

October 20, 2006

Electronic  
Newsletter



Charlotte District

# E-Connections

## Information and Communication

The pundit Sidney J. Harris has offered this perceptive insight: “The two words ‘information’ and ‘communication’ are often used interchangeably, but they signify quite different things. Information is giving out; communication is getting through.” We spend a considerable amount of time, energy, and resources in the life of the church in giving out a plethora of information. When anyone asks me, “Did you receive my e-mail?” I invariably reply, “I am sure that I did.” That candid, but evasive retort does not suggest that the information sent has gotten through, provided me with relevant data, or changed my perspective or performance.



Everything we do in the life of the church is contingent upon the quality of our communication. Sermons may provide information; but, until they ‘get through’ or connect with the listener, we have failed to communicate. Newsletters that are unattractive or poorly written may provide valuable information, but run the risk of being discarded if they do not touch the pulse-beat of the congregation.

Recently the Charlotte District Committee on Communication engaged in a critique of our district website—<http://www.chardist.org>. We quickly discovered that our format is not very user-friendly. Our information needs constant updating, and we need a better linkage with each of our seventy-nine congregations. Our District Web Master, Tommy Pharr, is performing a valuable service, but he has been working with insufficient resources and is eager to re-design the website. In order to do so, he will need accurate and current data. He has requested a constant flow of resources and information from the local churches. Tommy can be reached at [tpharr@carolina.rr.com](mailto:tpharr@carolina.rr.com).

Here are a few ways you can assist him and enhance the ministry of your district:

1. Make sure that the information on your church’s website is up-to-date.
2. Examine the listing of churches on the district website. If your church does not have a current photo of the church’s edifice or a visual representation of your congregation, provide a digital image by sending a photo to both Tommy Pharr and the district office ([cdosupport@bellsouth.net](mailto:cdosupport@bellsouth.net)).
3. On a regular basis send to Tommy digital photos of activities and ministries within the life of your congregation, with captions identifying persons pictured. (Do not send us photos of children. We shall evaluate each picture to secure the safety and anonymity of youth and children.)
4. Maintain a linkage to <http://www.chardist.org> on your church website and specifically link your members who use the internet to this resource—**Charlotte District E-Connections**.

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## *Information and Communication* (continued)

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5. Print hardcopies of this resource and distribute to your staff and all members of the Church Council.
6. Send to the Charlotte District Office current articles and photos that highlight ministries carried out by your congregation that will inform, inspire, motivate, and invite participation from other churches of the Charlotte District.
7. If your church website provides a link to either an audio stream of each Sunday's worship service or the written document containing the pastor's weekly sermon, give us permission to provide a direct link to that resource on our district website. An e-mail to [cdosupport@bellsouth.net](mailto:cdosupport@bellsouth.net) or me will suffice. We pastors rarely have the privilege of hearing our colleagues preach. This resource will invite clergy and laity to receive the inspiration of services from around the district. The Communication Committee would like to feature a variety of pastors on the Homepage, with links to a current sermon preached at your church.

If you have suggestions regarding the enhancement of our district website, send your comments to Tommy or me. And if you ask, "George, did you get my e-mail?" I'll likely reply, "I'm sure I did."

Grace and peace,

*George*

Charlotte District Superintendent



## Charlotte District All Saints Day Celebration

Wednesday, November 1<sup>st</sup> • 7:00 p.m.

First United Methodist Church, 501 N. Tryon Street, Charlotte, NC

The combined choirs of Commonwealth, First, Memorial, Hawthorne Lane, Matthews, and St. Stephen United Methodist Churches will give leadership to an extraordinary service of worship for All Saints Day. Todd Henry, Director of Music at Memorial United Methodist Church, will direct the music in this district-wide event on November 1<sup>st</sup> at First UMC.

Families that have experienced a loss since last year's observance of All Saints are encouraged to attend this time of remembrance and thanksgiving. Each participating church is asked to use the form below in their worship bulletins to collect, compile, and submit to Todd Henry ([ToddHenry@carolina.rr.com](mailto:ToddHenry@carolina.rr.com)), no later than October 30<sup>th</sup>, the names of persons in their congregation who have died since last year's observance of All Saints. A full list will be compiled and distributed in the service bulletin.

Charlotte District of the United Methodist Church  
presents

### **An All-Saints Celebration**

November 1, 2006 - Seven o'clock PM

First United Methodist Church  
501 N. Tryon Street  
Charlotte, NC 28202

Please join the pastors, choirs and congregations of the Charlotte District United Methodist Church in Celebration of the Saints of God on All Saints Day. This service will feature hymns of the reformation, anthems sung by the combined choirs of First, St. Stephen, Memorial, Hawthorne Lane, Matthews and Commonwealth United Methodist Churches, and a candlelight celebration honoring our dearly departed. During the service we shall recognize major saints of the early church as well as present day saints passed on in 2006. Please save the date and join us as we lift our praises to God to honor of our saints past and present.

