

July 1, 2006

Electronic  
Newsletter



Charlotte District

## E-Connections

### A Time of Sweet Sorrow

One of the most famous lines in English literature is the haunting sentiment of Romeo in Shakespeare's classic play, *Romeo and Juliet*:

"Good night, good night! parting is such sweet sorrow,  
That I shall say good night till it be morrow."

Moving Day, and the events surrounding this traumatic occasion, is a time of *sweet sorrow*. We savor the sweetness of sacred memories as we place those last boxes containing notebooks of bulletins and personal artifacts of pastoral significance on the moving van. Nothing is more affirming than the words of tribute written by little hands and delivered by the elementary Sunday school teacher. We shall likely re-enlist in ministry on certain soggy Monday's when we locate those letters of appreciation from families who have lost loved ones or with whom we have counseled through a marital crisis.

But the itinerancy has a shadowy side. Each move is painful. We should always acknowledge that grief is endemic to every new appointment. The eagerness of a fresh challenge is exceeded only by the sorrow of departure. In the United Methodist Church, we practice the ethics of covenant allegiance. *Thou shalt not interfere with thy successor's ministry by returning to perform pastoral functions unless thou are requested to return by the official sanction of one's successor.* Words to that effect are part of the oral tradition of Methodism; thus, we obey. But such dictums are cruel and insensitive when they imply the severance of meaningful relationships. True clergy collegiality will encourage the preservation of sacred, timeless relationships. All that the covenant of professional respect really should require is the transformation of the context of those friendships. We are sorrowful because we shall never again serve as pastor to these people whom we love. But there is sweetness in the fact that these people will always be special friends whom we shall hold close in our hearts and payers, knowing that they will continue to be enfolded in the competent care of a pastoral colleague who will continue an effective ministry in the parish from which we depart.

On June 27<sup>th</sup> approximately twenty percent of the pastors of our Western North Carolina Conference experienced the sweet sorrow of moving. All of us who remain in our present appointments will remember through intercession the joy and grief of this challenging time of transition. When we move without acknowledging the grief in this process, we repress natural emotions and do much harm to our spiritual and emotional state of health.

No one has moved from the Charlotte District with a longer tenure of service at a singular church than Cher Lue Vang, his wife Mang and their sons Benjamin, Daniel, Jonathan, and Joseph. This family came to Charlotte in order to initiate the First Hmong congregation. Lue has served here with compassion and commitment for fifteen years. On June 18<sup>th</sup> the congregation gathered for worship in the Hickory Grove Chapel and for a fellowship meal



*On his final Sunday of a fifteen-year pastorate (June 18, 2006), Reverend Cher Lue Vang rendered a meditation for the children present in worship, all of whom were born during the tenure of his service at First Hmong.*

## A Time of Sweet Sorrow (continued)

in the recreation/dining hall, at which time they rendered an emotional tribute to the Vang family. The district superintendent preached, numerous tributes were spoken, and a loving plaque was presented to Reverend Vang. Even though Lue's new assignment is located at the Myrtle-Lowell/Smyrna Charge in the nearby Gastonia District, his legacy of self-giving will remain always in the hearts of the Hmong people. Reverend Tou Her, a lay pastor who entered the church under the tutelage of Cher Lue Vang, will continue the work of ministry at First Hmong.

May all of our transitions be as spiritually profound and positive in content as the one experienced by this loving congregation of United Methodists.

Grace and peace,

*George*

Charlotte District  
Superintendent



*Each of these youth came to the microphone in order to render tribute to their beloved pastor on June 18th.*



*The children of First Hmong bid Cher Lou Vang farewell at a festive meal in the Hickory Grove fellowship hall on June 18th.*



*June 18th was also Father's Day at First Hmong. Here the women's chorus provided a special anthem to the glory of God and in honor of all fathers.*



*Pictured here are the two pastoral families in transition: Local Pastor, Tou Her (and his wife Xia) who will be taking the responsibility of pastoral leadership on July 1st; and Cher Lue Vang (with his wife Mang) who will be serving the Myrtle-Lowell/Smyrna Charge in the Gastonia District.*

**A Time to Say "WELCOME"**



Honoring Pastors and their Families who have moved to the Charlotte District

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Dear Clergy Friends in Faith,

On behalf of the District Clergy Servant Team, you are invited to the annual "Clergy Welcome Gathering", **Tuesday, July 25, 2006 at 6:30 PM**. The event will be held at Simpson-Gillespie United Methodist Church (see attached directions).

This will be a time for us to extend a warm welcome to our new clergy and their families. This will also be a great opportunity for us to visit with one another and renew the ties that bind us together in ministry. New clergy officers will be introduced. Dress is casual.

Please return the form below **by July 18** so that we can provide the caterer with an accurate head count. The cost is \$10 per person and \$4 per child 10 and under. Newly appointed clergy and their families are our guests, so there is no charge for these whom we honor.

I look forward to seeing you on July 25th.

