



# District Connections

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## Making the Adjustment

After thirty-five years of concentration upon the unique pastoral needs of the congregations to which I was appointed, I am now making the difficult emotional adjustment to my role as District Superintendent. Being a pastor to pastors is certainly not the same task as being shepherd to a parish flock. Even though I acknowledge the importance and privilege of the superintendency, I realize more than ever before the incomparable joy of that special relationship between a pastor and his or her assigned congregational fold. I miss especially the spiritual life disciplines that naturally flow into the weekly preparation of corporate worship.

I now vicariously experience the exhilaration of these vocational blessings through my visits into the faith communities of the Charlotte District. Pat and I have maintained the pattern of worshipping with at least two congregations per Sunday. We are amazed at the variety in style and content of corporate worship which contributes toward the rich diversity within our district. Thus, I seek to maintain

a ministry of support, encouragement and accountability through these visits.

If my immediate and most intimate parish is the aggregation of the clergy, then the scattered flock of summer will convene once again on September 4th, 9:30 A.M., at Dilworth UMC. We shall worship in the context of the Eucharistic meal after a time of gathered fellowship. I shall use the Great Commission text (Matthew 28:16-20) as the impetus for my sermon on that day, "A Superintendent's Vision for the Charlotte District."

An authentic vision statement is a corporate endeavor, not the work of one individual. But, vision begins through the inspiration of one person. I invite, therefore, the reflections and responses of all pastors and laity to the sermon of that Thursday morning. I shall make a written copy available to all clergy who cannot attend and to all laity who request a hard copy or an e-mail. The content will be sent in the form of my weekly message—The Charlotte District E-Pistle. Contact DeEtta Rivens at

chardist@bellsouth.net if you wish to become a regular subscriber to this form of communication.

Our four major clergy gatherings will alternate between a worship experience and an educational challenge. I am very pleased to announce that our distinguished guest lecturer for Thursday, November 6th, will be Gregory Jones, Dean of Duke Divinity School. I don't think any of us will want to miss that one!

May God abundantly bless you as you join me in eager and joyful response to the Great Commission of our risen Lord.

Grace and peace,  
George Thompson

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### Highlights

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The Children's Defense Fund is in its 12th year of sponsoring the National Observance of Children's Sabbath. The 2003 Sabbath entitled "Providing What God Requires and Children Need: Justice, Kindness and Faith" will be observed October 13 - 17.

A video entitled "Raising Voices, Linking Hands for Children" and a supplemental manual are available from the Conference Resource Center (704-535-2260). The manual contains worship resources, educational lesson plans for all ages and guidelines for advocacy. The Conference Standing Committee on Children and Weekday Child Care encourages churches to explore the possibilities of celebrating this ministry with children by using the manual. Resources in the manual may be used in a variety of settings, at a time selected by each local church. For additional information, contact the Conference Office of Christian Education at 704-535-2260, ext. 113 - Janice Hitch.

## A Note of Thanks...

The Reverend Ben Stewart, District Superintendent of the Gastonia District, died on March 25, 2003. Friends began a fund to help his family purchase a home when they left the district parsonage. We would like to share this letter received in response to the Ben Stewart Day appeal.

*I want to thank you personally for your wonderful response to our Ben Stewart Day appeal. As of this letter, we have collected from our District and Conference appeal over \$67,000 for the Stewart family. Marsha, Ben Jr., and Rebekah will be able to move into a new patio home in Gastonia. This would not have been possible without your heartfelt efforts. On behalf of Ben, I thank you.*

*Sincerely,  
Jody Seymour, Senior Minister of First UMC, Gastonia*

Jody currently serves as Senior Minister of Davidson UMC and previously served as Senior Minister at First UMC, Gastonia.

## Reaching Out to Hispanic Ministries



- ✓ Blair Road UMC will hold ESL classes on Tuesday or Thursday evenings in September.
- ✓ Harris Road UMC will begin an 11:00 a.m. Spanish speaking Bible study in September, which will be led by Pastor Tim Webster.
- ✓ Memorial UMC holds a Wednesday night Spanish speaking Bible study at 7:00 pm and a 1:00 pm worship service on Sunday. The Sunday worship is led by Augusto and Rosa Caldera.
- ✓ Central UMC is now housing the help agency Mi Casa Su Casa. They are looking for bilingual volunteers.
- ✓ Cokesbury UMC is looking for a bilingual staff person to assist in the development of their Hispanic ministry program. They currently have a Hispanic Boy Scout program.

