

May 2, 2006

Electronic  
Newsletter



Charlotte District

# E-Connections

## EASTER AT PINEVILLE



Easter Sunday was a glorious, joyful occasion at each of the seventy-eight congregations of the Charlotte District. But, the celebration of our resurrection faith was especially significant on April 16<sup>th</sup> at Pineville UMC as the members made full use of the newly completed Crossroads Center. After several years of planning and a lengthy period of construction, the vision and dreams of a grateful people have become a reality. The total cost of the project was over \$2,250,000—making this the most ambitious building program in the church's history. Even though the building was consecrated on October 30<sup>th</sup>, the congregation is just now experiencing the impact of its utilization through outreach to the community and attraction of new members. Dr. Tom Herin's sermon was entitled, "Faith in the Midst of Fear and Doubt," based upon the narrative of John 20:19-29. Koh Herlong rendered a thoughtful interpretation of Easter joy through liturgical dance. Nine confirmation youth were received by profession of faith, and the entire congregation was invited to sing Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus" at the conclusion of the principle service of worship. Tom, who has served this church for the past thirteen years, delivered his final Easter message in a crowded sanctuary of grateful worshipers. (See appointment projections, page 5 of this edition of *E-Connections*.)

## HAWTHORNE LANE'S OUTREACH TO YOUNG ADULTS

Marvelous things are occurring at Hawthorne Lane UMC through the pastoral leadership of Mary John Dye and Jim Parsons. Due to the influx of many young adult families, this pastoral team has led the church in a renovation project that focused upon the appearance and utility of the nursery and rooms for children. Space for youth ministry is now a high priority for the trustees and program ministry planners. The emphasis of the leadership is clearly upon evangelism and nurture. All the new members are strongly urged to participate in one of the many small group opportunities led by the pastors or able leaders among the laity. Even the Second Sunday of Eastertide was not a "low Sunday," as evidenced by the smile upon the face of the morning preacher (Jim Parsons) pictured here on April 23rd.



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## SHARON UMC: CONNECTING PEOPLE TO LIFE THROUGH JESUS CHRIST

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Sharon UMC is celebrating its fortieth anniversary this year, but the leadership has chosen to spend most of this milestone designation as a time for concentrating upon the future. A visionary group of reflective leaders serving as long-range planners has worked diligently at the task of accessing the vision and mission of the church in light of its original purpose back in 1966. The massive tower and modernistic sanctuary was a statement to the city of Charlotte upon the initial development of what is now South Park with its shopping center and complimentary office buildings and restaurants. The whole area is a magnet of commercial real estate. Sharon UMC, however, is the only church building constructed in this busy district of banks, department stores, and the confluence of a vast array of commerce. It is likely to be the last church to inhabit this pricy real estate.

The membership of Sharon gathered on Saturday, April 22, in order to explore at least eight architectural proposals for the maximum utilization of this uniquely located property. The theme of the “congregational conversation agenda” was evangelism. Earlier this year the Church Council adopted this statement of purpose: *connecting people to life through Jesus Christ*. This will be accomplished as the members *invite, grow and send*. The central question discussed at this informal dialogue session was “How can we, a people called United Methodist, reach outside this congregation and touch a materialistic environment with the Christ-centered message of hope and redemption?” Deborah Nash suggested that the church survey people in the community who do not attend and ask them what Sharon needs to do in order to reach the unchurched.



Pictured here at this session of dialogue and shared vision are Reverend Ken Roth (Senior Pastor), David Rhew (Lay Leader), and Joe Harris (Chairman of Sharon UMC’s Board of Trustees). Joe affirmed the church’s present capital campaign that will finance a major renovation of the existing facility. He reported, “This roof has more leaks than the CIA.” All in attendance were convinced that much more than just the roof will soon be fixed.

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## CAMBODIAN NEW YEAR CELEBRATED BY OUR METHODIST MISSION

On Saturday, April 22, the Cambodian Mission UMC gathered at historic First UMC on North Tryon Street to observe the date of New Year for the people of their homeland. Guests and members were treated to a program of liturgical dance, the generous hospitality of Pastor Sam Om, and superb music produced by the instruments and voices of Cambodian youth who rendered ancient and contemporary sounds of a lovely culture. A delicious meal was served to a packed room of Cambodian United Methodists and their many guests.



