

E-Connections



Charlotte District

From the Desk of D.S.

Even though we have seen fragments of one another's lives during these fleeting summer months, the clergy of the Charlotte District have traveled ribboned roads. Pat and I spent one full week in Vermont and a few days in Baltimore celebrating our 42nd wedding anniversary. Why Vermont? One popular t-shirt we saw in a general store said it all: "What happens in Vermont stays in Vermont; and nothing ever happens in Vermont." It was liberating to do nothing that required a deadline. Others of you have experienced qualitative time with family and a change of pace from the incessant disciplines of service in the parish. A good representation of the collective clergy family took advantage in July of Bill Englebreth and Moore's Chapel's hospitality upon our festive greeting of those families who have moved into the Charlotte District. But, for the most part, we have been absent, one from another.

Thus, I eagerly greet the occasion of our gathering on September 20th at Providence UMC—our first clergy fellowship for the fall. Jim Humphries and our executive committee have planned for something special to occur each month between now and Annual Conference-- not for the purpose of clogging up the ecclesiastical arteries with cluttered agenda, but in order to provide for spiritual stimulation and joyous personal discovery. We shall begin on this date with a fascinating program presented by our clergy colleague Jody Seymour. Jody has taught and published on the subject of the Enneagram and has developed unique insights into how the nine personality characteristics relate especially to the role of clergy. Jody is a certified Enneagram instructor and uses this instrument for counseling and spiritual direction in his ministry at Davidson UMC. The Enneagram is the basis for his book, *A Time for Healing: Overcoming the Perils of Ministry*, published by Judson Press. I encourage you to visit the web site www.9types.com in order to prepare adequately for this illuminating and relevant presentation. At this interesting site you will find two on-line tests that can be taken and scored. Jody suggests that we take the RHTI test and then go over to the "New test by Hal." Doing both did not take me much time, and I compiled my own score without difficulty or confusion—rare for this clergy dinosaur that learned theology hovered over a typewriter. The website also has information about the Enneagram that will provide a good introduction for the program on September 20th. Come to Providence around 9:30 a.m. We shall begin with a few important announcements. We shall distribute the Charlotte District pictorial directory, contain-



ing your beautiful face. If you wish to join your colleagues for lunch (\$7 per person), **contact the district office for a reservation no later than noon September 17th**. Delores Jones, the Providence UMC hostess, aims to please with each meal.

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A Look at the Charlotte District

Pat and I are in the process of visiting in worship all those who have come to a new appointment since June. We are experiencing much enthusiasm and high expectation among the clergy and laity at each parish site. You are each making a significant difference in the lives of others! You are diligent in feeding your flocks. Come occasionally to be fed by others and experience the joy of collegial supportiveness in the greatest profession this world has to offer.

Grace and peace,

George

Charlotte District Superintendent



Charlotte District Superintendent George Thompson assisted Rev. Bob Symanski in serving communion on September 2, 2007 during morning worship at Oak Grove UMC.



Rev. Val Rosenquist delivers the children's sermon during worship at Hill's Chapel UMC September 2, 2007.



On August 26th Central UMC received a powerful sermon by the congregation's new pastor, Rev. Angela Pleasants, based upon the calling of the prophet Jeremiah. The church celebrated its ministry with children. Here Angela is pictured with Richard Priode (just beginning his role as Director of Music) and his family.

District Leadership Conference



District Leadership Conference: Part One, October 7th, University City UMC

We are indebted to Beverly Parker Reece, Minister of Christian Education at Pleasant Grove, for the extraordinary planning that constitutes this fall's DLC. On this 300th anniversary of Charles Wesley's birth, the theme of this momentous event will be our Wesleyan Heritage. The DLC on October 7th is not designed for only those who are leaders of the church. This is a conference of inspiration for all members of the church who aspire to becoming better disciples of Jesus Christ and wish to learn more about the theological depths of their chosen denomination, the United Methodist Church. Beverly and the DLC planners have put together a faculty that includes arguable the greatest Wesleyan scholars on the globe.

Best known for "breaking the code" of Wesley's personal diaries, Dr. Richard Heitzenrater is General Editor of the Bicentennial Edition of the Works of John Wesley, which includes his work in the seven volumes of Journals and Diaries. This project is monumental and has taken a life-time of arduous research by this extraordinary scholar. During 2002-03, he was a Henry Luce III Fellow in Theology at Duke Divinity. Professor Heitzenrater has lectured at many distinguished institutions across North America as well as Great Britain, Sweden, Russia, Austria, Bulgaria, Japan, Korea, Singapore, and Brazil. He has published 15 books, including *Wesley and the People Called Methodists*, now translated into six languages. He has contributed 22 chapters to other books and published more than 20 major scholarly articles. Heitzenrater chaired the writing project of the Committee on Our Theological Task that wrote the present doctrinal statement in Part II of *The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church*. He was recently senior co-editor of *Church History*, the journal of the American Society of Church History, and presently co-chairs the Wesley Studies Group of the Oxford Institute of Methodist Theological Studies. He has been a clergy member of the Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church for more than 45 years. Dr. Heitzenrater will provide the keynote address at the DLC and teach a class during the conference.

