

## *Charlotte District E-Pistle*

January 15, 2010

Colleagues:

I have learned from my Cabinet co-workers John Boggs of Asheville and Mary John Dye of Statesville about the release of the movie adaptation of Tim Tyson's riveting historical work, *Blood Done Sign My Name*. Dr. Tyson teaches at Duke University. John Boggs was part of the filming of this movie in Shelby. It is a very inspiring film that we especially hope our United Methodist constituency will see. The distribution company for the movie is working with a company that specializes in publicizing films that are of particular interest to the religious community.

The official opening weekend for the movie is **February 19 – 21**. It is scheduled to be released now in 100 cities. Right now, Charlotte and Raleigh are the only two North Carolina locations. Attendance at the opening weekend will have a big influence on the extent of the distribution that it will get following that time; so, as the theater and time of showing is made public, encourage your members to attend.

The march scene in the movie was filmed in Statesville. Tim Tyson's father is the Methodist pastor whose ministry plays a large part of the story. The film depicts a very disturbing portion of our history. I recommend that predominantly Caucasian and predominantly black congregations partner in attending at the same showing. This could be a really significant experience for our United Methodist people during this year's Black History Month. Tim's book is the story of our history – North Carolina history and United Methodist history. Let us pray that this movie will have a significant, inspirational impact on people in the important arena of moving forward in racial reconciliation.

Grace and peace,

*George*