

## *Charlotte District E-Pistle*

June 28, 2006

Colleagues:

I was a pastor serving First UMC in Waynesville when **Disciple Bible** was birthed through the efforts of Bishop Richard Wilke and Albert Outler. I led one of the pilot groups before the launch of the program and was pleased when Bishop Wilke attended one of our sessions. I am convinced that the full scope of Disciple Bible options now available to our congregations is doing more to strengthen discipleship in our denomination than any other resources available to our parishes. I was privileged to be a disciple leader each of the years I served as a pastor following the inception of this delightful ministry.

Through the initiation of Bev. Beverly Copley of University City and Barbara Barden of Myers Park, the Charlotte District will make a coordinated effort to engage persons outside our congregations in Disciple Bible group experiences, beginning this fall. Myers Park, University City, and St. Mark's will be among those listed in an advertisement in the *Charlotte Observer* (2"x 4", approximate size), running the first week of August on a Saturday (Faith and Values section), that next Sunday (State and Local News) and then again the following Saturday (Faith and Values). We now are inviting other United Methodist churches of the Charlotte District to participate in this promotion.

If your congregation is sponsoring a **Disciple Bible I** group this fall and would like to invite non-members to participate, contact Rev. Barbara Barden, Minister of Education, Myers Park UMC, (by e-mail) [bbarden@mpumc.org](mailto:bbarden@mpumc.org) or phone (704-295-4813). Barbara would also like to receive from you a listing of all other Disciple Bible classes being offered at your church with time, location, and the leader's name.

A modest cost will be required for a church to be listed in the *Charlotte Observer* advertisement. Barbara Barden will need to know by July 15<sup>th</sup> of your interest in being included in this media promotion.

We shall also want to post available classes with days and time on the district web page so that we can know where to refer folks, depending on the day and time needed. Through such an evangelical effort to reach the people of Charlotte, we can work together to grow enthusiasm in all our United Methodist churches and to remain faithful to our Wesleyan mission *to spread scriptural holiness throughout the land*.

I hope that Barbara Barden will hear from you promptly and your church will want to take advantage of this extraordinary opportunity. We hope to make this an annual promotion within the Charlotte District, and perhaps beyond.

I have attached a preliminary sample of the advertisement that will appear in the *Observer*. Make sure that your church is included on the list of sponsors.

Grace and peace,

*George*