

Charlotte District E-Pistle

Circles/Hope Teams and *Class Matters* Training

In the September 10th edition of the Charlotte District newsletter, *E-Connections*, you were invited to recruit a team of two or more laity from your church for participation in a seminar, “**Class Matters**,” taught by **Paul Hanneman** and **Wanda Anderson** of the **Urban Ministry Center**, on **October 11th** at **Hawthorne Lane UMC**, in the afternoon and evening, **2-9 p.m.**, with a box dinner served. This training will be repeated at Hawthorne Lane the following day, **Monday, October 12th**, with a special perspective for clergy, **9 a.m.- 4 p.m.**, with a box lunch served. We are separating the training for laity and clergy due to the concentrated time commitments clergy generally have on each Sunday and in order to address the unique role of clergy in addressing issues of poverty and homelessness.

Participants will be qualified to participate in a “Circles/Hope” team that is supervised by Crisis Assistance Ministry through the WISH program (Workforce Initiative for Supportive Housing). The partnership of Urban Ministry (training in “Class Matters”) and Crisis Assistance Ministry (“Circles/Hope” teams) is a powerful witness to the unity of two of Charlotte’s most effective agencies in a shared mission to provide long-term solutions for homelessness and cycles of poverty.

Darren Ash, Director of the WISH program, especially rejoices in this partnership at a time in which his agency has received a grant of approximately \$1.5 Million in order to expand this ministry by the creation of as many as 100 additional Circles/Hope Teams.

Bishop Larry Goodpaster has challenged our Western North Carolina Conference to form 3,000 new mission teams for local and global outreach projects within a three year period. This “Class Matters” training could not come at a more propitious time!

Clergy and laity will need to register for this training event by contracting the Charlotte District office at 704-525-3395 or charlottedistofc@wnccumc.org Please give our office contact information (phone or e-mail) and indicate if you want us to reserve a box meal. **Cost of the meal for a participant: \$7.**

Grace & peace,

George