Christmas Blessings to you and your family...

Charlotte Brendel
Deborah Baliles
Lyn Sorrells
This adult Mission Trip is being led by Reverend Neill Shaw, Catawba Valley District Leadership Team for Missional Engagement chairperson. The event is sponsored by the Catawba Valley District.
Grace and peace to you in this season! I know that it is a busy time with many other commitments. We pray that in the midst of the frenzy, God is at work in your community, inviting you and those you lead to a deeper understanding of life in Christ.

As we get close to the beginning of the church year and then the beginning of a new calendar year, it often becomes a time when we wonder what is next. As you wonder about what’s next for your community, you might also be at your own crossroads – wondering what’s next for your work and vocation. Being a ministry leader is exciting, challenging and always changing! You know that your own learning and development is instrumental in helping your community grow. But sometimes it’s not easy to know what step to take next. The Western North Carolina Conference Leadership Development Team wants to help! Its new Growing in Ministry Leadership initiative is designed to help you make wise decisions about your continuing growth as a ministry leader.

Let us be clear. We know you bring God-given gifts and hard-won abilities to your ministry. We are ready to invest in growing your talent. Through the Growing in Ministry Leadership process you will have the chance to take stock of all you’ve learned and accomplished and build a development plan to guide your future work. We are so committed to your growth as a leader that we will also provide scholarship funds up to a $1,000 to help you pursue your development!

There are two options from which you can choose:

- Enroll in one of our Called and Gifted to Lead workshops for a three-day learning experience with colleagues. You will receive confidential assessments of your current ministry, reflect on God’s call on your life and build a resource-rich development plan you are ready to tackle. In 2014, the workshops are available on January 27-29, May 19-21, and September 15-17. There are also 5 spots available December 9-11, 2013.

- Participate in a confidential Ministry Development Consultation with a leadership development consultant. Receive guidance about how to identify your development needs and take your next steps.

Enclosed is an application, a further description of the programs and a statement of confidentiality. This opportunity is open to clergy and lay ministry professionals. If there is someone else on your professional team for whom this might be a good experience, please invite them to be in touch with Kim Ingram for more information. And, of course, if you have questions, let us know.

In ministry together,

Kimberly Tyree Ingram
Director of Ministerial Services

Janice A. Virture
Executive Director for Leadership Development
United Methodist Foundation of WNC
Growing in Ministry Leadership
Ministry Development Consultation Application

Name:________________________________________

Email Address:_____________________________________

Mailing Address: _______________________________________

  street     city     state     zip

Work phone:_________________________ Cell phone:_________________________

Clergy: Current Appointment & Position: ________________________________

Laity: Ministry Position & Location: _______________________________________

District: ___________________________

I am interested in the following path toward growth: (see below for additional information)

____ Ministry Development Consultation

Please return this application to Rev. Kim Ingram, Director of Ministerial Services at P. O. Box 18005, Charlotte, NC 28218 or kingram@wnccumc.org. You will then receive a biographical sketch to complete and return and more information about your chosen path for advancement in your development.

MINISTRY DEVELOPMENT CONSULTATION

• What is it? This one-hour phone consultation with a leadership development professional is designed to assist you in planning for your growth and development, both personally and professionally. Upon application you will receive a biographical sketch to complete. Following the consultation you will receive a set of recommendations and resources for development. This opportunity will be beneficial for someone who has some ideas about the areas for growth that are needed, but would like support for identifying resources to support that growth or for those who are uncertain about where to begin their next phase of learning.

• Who is eligible? United Methodist clergy and lay ministry professionals who serve within the bounds of the annual conference or who have a formal relationship with the conference.

• Who will lead? The consultations will be with Rev. Janice Virtue, executive director for leadership development with the United Methodist Foundation of WNC and a leadership consultant for the conference or some other qualified professional.

• When and Where? The consultations will be scheduled following completion of an application and biographical sketch.

• What does it cost? Nothing! This is a $400 value!

• What else? Upon completion, you may apply for up to $500 to support your development plan.
Leadership Development Opportunity Scheduled for January 2014

Wondering about next steps in ministry? Hoping to develop your leadership capacity? Time to develop a future plan? A Called and Gifted to Lead Workshop may be just the right thing for you! The Leadership Development Team is offering another workshop Jan. 27-29, 2014 at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory. The cost to you is $100. The value is $1000.