He will be joined on the faculty of our DLC by Dr. Robert Tuttle, Jr., Professor of Historical Theology and Evangelism at Asbury Theological Seminary. Bob began his ministry as a pastor in the WNC Conference and the Albemarle District. He is now a globally recognized theologian and Wesleyan authority. He joined the Asbury Florida Campus faculty in fall 2004 after serving on Asbury's faculty in Kentucky since 1995. His previous teaching experience includes 10 years as the E. Stanley Jones Professor of Evangelism at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary and stints as Professor of Historical Theology at Oral Roberts School of Theology and Assistant Professor of Evangelism and Wesleyan Studies at Fuller Theological Seminary. An ordained elder in the Rocky Mountain Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, Dr. Tuttle has also had years of experience pastoring churches in Colorado, North Carolina, Illinois and England. In addition to his knowledge of evangelism, he is a recognized scholar in the area of Wesleyan studies. Dr. Tuttle has written nine books, three of which probe areas of Wesleyan theology, tradition and/or history, including *John Wesley, His Life and Theology* and *Someone Out There Needs Me: A Practical Guide to Relational Evangelism*. In addition to his books, he has written scores of articles for such magazines as *Good News*, *Charisma* and *Manna*. Dr. Tuttle is a member of the American Academy of Religion and the Academy of Evangelism.

The October 7th DLC is a facet of the work of our School of Christian Discipleship. Rev. Bev Copley continues to be our consultant as we bring such quality to Christian education in the Charlotte District. Bev Copley and Beverly Parker Reece remind all pastor and leaders of the churches to recruit great crowds of people to attend from churches of all sizes. This DLC will truly be inspirational and informative! Drs. Heitzenrater and Tuttle last shared the platform together in lectures at Oxford University in England.

A second phase DLC will be held in January. This *coming attraction* will be designed just for new leaders in the churches and will focus upon the nuts and bolts of how to do a conscientious and creative job in one's leadership role.

Around the Charlotte District

Charlotte District School of Christian Discipleship

Most of the educational programming of the Charlotte District will be conducted by the Board of Advisors for Charlotte District School of Christian Discipleship (SCD). Rev. Bev Copley moved from our district to be pastor of Landis UMC in the Salisbury District. She will continue to do part-time consignment work as our Director of the SCD.



Pictured here are members of the Board attending a recent session: Rev. Fredrick Bowman, Rev. Bev Copley, Mrs. Jenny Reilly (seated), Rev. Talbot Davis, James Michael Smith, and Rev. Chris Westmoreland (standing). Rev. Beverly Parker Reece, Mrs. Mary Lou Roller, and Dr. George Thompson also serve. Contact these and offer your assessments and recommendations for opportunities to grow as a disciple. If your church wishes to sponsor a cluster learning event, contact Rev. Bev Copley (704-932-5330) and she will help you put together a module for instruction at your location.

Lectionary Study Group

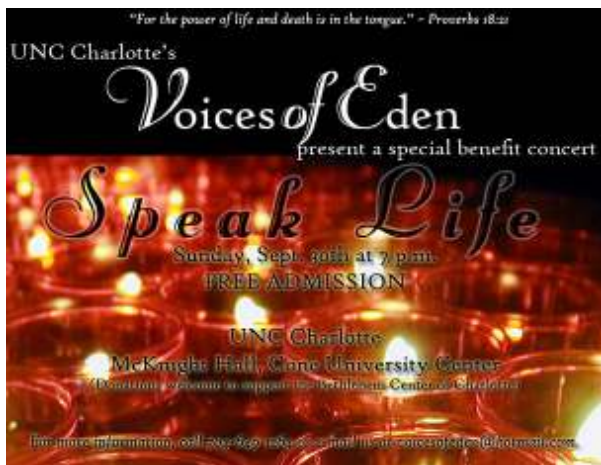
Interested in a lectionary study group? Good news! You are invited to join us Tuesday, September 25th at Memorial UMC, 4012 Central Avenue, Charlotte, NC. This group will meet bi-monthly. Those interested in additional fellowship will lunch together following the meetings. Contact Rev. Shelia Bishop at 704-523-5052 for additional information.

Stewardship Audio CD's Available • 2007 Spring Seminar with Ken Callahan

Audio CD's are available from the 2007 Spring Seminar with Ken Callahan. This information will be helpful as you reflect and prepare for 2007 Fall Charge Conference. Contact the District Office to obtain the set (5). The cost is \$25 per set.

