

Charlotte District E-Pistle

April 22, 2007

Colleagues:

On Monday, May 7th, we have a unique opportunity to meet with a leading pastor and theologian whose sermons and publications have touched the lives of many. Wallace M. Alston, Jr., will be the special guest of Providence UMC, and the congregation is hosting a breakfast (at 8 a.m.) for the clergy of this district and the broader community. On this special occasion, Wallace will speak on the topic of “The Preacher as Theologian.” All are welcome but registration is requested through Diane Wright at 704-714-9368, or e-mail dwright@providenceumc.org

WALLACE M. ALSTON, JR.

On May 6 at 8:30 a.m. at Providence United Methodist Church, and at 10:30 a.m. at Selwyn Avenue Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Dr. Wallace Alston will be the guest preacher. One of the leading ministers and Reformed theologians of our time, Wallace grew up in Decatur, Georgia, where his father was president of Agnes Scott College. After college at Emory University and service in the U. S. Navy, he attended seminary on a dare from George Buttrick, who at the time was preacher at the University Chapel at Harvard. Following theological study at Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, and a time under the tutelage of Karl Barth in Switzerland, Wallace served as pastor of Presbyterian congregations in Wadesboro, North Carolina, Auburn, Alabama, and Durham, North Carolina. From 1974 until 1996 he was pastor of the Nassau Presbyterian Church in Princeton, New Jersey, and from 1996 until 2005 he was the director of the Center of Theological Inquiry in Princeton. Wallace has been an adjunct faculty member at Duke Divinity School and at Princeton Seminary, and is the author of numerous articles and several books. He has long been a prophetic voice in the movements for civil rights, human rights, and peace. One of his books which is readily available is [The Church of the Living God: A Reformed Perspective](#) (Westminster John Knox Press, 2002).

I hope to see you at the breakfast on May 7th. Believe me: this is a rare and fortuitous opportunity, and I am grateful to Ken Carter and the members of Providence UMC for their generosity.

Grace and peace,

George