby elementary school—Montclair—is a fulfillment of the church's call to take risks. This congregation maintains a legacy of participation in many missional ventures, including the Appalachian Service Project. The Church Council will explore additional ways in which the challenge of Christ will be addressed by additional members of the congregation. Music for the service on this day was blended, and the St. Andrew's Divine Dancers offered a liturgical dance interpretation of the theme.



Cross and Flame Stained Glass at St. Andrew's UMC.



St. Andrew's UMC Lay Leader, Sue Bullock, with pastor Jack Knoespel after worship on March 14th

Charlotte District 2010 United Methodist Women's Prayer Breakfast, March 20th

This year's annual gathering was held in the Jubilee Hall of Myers Park, with the competent direction of Jane Norman, District President. A large number registered for the event, as women came with eagerness to this distinctive program of commemoration and inspiration. Ellen Erickson of the host church provided the opening music with hammer dulcimer. A reflective mission moment was shared by Jatana Royster, Mission, Education & Interpretation Coordinator. The women's chorus of the host church provided a delightful offertory by singing John Rutter's rendition of "All Things Bright and Beautiful." Rev. Gayle Montgomery was introduced by Martha Efird, Spiritual Growth Coordinator. Gayle made reference to a popular historical novel, *The Red Roof*. She explained how this ancient Hebrew tradition of the Sinai wilderness experience in the Old Testament had become a theological and practical model for the entrance of young girls in her family into womanhood and spiritual maturity. She shared personal family photos on the two large screens in the hall and illustrated in a manner that transfixed her appreciative audience of women leaders. This spectacular presentation was followed by the Eucharist with the Charlotte District Superintendent as celebrant. A highlight of this annual event was the lighting of candles in memory of United Methodist women who had joined the Church Triumphant during the past year. The room was decorated in accordance with the theme in yellow: "Bright and Beautiful."



Jane Norman, Charlotte District UMW President.



Ellen Erickson provided opening music with hammer dulcimer.



Rev. Gayle Montgomery, Associate Pastor, Harrison UMC, delivered the message.



Myers Park Women's Choir.



The event was well attended.



Candles in memory of UMW who joined the church triumphant during this past year. The memorial table and the room were decorated in accordance with the yellow theme "Bright and Beautiful."



Hurricane Katrina Recovery Mission

The agencies have largely pulled out. FEMA trailers are being removed, living in them long-term considered a health hazard. The media spotlight has shifted to health care reform, the struggling economy, the national housing crisis. But there are thousands of families displaced by Hurricane Katrina in August 2005 who still haven't returned to their homes, many of whom have given up hope of ever getting back in.

But there is hope—and some of it stems from efforts of folks right here in the Charlotte community. Through the Charlotte District of the United Methodist Church, congregations are beginning to raise money and put together work teams to travel to the Gulf Coast of Mississippi to help rebuild homes and lives. The effort is gaining momentum, too, as area churches reach out to other churches in a district-wide effort to raise \$125,000, enlist volunteers and build awareness of the continuing dire need in the Mississippi Gulf Coast region.

Mark Franza, a member of Central United Methodist Church, has led his congregation's work team for the past five years, raising money and sending 20-30 volunteers each February to the Gulf Coast. Once there, the volunteers spend the week hanging sheetrock, painting, roofing, siding, building ramps and other construction projects to get families back into their homes. The team works out of Vancleave UMC's "Camp Hope" in Vancleave, Mississippi, living in dorm-style housing for the week, sharing meals and fellowship with its members and those from other churches from other states. Vancleave UMC's camp is one of six host sites set up in the region to accommodate the volunteers from around the country.

There is so much left to be done—as of February 2009, 8,000 families in the tri-county area of Southern Mississippi were still displaced—that Franza and two other Central UMC members, Bill Brawley and Jim Guimond, have begun visiting other congregations in the greater Charlotte area to enlist support in the form of prayers, volunteers and funding. Armed with their personal experiences and a motivational PowerPoint presentation, the trio has brought several other churches on board in their effort, including five United Methodist churches in Belmont that will go to Camp Hope in late May (Ebenezer UMC, First UMC, Park Street UMC, St. Mark's UMC, and South Point UMC). The work team from Central UMC, located at 6030 Albemarle Road in Charlotte, just returned from the Gulf Coast.

Brawley said the congregations they've visited have been "shocked" to learn how desperate the need still is and how few resources are available to displaced families. "FEMA is like the emergency room if you have a heart attack. They're there at the beginning, but they don't do your cardiac rehab. If you're poor in Mississippi, the church is the only one to help you," Brawley said.