This three-day experience is designed to build upon your ministry gifts and experience and prepare you for the next set of challenges in your life and ministry. During the gathering you will meet with colleagues to reflect on God’s call on your life, learn from ministry assessments like a 360° profile and a strengths assessment, and work with a resource consultant to create an individualized plan for ministry development with specific resources identified. You will be encouraged to create a plan that you want to tackle and that supports your desires for your life and work. This opportunity will be beneficial for someone who is ready to grow but would like significant conversation, feedback and resources for developing a plan to move forward. The opportunity is open to clergy and lay ministry professionals.

Here’s the link to the application on the leadwncc.org website
http://www.wnccumc.org/forms/called-and-gifted-lead-workshop-application

FISHING HOLE UPDATE

The Fishin’ Hole Ministry Team met in November, and set the fees for 2014 – to remain the same as 2013. Annual fees are based on the number in worship: Less than 100 - $60; 100-200 $80; more than 200 - $100. Subscriptions are being taken now for those who wish to use existing funds for this purpose. Use the registration page on the website: http://www.wnccumc.org/grow-learn/fishin-hole. Register and pay online.

The other big news is that there is an App for the online catalog.
for iPhones/iPads - Download and find WNCC on Surpass Trek!

Apportionments 2013 – Deadline January 7th. Payments must be received in the Conference Office by 3:00 p.m.
What makes GRACE FOR THE JOURNEY meaningful?

What it is not:
It is not “Confirmation in a weekend.”
The formation of young disciples takes a season. Our emphasis is not to attempt to cover everything, but to focus on the theology of “Grace.”
it is not a class room or workshop.
We want your students to experience their faith. Set at beautiful Camp Tekoa, there is time for service projects, worship, skits, fun activities and more there is plenty of time for outdoor experiential learning.
It is not over-hyped.
This weekend is about spiritual formation in your students. They will have time to process, reflect, pray and learn. Its not just another big event.

What it is:
Simple.
The weekend is tailored to the specific needs of younger teens. It is not a conference, it really is a retreat.
Worshipful.
Your students will be engaged in times of worship that emphasize the power of God’s grace.
Fun.
Zip-lines, the giant swing, games, worship, skits and more!
Focused.
The theme is grace. We seek to build that into all we do.
Fresh.
The teaching and experiences will bring your students’ faith alive.
Experiential.
This is a tackle, fun and interactive weekend. Your students will get to live their faith.
Affordable.
$85 covers all programming, meals, and lodging.
Where do we stay?
All participants will sleep in single bunks in the heated cabins. Bring appropriate supplies and bedding. Full packing lists will be provided to group leaders that register.

“...The Holy Spirit was definitely present in the tears, the hugs, the laughter, and the many beaming faces and eager ears and eyes. This was an learning experience like no other, and I bonded with my fellow confirmants and my Savior."
-Chloe, 2012 participant

How much will this all cost?
$85 / participant. The cost includes all activities, worship costs, meals, lodging and a long sleeve "grace" T-shirt. If it sounds like a deal, it is.

How do I register?
Call or Email John Isley
828.692.6516
jisleymn@campkteoa.org

You can reserve your spot with a $25 deposit per person (due by Dec 15). Adjustments can be made up to Jan 1. Space is limited. Call today if your group wants to be a part of this experience!

About the “Grace” Staff:
Josh Britton
Josh is a long time Tekoa Summer Staff member. He is currently a student at Duke Divinity School and is pursuing ordination as an Elder in the UMC. His singing ability is feared worldwide.

Charlie Brown
Charlie is a youth minister at Weddington UMC where he actively seeks to be a disciple of Jesus. Charlie is passionate about providing youth with opportunities to develop strong foundations for lifelong service to God.

Sandy Devold
Sandy has the heart of a teacher. Her engaging style and love for people is obvious. She serves as the Director of Christian Education at St. Andrews UMC. Until college she’d never been south of N.Y.

