



District Connections

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May, 2003

Letter From UMCOR About Iraq

Dear Friends:

The United Methodist Church through UMCOR is actively involved with our ecumenical partners in responding to the humanitarian needs of the Iraqi people. Decisions and actions by the leadership of Iraq as well as external forces have caused the people great hardship. Now that war has begun, the situation is even more grave. One major problem is that there are no longer any United Nations staff available to administer the Food for Oil program on which 60% of the population depended for food. The great majority of women and children are at risk.

Before the conflict began, our United Methodist leadership spoke out about the added human and relationship consequences of war. The bishops of the church hoped for and asked for an opportunity to meet directly with the President to discuss the issues. There was no response from the White House. Many other means have been used to let our leaders and the world know about our denomination's social and theological policies about war.

I write now to let you know that since the war is bringing even more hardship on our brothers and sisters, the Iraqi people, we are redoubling our resolve and our commitment to meet some of their needs. The areas of work in which UMCOR is likely to be engaged through our partners will be pediatric and maternal health care, general health care, food and shelter. UMCOR is already engaged by providing one of the three staff for the Amman, Jordan communications capacity for all the denominations of the World Council Of Churches and the Lutheran World Federation. The churches of the world, and their humanitarian agencies, need direct and unfiltered information on which to plan their humanitarian responses. The ecumenical partnership with which we work has organized its efforts specifically to respond to this emergency. While work among the ordinary Iraqi people has never been easy, the problems of increased security and safety measures make it even more difficult. We are glad to be carrying out this mission with ecumenical partners so that our combined experience in this situation can serve all of us, especially those most in need.

Among those in need of our prayers and support are also, of course, the men and women of our Armed Forces who are now commanded to carry the battle in the name of our country. The church will continue to offer support to them and admonish our people to hold them, too, in our prayers.

We know from past experience that the rebuilding of lives and support systems as well as providing basic needs of the Iraqi people will be a long and arduous process. We are committed to being there not only in the present situation but for months and years in the future. You can help provide that presence by your earnest prayers and your generous gifts to the Iraq Emergency Advance, #623225-4. Thank you for your response to this and the many needs of our neighbors near and far.

Gratefully,

Paul Dirdak, Deputy General Secretary, United Methodist Committee on Relief

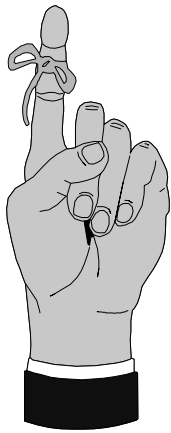
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**Hear an inspiring message @**

[www.andiesisle.com/If-I-Die-Before-You-Wake.html](http://www.andiesisle.com/If-I-Die-Before-You-Wake.html)

### Highlights

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## REMINDER TO PASTORS

If the principal lay member who was elected by your charge conference will not attend the 2003 Annual Conference and will be replaced by someone else, please notify the District Office immediately. Remember: If someone other than the principal or reserve(s) elected by the charge conference will attend, you must have a meeting of your Church Council or Administrative Board to elect an alternate person(s). Lay members representing local charges who attend Annual Conference without certification from the District Superintendent to the conference secretary will experience delays in registration while proper certification is researched.

**The 2002 Conference Journal Volume II** has arrived. Please make arrangements for someone to pick up your copies from the District Office.

### WNC Annual Conference 2003 PRE-CONFERENCE BRIEFING SESSION Charlotte & Statesville Districts

A pre-conference briefing session will be held on Sunday, May 18, 2003, at Mouzon UMC, 3100 Selwyn Avenue, Charlotte, NC at 3:00 pm. Conference Treasurer, Bill Wyman, will lead the session.

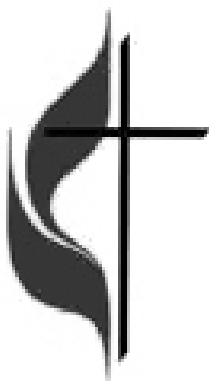
All clergy and lay members who will attend the 2003 Annual Conference should be present.

See you there!

Directions: I-77 to Exit 6A (Woodlawn Rd./Queens College). Continue approximately 3.5 miles to intersection of Selwyn Ave. and Woodlawn Rd. Mouzon is located on the right at the intersection.



## DISTRICT LAITY BANQUET/LAITY SERVICE AWARD



This year's District Laity Banquet will be held on May 15, at First UMC, 501 N. Tryon Street, Charlotte, NC at 7:00 pm. Carol Bradley will be the guest speaker.

The Laity Service Award is given to a lay person within a local church whom the church wants to honor in a special way for his/her contributions. Recipients will receive a certificate honoring their contributions at the District Laity Banquet. He/she will also receive a special pin at the "Gathering of the Laity" in August, at Lake Junaluska.