And help it is trying to do. The financial goal: To raise that \$125,000 before the end of 2011, when Southern Mississippi United Methodist Katrina Recovery funding has been projected to run out, though it's estimated that there's another eight years' worth of work left to be done. While raising money is no easy feat in today's economic climate, the team is hopeful that many of the Charlotte district's 55 churches will step up to the challenge. District Superintendent George Thompson places his support behind the campaign, saying:

This effort coming out of Central Church is a beautiful thing. I spoke to charge conferences throughout the fall of 2009 and continue to have conversations about the effort coming out of Central UMC in a variety of contexts since the conclusion of these sessions in the 55 churches of the Charlotte District. I want all our congregations to know that the Katrina relief effort all began with a church that suffered a tremendous tragedy with its arson fire that took place (in September 2008). Central UMC felt the power of connectional outreach in the generosity of the community and other churches, like Hickory Grove United Methodist that provided a place of worship for

Missions

Central's congregation in the months after the fire. Out of appreciation for the love and immediate response to the crisis, there was the birth of this idea in the hearts of the leaders at Central to show gratitude for all the help and love they have received. Mark (Franza) was already extremely involved in the recovery/rebuilding efforts in Mississippi by taking teams there. Thus, the fire at Central was the catalyst for him, and the grateful members of his church, to take a leadership role in raising awareness and money for Katrina relief.

The Hurricane Katrina Recovery website describes the program activities and needs, as well as how people can become involved either as volunteers or by providing funding assistance. Robert Sharp, Executive Director of the Mississippi United Methodist Disaster Response and Katrina Recovery, stated that 100% of donations to the Katrina Relief program will be used to purchase construction materials, directly aiding those in need.

Franza, who serves as chairman of the Missions Committee at Central UMC, has been getting the message out to churches in the Charlotte area that it is critical to continue financially supporting the rebuilding efforts in Southern Mississippi or those efforts will terminate well before the work is complete.

While the appeal initially has been directed to the Charlotte District United Methodist Churches, help is welcomed from churches of all denominations and other organizations, Franza said. Congregations or individuals interested in participating directly in the Katrina Recovery mission or in making monetary donations directly to Hurricane Katrina Recovery relief can call or email Franza for details at (704) 661-6620 or franzame@windstream.net. To learn more about the Mississippi Conference Katrina Recovery program, check its website at www.mississippi-umc.org/pages/detail/763.

Submitted by Karen Carpenter



Statement from the UMVIM Jurisdictional Coordinators

Greg Forrester, Northeast Jurisdiction, Lorna Jost, North Central Jurisdiction and Paulette West, Southeast Jurisdiction returned this Friday, March 5th from their site visit to Haiti. A plan for United Methodist Volunteer in Mission (UMVIM) team response to the earthquake devastation in Haiti has been designed in consultation with President Gesner Paul and other leaders of the Eglise Methodiste d'Haiti (EMH). Due to the earthquake and changes in EMH leadership, a new list of priority projects and needs have been identified by the church.

Conversations with United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) and General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM) have led to a formalized funded proposal for coordination of UMVIM teams to Haiti. The plan includes a US based calendaring office along with staffing in Haiti to assist in the site planning and hosting of teams.

Teams are encouraged to form, raise funds and start considering when they would be ready to volunteer in Haiti. **All UMVIM teams will be expected to work on prioritized projects as set by the EMH and are to be coordinated through the US-Haiti Coordinator with advisement to Annual Conference UMVIM coordinators.**

Based on our observations and experience, teams serving in Haiti need to meet the following criteria:

- No more than 8-12 members/team.
- Team leader has prior experience in Haiti.
- Team leader has UMVIM team leader training.
- Necessary immunizations are up to date (Cholera and tuberculosis may be needed soon - watch the CDC recommendations).
- Early Response Training is not necessary but would be helpful.

We suggest that team membership include skills/supplies for Vacation Bible School/education, medical, and construction/deconstruction components. Specialized teams for pastoral care will also be needed soon to work with the pastors and lay pastors in Haiti.

We look forward to serving with you in building relationships with our Haitian sisters and brothers to work with them to bring healing to their country.

In Christ's name,

Greg Forrester NEJ Paulette West, SEJ Lorna Jost, NCJ Debbie Vest, SCJ Heather Wilson, WJ

For the latest Haiti news from UMVIM, SEJ, visit www.umvim.org/haiti



2010 Western NC Annual Conference

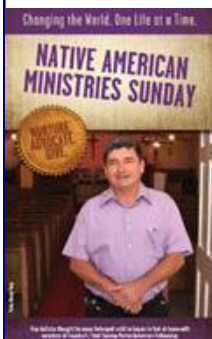
WNCC Secretary Kim Ingram reminds delegates of the new schedule for this year's Western NC Annual Conference, June 11-13. The registration (phone and online) for Western NC Annual Conference delegates' housing at Lake Junaluska began on Tuesday, February 23rd. Laity orientation session begins at 8 a.m. on Friday, June 11 and conference business follows at 9 a.m. Delegates may wish to arrive the night before if not open to an early morning drive to Lake Junaluska. Stay tuned to <http://www.wnccumc.org/ac10/10ac.htm>

Child care at Annual Conference: Ages 6 months to rising 6th grade. There is a cost per child. Child care will be available to all children of clergy only for the Executive Session held on Thursday night. Child care will be available Friday and Saturday to children of both clergy and laity.