Listed above are some of the ministries in our district that are working with our Hispanic brothers and sisters. If you have information to share or you need more information, please contact Rev. Lisa Martinez, Chairperson of Charlotte District Hispanic Ministry at 980-253-0005 (local cell phone).

## OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

Huntersville United Methodist Church is seeking a part-time **Director of Youth Ministries**. Resumes may be submitted to [joinus@huntersvilleumc.org](mailto:joinus@huntersvilleumc.org) or PO Box 378, Huntersville, NC 28070.

**Organist** for Mid-week rehearsals, one Sunday service, and other worship services as needed. Classical and contemporary music. Resumes may be submitted to Huntersville UMC at [joinus@huntersvilleumc.org](mailto:joinus@huntersvilleumc.org) or PO Box 378, Huntersville, NC 28070.

**Bilingual Spanish interpreters** are needed at the *Presbyterian Senior Health Care Clinic* on Eastway at Central Ave. (near the police department and next to the post office). Volunteers can work on Tuesday nights from 5-8:00 p.m. or Thursday nights from 4-7:30 p.m. For more information contact Amy Cook at 704 316-6563.

Grace UMC is seeking a **Church Organist**. This is a permanent position. The salary is negotiable. Please call the church office at 704-523-5052 between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. daily if interested in applying for this position.

Cole Memorial UMC is accepting resumes for the position of **church organist/accompanist**. Please send resumes to Cole Memorial UMC / Attn. SPRC / PO Box 26066 / Charlotte, NC 28221.



## EVERY METHODIST IS A MISSIONARY

**District Lay Rally**  
 Sunday, October 12, 2003  
 First United Methodist Church  
 501 N. Tryon Street  
 Charlotte, NC 28202  
 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

*Anne Kolbe, Guest Speaker*

Anne is a member of First UMC in Charlotte and a missionary of the General Board of Global Ministries of the UMC assigned to Cambodia. She serves as coordinator for community-based primary health care work. Several mission groups such as Affordable Housing, Bethlehem Center, Loaves and Fishes, and St. Andrews Society will be present and have literature to share. Please take advantage of this opportunity to learn more about the missions of the United Methodist Church.

**Our District's  
WEB SITE**  
 If you haven't  
 already, go on the  
 web and visit  
[www.chardist.org](http://www.chardist.org)

### District Mission Society Grants

DMS grant requests are due in the district office by September 15, 2003. Applications are available by download from the district website [www.chardist.org](http://www.chardist.org). Final approval of requests will be made at the November DMS annual meeting. Feel free to contact the district office if you have questions regarding the application process.

## Upcoming UM Women Events

- October 4** Training for UMW District Officers  
**October 7** District Mission Team, Providence UMC  
**November 1** Training for Local Unit Officers, 9:30 a.m.,  
 New Covenant UMC  
**November 2** Training for Local Unit Officers, 2:30 p.m., Central  
 UMC



## 2004 Health Benefit Rates (Annual Rate)

Pastor's (paid by church)	\$5,028
Spouse/Child	\$3,420
Family	\$5,004
Retirees with Medicare	\$1,704
Retirees without Medicare (<65)	\$5,028

### Golden Years Fellowship (Retirees & Widows)

Tuesday, October 14, 2003  
 12:00 Noon  
 Aldersgate  
 3800 Shamrock Drive  
 Fellowship Hall  
 Coordinators: Margaret Sills  
 (704-532-7361) and Barbara  
 George (704-522-8783)

## Children's Home Celebrations



Saturday, September 13 is Local Church Day at the Children's Home in Winston-Salem. Local churches are urged to visit the campus and join in the celebration of the ministry of the Children's Home (Tel: 336-721-7656). Sunday, September 21 is Children's Home Sunday in the local church. Churches are asked to highlight the Children's Home during their worship and receive an offering. Packets for churches were distributed to clergy at the Clergy Gathering on September 4th. Please stop by the district office to pick-up your packet if you were not present.