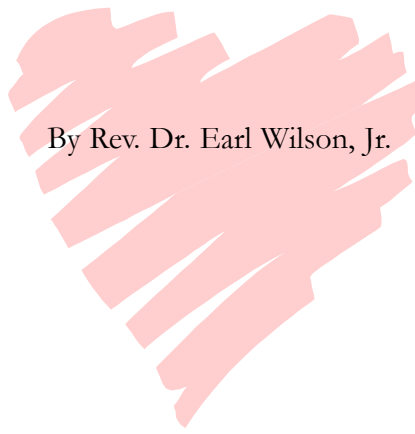
All churches are urged to participate in this special way of honoring our laity who diligently serve God in their local church. Advance reservations are required. Please contact your local church lay leader or the District Office to obtain reservation information.

***"Called to Serve"***

## TREASURES OF THE HEART

We continue to live in a strange time of immense and diverse uncertainty. This is especially true regarding the status of our national economy. What impact will the financial market have on the economy within the church and the local and connectional ministries supported by annual pledges and budgets?

This is unquestionably not the kind of question Jesus had in mind when he oftentimes talked about matters of money and the heart. *“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”* This was his way of talking about stewardship, and the significance of putting the really important matters of life and faith



By Rev. Dr. Earl Wilson, Jr.

in proper perspective. We are not called to be successful, but to be faithful.

I take this opportunity to encourage each of our churches and pastors to give attention to their apportionment faith goal commitments for 2003 and the status of these commitments to date. The Conference Treasurer Office’s March report indicates

that 25 of the Charlotte District churches have paid nothing toward their apportionment acceptances, and 21 of these churches have paid nothing toward their insurance apportionments. Please take time now to evaluate the progress your church is making with its apportionments as we approach the end of the first quarter of the year.

Yes, we are impacted by the economy of the world around us. However, in God’s economy, it is not our finances or bank accounts that God blesses, but rather God blesses our faithfulness.

**“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”**  
(Matt. 6:21)

## SEASONS OF CHANGE AND TRANSITION

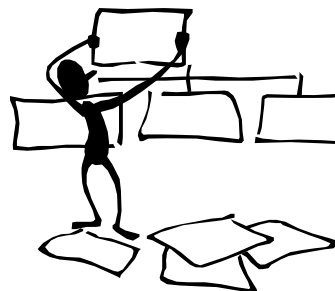
I have discovered that the older I get, the less I like change. In the words of Thomas Carlyle, “Change, indeed, is painful, yet ever needful.” Nevertheless, life is constantly changing around us whether we notice it or not.

This is especially a season of change and transition for the Charlotte District churches, pastors and families, who will be involved in the 2003 appointment changes that will be made at this year’s Annual Conference. My heart, prayers, and thoughts are with these pastors, their families, and the churches.

As I come to the close of my tenure as District Superintendent of the Charlotte District, I take this opportunity to thank the churches, pastors, and lay leadership of the district for their faithfulness, support and leadership over the past eight years. Doris and I will truly miss and treasure in our hearts the wonderful friendships we have made and the district we have come

to love.

Moving Day is set for Tuesday, June 24, which is the big day of transition for churches, pastors, and district superintendents. The Charlotte District will be blessed with the outstanding visionary leadership of Dr. George E. Thompson, who is completing his sixth year as senior pastor of Providence United Methodist Church. A more formal and fitting welcome to George and Pat Thompson will appear in the next edition of **District Connections**.



In this season of change and transition, I invite us to let our hearts and lives be guided by these poignant words, **“Don’t worry about the future. God is already there.”**

by Rev. Dr. Earl Wilson, Jr.

## Opportunities to Serve

**Cole Memorial United Methodist Church** is seeking an enthusiastic, creative **Director** for their new Preschool to open in the Fall of 2003.

Director will be responsible for implementing a program that demonstrates and teaches the love of God to preschool age children. Applicants must have a Bachelor's Degree, a minimum two years experience working with children in a group setting, and a minimum two years administrative experience in a group care setting. Preference will be given to individuals with a degree in early childhood education, child development, or a related field. Strong oral and written communication skills are also required.

Interested candidates should contact Reverend Hal Peacock at 704-596-2356. References required.



**Fair View UMC** in Mount Mourne, NC (Mooresville area) is looking for a **part time organist**.

If you know of possible persons, please have him/her to call 704 664-2880 for more information and the job description.

Resumes or letters of interest can be addressed to Mr. Jeff Richardson, PPRC Chairperson, P.O. Box 27, Mount Mourne, NC 28123.

## “SMILE A WHILE!!”

- Some people are kind, polite, and sweet-spirited until you try to sit in their pews.
- Many folks want to serve God, but only as advisers.
- The good Lord didn't create anything without a purpose, but mosquitoes, slugs and roaches come close.
- When you get to your wit's end, you'll find God lives there.
- People are funny, they want the front of the bus, the middle of the road, and the back of the church.
- Opportunity may knock once, but temptation bangs on your front door forever.
- Quit griping about your church; if it was perfect, you couldn't belong.
- If your church wants a better pastor, you only need to pray for the one you have.
- Not only are the sins of the fathers visited upon the children, but nowadays, the sins of the children are visited upon the fathers.
- God Himself does not propose to judge a man until he is dead. So why do we?
- Some minds are like concrete, thoroughly mixed up and permanently set.
- Peace starts with a smile.
- I don't know why some people change churches; what difference does it make which one you stay home from?
- We were called to be witnesses, not lawyers or judges.

