

May 9, 2008

Electronic  
Newsletter



Charlotte District

# E-Connections

## A Greater Vision

*Look Upward*

*Grow Inward*

*Reach Outward*



Pastor Alexis Anthony and the Greater Vision congregation are pleased to announce their new location. On June 1, 2008, Greater Vision will hold its first worship service at 10:00 a.m. in its new facility located at 11901 Eastfield Road, Huntersville, North Carolina 28078. Planted in 2003, Greater Vision's journey from shared locations to Eastfield Road is filled with many stories of personal dedication, determined leadership, generosity, patience and hope.

On January 30, 2008, the Charlotte District Committee on Church Location and Building met at the Eastfield Road site to tour the property and review the financial offer provided by the Eastfield Christian Church to sell its 10.7 acre property. Built in 2000, the site consists of a one story building and a single family residence. The one story building's open design of multi-use areas lends itself well to worship, fellowship opportunities, recreational activities, and sectioning off through the use of partitions for small group gatherings. There are also four rooms which can be utilized in several different ways. Most of the building's contents including musical instruments, sound equipment, kitchen appliances, tables, chairs, and video equipment were included. The residence is currently utilized for office and meeting space. The community is comprised of many new and growing housing developments which will provide evangelism opportunities in the continued growth of Greater Vision.

After a thorough analysis the Charlotte District Committee on Church Location and Building voted to approve of the purchase. Financial support in the form of grants from Conference Council on Congregational Development (\$300,000) and the Charlotte District Mission Society (\$100,000) were approved to assist in the \$1.3 million purchase.

Pastor Anthony says, "We are so blessed to be a part of a connectional system like the United Methodist Church that nurtures and supports its churches. We thank all those churches who have helped to make this possible through the Conference Office of Congregational Development, the District Mission Society and the Charlotte District."

Greater Vision will close on the property on May 30, 2008. This congregation will now have a place to call home for its present and future ministry programs. We celebrate the new beginnings of Greater Vision as they "*look upward, grow inward, reach outward.*"

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## Opportunities to Grow

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### **2008 Annual Clergy Farewell Dinner** **May 27th, St. Mark's UMC, 6:30 pm** **"BREAKING UP IS HARD TO DO"**

Each year we gather as clergy families near the end of the conference year to say "farewell" to all our pastors who are retiring and/or moving on to new appointments outside the Charlotte District. We'll do that again this year – but with an added twist. This year we must also say goodbye to all clergy and their families staying put in their appointments, but moving to the new Lake Norman District. So this will truly be our last opportunity as the current "Charlotte District" to gather as a community. "Breaking up is hard to do." So we'll try to make the separation process as painless as possible; with great food, fellowship, and fun. Please join us at St. Mark's UMC; 917 Clanton Rd., Charlotte. Reservations are in the mail to clergy. *Rev. Jim Humphries, Clergy President, Charlotte District, revjhump@aol.com*

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### **General Conference 2008**

General Conference, which convenes every four years, is the top policy-making body of The United Methodist Church. Church law states that no person or organization except the General Conference has authority to speak officially for the denomination. The conference revises The Book of Discipline (book of church law) and Social Principles and adopts resolutions on current moral, social, public policy and economic issues. It also approves plans and budgets for church-wide programs for the next four years. General Conference was held in Fort Worth, Texas, from **April 23–May 2, 2008**. For more information regarding General Conference decisions visit <http://umcom.org/> and click on the logo.



### **UMCOM Reminds Pastors To Complete Magazine Enrollment**

United Methodist Communications reminds pastors who have not completed and returned the *Interpreter* magazine enrollment form to do so as soon as possible. The form may be completed online at <http://www.umcom.org/subscriptions/>, sent by fax to 615.742.5499, emailed to [csc@umcom.org](mailto:csc@umcom.org) or mailed to United Methodist Communications, Customer Service - Interpreter Enrollment, P.O. Box 440229, Nashville, TN 37244-0229. *(For those enrolling online, contact customer service at 888.346.3862, to obtain the customer number and pass code.)*

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**Lake Junaluska Golf Course**  
**Tuesday, June 3, 2008—2 pm Shotgun Start**  
**Rain or Shine— Supper Provided**  
**Field Limited to first 80 paid participants. Register Now!**

Contact John Ammons, 336-721-7610 or [jammons@tchome.org](mailto:jammons@tchome.org) for an entry form.