John Isley
John is the Assistant Director at Camp Tekoa. He served over ten years in youth ministry before he entered campus ministry. He is focused on sustained discipleship of young people and outdoor experiential ministry.

Todd McCullough
Todd is the Senior Pastor at Hope United Methodist Church. He has a long history of forming youth and values deeply the church experience. He has been mistaken for Lou Pinella at church softball games.

Britney Travis
Britney has a passion for ministering to youth, helping them grow as disciples of Christ, and feels blessed to be serving such an incredible church family at Weddington UMC where she serves as youth minister.

Kevin Ward
Kevin is a Life-long youth minister. He pursues youth faithfully with relational and contextual youth ministry. He currently serves at St. Andrews UMC in Charlotte. Pink mohawks are his style. Seriously.

Jan 10-12, 2014
Schedule:
Friday
7-8 Groups Arrive, Register
8:30 Worship - What is Grace?
9:30 Snack
10:30 Lights Out

Saturday
7:30 Wake Up
8:30 Quiet Time
8:45 Breakfast
9:30 Worship - Preventive Grace
10:00 Mission Work Around Camp
12:30 Lunch & Sharing
2:30 Camp Tekoa Activities
5:30 Clean Up
6:00 Supper
7:00 Skit Night
8:30 Worship - Justifying Grace
9:30 Snack
10:30 Lights Out

Sunday Morning
7:30 Wake Up
8:30 Quiet Time
8:45 Breakfast
9:15 Pack up & Clean up
10:00 Worship - Sanctifying Grace
11:00 Depart
Join us at Hinton Rural Life Center for
THE LECTIONARY LAB - PREACHING LENT
Delmer Chilton and John Fairless
"Two Bubbas and a Bible"

February 3-5, 2014
Hayesville, NC

This Lenten workshop is taught by two people who preach to ordinary congregations every week. The workshop is designed for those who preach regularly and will center on the texts for Lent 2014. We will exegete the texts and explore the preaching options. John will lead interactive discussions of the texts, Delmer will help the group explore various options and themes and how to present them in a sermon. We will, also, worship together with Delmer and John preaching on the themes of the Sundays in Lent. The workshop includes two nights’ accommodations, five meals, the "official" conference notebook, and interaction with the Bubbas and an outstanding group of preachers and friends.

Delmer and John first met as neighboring pastors in Nashville. They began an ecumenical Lectionary study group over fifteen years ago and their collaborative work has expanded to include the First Parish Project, the weekly Lectionary Lab blog, the Lectionary Live podcast, and the Lectionary Lab workshops.

$75.00 registration fee

Choose from the following lodging and food packages:
1) $176.00  private room and meals
2) $111.00  double room and meals
3) $222.00  private room and meals with spouse accompaniment
4) $46.00  commuter meals

Use the attached flyer or follow this link for registration information and workshop schedule:

Workshop Questions: Rev. Amy Spivey amy@hintoncenter.org 828-389-8336
HOW TO GET NEW MEMBERS FOR YOUR CHURCH

‘Turn-Around Boot Camp’

February 8-9, 2014 | The Children’s Home
1001 Reynolda Rd., Winston-Salem NC 27104
Saturday, 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. | Sunday, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Do you wish you knew how to connect with people in a way that would draw them to Christ and your church? Come to this dynamic 2-day workshop, led by Paul Nickerson, Senior Associate with Griffith Coaching, which provides assessments, training and coaching for new and turn-around churches.

TEAM UP NOW!

• Form your team - A pastor plus at least 3 non-staff lay members, up to 10 total
• Sign up for this 2-day workshop for teams only - all team members must participate

FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED

• More information, online registration: See ‘Get New Members’ at wnccumc.org/events
  You must include the names of all attendees when registering. You are only guaranteed space for the number of people you list when you register. Please see wnccumc.org/events to download the flyer, agenda, and workbook, and for group online registration.
  $300 for team of 4-9 people (limit 10/team) – Pastor must attend
  Sponsored by WNCC Office of Congregational Development, PO Box 18005, Charlotte NC 28218. Regular cost is $350 for first person and $150 for each additional person, but due to your support of our conference apportionments, we are able to offer this reduced rate. Lunch provided both days, Lodging, breakfast and supper on your own. Questions? Contact Candy Caron, ccaron@wnccumc.org - 704.535.2260 x123.

