

Charlotte District E-Pistle

February 24, 2007

Colleagues:

During the first part of this week I shall be at the Cabinet's session in Gastonia and will have little opportunity to check with DeEtta on the progress of our registration for the Spring Seminar with **Kennon Callahan**. Please make sure that on Monday morning, or as early in the week as possible, you have faxed this important information to the Charlotte District Office. You were mailed packets with this request over a month ago. In fact, we have planned for this event for over a year and a half. We have received from Dr. Callahan the materials for an extensive workbook related to his lectures that each participant will receive.

I am sure that you recall that **attendance is required of all pastors at the annual Spring Seminar event.**

The lectures on Thursday and Friday evenings are open to all church members. I trust that you have made this clear in communications within your church. Please have a team of laity present for the afternoons of these two days.

The Saturday morning session is specifically designed for unique stewardship planning in small membership churches (those with an average attendance of less than 100 per Sunday). **Rev. David Snipes**, Executive Director of the Methodist Foundation, will lead this session. His communication skills and content are excellent, as you may know from previous experiences with David. He will know the particular needs of churches with small membership as well as anyone with expertise in stewardship planning. Don't miss this opportunity and bring a team of your best leadership on next Saturday morning.

The spring of the year is a perfect time for contemplating this crucial issue in the life of our churches. We are not under the compulsion of budget deadlines, financial campaigns, or Charge Conference reports. During next fall's Charge Conference gatherings, however, we shall report on the insights gained from the Callahan lectures and how the content of the seminar has impacted the quality and content of stewardship in your congregation.

I cannot predict the future results of these days of fellowship and continuing education; but I can guarantee your one thing: **you are about to be blessed by attending this event.**

Grace and peace,

George