

## *The Charlotte District E-Pistle*

October 13, 2005

Colleagues:

One of the great blessings of connectionalism through the United Methodist Church is the way in which we can share in the unique opportunities to learn and grow by attending events made possible by a sponsoring church and shared with the entire district.

*The Luther Snyder Bible Series*, a program sponsored by the Luther Snyder/Ruth Fisher Sunday School class at Myers Park UMC, will present Dr. Richard B. Hays, Professor of New Testament at Duke Divinity School, who will discuss *Reading the Bible through Matthew's Eyes* at two presentations on Sunday, October 30. Dr. Hayes will speak to the Snyder class and guests at 9:45 a.m. on the subject, *From Exile to Messiah: Matthew Reads Israel's Story*. Then all persons in the Charlotte District are invited to a 7:00 p.m. lecture in Jubilee Hall by Dr. Hayes, entitled *I Desire Mercy: Matthew Reads Israel's Law*.

As you know, Dr. Hays is internationally recognized for his work on the letters of Paul and on New Testament ethics. His scholarly work has bridged the disciplines of biblical criticism and literary studies, exploring the innovative ways in which early Christian writers interpreted Israel's Scripture. His book, *The Moral Vision of the New Testament: Community, Cross, New Creation*, was selected by *Christianity Today* as one of the 100 most important religious books of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Professor Hays has lectured widely in North America, Great Britain, Europe, Israel and Australia. An ordained United Methodist minister, he has preached in settings ranging from rural Oklahoma churches to London's Westminster Abbey. Professor Hays has chaired the Pauline Epistles Section of the Society of Biblical Literature, as well as the Seminar on New Testament Ethics in the Society of New Testament Studies.

I encourage you to share this information with your congregation and invite members to participate in the evening event.

-- *George*