Registration deadline is May 27, 2010. Print a registration form from

<http://www.wnccumc.org/ac10/pdf/AC-2010-ChildCareRegistration.pdf>

Attn: Clergy "It is the duty of every member and all probationers (provisionals) and local pastors of the annual conference to attend its sessions...Any such person unable to attend shall report by letter to the conference secretary, setting forth the reason for the absence. Should any ordained minister in active serve be absent from the session of the annual conference without a satisfactory reason for the absence, the matter shall be referred by the conference secretary to the Board of Ordained Ministry." (2008 Book of Discipline, ¶602.8). In the event you are in active service and unable to attend, please send written excuse to Rev. Kim Ingram, Conference Secretary, PO Box 18005, Charlotte, NC 28218.



Native American Sunday

WNCC churches are encouraged to highlight Native American ministries on Sunday, April 18th (can be celebrated at any other date better suited for your church). recognizes and supports the contributions of Native Americans to the church and society. The observance, approved by the 1988 General Conference, is one of six special church-wide Sunday offerings. The funds collected will allow The United Methodist Church to partner with existing native ministries and create programs on behalf of Native Americans. Money collected also supports seminary scholarships for United Methodist Native Americans. 50% of the offering **remains in the annual conference** to develop and strengthen local Native American ministries. Additional details and materials available at

<http://www.umcsgiving.org/specialsundays>

Rethink Church and Charting the Course 3 Opportunities

WNCC Offers Next Rethink Church Training

The next WNCC **Rethink Church** training is being offered in conjunction with **Charting the Course** at Lake Junaluska, April 25-29. **Rethink Church** challenges us to take a step back and look at how we invite, welcome and are hospitable to people new to or in our faith community. **Charting the Course** will help to discover some of the "whats" and "hows" we need to consider to help people grow as Christian disciples. Participants will be able to choose two of the three tracks for training: *Welcoming*—reviewing newcomers' characteristics and practical elements of welcoming. *Connecting*—helping newcomers make meaningful connections to their people, Christ and the Church. *Identifying*—helping establish or modify a church's identity in the community. Limited scholarships are available for WNCC. Contact Mark Barden at 704-535-2260 for details. Brochure and registration details at

<http://www.wnccumc.org/com/pdf/RethinkChurchChartingCourseBrochure.pdf>

Upcoming Events

April 17th 2010 Spring Stewardship Event, “*Life, Faith and Money*,” sponsored by the Stewardship Committee of the United Methodist Foundation of WNC, Inc. **Register Online at:** www.umfoundationwncc.org

Registration deadline extended to April 12th. Participants will have the option to choose two of the following break-out sessions.

The Simple Life – Dr. Leonard Sweet
Family/Children Stewardship – Rev. Gloria Hughes/Caroline Wood
Environmental Stewardship – Rev. Dr. Boyd Holliday
Clergy Communication Related to Stewardship – Rev. Dr. Kenneth Carter

We hope this event will be of great benefit for you and for the congregations in your district. Thank you for allowing the United Methodist Foundation of Western North Carolina to be in ministry with you.

Lauralee Bailey, Senior Vice President, Communication, United Methodist Foundation of Western North Carolina, Inc.

2010 Clergy Spouse Retreat

WNCC Clergy Spouses will hold their annual retreat, **April 16-18, 2010** at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory. The theme is “Debt of Love” and the speaker of Katie Fralic Cloninger. Registration forms are available in the district office and were mailed to clergy spouses (active, retired, widowers).



Clergy Spouses Luncheon, 2010 WNC Annual Conference, RSVP by June 4, 2010

To: All Spouses of WNC Clergy; Active, Retired or Widow(er)

What: Clergy Spouses Luncheon

When: Saturday, June 12, 2010 Time: 11 am -1:00 p.m.

Place: Clyde: Central United Methodist Church

Cost: \$10.00 per person

Why: Fellowship, Connection, and AMAZING Door prizes

RSVP To: Sylvia McClintick, phone# 336-548-4646, leave name, telephone #, and # of persons attending
e-mail: Sylvia@tamethechaos.com

Sign Ups: You can sign up for the luncheon during the week of conference. Please sign up when your spouse registers or have them register for you.

