

June 9, 2006

Electronic
Newsletter



Charlotte District

E-Connections



New Beginnings

On June 27th many clergy families across our conference will begin the process of starting a new life and ministry in a new place. As we express well wishes and deep appreciation for those clergy and families who are moving, we take this opportunity to welcome families who will be moving into or within the Charlotte District (see page 2). We ask each of you to be in prayer for these families during this period of transition.

Our District Clergy Servant Team extends an invitation to every clergy family in our district to join the welcome gathering on Tuesday, July 25th at 6:30 p.m. The event will be held at Simpson-Gillespie UMC and will honor clergy and their families newly appointed to the Charlotte District. Registration details are in the mail. We look forward to seeing you on July 25th.

~Charlotte District Clergy Servant Team~

In this issue...

- *Page 2 A Time to Say Welcome*
- *Page 3 Outreach Ministries*
- *Page 4-5 Around the Charlotte District*
- *Page 5-6 Events*
- *Page 7 Upcoming Activities*

A Time to Say Welcome...

2006-07 Appointments in the Charlotte District

<u>Church</u>	<u>Incoming Pastor</u>
Asbury	James C. Howard, III
Burge Memorial, Assistant Pastor	Donald R. McCorkle
Brevard's Chapel, Assistant Pastor	Alexander McCorkle
Calvary	Melita B. Padilla
Christ	James E. Humphries
Denver, Associate Pastor	Stephen G. Knopp, II
Dilworth	Benjamin F. Devoid
Duncan Memorial (1/2 time)	Angela D. Burris
Fair View, Senior Pastor	Patrick S. Hamrick
Fair View, Associate Pastor (1/2 time)	Laura S. Hamrick
First Hmong (1/4 time)	Tou-Chao Her
Good Shepherd, Assistant Pastor	Richard B. Tuttle
Hawthorne Lane, Assistant	Robert B. Arnold
Matthews, Associate Pastor for Congregational Care/Senior Adult	Paul A. Craig, Jr.
Matthews, Associate Pastor for Discipleship/Middle Adult	Dawn M. Hand
Matthews, Associate Pastor of Evangelism & Leadership Development	Judi F. Hunt
Mt. Zion, Associate Pastor	Timothy A. Reimer
Mouzon	Lisa L. Wishon
New Church Start	Jeffrey T. Copley
Pineville	J. Thomas Stinson-Wesley
Pleasant Grove	Rex L. Gibbs
St. Francis, Senior Pastor	Mark D. Evans
St. Francis, Assistant Pastor for Korean Ministry	Benjamin K. Lee
St. Paul	Dewey W. Smith
Webb's Chapel	Eric A. Reece
Wesley, Assistant Pastor	Thomas Faughn
Zoar	Robert D. Roten

Appointed to extension ministries beyond the local church:

Chaplain, Carolinas Medical	Friday Okocha
Chaplain, Trinity Episcopal School	Jacob Golden
Community Minister, Duke University Chapel	Abby Kocher
Addiction Specialist/Group Facilitator, Dilworth Treatment Center	Cindy Sloan

2006-07 Clergy Officers

President	James "Jim" Humphries (Christ)
Vice-President	Laurie Hale (St. Stephen Assoc.)
Secretary-Publicity	TBA
Treasurer	Hubert Clinard (Hill's Chapel)
Worship Coordinator	William "Bill" Englebreth (Moore's Chapel)
Chaplain	Cindy Sloan (Matthews)
Supportive Community	Fredrick Bowman (Burge Memorial-Rock Hill)

Outreach Ministries...



One of the most meaningful and successful ministries initiated while I was pastor at Providence UMC was Disciple Bible Outreach Ministries—a mission of compassion to the incarcerated. Several members listened to a presentation by Rev. Mark Hicks, executive director of the program. At that time, these laity had participated in each of the four phases of instruction and group experience that were currently available. Some had served as a group facilitator. After beginning a group in one of the prisons, Mike Smith said, “George, you can count on me in this ministry from now on. This stuff is life-transforming.”

Mike will join with me in promoting this compelling ministry opportunity. Packets for instruction and promotion are currently available in the district office for all 78 of our congregations. Make sure that someone from your church picks up this resource soon after Annual Conference. These contain bulletin inserts, envelopes for receiving an offering, and vital information. **On Sunday August 27th, the NCC and WNCC will celebrate Disciple Bible Outreach Ministries Giving Sunday.** The volume of materials for distribution is based upon the church’s average worship attendance. In addition, copies of a 4 minute promotional DVD that can be shown by the churches will be available through our district office. (This DVD can also be downloaded from the DBOM website after annual conference at www.disciplebibleoutreach.org.) Elevate this exciting opportunity that invites us to respond to the incognito Christ’s voice, “I was in prison and you visited me.”

