

November 30, 2006

Electronic
Newsletter



Charlotte District

E-Connections

Upcoming Charlotte District Spring Seminar

March 1-3, 2007



When we assembled at Lake Junaluska and adopted the seven visionary goals for our Western North Carolina Annual Conference, we provided an unambiguous statement of priorities for each local church. Thus, we have sought to measure our progress in reaching those who are unchurched or disenfranchised from the fellowship of believers. We have continued to nurture discipleship through the spiritual intimacy of small group participation—especially those groups that are Christ-centered, biblically-based, and mission-directed. Congregations throughout the Charlotte District have initiated new ministries with the poor, in accordance with the teachings and example of Jesus. Even though the visionary initiative regarding Africa University has not caught the imagination of all our parishes, some congregations have creatively engaged both children and youth in this mission. A few churches have made sacrificial offerings for this noble cause, thereby anticipating a new hope for the African continent.

The role of the district office is to equip the local church in its ministry of faithfulness to the upward call of Christ and the missional priorities of the Gospel message. We have initiated the School for Christian Discipleship for this explicit purpose. I am highlighting in this edition of *E-Connections* the theme and agenda of our annual Spring Seminar: **explore and practice the spiritual dimensions of stewardship**. Please place on your church's calendar the dates, March 1-2 for all the churches. On Saturday morning, March 3, we shall have an additional session designed for the needs of the small church. All these sessions will be conducted at Myers Park UMC's Jubilee Hall.

One of the most illuminating experiences of continuing education I have received as a pastor occurred several years ago when I went with a team from Christ UMC, Greensboro, to Callaway Gardens in Georgia and participated in a week-long seminar on stewardship directed by Kennon Callahan. He will be our inspirational leader at this spring's Charlotte District seminar.

Dr. Callahan has been called today's most sought-after church consultant and inspirational speaker. He has worked with thousands of congregations around the world. His dynamic seminars are filled with wisdom and encouragement, practical possibilities and helpful suggestions. He is best known for his ground-breaking book, *Twelve Keys to an Effective Church*, which has formed the basis for a widely acclaimed Mission Growth Movement, which is helping congregations literally across the planet. His newest book is *The Future That Has Come*. Other volumes that are noteworthy among his productions include *Twelve Keys for Living*, *A New Beginning for Pastors and Congregations*, and *Small Strong Congregations*.

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Dr. Callahan recommends our reading his volume, *Giving and Stewardship*, in preparation for the Spring Seminar.

Kennon insists that, when we faithfully grow the mission of the church with spiritual vitality, numerical growth will follow. His Ph.D. is in the field of systematic theology. He has served as a pastor of both rural and urban congregations in Ohio, Texas, and Georgia. He taught for many years at Emory University.

Due to the significance of the Spring Seminar and the advance planning that has constituted this event; **I am requiring the attendance of all our pastors.** You will not regret this expectation. I am issuing this communication early so that each pastor will have opportunity to recruit a team of participants in this outstanding program.

Last week Dr. Callahan was the keynote speaker at a seminar in Niagara Falls, Ontario, with a gathering of the Presbyterian Church of Canada. His theme there was “Stewards by Design.”

He and his wife, Julie, live in Denver, Colorado, but recently purchased a second home in Aiken, South Carolina, in order to be near their children. Kennon and Julie enjoy the outdoors, hiking, horseback riding, camping, music, sailing and quilting.

On the occasion of our Thompson family gathering around the table of Thanksgiving Day, I offered prayers of gratitude for our colleagues in ministry throughout the Charlotte District. You have collectively done a remarkable job at each cluster Charge Conference by creatively addressing five of the visionary priorities of our Annual Conference. You continue to remain focused and spiritually motivated. You have moved our district away from congregational territorialism. You have displayed an eagerness to share resources and affirm collegiality. In this spirit of mutual affirmation, may God grant to all the people called United Methodists in this district the gift of spiritual fulfillment and abundant joy.