**Ms. Nou Kim Sam**, pictured left, is the President of the United Methodist Women for all of Cambodia. She gave a stirring address that spoke to an inter-generational crowd. She made everyone feel pride in the positive impact of our denomination’s providing a place of prominence to women in Cambodia through leadership roles in a progressive, inclusive church.

## CAMBODIAN NEW YEAR CELEBRATED (continued)

**Ms. Esther Gitobu**, pictured in the right, is a member of the Methodist Church of Kenya and a missionary to Cambodia from her native land. Her meaningful work is sponsored by the General Board of Global Missions. She is in North Carolina for a brief visit. Both Kim Sam and Esther Gitobu were guests in the home of Bob and Sandy McGarrah, members of Providence UMC. Sandy is a diaconal minister in the Western North Carolina Conference and has recently traveled to both Kenya and Cambodia.



## PLAZA UMC: GIVING BIRTH TO A NEW CONGREGATION



*Recession of choir and pastors following worship at Plaza UMC, April 30th.*

Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, was an historic moment in the life of Plaza UMC. Senior Pastor, Reverend Percival Reeves, serves on both the Charlotte District and Annual Conference committees on Congregational Development. Using statistical analysis from Percept and other data resources, these planning committees have focused upon certain geographical areas in Mecklenburg County that are experiencing sustained population growth. In the early years of new church development the Western North Carolina Conference experienced some success in a parachute approach to planting new churches. But, in recent years, the new churches that have been planted without a sponsoring church have plateaued or declined in membership after a brief spurt of growth. These committees now advocate the concept of birthing new congregations through the sponsorship of

healthy, dynamic congregations.

Plaza UMC has stepped forward in response to the appeal to find such a parenting church. The Charlotte District Mission Society has authorized the use of funds for leasing property on South Tryon near Westinghouse Boulevard for the initial stage of this evangelical adventure. Percy Reeves will continue his pastorate at Plaza but guide the church toward its outreach in this burgeoning part of Charlotte.

On April 30<sup>th</sup> our District Superintendent, George Thompson, joined worshippers at Plaza and provided insights into this strategy for evangelism in the Charlotte District. Guest preacher was Dr. Nancy Rankin, Conference Director of Congregational Development and Witness.

Her homiletical theme, based upon Jesus' Great Commission in Matthew's gospel, focused upon the question, "What is the purpose of the church?" She stated that, in order to make disciples of all nations and baptize converts, we must first **go**—enter the places where people live and not wait for the unchurched to come to us.

The service was truly an Eastertide celebration with joyous choral anthems, liturgical dance, powerful preaching, and prayer responses at the altar.



*George and Pat Thompson, Percival Reeves, Nancy and Terry Rankin.*

## STATISTICAL HIGHLIGHTS FROM CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

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Four of the five churches that lead the Annual Conference in worship attendance reside in the Charlotte District. According to the statistical reports for 2005, we also have the congregation ranked seventh in this category.

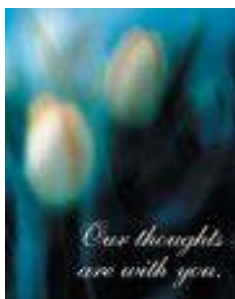
1. Matthews	1,668
2. Christ (Statesville District)	1,469
3. Davidson	1,358
4. Myers Park	1,285
5. Good Shepherd	1,243
6. Weddington (Albemarle District)	1,225
7. University City	1,170

Our district reports four of the top six churches in reporting professions of faith (including both adults and confirmands).

1. Davidson	154
2. Matthews	113
3. Myers Park	104
4. Weddington (Albemarle District)	78
5. Mt. Tabor (Winston-Salem District)	57
6. University City	55

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### CONDOLENCES TO...



- Reverend Johnny Lord (Blair Road Assistant) and family in the passing of his mother, Mrs. Rickey Abele, on Friday, April 28.
- Dr. George Thompson (District Superintendent) and family in the passing of his uncle, Mr. Ed Thompson on Saturday, April 29.
- Dr. James C. Howell (Myers Park) and family in the passing of his step-mother, Mrs. Bonnie Howell, on Tuesday, May 2.

