



Charlotte District Connections

Volume 29, Issue 3

July, 2004

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A Publication of the Charlotte District
of the United Methodist Church

Charlotte District Lay Rally



Rejoice in the Spirit

"Rejoice in the Spirit" is an outdoor festival to celebrate our freedom in the Holy Spirit! There will be Christian entertainment and activities for all ages. The festival is open to all, so invite your friends, neighbors, and relatives. Bring a lawn chair and/or blankets; money for extras; sunblock and don't forget the 'bugoff'. Remember to dress comfortably. Tickets for a delicious Bar-B-Que meal prepared by Lake-Shore Barbecue will be pre-sold at your church and must be purchased by July 23rd. Doug Mayes, a member of Denver UMC and former WBTV anchor, will be the Master of Ceremonies. The closing worship will include Holy Communion, led by District Superintendent Reverend George Thompson.

**Rock Springs Campground
Campground Road - Denver, NC
Saturday, August 21, 2004
2:30 PM- 8 PM**

The Charlotte District Focus

This year, I **attended** Annual Conference. For the previous thirty-five years I have certainly considered the gathering at Lake Junaluska to be a highlight in my spiritual experience. I have always been aware of the location of the George R. Stuart Auditorium and have eagerly occupied a seat at nearly all worship services and major presentations. Since the inception of the forum groups, I have considered these sessions to be an excellent way of engaging all of us in the act of decision-making. But during the days of June 10-13, 2004, I truly attended the entire proceedings, even when the auditorium fans merely stirred the sultry summer air within that sacred room.

Even though I am committed with an intense devotion to the perfunctory proceedings of our annual gathering, I still believe that our central purpose is to articulate and celebrate our unified mission. From the opening Eucharist to the sealing of the

(Cont'd on page 2)

The Charlotte District Focus *(Cont'd from page 1)*

appointments *sine die*, we maintained our focus this year. What reports and decisions do I consider to be crucial for the local church in 2004-2005? In this edition of the *Connections*, I wish to focus upon three segments of our proceedings.

First, the report of the cabinet initiated a process that will clarify our vision as an Annual Conference. With the distribution of symbolic picture frames, all delegates were asked to envision our future in the context of our mission: to **follow Christ, make disciples and transform the world**. What will your local church look like if the members authentically live into this mission? What will be the shape of our conference – its programs and priorities – if we pursue diligently this clarion mission?

This year the cabinet participated in a first-ever leadership program through a grant from the Royce and Jane Reynolds Endowment Fund. As a result, we produced the first phase of a document that is the product of a careful and candid analysis of our performance as an annual conference – statistical, narrative and anecdotal. I shall be distributing this document, beginning with those who will attend the Charlotte District clergy retreat, September 13-14, in Hickory. I invite all clergy and laity of our district to engage prayerfully in the process of envisioning a new future for our conference and district – a future in which we are dynamically engaged in following Jesus, making disciples, and transforming our surrounding culture.

Second, the adoption of the Quadrennial Budget Planning Committee's report, in the words of Andy Langford, "is the most important decision we have made in at least a generation as an annual conference." Our action will change the way in which we do business. **Direct costing** will mean that each local church (or charge) will bear the expense of providing for full support of the clergy serving that appointment. In the past, the cost of pension support was hidden in the conference apportionment asking. Larger churches have carried a significant portion of this expense. In a five year process, full financial responsibility will be shifted directly to the local church. But each church will have **choice empowerment** regarding the apportionments. This will require a careful and prayerful assessment of ministries sponsored by our Conference so that each local church will give enthusiastic financial support to those agencies and ministry sources that are accomplishing the most good. This new direction is designed to produce a greater degree of **accountability** regarding the value and effectiveness of each agency and ministry. As you prepare for Charge Conference, make sure that your program areas (education, nurture and mission) participate in the decisions regarding which ministries your church will affirm through systematic financial support.

Third, James Howell presented a superb oral and video report for the Council on Higher Education Ministries. From where will the next generation of trained disciples come? Our United Methodist colleges and universities are reaching out to us with a willingness to produce young adults with qualitative levels of training and depths of commitment. Are we prepared to join with them – head and heart?

I intend to link the administration of this district to these vital opportunities as we clarify our vision, focus upon our mission, and engage in effective ministry.