Summer is an excellent time for our churches to enroll participants in Disciple Bible groups. Free training events will be offered each district in 2007-2009 for those churches that have not been introduced to this fabulous resource. Bishop McCleskey has articulated the goal of making Disciple Bible groups available to every congregation in the Annual Conference. Cost will no longer be a factor for our smaller churches due to the one-day workshops that will soon be coming to Charlotte. Use these summer days to recruit for the groups that will begin by September. I do not know of a single church engaged in Disciple Bible small group experience that has not received an abundant blessing.

Since my first appointment on a three-point charge in Union County, I have participated directly or indirectly in prison ministry. One of our overlooked opportunities for evangelism in the Wesleyan spirit is among the families of prisoners. According to the latest statistics from the U.S. Department of Justice, more than 2 million men and women are behind bars in this country! The families of the incarcerated are among the most spiritually needy in our midst.

Churches can become involved in mentoring children within these families. The **Amachi Mentoring Project** is funded by grants from the Federal Health and Human Services Agency and Big Brothers and Big Sisters of America. This is truly a successful faith-based program in which government and church effectively partner. When churches have been involved in mentoring children of incarcerated parents through the Amachi program, youth violence has been reduced sharply. Each volunteer agrees to meet with his or her child for a minimum of 2-4 times per month. This is a great outreach opportunity for our United Methodist Men and UM Women groups. Some 20 congregations of various denominations are currently involved in Mecklenburg County. If you would like to learn more about this potential outreach mission, contact **Andrea Adams** at 704-377-3963.

Grace and peace,

George

George Thompson
Charlotte District Superintendent

Parish Nurse Ministries

Please inform the Charlotte District Office (chardist@bellsouth.net) if your congregation has an active parish nurse ministry or wishes to begin one. The WNC Conference offers training opportunities for those who wish to enter into this vital form of congregational care.



Around the Charlotte District...

Beeson Scholarship



We congratulate Rev. Jim Martin, pastor of Mouzon UMC, for his selection to participate in Asbury Theological Seminary's Beeson Scholarship Program. For 11 months, beginning in July, he will have an opportunity to get some of the best training in preaching and church leadership from some of the most outstanding national and global church leaders and preachers. The overall focus of the program is developing future pastors and visionary leaders from a variety of denominations. Each Beeson pastor can focus on one of four areas: (1) new church starts, (2) the rebuilding of churches, (3) international ministries (4) or perpetuating and growing strong ministries. After these eleven months, Jim will have 5 years to write and defend a dissertation in order to receive a D.Min.

District Lay Leader



Richard "Rick" Moore

Rick Moore, our Charlotte District Lay Leader, is seen here presiding over his final Laity Council meeting last month. He has been very instrumental in planning each of our rallies at Rock Springs Camp Meeting, the Laity Recognition Banquets, and the administrative aspects of our spring seminars. He will be succeeded by Mary Lou Roller, a member of Providence UMC.



Mary Lou Roller

Ison Leaves the Charlotte District

Our condolences to **Duke Ison** who will soon be leaving the beatific environment of parish bliss in order to serve as district superintendent of the Greensboro District. During this spring he endured the agony of maintaining his role as pastor of Dilworth UMC and attending all the Cabinet sessions. He is seen here in the Goodson Chapel at Duke University where the two Cabinets of North Carolina Methodism met in order to discuss creative ways in which we shall strengthen the rural church. This is the only known photo of Duke at Duke University.



A New Educational Building

This month Harrison UMC opened its new educational building on its expanding campus. This is the oldest of our Methodist churches in the district and also one of the fastest growing in membership and attendance. Congratulations to the Building Committee, the congregation, and the extraordinary pastoral/ministry staff.



Around the Charlotte District...

...for you are all one in Christ Jesus

At Good Shepherd many languages are spoken by guests and members. Here head-phones, like the ones used at the United Nations, have been installed for those who speak in Spanish. No wonder the attendance is now averaging 1,200. The picture at the right is a large world map mural located in the lobby of Good Shepherd's Worship Center. The words from Philippians 2:11, "Jesus is Lord", appears seventeen times in seventeen languages.



Pfeiffer University Commencement Exercises



Our District Superintendent, as Pfeiffer University's Chair of the Board of Trustees, had the privilege of introducing North Carolina Supreme Court Justice, Sarah Parker, at Commencement exercises on May 13th.

Events around the Conference and General Church

Harambee Goes to the Beach – June 28-July 2

Youth and their leaders will gather at Bethune-Cookman College in Daytona Beach, Florida from June 28-July 2 for Harambee. This spiritual conference is designed to help youth develop spiritual, leadership and interpersonal skills, develop relationships, connect with each other and learn how to bridge the gap between generations. The event is sponsored by the SEJ Black Methodist Church Renewal, Inc. Registration deadline is May 22. Contact Dawn Hand, dhand@wnccumc.org for details. Get the brochure and registration form at <http://www.wnccumc.org/yth/harambee.htm>.