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Recognition of the Saints – November 1, 2006  
(Complete the form and place in the Sunday offering plate.)

Recognition of: \_\_\_\_\_

Church Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please use a few short words and/or service to describe a saint you would like honored at our district service this year on November 1, 2006 at First UMC, Charlotte.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- I plan to attend the district All Saints Celebration
- I will not be able attend the district All Saints Celebration

Your forms will be collected by your church, compiled, and forwarded to Mr. Todd Henry at Memorial UMC ([ToddHenry@carolina.rr.com](mailto:ToddHenry@carolina.rr.com); 704-222-7601).

Deadline is October 30<sup>th</sup>.

### **Charlotte District Mission Society Banquet**

The annual meeting/banquet of the Charlotte District Mission Society will be held at Zoar United Methodist Church on Thursday, November 2, 2006 at 7 p.m. This will be an exciting and informative gathering. The Montagnard choir from New Covenant UMC will provide our entertainment. We hope to see you there. Invitations have been sent to the Pastors, DMS Committee Members, Mission/Outreach Chairpersons and Lay Leaders. Reservation deadline is October 27<sup>th</sup>. Please visit the district website to obtain your registration form [www.chardist.org](http://www.chardist.org).

### **Thursday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> District Clergy Fellowship**

#### **Worship Experience**

**Dilworth United Methodist Church, 9:30 a.m.**

**605 East Boulevard, Charlotte, NC 28203**

R.S.V.P. lunch Reservations to the district office ([chardist@bellsouth.net](mailto:chardist@bellsouth.net)) by October 27<sup>th</sup>

We shall celebrate the Eucharist with music provided by our clergy colleagues. Our District Superintendent will provide the homily with the topic, "Reflections Upon the State of the Charlotte District."

### **Tuesday, November 7<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Communion Service**

The Charlotte District Clergy Communion service on Tuesday, November 7<sup>th</sup> will be held at **Salem UMC**. We will begin in the sanctuary at 8 a.m. **Salem UMC** is located at 378 Pilot Knob Road in Denver, NC (704-483-5055). Jan Heermans is the host pastor. This invitation is extended to all our clergy and those who wish to receive the sacrament. Our next Eucharist will be on December 5<sup>th</sup>, 8 a.m., at First UMC in uptown Charlotte.

## **Project AGAPE Sunday – November 5, 2006**

Project AGAPE is the mission to Armenia that WNCC and NCC has partnered in since 2004. The nation, the oldest Christian nation in the world, having adopted Christianity as its official religion in 301 AD, requested help from Methodists in NC to recovery from the economic hardships caused by the collapse of the Soviet Union, a horrific earthquake in 1988 and a civil war with a neighboring country. In addition Armenia has suffered from multiple genocides where over 1.5 million people have been murdered simply because they were Armenian and Christian.

Project AGAPE aids Armenians by sending 2-3 sea containers of humanitarian supplies each year. We support 2 children's home, a local priest and local doctor, and send building teams to rebuild from the devastation cause by the earthquake and war. Presently, Project AGAPE is partnered with Habitat for Humanity – Armenia and Heifer Project International to provide safe, secure and sanitary housing for local people and provide a sustainable livelihood for them.

To continue its work Project AGAPE needs your support. To maintain the Agape staff in Armenia and continue to help the children and families in the country we are asking you to give generously. IF you have not already picked up your packet from the district office, please remember to drop by. If you would prefer to designate another Sunday in your church as Project Agape, please feel to do so. The AGAPE brochure is also available in two formats at <http://www.wnccumc.org/mis/agape.htm>.

May God Bless you for your support of Project Agape.

Cecil Donahue, Project AGAPE Board Chair

For more information and questions: email – [cdonahue@triad.rr.com](mailto:cdonahue@triad.rr.com), Phone: 336-209-5875.

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### **Next Project AGAPE Collection/Pick-up**

Project AGAPE is collecting items to be shipped in December or early January:

Please collect: Canned meats, vegetables, and fruits.

Also, Children's clothing of all types,

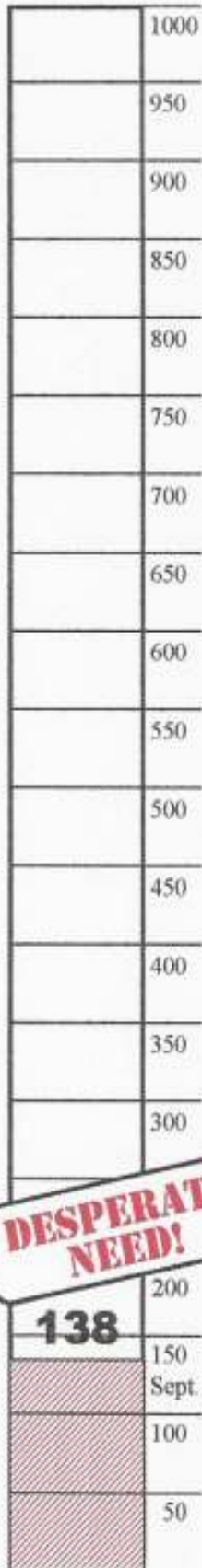
NEW shoes for children, youth and adults, male and female,

(The Armenian customs office is now charging a tax on used shoes that enter the country for health reasons. So any used shoes that are donated will be sent to local charities in NC.)