Grace and peace,



George Thompson



2004-2005 Clergy Meetings & Activities

July 20, 2004 - 6:30 p.m.
Welcome - New Beginnings
Providence UMC in the Atrium
(NOTE NEW DATE)

August 30, 2004 - 9:30 - 1 pm
Consultant Doug Anderson
Location TBA

September 9, 2004 - 9:30 a.m.
District Clergy Meeting
Dilworth UMC
Worship Experience

September 13-14, 2004
District Clergy Retreat
Catholic Conference Center
Hickory, NC
Beginning at 9:30 on the 13th &
ending at 12 Noon on the 14th

November 4, 2004 - 9:30 a.m.
District Clergy Meeting
Dilworth UMC
Educational Workshop

December 8, 2004 - 6:30 p.m.
Christmas Gathering Dinner
Providence UMC

January 6, 2005 - 9:30 a.m.
District Clergy Meeting
Bethlehem Center
Worship Experience

February 1, 2005
Mission to Ministers
Hickory, NC
Location: TBA

March 3-5, 2005 - 9:30 a.m.
District Clergy Meeting
Educational Workshop
Location TBA

May 19, 2005 - 6:30 p.m.
District Clergy Farewell
Location TBA

**CHARLOTTE DISTRICT FALL 2004
CHURCH/CHARGE CONFERENCE CALENDAR**

Month	Date	Time	Charge	Month	Date	Time	Charge
SEPT	19	1 pm	Zoar	OCT	(Cont'd)		
	19	4 pm	First Hmong		24	4 pm	Cluster: Grace/ <u>St. Paul</u>
	19	7 pm	OPEN		24	7 pm	Sharon
	20	7 pm	Aldersgate		25	7 pm	Mt. Zion
	21	7 pm	St. Mark's		26	7 pm	Matthews
	22	7 pm	Wesley		27	7 pm	Light of Christ
	23	7 pm	South Tryon		28	7 pm	<u>Purcell-Big Spring</u>
	26	4 pm	<u>Hunter's Chapel-Ghana</u> Mission		31		Dilworth (following 11 am worship)
	26	7 pm	Cluster: <u>Huntersville/</u> Vermillion	~~~~~			
	27	7 pm	Assurance	NOV	01	7 pm	Pineville
	28	7 pm	Cluster: <u>Spencer Memorial-</u> St. James/Duncan		02	7 pm	St. Stephen
	29	7 pm	New Covenant		03	6:45 pm	Fair View (after fellowship dinner)
	30	7 pm	Christ		04	6:30 pm	DMS BANQUET
~~~~~					07	3 pm	Concord: Central
OCT	03	1 pm	Trinity		07	7 pm	<b>Cluster:</b> <u>Memorial/</u> Common- wealth/Agua de Vida
	03	4 pm	<b>Cluster:</b> <u>Cole Memorial/</u> Oak Grove		09	7 pm	Calvary
	03	7 pm	<b>Cluster:</b> <u>Simpson-Gillespie/</u> <u>Pleasant Grove</u>		10	7 pm	Hawthorne Lane
	04	7 pm	Ebenezer		11	7 pm	Blair Rd.
<b>05-07</b>			<b>CABINET</b>		14	4 pm	<b>Cluster:</b> <u>University City/</u> Greater Vision
	07	7 pm	Cokesbury		14	7 pm	<b>Cluster:</b> <u>Central/</u> St. Luke
	10	1 pm	Webb's Chapel		15	7 pm	Providence
	10	4 pm	<b>Cluster:</b> <u>Salem/Tucker's</u> Grove		16	7 pm	<b>Cluster:</b> <u>Good Shepherd/</u> Morningstar
	10	7 pm	<b>Cluster:</b> <u>Hill's Chapel/</u> Burge- Rock Hill/New Hope		<b>17-18</b>		<b>CABINET</b>
<b>11-13</b>			<b>DUKE CONVOCATION</b>		21		<u>First/Cambodian Mission</u> (following 11 am worship)
	13	7 pm	St. Andrew's		22	7 pm	Myers Park
	14	7 pm	St. John's		23	7 pm	<b>Cluster:</b> Thrift/ <u>Homestead</u>
	17		Asbury (following 11 am worship)		<b>25-26</b>		<b>THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY</b>
	17	4 pm	<u>Fairfield-Lebanon</u>		28	3 pm	<b>Cluster:</b> Moore's Chapel/ <u>Covenant</u>
	17	7 pm	<b>Cluster:</b> <u>Denver/</u> Bethel/ Brevard's Chapel		28	7 pm	Davidson
	18	7 pm	St. Francis		29	7 pm	Mouzon
	19	7 pm	Plaza		30	7 pm	Kilgo
	20	7 pm	Victory	~~~~~			
	21	7 pm	Hickory Grove	DEC	<b>01-03</b>		<b>CABINET</b>
					5	7 pm	Harrison

**Note: Underline indicates location**

**Additional Information will be mailed to the pastors at a later date regarding preparation.**

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## Cokesbury Hosts Neighborhood Fiesta

On Sunday afternoon, June 6th, Cokesbury UMC hosted some 200+ of its Latino, African, and African-American neighbors for a 3 hour fiesta that included games, dancing, singing, and a hot dog meal. The party was part of the church's effort to reach out to and serve its multi-cultural neighborhood.

In February of 2003, with assistance from the Royce and Jane Reynolds Foundation, Cokesbury hired Rosa Caldera to help "build a bridge" between the current, mostly "Anglo" Cokesbury community and the Latino community that has grown up in the apartment complexes that surround the church. It is estimated that more than 5,000 mostly

