



CLERGY FELLOWSHIP GATHERING and SERVANT LEADERSHIP



On November 8th, 9:30 a.m.-Noon, **Dr. Tracy Espy** will be our special guest. Dr. Espy is Vice President of Servant Leadership at Pfeiffer University and Director of the Francis Center. She is recognized nationally for her research and teaching in the field of servant leadership. Dr. Espy received her undergraduate degree from Berea College, Berea, KY, and graduate degrees from Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, and Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY. She has been involved with student leadership and community development for most of her career. Her academic interests include self esteem in adolescents, ethnic identity and systems theory. In addition to her responsibilities with the Francis Center, she is also an Associate Professor of Sociology.

In 1999, under its eighth president, Charles Ambrose, the Administration, Faculty, Students and Staff at Pfeiffer united to form a clearer and more deliberate mission for Pfeiffer University. Returning to its Methodist roots, Pfeiffer sought to re-establish the very path that defined its identity as a Methodist university by embracing the ideals of John Wesley "to love God and each other." Combining these ideals and the desire to serve the university community, Pfeiffer's new mission became "Preparing Servant Leaders for Lifelong Learning" with the primary goal of equipping its students with academic knowledge and service experiences to be more effective in life, work and service.

After a thorough nation-wide search, Dr. Espy was brought to the faculty as a Vice President in order to give substance to this mission. Students learn how to embody their faith commitments as followers of Christ through a great variety of service experiences, including church-sponsored mission teams. Come on November 8th and discover how we can better equip the laity for ministry through service. Let us gain insights into how we can effectively challenge the youth of our congregations to grow spiritually and embrace vocations of Christian service.

The receptionist at the front desk at Providence UMC (2810 Providence Road, Charlotte) will direct you to the spacious Chipley Bible Class on the second floor. Delores Jones will prepare a meal for lunch. Contact the district office **by November 5th** to make your reservations.

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District Leadership Training

Update from the School of Christian Discipleship

Thanks to all of you who attended the recent Charlotte District Leadership Conference. It was chock-full of excellent speakers this year, including Dr. Richard Heitzenrater and Dr. Bob Tuttle. Our all-star cast of district laity and clergy were on hand to provide excellent leadership as well. Our goal for scheduling this event in the fall was to offer real-time support and ideas during the first part of your programming year.

Up next, we have two remaining fall learning modules. The first is an afternoon for **Worship, Evangelism, and Christian Education committees**. This event is designed to offer ideas on integrating the work of these three crucial committees in the church, as well as to give each leader a sense of the spiritual leadership involved to lead these committees in the work of the Great Commission. How do you use your pastor on these teams? What is the role of each committee separately? What is their role together in light of the Administrative Council structure? **Bev Copley** will provide leadership for this event, which will be held at **Mouzon UMC on Sunday, November 4 from 2:30 p.m.- 4:30 p.m.** Rev. Lisa Wishon is host pastor, and **RSVPS should be sent to her at llwishon@aol.com**.

The second remaining fall module is scheduled for **Sunday, November 11 at Fairfield UMC** in Denver. It is geared towards readying the local church for Christmas visitors. How do we create a culture of evangelism in the local church? How do we ready our property and our hearts for the people who will give the church a try this year? Come get some helpful hints for your evangelism committee as well as for your other ministry teams. Again, **Bev Copley** will provide leadership. RSVPS should be sent to **Rev. Susan Heafner-Heun** at revheafheun@gmail.com by **Sunday, November 4**.

If you would like to schedule a training module in your local church in 2008, please contact Bev at bcopley@yahoo.com or call her at 704-932-5330.

~Reverend Bev Copley~

Church Officer Training to be Held Saturday, January 12, 2008

The School of Christian Discipleship announces a district training event for all the members of the following local church committees: **Staff-Parish Relations, Trustees, Nominations/Lay Leadership, Administrative Council, Finance Committee, Stewardship Committee, Lay Leaders**.

This training session will be critical to them as they either begin a new post in 2008 or find themselves continuing in their leadership roles. All new and continuing officers are expected to attend this event with their pastors. The event will be held on **Saturday, January 12, 2008 at Assurance UMC** in Huntersville from **9:30 am - noon**. The snow date is Saturday, January 26. The morning will begin with coffee and continental breakfast, a short devotional time (including music by UMAR!), and a plenary session by Dr. Thompson. Following Dr. Thompson's talk, the following breakout sessions will occur:

Lay Leaders – Mr. Rick Moore (Salem, Charlotte District)
Staff-Parish Relations Chairs – Dr. Thompson (District Superintendent)
Finance and Stewardship – Dr. Mark King (Centenary, Winston-Salem)
Trustees – Dr. Bill Jeffries (Providence, Charlotte)
Administrative/Church Council – Rev. Bev Copley (Charlotte District Coach)
Nominations/Lay Leadership – Mrs. Karen Lynch Bromby (Good Shepherd, Charlotte)

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District Leadership Training

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The event will conclude at noon. All pastors are required to be present and bring with them their lay leader, members of their staff-parish committee, their finance committee, their stewardship committee, their trustees, and the chairs of their Administrative Board/Councils. The pastors may either attend the Nominations/Lay Leadership breakout or attend another workshop of their choice. All pastors will be required to sign in and share with Dr. Thompson the names of the leaders they have brought to the training.

