

Charlotte District E-Pistle

March 26, 2005-03-26

At various times through the Conference year the clergy of the Charlotte District will be invited to participate in certain *Servant Days* during which we shall engage in specific service activities as colleagues and servant leaders. The concept emerged following the “celebration of an appointment” in which I was installed as your new District Superintendent. We focused then upon the message of John 13 and conducted a worshipful reflection upon Jesus’ washing the feet of the disciples.

I want to thank **Andy Baxter**, Executive Director of Mecklenburg Ministries, for his role in scheduling these introductions to the several agencies of ecumenical ministry within the area of our district. Our teams have served food to homeless men at the winter shelter. We have sorted clothing at the Crisis Assistance Ministries Center and learned about the many facets of the work at that extraordinary agency. We have yoked together our clergy in the north of the district through the East Lincoln County Christian Ministries Center. These (and several other experiences) have broadened our horizons for understanding the needs within this robust, changing area. Through our engagement in acts of service, we have learned how effectively to elicit the response of our laity in sustaining the impact of each of these agencies of redemptive love.

This month a team of clergy volunteers were introduced to **MedAssist of Mecklenburg**. This is a private, not-profit organization that helps low-income people with their prescription drug needs. MedAssist dispenses free prescription medications to eligible low-income seniors at its on-site pharmacy located at **5516 Central Avenue**. Our team sorted and counted pills, preparing for the agency’s next batch of distributions.

Nearly all our parishes have a senior citizens group that meets regularly for fellowship, inspiration, and service. Few, if any, of these seniors will admit to being low income or struggling with the cost of drugs. But some of our United Methodists are indeed going through very difficult economic circumstances and are eligible for the services of MedAssist. They are not likely to make this fact known to persons in their fellowship. So, how can we identify those who may benefit from this ministry?

I have attached an application form for distribution at your church. Duplicate it and make it available at the gatherings of any senior forum, group, or Sunday school class. Suggest that members take a copy “**for distribution to a friend who may need an alternative to the high price of purchasing prescription drugs.**” Some of our senior members are acquainted with such person in need. Others are in financial need themselves and may privately respond when they learn of such an agency.

I am constantly grateful for the quality of ministry you are offering to your congregation and community. Our district is filled with conscientious servants of our Lord. May your celebration of Easter joy upon tomorrow be reflective of the quality of worship that is experienced in your life each *little Easter* that occurs on the first day of each week.

Grace and peace,

George