unchurched Latinos live within a half-mile of the church. The neighborhood also includes many Africans (mostly Liberians) and African-Americans who heard about and were warmly welcomed at the fiesta, making it a truly multi-cultural, multi-ethnic event.



Rosa Caldera is a certified candidate for ministry in the UMC and a second-year student at Hood Seminary. At the recent Annual Conference she was appointed as a part-time local pastor with Cokesbury. She works in the neighborhoods around the church, attempting to form "faith communities"- small groups that meet together for prayer, worship, Bible study, and mutual support. The fiesta was the first time that persons from these communities actually entered Cokesbury's building and interacted with the current membership. Cokesbury's Latino Ministry Committee planned and implemented the party with the help of United Methodist Men and Women and many members of the church.

**Smiles were in abundance! It was indeed a blessed event!**

The three hour party was filled with pony rides (two ponies — a big one and little one for riders of all sizes!), a trampoline castle, face-painting, carnival games of skill and chance, a piñata, hymn singing on the lawn, authentic Mexican dancing, and a little bit of football (aka soccer). In addition to the hot dogs, drinks, and fixin's (all donated by a generous church member) we appreciated donations of food from the neighborhood Bojangles restaurant and from Entemann's Bakeries.



Although this was the first time that Latinos came into Cokesbury for an event, it will not be the last. Two weeks ago the church voted to join with Central Piedmont Community College and nearby Idlewild Elementary School in a Language and Literacy Program funded with a grant from the Barbara Bush Foundation. The program will provide English and parenting classes for non-English-speaking mothers with children attending Idlewild Elementary. The classes are scheduled for four hours a day, four days a week, and will be held in Cokesbury's building. In addition, the church will supply child-care for the mothers in the program who also have preschool children.



Cokesbury eventually hopes to host worship and Christian education in Spanish within its walls and to welcome Latinos — as well as folks from all the many cultures represented in its neighborhood — into its church membership.



## Ordering Conference Journals

Information about ordering the 2004 conference journal will be mailed to all conference members the first week of July. If you would like to have the journal in printed form or on compact disc (CD), you must order it.

The price is \$12 per 2-volume set (book or CD) and payment must accompany the order. No copies will be sent automatically. Delivery cannot be guaranteed if the order is received in the office of the conference secretary after August 2, 2004. The journal will also be available on-line at [www.wnccadmin.org](http://www.wnccadmin.org) about the first of August.

This new procedure is by order of the 2004 session of conference. If you have questions, please contact Denny White ([dwhite@wnccumc.org](mailto:dwhite@wnccumc.org)) or Shannon Redden ([sredden@wnccumc.org](mailto:sredden@wnccumc.org)) or 704-535-2260 or 800-562-7929.

## Condolences to...

*Mrs. Esta Lee K. Duncan* and family in the passing of Rev. Henry Clark Duncan (retired) on Friday, May 14.



*Mrs. Nancy Peacock* (spouse of the late Hal Peacock) and family in the passing of her father R. Franklin Cobb on Wednesday, May 12.

*Rev. Mary J. Dye* (Hawthorne Lane UMC) in the passing of her mother Mrs. Rosalie Shepherd on May 16.

the *Rivens family* in the death of their grandmother, Mrs. Essie M. Rivens who passed on Wednesday, June 7. She was the grandmother of Rev. Charlie D. Rivens (South Tryon Community UMC - Charlotte District); Rev. Dr. Vera M. Rivens (Northeast District) and Rev. Rush Rivens (North Wilkesboro District).