## Missions/Outreach

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### Disciple Bible Outreach

On April 5th Providence United Methodist Church hosted a gathering of those who either participate in Disciple Bible Outreach Ministry or persons interested in initiating this vital ministry in their church. Special guests were Bishop Richard Wilke and his wife, Julia, from Kansas-distinguished and prophetic leaders of our denomination and founders of Disciple Bible. Bishop Wilke gave an overview of the pervasive impact of Disciple Bible that is now printed in at least a dozen languages throughout the world and used by many denominations. After a workshop on the outreach ministry into the prison population of North Carolina, Richard and Julia Wilke joined Mark Hicks at a nearby restaurant where many shared from a wealth of stories related to this growing program of prison ministry. Mike Smith, District Director of Prison Ministry and an active participant in the DB Outreach, organized and directed the event. On April 6th, Bishop Wilke preached at two services of worship at Providence UMC and spoke to a large gathering at a Sunday luncheon. Ken Carter and Bill Jeffries, veteran leaders in Disciple Bible, were participants in this week-end of challenge and celebration. *Pictured from left to right: Bishop Richard Wilke, Rev. Bill Jeffries, Rev. Mark Hicks, Dr. Ken Carter and Mr. Mike Smith*



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### UMAR Needs Assistance: Donation of Towels & Wash Cloths

Currently, *all* UMAR group homes are in *serious* need of bath towels, wash cloths, dish towels & dish cloths. Although a towel or wash cloth is a minimal purchase for an individual, it can be quite costly to supply these items for 22 group homes with 6 residents each! New, unused towels & wash cloths will be accepted at the UMAR central office in Huntersville (9800 Kincey Ave., Suite 190), or call 888.862.UMAR to arrange pick-up of donated items. If you would prefer to send a cash donation for UMAR to purchase towels & wash cloths, please mail your contribution to *UMAR, PO Box 1558, Huntersville, NC 28070* and designate "towels & wash cloths" in the memo line of your check.

Thank you in advance for your support of UMAR!

*Ruby Navarro, Church Cultivation Specialist, UMAR [www.UMARinfo.com](http://www.UMARinfo.com) 704-875-1328, Ext. 205*

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### Bethlehem Center Updates

**Summer Day Camp (K-6th grade)** at Bethlehem Center begins June 16 and will run nine weeks from 7:30 a.m.- 3:30 p.m. Volunteers and mentors are needed! We are in need of van/ bus usage to help transport our kids to camp and to field trips.

Help send 125 students to **resident camp** this summer for one week at **Camp Tekoa, Gwynn Valley, Mount Shepherd**. Your help is needed to make this dream a reality for these children. The average cost to send a child to summer resident camp is \$200. We have currently raised \$1,830 on a goal of \$40,000. We also need camp supplies to send with the campers; soap, towels, wash cloths, bug spray, tooth brush, toothpaste, shampoo, stamps, stationery, sun block, etc. Email Karie Barbieri for more details [kbarbieri@bethlehemcenter.org](mailto:kbarbieri@bethlehemcenter.org).

**Bethlehem Center Scholarship Luncheon hosted by Queens University** Help celebrate the Scholarship Recipient Luncheon and awards ceremony on **July 17th**. Recent graduates and past recipients will be honored during a luncheon scheduled at Queens University.

**Carolina Challenge** is a 12 hour dance event designed to inspire, nurture and strengthening the children of Bethlehem Center. We are now recruiting teams for this event to be held **September 6<sup>th</sup>** at First Ward Recreation Center. Cost per participant is \$25.00 (which covers two meals and a t-shirt). Awards will be given to top fundraisers.