Duke Youth Academy – July 9-22

This is a two-week summer program for selected high school students to live in an intentional Christian community on the Duke University campus in Durham. It is an intensive encounter with Christian life. For more information, go to www.duyouth.duke.edu.

Keeping Sabbath Ministers' Conference 2006 – July 10-14

Your life is in danger! If you have fallen prey to the violence that busyness and overwork can cause to our bodies and spirits, you need to come away to the mountains to find the life renewing balance God built into the very fabric of creation. Come and experience Sabbath! The purpose of Ministers' Conference is to offer clergy opportunities for renewal through inspiration, learning and fellowship Platform Leaders: Rev. Wayne Muller and Billie Fidin. Evening Worship Speakers: Monday: Bishop Hope Ward; Tuesday: Bishop Will Willimon; and Thursday: Bishop Al Gwinn. Register on-line at www.sejumc.org.

Events around the Conference and General Church

School of Christian Mission
United Methodist Women, Western North Carolina Conference
“Harvesting Peace”

July 13-16, 2006
Greensboro College, Greensboro, North Carolina
Spiritual Growth Study: Shalom-Salaam-Peace: Peace in the Bible and in Our Time
Geographic Study: India/Pakistan
General Issue Study: Globalization: Its Impact on People’s Lives
Registration Deadline: June 23, 2006 www.gbgm-umc.org/wncumw

10 Ministry Tracks Offered at School of Congregational Development – August 3-8

Pastors, church teams and laity may choose from 10 ministry tracks at the UMC School of Congregational Development. Offerings include new church development, turning around, multi-site congregations, multi-ethnic/multi-cultural churches, and much more. Sponsored by the General Board of Global Ministries and the General Board of Discipleship, this dynamic event is being hosted in San Diego in the California-Pacific Conference. Registration deadline: July 7. Read about these exciting ministry tracks, the distinguished leaders and registration details at <http://www.newchurchUMC.org>.

2006 Gathering of the Laity – August 18-20

The laity are set to meet for the annual Gathering of the Laity, August 18-20 at the Lake Junaluska Assembly. This year’s theme is "Christ-Centered Transformation." Featured speakers are Dr. Ellsworth Kalas, Rev. Roger Hunter, Dr. James Howell, Rev. Janet Wolfe, and Rev. Barbara Brokhoff. All laity are invited to attend. The brochure and registration form is available at <http://www.wnccumc.org/gol/gathering.htm>.

Beginning Pastors Seminar—August 21-22 and October 3

Part 2 of the beginning pastors seminar, “The Art of the Start”, continues August 21-22 at the Terrace Hotel, Lake Junaluska. Part 3 will be held on October 3 at the Conference Memorial Center, Charlotte. These seminars are for all clergy who are beginning their ministry in the Western North Carolina Conference. Contact Reverend Keith Bingham (mumcketh@carolina.rr.com; 704-537-2060) for registration information.

Exploration 2006 – November 17-18

This is an event for high school seniors through age 24 considering ordained ministry in The United Methodist Church, held in Jacksonville, Florida. For more information, go to www.jbhem.org/exploration.

Soul Tending

In your congregation, do you provide the time, the support and the opportunities for the “shepherds”, both clergy and laity, to be tended spiritually? All leaders need time apart to be renewed and refilled with the Spirit. Leaders cannot give to others what they do not have. Find out more at <http://www.wnccumc.org/ced/soultending.htm>.

Local Church News

Go to <http://www.wnccumc.org/nws/localchurches.htm> if you would like to submit an article that may be of interest to the wider community in the Western North Carolina Conference.

Upcoming...

June 8-11	Western NC Conference, Lake Junaluska
June 16-17/17-18	UMW Spiritual Growth Retreats, Lake Junaluska
June 20	UMW District Officers Mission Team, Providence UMC, 7 p.m.
June 20	Bishops' Initiative March for Children to the State Capitol, Raleigh
June 27	Clergy Move Day
July 2	First Sunday in pulpit for Incoming Clergy
July 10-14	Ministers' Week, Lake Junaluska
July 11	UMC Youth Night at Lowe's Motor Speedway
July 13-16	UM School of Christian Mission, Greensboro College
July 30	Splash! Emerald Pointe, Greensboro
July Date TBA	Charlotte District Clergy Family Welcome Gathering
August 18-20	A Gathering of the Laity, Lake Junaluska & SpiritUs (Part 1) Oak Island
August 26	UMW District Annual Meeting, Davidson UMC, 9:00 a.m.
August 25-27	SpiritUs (Part 2) Oak Island

George E. Thompson, District Superintendent
DeEtta Rivens, Administrative Assistant
Website: www.chardist.org E-mail: chardist@bellsouth.net

Charlotte District
Western NC Conference
4108 Park Road, Suite 101
Charlotte, NC 28209-2259
Ofc 704-525-3395—Fax 704-525-4238