This event is designed to help all of our laity feel connected to the ministry of the district and to resources that will help them all year long. Much work has gone into the planning and preparation, and we look forward to meeting your lay teams!

~ Reverend Bev Copley ~

Lay Speakers' Training

Are you interested in exploring exciting ways you can serve God through your churches, small groups, etc? Then make plans now to attend our **Lay Speaker Training** to be held from **6:30 to 9 p.m. on each Monday evening in February (Feb. 4, 11, 18, & 25, 2008)**. The basic course will be "Lay Speaking Ministries" by John Gilbert & Nancy Zoller. The advanced course will be "Lay Speakers are Accountable Disciples" by Steven Manskar. Both basic and advanced (renewal) courses will be held at two locations: Pleasant Grove UMC, 1915 Oakdale Road, Charlotte 28216 and St. Stephen UMC, 6800 Sardis Road, Charlotte 28270. Recommendation of the pastor and Charge Conference to begin basic or advanced certification is required. For additional information contact Irma Ellwanger, Director of Lay Speaker Training, at 704-544-3190.



~ Irma Ellwanger ~

UM Women Officer Training



Saturday, **November 3** (Assurance UMC, 9:30 a.m.) **or** Sunday, **November 4** (Sharon UMC, 2:30 p.m.). Two identical training sessions will be held for officers. Contact your local church UMW President or Nikki Allison for more details 704-563-0762. Visit www.wnccumw.org for additional UMW events.



Work on the Habitat House in Indian Trail continues on November 3, 10, and 17. Come out and lend a hand in this project. Additional details contact District UM Men President **Hank Dozier** at 704-532-1070. Visit UM Men Conference website at www.wnccumm.com/index.html.



Youth Upcoming Events visit www.wnccumc.org/yth/youth.htm.

Latino Ministries in the Charlotte District



We are a community of hope, hospitality and good will.

Latinos are now the largest single minority group in the US. They represent the future of the UMC, yet many of them do not feel welcome in most UMC churches. They are young, hard working, brave people many of whom need to hear and experience the love of Jesus Christ. Most of our 50 million documented Spanish speaking residents don't understand why they would not be welcome in all Christian churches.

We do not believe that immigrants are a "problem." There is some confusion over the non-Latino response to political and media hype. By not taking clear stands for immigrants, we are demonstrating to each other and to our children that we do not accept the clear message of the Bible, we do not have empathy for the suffering of people who are "not like ourselves," and we become a part of the culture of fear. We can lose the opportunity to welcome these people into the fellowship of the UMC. We can lose opportunities to learn from immigrants and to teach them about Jesus Christ.

In Charlotte, we have set the goal of every healthy church becoming actively engaged in Latino ministries. Where does your church stand in relation to this goal?

1. Are you at "stage 1" where your members simply don't understand the issues, the Latino culture and our Biblical perspective? (We have courses, "Beyond Hola" and "the Pentecost Journey" to help you.)
2. Have you started "thinking" about ESL, English as a Second Language, classes to meet and build trust with the Latino community? (We can help you find classes to observe and find classes to train your teachers).
3. Are you ready to host a special Christmas celebration, La Posada, for Latino and non-Latino people? (We can provide you with suggested services in English or English/Spanish combinations to make it easy).
4. Do you already have Spanish speaking members who could provide Spanish Bible Study or Sunday School classes? (We can help you find materials).
5. Can any of your members volunteer to provide translation help in clinics, doctor's offices, hospitals, or schools?
6. Do you have members from the medical community who could volunteer to help provide medical help for the uninsured poor?
7. Are you ready to hire a Spanish speaking "Lay Missioner" to evangelize among Latinos, or a Spanish speaking Director of Latino Ministries, or a Spanish speaking Associate Pastor? (We can help with the search and training).
8. Are you in a financial position to help other churches who are eager to start, but are in financial stress? (This is still mostly a ministry to poor people and the financial side is very difficult).