## CHARLOTTE DISTRICT APPOINTMENT PROJECTIONS

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Bishop Lawrence McCleskey and the Cabinet have released the projected appointments for 2006-2007, following two engaging sessions of prayerful and thoughtful consideration. The official setting of appointments will take place at the final service of worship at Lake Junaluska on June 11<sup>th</sup>; so, these projections are subject to possible change. The following projected moves were announced in the services of worship in each of the affected congregations on this past Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup>:

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

We wish a fond farewell and God's blessings to the following as they prepare to move to other appointments.

Greensboro District: District Superintendent	Frank H. (Duke) Ison
Greensboro District: College Place	Thomas J. Herin
Salisbury District: Kannapolis, Bethpage	Kathryn McElveen
Asheville District: Fletcher	Stephen Combs
Marion District: Forest City, First	Wesley K. W. Judy
Marion District: Marion, First	Michael K. Swofford
Gastonia District: Belmont, South Point	Barbara B. Mayo
Greensboro District: Union Memorial	Shirley L. Canty
Gastonia District: Messiah	Paula K. Judy
Gastonia District: Myrtle-Lowell/Smyrna	Cher Lue Vang
Waynesville District: Canton, First	Patricia G. Chaput
TBA	Friday Okocha

## 2006 PAUMCS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

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The 24th Annual Conference of the Professional Association of United Methodist Church Secretaries (PAUMCS) was held April 20-22, in Pasadena, California. More than 225 United Methodist office professionals from this international organization were in attendance. \*Eight participants from the Western NC Chapter attended; Lou Ann Allred (Raleigh District), Wendy Freels (Winston Salem District), Tawnya Gray (NC Conference), Amy Johnson (Winston Salem District), Elizabeth Lookabill (Lexington District), DeEtta Rivens (Charlotte District), Linda Tutterow (Salisbury District), and Landa Wallace (High Point District). The conference theme was *"We're Coming Up Roses"*. Seminar speakers included Kathy Slamp, of Vessel Ministries *"Working for the Church: Rose Garden or Thorny Thicket?"* and Jennifer Waterson, *Implementing a Safe Sanctuaries Program*. The Reverend Sara Armstrong, author of *The Shattered Pearls*, gave an account of her ten years in Africa to help participants discover how to use their strengths and weaknesses in positive ways. Dr. Philip Amerson, President and Professor of Church and Society at Claremont School of Theology, presented a seminar on the holy work of encouragement and hospitality, *"Passing Out Roses When Dandelions Would Do"*.

The PAUMCS Annual Conference provides continuing education and a supportive professional network. The organization, established in 1982 under the General Council on Finance and Administration of the United Methodist Church, fosters individual growth, professional development and spiritual enrichment for its members in the United States, Russia and Africa. PAUMCS membership is open to persons currently or previously engaged in administrative and secretarial work in any local church, extension ministry and/or in any agency of the UMC.



The association promotes and encourages the training and support of UMC secretaries and serves as an advocate for emerging concerns that affect church secretaries. The PAUMCS Institute at the Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia provides outstanding advanced professional training and enrichment for United Methodist Church Secretaries from across the denomination. A participant who completes the program and meets the requirements set forth by the General Council on Finance and Administration is eligible to apply for certification as a Professional United Methodist Church Secretary.

The Western N.C. PAUMCS Chapter was chartered in 1991. To obtain additional information contact DeEtta Rivens at the district office ([chardist@bellsouth.net](mailto:chardist@bellsouth.net), 704-525-3395) or visit [www.paumcs.org](http://www.paumcs.org). Pastors and SPRC Committees are encouraged to support and promote the training of their local church administrative assistants and secretaries in their administrative ministry through PAUMCS.

The 2007 Annual Conference will be held April 12-14, 2007, in Dallas, Texas celebrating the 25th anniversary of PAUMCS.

\*These members also received recognition for renewing their professional certification.



**To: All Charlotte District Pastors and Local UMM Unit Presidents**

Please share this information with the officers of your local UMM or Men's Ministry unit before the next regular meeting of the full body.

- Begin a discussion of this project within the local organization.
- Develop a strategy immediately after Easter for raising money for this project. You will need to consult with Doug Gillis regarding a "fair share" giving toward the total amount needed.
- Begin recruiting workers during the summer for the construction phase which is scheduled for September.