**2008 Bethlehem Center Golf Classic** is scheduled for Monday, **September 29<sup>th</sup>**! Sponsors, volunteers and teams are needed.

**Volunteers** Tutors and mentors are needed for all age groups (pre-school-12).

For information on any of these programs please contact Shelley Bratton [sbratton@bethlehemcenter.org](mailto:sbratton@bethlehemcenter.org), Amy Hutchison [ahutchison@bethlehemcenter.org](mailto:ahutchison@bethlehemcenter.org) or Karie Barbieri [kbarbieri@bethlehemcenter.org](mailto:kbarbieri@bethlehemcenter.org). Contact number is 704-375-1417.

# United Methodist Women

On March 8th, 2008, the United Methodist Women of the Charlotte District conducted a prayer breakfast at Pineville UMC's new family life center with the spacious room filled with participants. Pictured here are scenes from the occasion.



*Keynote speaker, Rev. Susan Pillsbury-Taylor and her mother, who is also a United Methodist clergy, at the Pineville event.*



*Vernie Hollifield, president of the UM Women Charlotte District, brought humor and inspiration with her leadership in the program.*



*Great attendance !*

## 2008 Spiritual Growth Retreats

**Theme: *The Rooms of Your Life***

**June 13-14 / 14-15, 2008**

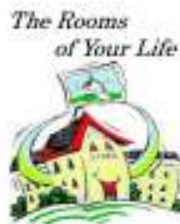
**Lake Junaluska**

*Lake Junaluska Housing Reservation*

*Request Form*

*Registration Information*

*Visit [www.wnccumw.org](http://www.wnccumw.org)*



## 2008 Teen Mission Event

**Theme: *Walking in These***

***White Man Shoes:***

***Youth Explore Native America***

**July 26, 2008**

**Greensboro College**

*Registrations accepted thru June 30, 2008*

*Visit [www.wnccumw.org](http://www.wnccumw.org)*



## 2008 School of Christian Mission

**Theme: *Living the Sacred***

**July 24-27, 2008**

**Greensboro College**

***Mission Studies***

***Hands-on Mission Project***

*Youth Participation Covenant & Consent Forms*

*Teen Women Mission Event- July 26th*

*Registrations accepted thru June 30, 2008*

*Visit [www.wnccumw.org](http://www.wnccumw.org)*



## 2008 Annual Meeting

***A Celebration of United Methodist Women***

**Theme: *Called By Name***

**September 5, 6, & 7, 2008**

**Lake Junaluska**

*Registration information*

*Visit [www.wnccumw.org](http://www.wnccumw.org)*



## Around the Charlotte District

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On March 9-10, 2008, several hundred laity and clergy attended lectures and presentations at the Spring Seminar. Myers Park UMC again served as our gracious host. Here is pictured Dr. Robert Blackburn from the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center. His theme provided great insight into family systems and how they influence conflict in the life of the church.



*Eager youth learn from an authority on John Wesley.*

The First Hmong congregation now has its home at Kilgo UMC. On the week-end of March 7-9, the congregation hosted a gathering of youth for a spring workshop and retreat. Youth came from as far away as Canada, Wisconsin, and other regions of the central north of the US. The event was planned and conducted by the youth. Adults assisted with the logistics, meals and programming. Robert McKeller, a member of Providence UMC, lectured on John Wesley and the impact of early Methodism. Our District Superintendent, George Thompson, joined the group for lunch and guided a discussion of the polity and theology of the modern United Methodist Church. Joseph Vang, son of Rev. Cher Lue Vang, was a key organizer of the program and hospitality.



