

The Charlotte District E-Pistle

April 23, 2007

Each small church in the Charlotte District is important in our corporate witness to the love of Christ. The quality of our United Methodist churches is not necessarily related to size but to the spiritual health of the people.

Duncan Memorial is a small church in the heart of the city that, despite many years of precipitous decline, is showing signs of renewal and revitalization. The neighborhood is changing from a high crime district to a community of new condo residents. Even though the membership of Duncan has not yet received a positive impact from this influx of these new neighbors, the emerging community is showing some interest in the activities of this congregation of senior citizens.

Rev. Angela Burris needs our help in Duncan's efforts to give the church's physical appearance a face-lift. After hearing about the congregation's efforts to be relevant and in mission to the emerging neighborhood, I asked Angela to be specific about the material needs of this struggling congregation. She responded by sending me the following "wish list":

- * a working riding lawn mower
- * a weed-eater
- * a water hose
- * a sprinkler
- * a small storage shed (for lawn mower)
- * any spare perennials/plants that need to be divided in one's garden
- * basic craft supplies for children's Sunday school (construction paper, crayons, markers, scissors, etc. This church has not had a functioning children's program in years but is planning for one!)
- * an electrician to repair several lights that look dangerous
- * someone to power wash handicap ramp
- * someone to haul away old freezer and ice maker

These things would help tremendously to brighten up the grounds and continue to transform them into a more usable space.

Please spread this appeal to your adult Sunday school classes, your United Methodist Men's groups, your UMW circles, and your parish newsletter. Most of our larger churches have no idea how much is accomplished by a few contributions to the enhancement of a small church's ministry. Our connectional system is at its best when we assist one another in proclaiming the love of Christ—especially when we reach into the more difficult and neglected neighborhoods of our city.

Any assistance will be appreciated by this church that is eager to share its limited resources with a changing community. Contact Angela Burris at Duncan Memorial (phone> 704-333-4209 or write her at burris_angela@yahoo.com).

Grace and peace,

George