*Jim*

Jim Humphries  
District Clergy President 2006-07



**Return to: Charlotte District UMC Office**  
**4108 Park Road, Suite 101, Charlotte, NC 28209-2259**  
**Phone: 704-525-3395**

(Make check payable to Charlotte District Methodist Fund – Return by July 18)

**GATHERING**

Name of Pastor: \_\_\_\_\_ Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of family members who will attend: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Total number in your family (or party)\*: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you newly appointed to the District? \_\_\_\_\_ (If "yes" there is no charge to you)

Amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_ (\$10 per person/\$4 children 10 and under)

(\*If you are single, you may invite a guest at no charge.)

## Upcoming Clergy Events

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Tues., July 25, 2006	Welcome-New Beginnings, 6:30 p.m. Location: Simpson-Gillespie UMC, 3545 Beatties Ford Rd., Charlotte
Wednes., Sept. 6, 2006	District Clergy Fellowship, Dilworth UMC, 9:30 a.m., lunch follows <u>Educational Experience</u> : Dr. Greg Jones, Duke Divinity Topic: Resurrecting Excellence
Thurs., Nov. 2, 2006	District Clergy Fellowship, Dilworth UMC, 9:30 a.m. <u>Worship Experience &amp; Communion</u> (Worship in the Chapel, lunch in the fellowship hall)
Thurs, Dec. 7, 2006	Clergy Christmas Gathering, 6:30 p.m. Assurance UMC, 9700 Mt. Holly-Huntersville Rd., Huntersville
Thurs., Jan. 4, 2007	District Clergy Fellowship, Bethlehem Center, 9:30 a.m. <u>Educational Experience followed by lunch</u>
Thurs., Mar. 1, 2007	Clergy Session of Spring Seminar, Myers Park UMC (Jubilee Hall), 1501 Queens Road, Charlotte, 9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. Dr. Kennon L. Callahan, National Institute for Church Planning & Consultation (additional details will be mailed in December 2006)
Thurs., May 17, 2007	Clergy Farewell Dinner, Cole Memorial UMC, 2022 W. Sugar Creek Rd., Charlotte, 6:30 p.m.

Please note that the majority of our District Clergy Meetings will be held at Dilworth UMC, 605 East Blvd., Charlotte, NC 28203 (Tel: 704-333-4173). Our gathering time will be from 9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. followed by our meeting. We greatly appreciate Dilworth's willingness to host these meetings. This location is near many of our major hospitals.

### District Clergy Officers

President	Jim Humphries (Christ)	8020 Belhaven Blvd. Charlotte, NC 28216	704-369-8019 (O)
Vice President	Laurie Hale (St. Stephen)	6800 Sardis Rd. Charlotte, NC 28270	704-364-1824 (O) 704-537-0431 (R)
Secretary-Publicity	<u>TBA</u>	_____	_____
Treasurer	Hubert Clinard (Hill's Chapel)	2224 Cardinal Loop Stanley, NC 28164	704-827-2421 (R)
Chaplain	Cindy Sloan (Matthews)	325 Meadowbrook Dr. Matthews, NC 28104	704-882-2864 (R)
Supportive Community	Fredrick Bowman (Burge Mem.-Rock Hill)	9026 Shenington Pl. Charlotte, NC 28216	704-393-9026 (O)

**CHARLOTTE DISTRICT FALL 2006**  
**CHURCH/CHARGE CONFERENCE CALENDAR**

Date/Time	Charges	Paperwork Due in District Office
Oct. 1, Sun. 3 pm	*Hill's Chapel, New Covenant, Burge Mem.-Rock Hill, New Hope	Sept. 21
Oct. 1, Sun. 7 pm	*Simpson-Gillespie, Pleasant Grove, Cole Memorial, Oak Grove, Trinity	Sept. 21
Oct. 3, Tues. 7 pm	*Light of Christ, Victory Native American	Sept. 22
Oct. 5, Thurs. 7 pm	*Dilworth, Grace, Calvary, St. Paul, Mouzon	Sept. 25
Oct. 8, Sun. 3 pm	*Central, Blair Road, Memorial, Agua de Vida	Sept. 27
Oct. 8, Sun. 7 pm	*Cokesbury, St. Francis	Sept. 27
Oct. 12, Thurs. 7 pm	*Matthews, Wesley	Sept. 29
Oct. 15, Sun. 7 pm	*Hickory Grove, First Hmong	Oct. 3
Oct. 22, Sun. 4 pm	*Salem, Tucker's Grove, New Hope, Webb's Chapel, Fairfield-Lebanon, Denver, Bethel, Brevard's Chapel	Oct. 10
Oct. 24, Tues. 7 pm	*Mt. Zion, Hunter's Chapel, Ghana Mission	Oct. 12
Oct. 29, Sun. 3 pm	*Covenant, Big Spring-Purcell, St. Mark's	Oct. 17
Oct. 29, Sun. 7 pm	*Thrift, Christ, Moore's Chapel, Homestead	Oct. 17
Oct. 30, Mon. 7 pm	*Sharon	Oct. 18
Nov. 5, Sun. 3 pm	*Pineville, Harrison	Oct. 24
Nov. 5, Sun. 7 pm	*St. Andrews, Aldersgate, Morningstar	Oct. 24
Nov. 7, Tues. 7 pm	*Plaza, Ebenezer	Oct. 26
Nov. 9, Thurs. 7 pm	*Zoar, Good Shepherd	Oct. 30
Nov. 12, Sun. 3 pm	*Huntersville, Assurance, Lake Norman, Asbury	Nov. 2
Nov. 12, Sun. 7 pm	*Davidson, Fair View	Nov. 2
Nov. 13, Mon. 7 pm	*Myers Park, South Tryon Community	Nov. 3
Nov. 16, Thurs. 7 pm	*University City, Greater Vision Mission, New Church Start (J. Copley, pastor)	Nov. 6
Nov. 19, Sun. 3 pm	*Hawthorne Lane, Commonwealth, St. Luke, First, Cambodian Mission	Nov. 8
Nov. 19, Sun. 7 pm	*Spencer Memorial-St. James, St. Stephen	Nov. 8
Nov. 20, Mon. 7 pm	*Providence, St. John's	Nov. 9
Nov. 26, Sun. 3 pm	*Concord:Central (courtesy Charge Conference)	Nov. 16