*Mr. McKeller wrote each person's name in beautiful Calligraphy as a memorable present to our guests from far away and youth of First Hmong.*



*Joseph Vang with lovely friends at the Hmong youth workshop/retreat .*

On April 13th Oak Grove UMC conducted worship at 10:30 a.m. with superintendent George Thompson as the guest preacher. Following the service, Dr. Thompson presided over a charge conference that focused upon the Paragraph 213 study that had been conducted from August, 2007, through April, 2008. The special task force recommended a broad range of proposals that will remission and redirect Oak Grove as the church launches into the Twenty-first Century. A well-crafted power point presentation outlined the extensive scope of recommendations. Mickey Collins, Mike Henderson and Betty Phillips spoke on behalf of the assessment task force. *Pictured here is Rev. Robert Symanski, flanked by two members of the assessment team: Frances Hudson (left) and Joanne Walker (right).*



## Upcoming Events/Activities

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### Clergy Annual Conference Attendance

Clergy in active service are reminded that they are to be present at the June 5-8 session of the Western North Carolina Conference. Active clergy unable to be present should, in accordance with Par. 602.8 of the *Discipline*, "...report by letter [e-mail is fine] to the conference secretary, setting forth the reason for the absence." Please note as well that the same paragraph requires the secretary to report to the Board of Ordained Ministry all active clergy who are absent without a satisfactory reason. Denny White, WNCC Secretary, P.O. Box 18005, Charlotte, NC 28218 or [dwhite@wnccumc.org](mailto:dwhite@wnccumc.org).

### Charge Delegates for Annual Conference

If the principal laity member of the 2008 Annual Conference elected by your Charge Conference will not be attending conference and will be replaced by someone else, please notify the district office immediately if you have not already done so. If someone other than the principal or reserve(s) elected by the Charge Conference will be attending, you must have a meeting of your Church Council (Admin Council/Board) to elect that person. Laity representing local charges who come to conference without having been certified to the conference secretary by the district office will experience delays in registration while proper certification is secured.

- May 17            Stress Reduction, Financial Health Fair, Plaza UMC, 10 am to 2 pm, 704-537-7302
- May 19-20        The Bishop's Ecumenical Dialogue, Catholic Conf. Ctr.-Hickory, designed for laity and clergy
- May 22            District Laity Award Banquet, Salem UMC-Denver, 7 p.m. Registration deadline May 16th  
Contact district office for reservation form 704-525-3395.
- May 26            District Office closed in observance of Memorial Day
- May 27            Clergy Farewell Event, St. Mark's UMC, 6:30 p.m. (note the date change from May 15th)
- June 4            *Day Apart* featuring Professor Elise Eslinger, Central UMC, Clyde, NC  
Registration form available through the District Office, deadline May 28th.
- June 5-8         Western NC Annual Conference of the UMC, Lake Junaluska
- June 6            Coffee honoring the spouses of retiring clergy, 10 a.m. Susan Todd Lounge,  
Harrell Center, Lake Junaluska
- June 7            Western NC Conference Clergy Spouses' Annual Luncheon, First UMC, Waynesville  
Tickets will be sold at Annual Conference outside the Harrell Center, Wednes. thru Fri.  
Contact Anita Edwards at [notjustapw@northstate.net](mailto:notjustapw@northstate.net) for additional info.
- June 8            *God Rocks*, Youth Rally, Denver UMC, 6-8 p.m., call 828-729-0700 for details
- June 24           Clergy Move Day
- June 29           First Sunday in Pulpit for Incoming Clergy
- July 4            District Office closed in observance of Independence Day
- July 6-10         Lake Junaluska Ministry Summit (formerly Ministers Conference). Register by May 20th at  
[www.lakejunaluska.com](http://www.lakejunaluska.com)

## Web Connections

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Visit the Western NC Conference website  
<http://www.wnccumc.org/min/ministries.htm>  
to obtain information about the  
various ministries throughout our Conference.

In search of various Conference publications  
visit <http://www.wnccumc.org/pub/publications.htm>

### E-wnccnews

Subscribe to e-wnccnews, the brief, weekly WNCC e-newsletter, with convenient ministry links. Send your e-mail address to [webministry@wnccumc.org](mailto:webministry@wnccumc.org) with “e-news subscribe” in the subject line. The Conference Center does not share this email list with anyone.

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