**Free admission** to the Wachovia Championship PGA Golf Tournament at Quail Hollow Country Club, May 5-11, 2003 in Charlotte. **Simply Volunteer!**

1. To sign up to get your shift to work go to [www.justswimmac.org](http://www.justswimmac.org) and CLICK ON THE GOLF BALL.
2. Then click on SIGN UP.
3. Under ORGANIZATION, (THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT!!!), click on BETHLEHEM CENTER.
4. Then **pass this message** to all the people you think might be interested.

## DISTRICT WEBMASTER WANTED!!

Needs to be able to work at the direction of the District Committee on Communications and at a self-directed pace.

This is a VOLUNTEER position!

Call 704-525-3395, if interested.

## CLERGY PARTNERS CONFERENCE EVENTS

Western North Carolina

Coffee gathering to honor the spouses of retiring clergy,  
Friday, June 6 at 10:00 a.m. in the Terrace Lobby.

Clergy Partners Luncheon - Saturday, June 7 at 12:30 p.m. at First UMC in Waynesville.

The cost is \$10 per person.

The reservation deadline is May 10th. Please contact Barbara George at 704-522-8783.



## Condolences to...



the family of Mrs. "Marge" Dimmick, retired receptionist at the Memorial Center of the WNC Conference, on March 8.

the family of Rev. Duke Ison, pastor of Dilworth UMC in the death of his mother Mrs. Evelyn Mills Ison on Sunday, March 9.

the family of retired pastor Rev. Joe C. Davis whose death occurred on March 29.

the family of Alyson VanAlphen, Charlotte District Office Administrative support person, in the death of her grandmother on April 1.

the family of Rev. Robert C. Peurifoy, pastor of Christ UMC in the death of his father, Mr. Robert E. Peurifoy on April 23.

## In Our Prayers



Reverend Gerald Ramsey, pastor of Purcell and Big Spring UM Churches who had surgery on February 28.

Mrs. Bobbie Phillips, who is recuperating with a fractured arm.

Mrs. Minnie Hunt, wife of Rev. Vance Hunt pastor of Grace UMC during her illness.

Rev. Judah Jones

## Congratulations...



to Mrs. Barbara George who is the proud grandmother of a baby girl.

## 2003 Spring Program Cancelled

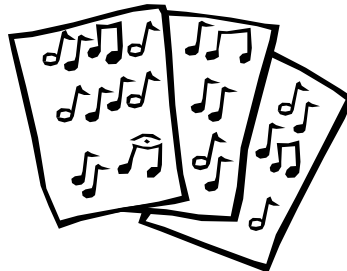
"A Day Apart for the Young at Heart" celebration has been cancelled. Please mark your calendars for May 25, 2004.

Margaret Coltrane: Chair of Older Adult Ministries

OLDER ADULT MINISTRY



- June 12-15** Coliday on five UMC College campuses
- June 19-22** Leading Edge UMY Training
- July 8** UM Youth Night at Lowe's Motor Speedway
- July 23-27** Youth 2003 "Reach Higher, Deeper, Further" - [www.youth2003.org](http://www.youth2003.org)
- July 27** UMYF Splash, Emerald Pointe Water Park, Greensboro
- August 8-10 or 15-17** SpiritUS, Oak Island, NC for rising 7th - 12th grades, Contact: 704.535.2260, ext. 125 for details on these events



## Saturday Night Concerts

Cole Memorial UMC is planning a series of Saturday night outdoor concerts this summer beginning on June 14th. If you have in your church, or are aware of Praise Bands, Gospel Groups, etc. who might be interested in participating, please pass this information along to them. Contact Director of Music Laura Garrett at 704.596.2356 Ext. 19 or by email at [lauramhg@bellsouth.net](mailto:lauramhg@bellsouth.net).

## Calendar of Events

### MAY

- 7 District Committee on Ordained Ministry,  
8:30 a.m. to 12 noon
- 8 Program Ministries Council Meeting (Execu-  
tive Committee), 6:30 p.m. at Providence  
UMC
- 13-15 Cabinet Meeting
- 15 District Laity Banquet, First UMC - Charlotte  
at 7:00 p.m.
- 18 WNC Conference Pre-Briefing Session,  
Mouzon UMC at 3:00 p.m.
- 19 District Laity Council Meeting, Charlotte  
District Office, 7:00 p.m.
- 22 A Celebration of New Beginnings (Clergy  
Farewell), University City UMC, 6:30 p.m.

### JUNE

- 5-8 WNC Annual conference at Lake Junaluska/  
Charlotte District Office closed
- 13-14 &  
14-15 UMWomen's Spiritual Growth Retreat, Lake  
Junaluska
- 22 District Superintendent Farewell Gathering,  
Providence UMC, 4:00 p.m.

### JULY

- 4 Charlotte District Office closed/Holiday  
Observance
- 10 District Clergy Welcome Gathering at Myers  
Park UMC, 6:30 p.m.
- 17-20 UM Women's School of Christian Mission,  
Greensboro College

### AUGUST

- 15-17 A Gathering of the Laity, Lake Junaluska

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

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