6/22/06

Note: \* indicates host location.

Additional Information will be mailed to the pastors in late summer regarding preparation.



**To: Pastors, Staff, and Laity**

From: Reverend Bev Copley, Charlotte District Evangelism and Discipleship Coach

Re: *Learning Module Coming to Your Area – Sunday, July 30, 3-5 pm*  
*Teaching the Congregation About Spiritual Gifts: The MAGI Method*

I hope your time at Annual Conference was both restful and inspiring, and that you are now in the midst of a summer schedule that will lead to a great fall season for your churches. I am delighted to announce a learning module that will take place at **Grace UMC** (737 E. Woodlawn Rd., Charlotte) on Sunday, July 30 from 3-5 pm. Pastor Sheila Ferrell Bishop and congregation will be hosting us. **Rev. Judi Hunt, of the Matthews United Methodist Church**, will be our facilitator and her topic will be **Teaching the Congregation About Spiritual Gifts: the MAGI Method**. Many of you have been asking for a localized module on Spiritual Gifts, and Judi is a great teacher with a proven track record for equipping the saints for the work of ministry in their areas of giftedness and passion. We look forward to using Judi on many occasions, and this will be her debut in this role in the Charlotte District.

This event is for: Pastors, Staff Members, Church Council Members, Committees on Lay Leadership (Nominations), Age-Level Ministries Leaders in Need of Recruiting Tools.

These events will always be RSVP events, so that we can know you are coming in order to have appropriate handouts available. Please let us know the (approximate) number of folks in your church who will be in attendance. Please RSVP to Rev. Judi Hunt at [judi@matthewsumc.org](mailto:judi@matthewsumc.org) **no later than Monday, July 24**. She will be giving you the tools you need to recruit by gifts, reduce burnout in your local church, and watch people grow in their faith. As always, e-mail me with any questions at [bcopley@ucumc.org](mailto:bcopley@ucumc.org), and we hope this module will be helpful for you all.

### 2006 WNCC Journal

Orders for the 2006 WNCC Journal are now being received in the conference secretary's office. The 2006 volume will contain the "proceedings" of the 2006 session (addresses, appointments, minutes, reports, etc.) and the statistical tables for 2005. Cost is \$20 for a printed book and \$10 for a compact disc (.pdf files). The journal will also be posted on the Internet. Persons wishing to order a book and/or a disc should send a check, made payable to WNC Conference Treasurer, to Mrs. Sandra S. Hargett, P.O. Box 18005, Charlotte, NC 28218 no later than August 2. While orders will be accepted after that date, delivery can be guaranteed only for orders received on time.

### Job Opportunity

St Andrew's Pre-school Director, Part-time (30 hours/week)

Position requires a person with a four year degree and a minimum of 3-5 years experience in a pre-school setting. Must have finance and human resource experience to manage people and resources efficiently and graciously, be proficient with Quick Books, MS Word, Publisher and internet. Send resumes to Maggie Patton, 5322 Farmbrook Drive, Charlotte, NC 28210-2944, Attn: St. Andrew's Pre-school. Tel: 704-523-4165.

### ESL Outreach

SIM's Ethnic Focus Ministry is offering an English as a Second Language Tutor Training Workshop on September 29th and 30th at Good Shepherd United Methodist Church on Moss Road in Charlotte. The ten-hour workshop features specialized instruction in Teaching English as a Second Language designed specifically for laypersons. It includes an emphasis on starting an ESL outreach in a church and how to effectively witness in the relationships that result from such an outreach. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Dorothy Chang, ESL Tutor Training Coordinator, SIM Ethnic Focus Ministry at (704) 587-1544 or Dorothy.Chang@sim.org.

George E. Thompson, District Superintendent  
DeEtta Rivens, Administrative Assistant  
Website: [www.chardist.org](http://www.chardist.org) E-mail: [chardist@bellsouth.net](mailto:chardist@bellsouth.net)

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