## Charlotte District Fall 2003

### CHURCH/CHARGE CONFERENCE CALENDAR

<u>Month</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Charge/Location</u>
SEPT	28	11 am	First Hmong
OCT	05	1 pm	Zoar
	05	4 pm	Aldersgate
	05	6 pm	Wesley
	06	7 pm	St. Mark
	07-09		<i>Cabinet Meeting</i>
	12	11am	South Tryon
	13-15		<i>Duke Convocation</i>
	16	7 pm	Christ
	19	3 pm	Pleasant Grove
	19	5 pm	New Covenant
	20	7 pm	CLUSTER: Duncan/ <u>Spencer Memorial</u>
	21	7 pm	Cokesbury
	22	6:30 pm	St. Andrews
	23	7 pm	St. John's
	26	11 am	Asbury
	26	6 pm	CLUSTER: Grace, <u>Mouzon</u> , St. Paul
	27	7 pm	Purcell- <u>Big Spring</u> , Ghana Community Mission
	28	7 pm	Plaza
	29	7 pm	Victory
	30	7 pm	Hickory Grove
NOV	2	3 pm	CLUSTER: Hunter's Chapel, Huntersville, Vermillion, Assurance, Davidson, <u>Mt. Zion</u>
	2	6 pm	CLUSTER: Cole Memorial, <u>Oak Grove</u> , Simpson-Gillespie, Trinity
	3	7 pm	CLUSTER: <u>Matthews</u> , Light of Christ
	4	7 pm	St. Francis
	5	7 pm	Dilworth
	6	6:30 pm	<i>District Mission Society Banquet</i>
	9	3 pm	CLUSTER: Burge Mem.-Rock Hill, Salem, Hill's, New Hope, St. James, <u>Tucker's</u>
	9	6 pm	CLUSTER: <u>Bethel</u> , Brevards, Webbs, Denver, Ebenezer, Fairfield-Lebanon
	10	7 pm	Pineville
	11-12		<i>Cabinet Meeting</i>
	13	7 pm	CLUSTER: Central, Kilgo, Commonwealth, <u>Memorial</u> , St. Luke, Agua De Vida
	16	3 pm	CLUSTER: Thrift, <u>Moore's Chapel</u> , Covenant, Homestead
	16	6 pm	CLUSTER: <u>First</u> , Cambodian Mission
	17	7 pm	Providence
	18	7 pm	St. Stephen
	19	7:30 pm	Fair View
	20	7 pm	University City
	23	3 pm	Calvary
	23	6:30 pm	Sharon
	27-28		<i>Thanksgiving Holiday</i>
	30	4 pm	Hawthorne Lane
DEC	1	7 pm	CLUSTER: Good Shepherd, <u>Harrison</u> , Morningstar
	2	7 pm	Myers Park
	4	7 pm	Blair Rd.

Note: (\_\_\_\_\_) underline indicates location of Cluster Church Conferences. Additional information will be mailed to the pastors regarding preparation.

8/27/03

## Condolences to...

The family of Mrs. Tanya Hoyle Matthews (clergy spouse-Hill's Chapel UMC) in the death of her father, Mr. Richard Hoyle on July 28.



The family of Mrs. Jeanette Lovvorn, a member of Davidson UMC, certified lay speaker, and who served as the treasurer of the Charlotte District UM Women, on August 15, 2003. Memorials may be sent to Davidson UMC Building Fund or to Hospice of Charlotte.

The family of Reverend Frank Edwards (retired) in the death of his wife, Mrs. Bobbie Edwards.



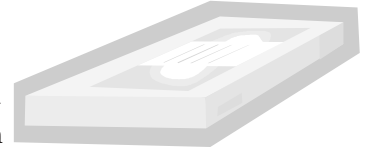
**Second Step Training** will be held October 4 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Hope UMC, Statesville, NC.

This training will present more ideas about building a church lifestyle of welcoming. You will practice welcoming, inviting and discipling techniques. See how other people and churches are developing those behaviors into a lifestyle of "Open hearts, minds, and doors."