Grace and peace,

George

Charlotte District Superintendent



Kennon Callahan

Tentative Schedule for Spring Seminar, March 1-3, 2007 Myers Park United Methodist Church, Jubilee Hall

March 1, 2007 • Thursday

- 12 Noon Lunch and time for gathering
- 1:30-4 p.m. Presentations by Kennon Callahan, “**Growing Generous Givers**”
The audience will be the pastors and a team of laity from their churches, especially representing stewardship and finance. Suggested team participation: Large churches (8-12, including laity and staff), Middle-sized churches (5-7, pastors and laity), Small churches (3-4, pastor and laity).
- 6 p.m. Dinner
- 7-9 p.m. Presentation by Kennon Callahan, “**Building the Motivations for Giving and Stewardship**”
A general invitation: pastors and the general membership from around the district will be encouraged to come.

March 2, 2007 • Friday

- 12 Noon Lunch and time for gathering
- 1:30-4 p.m. Presentation by Kennon Callahan, “**Developing the Sources of Giving in Our Time**”. The audience will be the pastors and a team of laity from each church.
- 6 p.m. Dinner
- 7-9 p.m. Presentation by Kennon Callahan, “**Advancing Our Strengths**”
A general invitation: pastors and the general membership.

March 3, 2007 • Saturday

- 9-12 NOON ***The Spiritual Dimensions of Stewardship in the Small Church***
Teams from the small membership churches are invited. The Methodist Foundation staff will lead this session.

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Advent Communion Service

The staff of FUMC cordially invite all District clergy and friends to join us for a Communion Service at First United Methodist Church (cnr. 8th & N. Tryon Streets) next Tuesday, December 5 at 8:00 a.m. Dr. Mark Larson will offer the homily, Bob Boggan will be liturgist, John-Palmer Smith will provide organ music, and Ivan Peden will preside at Communion. Everyone is asked to park in the underground parking of 525 North Tryon Street building (enter the parking deck off 9th Street). Please use parking spaces designated “FUMC” as much as possible, or go to the second level of the parking garage and use any open space. Take the elevator marked “Sanctuary.” Punch “S” for sanctuary and you’ll be there! We invite everyone to join us for a spiritually uplifting Uptown experience ... We will worship and then walk across the street to eat together (Dutch treat) at Lola’s, a buffet style restaurant that serves a great breakfast. Remember to start out early to come Uptown because it will be during peak hour, but don’t let that deter you! Looking forward to a great turn out! —*Ivan Peden, Senior Pastor*

Our next Eucharist will be on January 2nd, 8 a.m., at St. Mark’s UMC.

Thursday, December 7th • District Clergy Christmas Gathering

6:30 p.m.

**Assurance United Methodist Church
9700 Mt. Holly-Huntersville Road
Huntersville, NC 28078**

Advance reservations are required. Contact Hubert Clinard at
704-827-2421 by December 1st.

Thursday, January 4th • District Clergy Fellowship

9:30 a.m. Educational Experience followed by Lunch

**Bethlehem Center
2705 Baltimore Avenue
Charlotte, NC 28203**

Please RSVP to the district office (704-525-3395) no later than January 2nd.

Around the Charlotte District



District Mission Society

The Charlotte District Mission Society Banquet was held on November 2nd at Zoar UMC's new family life center. Music was presented by members of Covenant UMC who are from the Montagnard community. The Bol Siu family was introduced. Bol was recently united with his wife and children after six years of separation due to immigration restrictions. The DMS celebrated the ministry of Covenant and the district in its ministry with the Montagnard people.

Homecoming at Memorial UMC

On November 5th, Memorial UMC celebrated Homecoming with District Superintendent George Thompson as guest preacher. These are scenes from the fellowship luncheon.



Revival at St. Paul

Dr. Lenny Stadler (right) was the guest preacher at the St. Paul United Methodist Church revival, October 28-30. Dr. Dewey W. Smith (left) is pastor and was thrilled with the excellent attendance for each of the evenings. Liturgists included Hamp Hinkle, Tom Little, and Natalie Tompkins. The St. Paul and St. Mark's UMC choirs inspired all with their music.



New Altar at Spencer Memorial

New Altar design at Spencer Memorial UMC. We celebrated the Eucharist from this table at Cluster Charge Conference at Spencer Memorial.



Apportionments

Pastors and local church treasurers, the end of the year is quickly approaching. Take time now to review your apportionment payment records, and make plans for completing your church's apportionments before year's end. Our connectional ministries are counting on your faithful support.

Year-End Report

The Year-End Statistical Report was mailed to pastors in our district on Wednesday, November 29th. The report submission deadline is January 18th.

E-wnccnews

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