

The Charlotte District E-Pistle

April 11, 2007

Saturday, **April 28th**, will offer two extraordinary opportunities for United Methodists in the Charlotte District. The Laity Council of the district is sponsoring a **Prayer Breakfast in Cornelius at Mt. Zion UMC**, with meal service beginning at 9 a.m. The keynote speaker for this festive event will be **Rev. Jody Seymour**, Senior Pastor at Davidson UMC. Please circulate an invitation to this event throughout your congregation, extending special appeals within the United Methods Men and Women's organizations. Jody always brings a challenging and inspiring message, and the Mt. Zion congregation will provide a warm spirit of hospitality for the occasion.

The second event for this day will require your personal involvement in recruiting a team of participants from your church. The Western North Carolina Conference Stewardship of Giving Task Force is sponsoring a very significant event at Matthews UMC, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. **I am asking each pastor to recruit a task force from their church that will attend this Conference-sponsored workshop event hosted by our district.**

Bishop Lawrence McCleskey will be the keynote speaker. The event will also feature the dynamic **Rev. David Bell**, Director of the Center for Christian Stewardship of the General Board of Discipleship in Nashville. **Attendance is required of each pastor.** The attached promotional flyer delineates each of the Breakout Sessions and lists leaders that will provide instruction to these classes. The topics covered will range from "Preaching and Teaching Biblical Stewardship," led by Dr. Ken Carter of Providence, to "Clergy Personal Finance," taught by Dr. Mark King of Centenary in Winston-Salem. Breakout sessions, in which special interest topics will be discussed, should prove to be lively and relevant. Lunch will be provided, and our time together will conclude with worship. This event will be replicated in Hickory (April 14th) and Winston-Salem (May 19th); so, this date and place is for our convenience. If circumstances prevent your attending on April 28th, please plan to participate in one of these alternate locations. But send a team of key leaders to Matthews UMC who will likely to be involved in the stewardship program of your church. Share this flyer in a manner that is appropriate to your church's style of communication. Those planning to attend may register by visiting the United Methodist Foundation website at www.umfoundationwncc.org

In the fall of 2006, when the Laity Council planned the prayer breakfast for this specific Saturday, the Stewardship of Giving Task Force had not consolidated plans for this instructional event. But both events are significant opportunities for the enrichment of our churches. I encourage you to give ample emphasis and personalized endorsement to each.

No one in attendance will regret responding to your appeal.

Grace and peace,

George