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Latino Ministries in the Charlotte District

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9. Is your Youth ministry ready to recruit Latinos (and non-Latinos) for a soccer team? Could your church sponsor a UMC Soccer League?
10. Are you actively inviting Latino children to your scouting groups, Vacation Bible School, Sunday School and other activities?

We get to know and love people by meeting them one at a time. We want to welcome you to take advantage of the many opportunities in Latino ministry. Together we can grow our churches, energize them, and enlarge our perspectives on God's Kingdom by becoming closer to these fine people who God has sent to us (Acts 17:26).

As Tony Campolo who spoke at Dilworth UMC in September told the Charlotte Observer, "(in deciding who gets into heaven) the questions (Jesus) asks on Judgment Day are not theological.Here are the questions – the only descriptions he gives of Judgment Day: 'I was hungry: Did you feed me? I was naked: Did you clothe me? I was the alien (the immigrant) from the other country: Did you make room for me in your country? For if you did it to the least of these, you did it to me.' I think there is a wideness to God's mercy that is greater than mine."

~Alex Smythers, Co-chair, Charlotte District Latino Ministries~

Creed of the Immigrant People

Let us proclaim together our faith as people of God:

We believe in one God, beginning and end of all life, creator of heaven and earth.

Whose people were created with dignity and upon whom the Holy Spirit spread unity, strength, justice and equality.

We believe in God who defends the rights of widows, orphans and the stranger, who breaks down borders, differences and arrogances.

We believe and trust in the power of the same God in whom Abraham, Sarah, Moses, Isaiah, Mary and Jesus of Nazareth trusted.

The same God who crossed the Red Sea with his people and today still crosses the borders which separate us.

The District's Latino Ministry will provide the musical entertainment and the sharing of stories at our **Thursday, November 15th Annual District Mission Society Banquet**, at **Dilworth UMC** beginning at **7:00 p.m.** (see page 7 for details). Invitations have been mailed to all the churches.

We look forward to sharing with you.

A New Church in Southwest Charlotte

Sunday, November 4th at 9 a.m., Sanctuary UMC will launch its ministry. Send representatives from your church to support the efforts of this new church start.



We know what it is like to leave and never want to look back. The disappointment, broken dreams, memories of the past make it hard to return. Sanctuary Charlotte Church is an exciting new multicultural church that's "daring to do church differently" and is a place where you can rediscover faith and hope.

Everybody goes through storms in their life. Chances are you have had to weather some major ones in yours – perhaps alone. Storms can be incredibly frightening, disruptive and quite often very devastating – sweeping away our best laid plans, hopes and dreams. But there's another side to our storms. In the bible, storms always carried a message - a life-changing message. They TRANSITION our lives

from one stage to the next. The key is - God speaks to us through storms. What's your storm saying? Can you read storms?

Come join us for our opening series on: Messages From the Storm:

- November 4th - Jonah: The Storm that I Brought On Myself
- November 11th - Job: What's Going On?
- November 18th - Peter: Stepping Out In a Storm
- November 25th - The Disciples: Unexpected Storms
- December 2nd - Paul: Assurance in the Storm

At Sanctuary Charlotte you will find:

- Inspiring Worship with live Praise Band
- Powerful Relevant Word
- Relaxed Atmosphere
- Children's Ministry
- Teen Ministry
- Acceptance and Purpose
- A Fresh Start



"It's All About Love" Event and Dinner Theater November 3 - 6:30PM

Sam Nadler Stone, better known as "Theater" from the hit TV show *Good Times*, will be appearing on her newly released book entitled, "Situations: 100 Relationships: The Good, The Bad and The Ugly". The evening will feature our Live Dinner Theater, live praise band, gospel vocals, dance, food and much, much more - all in a safe, wholesome, Christian environment. Best of all it's FREE!

Welcome gift to every guest!



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Around the Charlotte District



Candlelight Reflections hosted by Dilworth UMC


November is National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month and National Family Caregiver Month. The Alzheimer's Association and the North Carolina Family Caregiver Support Program invites you to attend a very special annual ceremony, Candlelight Reflections, to remember, honor and support all family caregivers and persons and families impacted by Alzheimer's disease or related disorders. On **November 8, 2007** people in communities across the state will be participating in these ceremonies. **Dilworth UMC** will host a Candlelight Reflection beginning at **6:30 p.m.** Dilworth UMC is located at 605 East Boulevard, Charlotte. For more information on any of the events people may contact the Alzheimer's Association at 800-888-6671 or visit the website at www.alz.org/northcarolina to find a link to the statewide calendar.