**Charlotte District—United Methodist Men**

**Habitat Home Project**

*Talking Points*

- In 2006 the Charlotte District of the United Methodist Men plans to fund and build a Habitat for Humanity Home working with Charlotte Habitat.
- United Methodist Men's groups and Methodist Men Ministries among churches in the District are asked to take on the project to involve even more people than currently are involved in providing affordable housing for our neighbors.
- The expected construction start date is mid September 2006. A lot has been reserved in the Washington Heights neighborhood which is located west of Beatties Ford Road and north of Brookshire Boulevard.
- Funding in the amount of \$60,000 is required to sponsor the home, with half the amount due six weeks prior to the beginning of construction and the remainder at the start of volunteer work. Churches within the Charlotte District will be asked to help raise the necessary funds, with the giving in addition to contributions normally made to other purposes.
- Construction by church volunteers will be scheduled over 10 Saturdays. Habitat Charlotte will provide a House Leader who will supervise the overall construction. Volunteer Team Leaders and Team Task Leaders for each Saturday's work assignment will come from the District church membership.
- Church members will be asked to handle non-construction activities which would include activities such as leading a Saturday morning prayer, providing the volunteers with water, colas, snacks, and lunch, and taking pictures and writing short articles to chronicle the home build project.
- Dedication of the home would occur in December, 2006

Please contact Doug Gillis, Charlotte District *Habitat Project Coordinator* (Sharon UMC) E-mail: [Dmgillis@aol.com](mailto:Dmgillis@aol.com) ; or Hank Dozier, Charlotte District UMM President (St Mark's UMC) E-mail: [hdozier3@carolina.rr.com](mailto:hdozier3@carolina.rr.com). Phone: 704-532-1070.

## Charlotte District Laity Banquet

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**Charlotte District**  
Western North Carolina Conference  
The United Methodist Church

*www.chardist.org*  
4108 Park Road, Suite 101  
Charlotte, NC 28209-2259

### MEMORANDUM

**To:** Pastors  
Local Church Lay Leaders  
All Lay Speaking Class Participants  
District Laity Council

**From:** Rick Moore, Charlotte District Lay Leader

**Date:** April 24, 2006

**Re:** District Laity Banquet

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You are invited to attend the Charlotte District Laity Banquet on Thursday, May 25, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. at Salem United Methodist Church, 378 North Pilot Knob Road, Denver, NC. The meal is \$10.00 per person and our **deadline for reservations is Friday, May 12, 2006**. Please return the reservation form below along with your check and mail to the Charlotte District Office. The Laity Service Award recipients will be recognized during the banquet. They will be our guests and will receive a separate letter of invitation. Dr. George E. Thompson, our District Superintendent, will present them with a certificate. We will also have special entertainment.

Please advertise this event in your church. All clergy and laity are welcome to attend. We look forward to your presence. As a courtesy to our host church, **reservations must be made no later than May 12 if you wish to be included in the head count for the meal.**

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#### RESERVATION FORM

Laity Banquet – May 25, 2006, 7:00 p.m., Salem UMC, Denver

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Church: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Cost is \$10 per person)

Please make checks payable to "Methodist District Fund" and mark for Laity Banquet. Mail the completed form and check by May 12, 2006 to:

**Charlotte District Office**  
The United Methodist Church  
4108 Park Road, Suite 101  
Charlotte, NC 28209-2259

George E. Thompson, District Superintendent  
Telephone: 704-525-3395

DeEtta Rivens, Administrative Assistant  
Fax: 704-525-4238

## UPCOMING EVENTS/ACTIVITIES

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May 4-7, 2006	UMW Assembly, Anaheim, CA
May 15-17	Cabinet Meeting
May 18	Charlotte District Clergy Farewell Fellowship, Grace UMC, 6:30 pm
May 23-25	Older Adult Education Event, West Market Street UMC, Greensboro
May 25	Charlotte District Laity Banquet, Salem UMC, 7 p.m.
May 29	District Office closed in observance of Memorial Day
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
August 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

You're invited to visit the WNC Conference website calendar ([www.wnccumc.org/cal/calendar.cfm](http://www.wnccumc.org/cal/calendar.cfm)) for upcoming conference related events.

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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