Contact the WNCC Office of Communications, 704-535-2260, ext. 139 for more details and registration forms.

## Knowledge for Your Staff-Parish Committee

The Charlotte District Office has received from the Division of Deacons a very helpful video entitled, "The Dean: Called to Serve". We recommend the viewing of this video by every Staff-Parish Committee in the district. The two tracts for ordination (elder and deacon) provide a new range of opportunity for those who are called to specialized ministry but do not wish to itinerate. This video can be used as a starting point for a dialogue regarding this new order. Churches with a deacon in full connection on staff and congregations in the process of adding additional staff will be informed and encouraged by this video. Contact the Charlotte District office to reserve a date for showing this informative media.



## Bethlehem Center's 4<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC

Your support and participation of last year's Classic Golf Tournament, sponsored by the Bethlehem Center, helped raise approximately \$11,000. The Tournament's tremendous success helped ensure Bethlehem Center's ability to provide quality education and mission services throughout Mecklenburg County. On Tuesday, October 21, we will attempt to have another successful year by providing a quality golf tournament that is fun for the golfers, and offers a sense of giving and helping. The tournament will be held at Cramer Mountain Country Club beginning at 11:30 a.m. Your support is again requested this year by sponsoring a hole during the tournament. A contribution of \$150 will enable your church or business to be featured on a sign prominently placed on a "Tee Box". Plus, you will be recognized in other printed materials and programs. An additional \$15 contribution will allow you to join us for lunch at the Awards Ceremony Banquet following the tournament.

To obtain a sponsorship registration form, please contact Mike Harris or Abbie Butler at 704-375-1417. Registration deadline is September 29th.

## Apportionment Update

We are quickly approaching the end of 2003. As of the August 27th. Conference report, the Charlotte District has paid 49.11% of its acceptances. The following churches have paid at least 70%: **Big Spring, Brevard's Chapel, Denver, Ebenezer, Fairfield, Hill's Chapel, Hunters Chapel, Lebanon, Mouzon, New Covenant, Pineville, Pleasant Grove, Purcell, Salem, Simpson-Gillespie, St. Andrew's, St. James and St. Luke.** Congratulations to **Duncan Memorial** who has paid 100%. Pastors and local church treasurers, we are counting on each of you to help our churches do their very best to fulfill their apportionment commitments for the year. If you have questions about your Conference apportionments, please contact the Conference Treasurer's office at 704-535-2260, ext. 155. You may direct questions regarding your District apportionments to the appropriate fund's treasurer.

## Calendar of Events

### SEPTEMBER

- 1** District Office Closed/Labor Day Observance
- 4** District Clergy Meeting, Dilworth UMC, 9:30 am
- 5-7** WNCC UM Women's Annual Meeting, Lake Junaluska
- 9-10** Cabinet Meeting
- 15** District Mission Society Grant Applications due in District Office
- 16** District Communications Committee, District Office, 7:00 pm
- 18** District Program Ministries Council Orientation, Providence UMC, 6:30 pm
- 22-24** Cabinet Meeting

### OCTOBER

- 4** Igniting Ministry Second Training, Hope UMC, Statesville, 10:00 am
- 7-9** Cabinet Meeting

- 12** District Lay Rally, First UMC, 4:00 - 6:00 pm
- 13-15** Duke Convocation
- 14** Golden Years Fellowship, Aldersgate Fellowship Hall, 12 Noon
- 19** District Drug & Alcohol Awareness Event, Location TBA
- 21** Bethlehem Center's Golf Tournament Fundraiser at Cramer Mountain Country Club, 11:30 am

### NOVEMBER

- 1 & 2** UMW Local Unit Officer's Training, (1st at New Covenant - 9:30 am; 2nd at Central - 2:30 pm)
- 6** District Clergy Meeting, Dilworth UMC, 9:30 am
- 6** District Mission Society's Banquet, 6:30 p.m., Location TBA
- 11-12** Cabinet Meeting
- 24-26** Cabinet Meeting
- 27-28** District Office Closed/Thanksgiving Observance

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

GEORGE THOMPSON, District Superintendent  
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