*Becky Bingham* in the passing of her father Mr. Joe Green and father-in-law of Rev. Keith Bingham (Memorial UMC) on June 19.

## Congratulations to...

Ryan and Alyson VanAlphen on the birth of a baby girl - Emily Rose VanAlphen - who was born on Saturday, May 22, 2004. Emily weighed 8 lbs. 1 oz. and was 20 inches long. Alyson is our part-time office support at the Charlotte District Office.



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Patrick and Gail Welch (Oak Grove)! They are the proud grandparents of a new grandson - Andrew Justin Welch - who arrived on Friday, May 28th and weighed 7 lbs. 1 oz.

Annual Conference Offering 2004 Update Bethea Welcome Center

The WNC Conference treasurer has sent word that the offering at Lake Junaluska for the Bethea Welcome Center totaled \$51,825.81 in cash and pledges. Bishop Charlene Kammerer has reminded us that additional contributions will be appreciated. The pledge or cash-in-hand (checks made payable to Treasurer, Western NC Annual Conference, and marked *Annual Conference Offering 2004*) may be sent in through July 9, 2004 to the conference office.

To learn more about the Bethea Welcome Center and its honorees, Bishop Joseph Bethea and Mrs. Shirley Bethea, visit the web link below.

<http://www.lakejunaluska.com/lakejunaluska/about/development/campaign-lakej-welcomecnr.htm>

Doug Anderson, consultant for the Bishop Reuben Job Institute, will return to Charlotte on Monday, August 30, 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., (location TBA). He will be available to pastors and laity from around the district for a follow-up session from last spring's "Church By Size" Seminar. You can register for this event by contacting the district office (704-525-3395).

APPOINTMENT CHANGES IN THE CHARLOTTE DISTRICT – JULY 4, 2004

We extend a warm welcome to the new pastors and families moving into our district on June 29, 2004. We wish a fond farewell and God's blessings on those who are moving to appointments in other districts.

| <u>Church</u> | <u>Incoming Pastor/Spouse</u> | <u>Outgoing Pastor</u> | <u>Moving To</u> |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| Assurance | Christopher Westmoreland (Kristin) | Debra Paulsen | Family Leave |
| Cokesbury | John Moore (Pat) | Jacob Golden | Sabbatical Leave |
| Cokesbury Assistant | Rosa Caldera | N/A | |
| Cole Memorial | Gregory Freeman (Waneta) | N/A | |
| Covenant | DeForest Hillyer, Jr. (Bonnie) | Jessie Keaton | D.Min. Student,
Asbury Theological,
Beeson Scholar |
| Davidson Associate | Alberta Spencer (Mike) | N/A | |
| Denver Associate | Tim Killian (Jo) | N/A | |
| Ebenezer Assistant | Lorraine McCorkle (Donald) | N/A | |
| Fairfield-Lebanon | Raymond Surratt (Margaret) | Barbara Ingram (Conley) | Georgia Conference |
| Grace | Shelia Ferrell | Vance Hunt (Minnie) | High Point:
Memorial |
| Grace Assistant | William "Bill" Brown (Sandy) | N/A | |
| Hunter's Chapel-
Ghana Mission | Emmanuel Yiadom (Janet) | Change in Charge Stations | |
| Light of Christ | Kyle Thompson | Maria Hanlin (Tim) | Leave of Absence |
| Myers Park Associate | Alisa Lasater | N/A | |
| Providence Associate | Tara Ebner | Angela Burris (Michael) | Family Leave |
| St. John's | Patricia Chaput (Emmett) | Beau Bailey (April) | Leave of Absence |
| St. Mark's | Donnell FitzJeffries (Kathy) | John Moore (Pat) | Cokesbury (CH) |
| Simpson-Gillespie | Walter Pegues (Brenda) | Andrew Brown (Alice) | Retirement |
| University City | Christopher Thore (Becca) | Nancy B. Rankin (Terry) | Conference Dir.
Congregational
Development/
Evangelism |
| Webb's Chapel | Larry Rowell (Gaile) | Hubert Clinard (Sara) | Retirement |
| Wesley | Elizabeth Faughn (Tom) | Robert Sturge (Mary) | Air Force Chaplain,
Assignment in
Moldova |

**Carolina Institute for
Clinical Pastoral Training**

**Pastoral Care Specialist
Training Group**

Offered by Mark Larson, D.Min., L.P.C.