School supplies, and Sewing supplies.

Box and take items to the Collection Point in our district:

Charlotte and Albemarle Districts: Central UMC, 6030 Albemarle Road, Charlotte, NC 28212  
(704-536-9157, 9 a.m.- 2 p.m., Monday-Thursday; 9 a.m.– Noon, Friday)



**DESPERATE NEED!**

**needs you now!**

**Make a difference in the lives of Armenian children!**

Lachin Christian Education Center | Sewing Enterprise | Warehouse Peace Program | Hygiene Supplies | Bagaran Water Project | Teacher Kits Face to Face Project | Health Care Children's Home | AGAPE Center AGAPE Hospital | Spitak School | Humanitarian Aid | Other Projects

**HELP WANTED DESPERATELY**  
 1000 individuals and/or groups to give \$100 each year to the Fellowship of 1000.  
 Purpose of the Fellowship is to continue the work of Project AGAPE in Armenia, which was devastated by war and natural disasters. Much has been accomplished; more remains to be done.  
 Opportunity open to individuals, small groups, circles and Sunday School classes – anyone who wants to make a difference for this humanitarian project.

As a member of the **Fellowship of 1000**, I pledge to give \$100 each year – for  1 year  2 years  3 years – for the support of Project AGAPE.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Church \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_

Please send with form and remit payment to WNCC Office of Mission/Outreach, PO Box 18005, Charlotte NC 28218. Make checks payable to "WNCC Treasurer" and write "AGAPE Fellowship of 1000" on the memo line. This project is in cooperation with the NC Conference and Armenia.

## Bethlehem Center's Holiday Sharing

Angel Tree names and sizes, Family Adoption info available...November 3

**THANKSGIVING:** Food donations accepted...**Mon., November 13 through Fri., November 17**  
*(frozen turkeys, 9 a.m. to 12 noon, Mon., November 20 if possible -limited freezer space)*

**Volunteers needed to sort and bag food ...9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Fri., November 17**

- 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.



**CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR SENIOR CITIZENS:** **Wednes., December 6, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.** - volunteers needed to help serve the meal, need homemade cakes for dessert.



**CHRISTMAS ANGEL TREE:** Accepting angel tree gifts (unwrapped)...2 p.m. to 6 p.m., Thurs., December 7, Fri., December 8 & Mon., December 11, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

*(absolute deadline for all Angel Tree gifts 6:00 p.m., Mon., December 11)*

**Volunteers needed to wrap packages, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m....December 12, 13, & 14**

Angel tree gifts distributed...December 15

- Each child and each one of our senior citizens in our program will receive two gifts – no more than a \$15.00 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 \$35.00. The names of children with their sizes and toy choices and sizes for the senior citizens will be available on November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### **CHRISTMAS ADOPT-A-FAMILY:**

**Adopt-a-family gifts due - Mon., Dec. 18 and Tues., Dec. 19, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.**

- 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 needed for check in*
- Family Gifts distributed from Bethlehem Center...December 20 & 21, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m....volunteers needed to help with distribution of family gifts from the auditorium.
- This involves purchasing at least one outfit and an additional item of clothing for each child, a couple of “Santa” gifts for each child and something for the parents, either clothing or household items such as sheets or towels, etc. We suggest a gift certificate from a grocery store (approximately \$15.00 per family member). The family will submit a “wish list” with sizes and ages of the family members. Families are referred to us by members of our staff.

*(Bethlehem Center closed on December 22)*

*Dates are especially crucial because of the close proximity to our closing for the holidays.*

### **\*\*\*PLEASE FOLLOW OUR GUIDELINES\*\*\***

Contact: Irma Ellwanger, Missions Director at 704-371-7427 (e-mail: [iellwanger@bethlehemcenter.org](mailto:iellwanger@bethlehemcenter.org))  
or Elizabeth Holbrooks, Missions Associate at 704-371-7433 if you wish to participate.

Mailing address: 2705 Baltimore Ave., Charlotte, NC 28203 • Website: [www.bethlehemcenter.org](http://www.bethlehemcenter.org)

### 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.

### Get tools for ministry!

Do you need a new set of tools? Check out the Western NC Conference Resource Center for a new "wrench" or "screwdriver", or maybe just some new "nuts and bolts." Educational and inspirational materials are available for churches. See [www.wnccumc.org/rsc/resource\\_center.htm](http://www.wnccumc.org/rsc/resource_center.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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