Directions to Clyde: Transportation will be provided from the Conference grounds to luncheon and back.

Central UMC: Take 19/23 toward Clyde. Take Clyde exit 106.

Pass Fire Department. Right on Charles street. Right into parking area of

Clyde: Central UMC. ***Invite a Friend!!!***

Also, retreat and luncheon are on Facebook - Once you join Facebook, go to

<http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=274773098560> or type WNCC Clergy Spouse Retreat.

<http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=284419818072> or type Luncheon for WNCC Clergy Spouses.

April 2010

- 5-9 Cabinet
- 15-18 PAUMCS 28th Annual National Conference, <http://www.gbgm-umc.org/paumcs>
- 15-21 Young Clergy Retreat, Camp Carolwood, details at <http://www.wnccumc.org/min/pdf/YoungClergyRetreat2010.w15.pdf>
- 16-18 Clergy Spouses Retreat, Catholic Conference Center, Hickory (see page 17)
- 17 WNCC Spring Stewardship Event , Dr. Leonard Sweet
<http://www.umfoundationwncc.org/abt/pdf/2010SpringStewardshipEventLeonardSweet.pdf>
- 23-25 WNCC UM Men, 30th Spiritual Rally, Lake Junaluska,
<http://www.wnccumc.org/umm/umm-events.htm>
- 25-29 Rethink Church/Charting the Course, Lake Junaluska (see page 16)
- 27-29 Cabinet
- 28-30 WNCC Christian Educ. Fellowship Retreat, <http://www.wnccumc.org/ced/pdf/CEF2010Retreat.pdf>
- 30-May 2 UM Women Assembly 2010, St. Louis, Missouri, details at www.wnccumw.org

MAY 2010

- TBA District Clergy & Families, Year End Celebration, stay tuned for details
- 20 District Laity Award Banquet, 7 pm, Pineville UMC
- 30 Peace with Justice Sunday, details/materials available at www.umcgiving.org/specialsundays
- 31 District Office Closed in Observance of Memorial Day Holiday

JUNE 2010

- 5 WNCC Hands-On Mission Day “Impact Day” (see page 1)
- 9, 12 17th Annual Children’s Home Benefit Golf, Tournament, Lake Junaluska Golf Course, 2:00 p.m., \$60.00 fee, includes cookout, lmetz@tchome.org
- 10 Cabinet Meeting at Lake Junaluska
- 10 A Spiritual Day Apart, <http://www.wnccumc.org/ac10/10ac-events.htm>
- 11-13 Western NC Annual Conference of the UMC, Lake Junaluska (see page 16)
- 18-19 WNCC Spiritual Growth Retreats, Lake Junaluska, details at <http://www.wnccumw.org/>
- 29– July 8 Oberammergau Trip

JULY 2010

- 5 District Office Closed in Observance of Independence Day
- 15-18 School of Christian Mission, Greensboro College, <http://www.wnccumw.org/>

AUGUST 2010

- TBA Clergy Welcome/New Conference Year Event
- TBA Charge Conference Packets Mailed
- 13-15 Gathering of the Laity, Lake Junaluska, <http://www.wnccumc.org/lai/lai-events.htm>
- 28 District UM Women Annual Meeting, 9 a.m., First UMC (Charlotte)

**Visit the Western NC Conference Calendar at <http://wnccumc.org/Cal/calendar-events.htm>*

Bishop Initiates Weekly Message to WNCC Clergy, Laity

Bishop Larry Goodpaster offers his thoughts and insights in a weekly letter to WNCC clergy and laity. Bishop G's E-pistle will be emailed to all clergy and laity who subscribe to WNCC e-NEWS. The bishop looks forward to utilizing electronic technology to share his letters, reflections, thoughts and ideas. Persons who would like to receive the weekly message may contact Laura Diviney (ldiviney@wncumc.org) at 800-562-7929, ext.121.

visit <http://wncumc.org/bsh/BishopGs-e-pistle.htm>

Visit the Western NC Conference website

<http://www.wncumc.org/min/ministries.htm>

to obtain information about the various ministries (youth, men, women, missions, Christian educ., etc.) throughout our Conference.

In search of various Conference publications

visit <http://www.wncumc.org/pub/publications.htm>

e-wncnews

Subscribe to e-wncnews, the brief, weekly WNCC e-newsletter, with convenient ministry links. Send your e-mail address to webministry@wncumc.org with "e-news subscribe" in the subject line. The Conference Center does not share this email list with anyone.

e-news can be viewed at www.wncumc.org/nws/news.htm

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