of Methodist Counseling & Consultation Services in
Charlotte, North Carolina

Location: Dilworth United Methodist Church, 605 East
Boulevard, Charlotte, NC 28203

Schedule: September 14, 2004 through May 10, 2005,
9 a.m. until 12 Noon, Tuesdays in Fall,
Winter & Spring

Cost: Tuition: \$750

Books: approximately \$120

For information and detailed Brochure contact

Mark Larson, D.Min., L.P.C., 704-375-5354 x 203,
counselorlarson@carolina.rr.com

Registration deadline is August 30.



Prayer, Policy, and Politics
July 22-25, 2004

MISSION STUDIES:

Spiritual Growth Study: **Concerning Prayer**
General Issue Study: **Public Education**
Geographic Study: **Cuba**
Greensboro College - Greensboro, NC

**Sponsored by the
WNCC United Methodist Women
2004 School of Christian Mission**

You may register at: www.gbgm-umc.org/wncumw/
For more information about the "School of Christian
Mission", visit www.gbgm-unmc.org/wncumw

Summer Concerts



at the Cross - 7:30 p.m.

Cole Memorial UMC - 2022 West
Sugar Creek Road, Charlotte, NC

July 3rd – *In His Spirit* – Black
Gospel – a blend of r&b, jazz,

country and rock – Men's vocal ensemble

July 10th – *Saturated* – Christian rock band

July 17th – *Shine 215* – Contemporary Christian,
Praise and Worship

July 24th – *Choir and soloists from Victory Native
American UMC* – Worship, witness, and testimony
through Gospel and contemporary styles as well as
traditional church music

July 31st – *Sugar Creek Quartet* – Men's gospel
quartet

August 7th – *Glorify! and the Hickory Grove Celebration
Band* – Contemporary Christian Praise and Worship

"beginnings"

**An Introduction to Christian Faith
Training Workshop**

August 3, 2004.

**Central United Methodist Church: Concord
9:30 a.m. till 3:00 p.m**

**\$10 pre-registration fee. Refreshments and
lunch included in the registration fee.**

Travel Directions may be found at:

www.concordcentral.org
<<http://www.concordcentral.org>>

Send in a check (payable to "Central UMC")
or cash to Andy Langford, Central UMC,
30 Union Street North,
Concord, NC 28025

Registration deadline is August 1.

District Calendar of Events

JULY

- 4** First Sunday in pulpit for incoming clergy
- 5-9** SEJ Minister's Conference, "Building the Church with Prayer, Lake Junaluska, NC
- 13** UM Youth Night, Lowe's Speedway
- 14-17** SEJ Conference, Lake Junaluska, NC
- 20** District Clergy Welcome Gathering, Providence UMC, 6:30 pm
- 21** Cabinet Meeting
- 22** District Program Ministries Executive Committee meeting, 6:30 pm, Providence UMC
- 22-25** UM Women's School of Christian Mission, Greensboro College, Greensboro, NC
- 25** UM Youth Splash! - Wet 'n Wild, Emerald Pointe Water Park, Greensboro, NC

AUGUST

- 3-5** Beginning Pastor Seminar, Part II, Lake Junaluska, NC
- 13** SpiritUs, Youth retreat, Oak Island, NC (rising 7th graders-graduating seniors)
- 15-16** Workshop/Retreat Churches with Multiple Staff, Lake Junaluska, NC

AUGUST (Cont'd)

- 18** Cabinet Meeting
- 21** Lay Rally, Rock Springs Campground, Denver, NC, 2:30 pm to 8 pm
- 28** UMW District Annual Meeting, St. Andrews UMC

SEPTEMBER

- 6** District Office Closed/Labor Day Observance
- 9** District Clergy Meeting, Dilworth UMC, 9:30 am
- 10-12** UMW WNCC Annual Meeting, Lake Junaluska
- 13-14** Charlotte District Clergy Retreat, Catholic Conference Center, Hickory, NC (Beginning at 9:30 am on the 13th and ending at 12 noon of the 14th)
- 15** District Mission Society Grant applications due in District Office

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

GEORGE THOMPSON, District Superintendent
 DELTA RIVENS, Administrative Assistant
 Marcella Cook, Editor/Publisher

Website: <http://www.charadist.org>
 E-mail: charadist@bellsouth.net
 Telephone: 704-525-3395/Fax: 704-525-4238

**CHARLOTTE DISTRICT
 THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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 CHARLOTTE NC 28209-2259**

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