Families and Faith Traditions

Charlotte's **Myers Park United Methodist Church** will host a conversation on *Families and Faith Traditions* at **7 p.m. Monday, Nov. 12**, with **Dr. James C. Howell and Rabbi Judith Schindler** of Temple Beth El in Charlotte. The program is part of an Autumn series of programs at the church on making room in our everyday lives for what we believe – *Faith In The 'Real World.'* Among the questions to be explored by Rabbi Schindler and the senior pastor of Myers Park United Methodist: What do the Christian and Jewish traditions tell us about raising families, teaching faith and values to our children, and caring for aging parents. Child care is available. The church is at 1501 Queens Road. Details: 704-376-8584 or www.mpumc.org.



Annual District Mission Society Banquet/Meeting

 Our annual District Mission Society Banquet/Meeting will be held on Thursday, **November 15th at 7:00 p.m. at Dilworth UMC**, 605 East Boulevard, Charlotte. It is especially important for all pastors and DMS representatives to attend this annual meeting. We also encourage other church leaders to attend. The evening and program will include highlights and music from our Latino Ministries. Business items to be address are the election of DMS Executive Committee Officers, election of new DMS Committee members, and the approval of 2008 DMS Grants. Come enjoy fellowship and a delicious meal. Cost is \$10 per person. Registration form available at the district website (www.chardist.org). Deadline to register is November 9th.

UMAR "Evening of Giving" November 18th



Time is running out...get your "Evening of Giving" tickets today!! UMAR has sold over 150 tickets for SouthPark's "Evening of Giving", but still have nearly 100 left. They are going fast, so be sure to get yours soon so you don't miss out on this wonderful event! Over 50 stores and vendors are offering their support for "Evening of Giving". Tickets are \$10.00 each. \$7.00 of each ticket sale will directly benefit UMAR, so come out and help support this cause. Only ticket holders will be allowed to shop these special mall hours (6:30-9:00 p.m.). Visit www.umarinfo.com for more details. Ticket purchasing and payment can be arranged by contacting Melinda Schroeder at MelindaS@UMARinfo.com or 704-875-1328. Encourage your family, friends, co-workers, neighbors... everyone you know.. to participate in this event!

Bethlehem Center Opportunities

Bethlehem Center Holiday Opportunities

Thanksgiving

- Donations are needed by Friday, **November 9th**.
- Sorting will take place on Monday, **November the 12th** from 9 a.m.- noon and Monday, **November 19th** from 9a.m.- noon.
- Pick up of items will take place Monday, **November 19th** from Noon- 3 p.m. and Tuesday, **November 20th** from 9 a.m.- Noon ONLY!
- Non-perishable food items: makings for a Thanksgiving dinner and other useful items (no rusted or dented cans please) - frozen turkeys – grocery store holiday giveaway coupons can be redeemed and the food donated to Bethlehem Center.

Angel Tree

- Information for sponsors ready **November 9th**.
- Accepting angel tree gifts (unwrapped from 2 p.m. - 6 p.m. Wednesday, **December 5th**, Thursday, **December 6th & Friday December 7th** from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. (Absolute deadline for all Angel Tree gifts 6:00 p.m., Friday December 7th).
- Volunteers are needed to wrap packages from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. **December 10th, 11th, & 12th**.
- Each child and each one of our senior citizens in our program will receive two gifts – no more than a \$15 toy and a sweat suit for the children – warm socks and a sweat shirt or sweater for the senior citizens – for the teens, an item of clothing plus a gift, a total of no more than \$25. The names of children with their sizes and toy choices and sizes for the senior citizens will be available on Nov. 3rd.

Holiday Sharing

- Every effort is made to have the head of the household feel as though he or she is able to provide Christmas for the family. We ask that the gifts be delivered to Bethlehem Center Auditorium.
- Volunteers are needed for check in and distribution of gifts. Family Gifts distributed from Bethlehem Center **December 20th & 21st**, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

For additional details visit www.bethlehemcenter.org or contact 704-371-7401.

Events Around the Charlotte District



Few would argue with the assertion that Dr. Richard Heitzenrater is the most significant name today in the study of the Wesleyan heritage. Here he is pictured as he delivered the key note address on October 7th at the Charlotte District DLC at University City UMC.



Rev. Susan Heafner Heun (left) brought a renewed appreciation to the Social Principles of the UMC in her class at the DLC on October 7th.



Dr. Robert Tuttle, Jr., was one of the captivating speakers at the DLC on October 7th, at University City UMC.



United Methodist youth walk to help eliminate hunger at the October 14th Crop Walk.



Festivities surrounding Homecoming at Calvary UMC on October 14th.

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

The latest issue *AU Today* provides the broad view of the support of The
United Methodist Church to Africa University.

<http://www.wnccumc.org/vsn/au.htm>

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

WNCC e-News

<http://www.wnccumc.org/nws/news1.htm>

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