PAUMCS (Professional Secretaries of the UMC) Fall Retreat, September 21-23

All persons engaged in administrative or secretarial UM work are invited to attend. For more details visit www.wnccumc.org/pau/pdf/TheAnchorJune2007.pdf or contact 704-525-3395.



Concert at UNC-Charlotte to Support Bethlehem Center

For more information, call 704-649-1264 or email at voicesofeden@hotmail.com

Painting Hearts with the Love of Christ

Approximately ten years ago the Charlotte District was grouped into sub-districts for the purpose of greater fellowship among churches in a closer geographic area. Out of this was born a sub-district United Methodist Men's group referred to as the Lake Norman Sub-District United Methodist Men. Composed of a number of churches in the Denver area, the group meets quarterly at member churches for fellowship and as needed for community projects.



Rev. Eric Reece

Recently, the Reverend Betty Brown of Brevard's Chapel United Methodist Church contacted the group about much needed repairs at her church. It was decided the men's group would meet to caulk, repair and paint the exterior of the sanctuary and fellowship hall. The youth fellowship of Webb's Chapel UMC scraped and caulked the building as a Vacation Bible School project. The men taped the windows and power washed the surface in preparation for the painting. It was a beautiful Saturday morning when the United Methodist Men's Group and members of Brevard's Chapel gathered to paint the lovely sanctuary and fellowship hall of Brevard's Chapel United Methodist Church. A wonderful luncheon was provided by the ladies of Brevard's Chapel.

Herman Travis is the President and Sammy Ross is the Vice-President of the Lake Norman Sub-District United Methodist Men. Our thanks to ASAP Painting Inc., Sherwin Williams Paint and Builder's Supply all of Denver, NC for their help and kindness in making this project possible.

~Reverend Eric Reece, pastor of Webb's Chapel UMC~



Webb's Chapel youth receive instructions in preparation for caulking the church.



The men tape windows and youth scrap away the old paint in preparation for power washing.



The Lake Norman Sub-District UM Men not only painted the church with fresh new paint, but also painted hearts with the pure love of Christ through their kindness and compassion for others.

Best Fest @ First!

**Saturday
September 29th
3:00 PM — 8:00 PM**

Come spend a casual day of fun-filled events for the whole family!

First United Methodist Church in Center City
(corner of Tryon & 8th Streets)

Afternoon Activities

3:00 PM – 5:30 PM

Children's games, face-painting, moonwalk bouncy, & much more! FREE!

Church Street Parking Area & Playground

3:00 PM – 5:30 PM

30 Minute Musical Concerts (Hour & Half Hour) (Come and go as you please!) FREE!

Sanctuary (Tryon Street)

3:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Silent Auction & Craft Fair — FREE!

Fellowship Hall

Evening Delight

5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

Delicious Dinner...catered especially for us! (beef, trimmings & Krispy Kreme Bread Pudding)

Fellowship Hall

\$10 Adults \$3 Children (under 10)

Dinner & Concert \$15 Adults \$8 Children

** Advance Dinner Ticket Purchase Requested.

3:00 PM – 8:00 PM

"From Broadway to North Tryon Street"

A Concert full of Broadway tunes to Gospel Music Starring the "First Church Singers" w/instrumentalists Under the direction of John-Palmer Smith

Sanctuary (Tryon Street)

\$10 Adults \$5 (under 10)

Dinner & Concert \$15 Adults \$8 Children

Free child care for infants & toddlers in the evening. Reservations please.

All proceeds will benefit the Outreach Project for Center City.

For more information, please call 704-333-9082.

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

www.fumccharlotte.org

Reorganization Task Force

The Reorganization Task Force made an interim report during the 2007 Western NC Annual Conference ((<http://www.wnccumc.org/nws/pdf/ReorgTaskForceReport60707.pdf>)).

District “Listening Sessions” are scheduled for Fall 2007 (schedule included in pdf), at which the task force will present more fully-developed thinking on the issues presented in the report and give the opportunity for conference delegates and other persons to share their responses and ideas. The task force continues to invite input from the conference. **The Task Force's recommendations to the special called session of the Annual Conference in February will be influenced by these listening sessions.** Bishop Lawrence McCleskey will make the major presentation on behalf of the Task Force at each of these sessions, and he will ask for your input. These sessions are dialogical. The final report of recommendations has not yet been written.

We recommend that you attend the gathering at **University City UMC, 3835 West WT Harris Blvd., Charlotte on October 4th at 7 p.m.**; but, if you have a conflict with this timing, we encourage your attendance at one of the other districts.

We look forward to your presence and participation in the session.

~George Thompson, Charlotte District Superintendent~

Connectional Notes

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/au2.htm>

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 with "e-news subscribe" in the subject line. The Conference Center does not share this email list with anyone.

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