• Lodging:
  Lodging will be available at The Children’s Home. Participants are responsible for making their own arrangements. Contact Shawn Parker, 336.721.7696. Ask for the Turn Around Boot Camp block.

• Follow-up: Multiple coaching opportunities
Gary Shockley Tapped for Congregational Development

Bishop Larry Goodpaster is pleased to announce the appointment of the Reverend Gary A. Shockley as the Congregational Development Team Leader for the WNCC. The appointment is effective January 1, 2014. Shockley is an elder in the Florida Conference, who has extensive training and expertise in new church development and revitalization, fund-raising, strategic planning, team building, and conflict resolution.

Shockley received his B.S. in Psychology and Religion from Messiah College in Grantham, PA, his M.Div. from Ashland Theological Seminary in Ashland, Ohio, and a Master’s Degree in Spiritual Formation and Counseling from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, PA.

Most recently, Shockley was appointed Senior Minister of St. Andrew UMC in Highlands Ranch, CO. Previously, he served as Executive Director of Path 1, which is the New Church Starts division of the UM General Board of Discipleship; Associate and New Church Start Pastor for St. Luke’s UMC in Orlando, FL; Congregational Developer for Cornerstone UMC in Cranberry Township, PA; and Executive Fund-Raising Consultant for Resource Services, Inc. in Dallas, Texas.

Shockley is married to Kim, who is a ministry/leadership coach with Hopespring Creative Solutions. She has rich experience as a teacher, facilitator, coach, and leader at both the local church and annual conference levels.

Lay Servant Ministries in the WNCC

Members of the Board of Laity, Conference Staff and Cabinet representatives met in late November to clarify Lay Servant Ministries in the Western North Carolina Conference. A quote from the explanation document:

"In 2012, the General Conference of The United Methodist Church changed the name of Lay Speaking Ministries to Lay Servant Ministries. The term servant was chosen to expand the reach of this leadership development program. No longer should participants view this as a training for only those who feel called to “fill the pulpit” when the pastor is away."

This explanation document outlines the changes that took place at General Conference, and explains the roles of Local Church Lay Servants, Certified Lay Servants and the new ministry role of Certified Lay Speaker.

All of this information is found under Lay Servant Ministries on the website.

Contact information for Conference and District Leadership is also included on this page.
Summit 2014, Feb 7-9, 2014- Register Now!

Summit - United Methodist Youth Weekend
February 7-9, 2014
Blowing Rock Conference Center

We'd love to see you at Summit 2014. However, spots are filling up. Make sure you register soon.
Register online  http://www.summitretreat.com/

- Things to Note:
  - We have moved to the Blowing Rock Conference Center - a great place for a winter retreat
  - Housing is available at a highly discounted price right on the conference center campus
  - Meals are also available
  - Our music worship & music leader, Kyle Sigmon, will inspire all
  - Our speakers, Brian Combs and Diron Chloe will bring transformative and relevant messages that will stick
  - We are working with several ski & tube locations to get some great deals

Online Education Opportunities Available

The opportunities for learning through the Online Continuing Education Consortium are short term or degree-seeking. The Online Consortium has expanded to begin listing full accredited online degree programs along with individual CEU courses. A variety of topics are available and new opportunities are added regularly.

Check out their website to see the variety of opportunities: http://www.gbhem.org/ministry/online-continuing-education-consortium.

See more at: http://wnccumc.org/leadership-development/resources/online-continuing-ed...

LeadWNCC.org is your home for leadership development.
**MISSION RESPONSE CENTER**

**Important Notice (Fall 2013)**- Until further notice, the Mission Response Center suggests that churches collecting UMCOR kits concentrate on supplying Bedding Kits, Layettes, and Sewing Kits. These are the most needed for UMCOR ministries.

More cleaning buckets are **NOT** needed at the Mission Response Center at this time. We currently have a stock of over 6,500 cleaning buckets and are in overflow at the moment. The MRC will give notice when more buckets are needed.

**Needed - Volunteers:** Volunteers are needed at the Mission Response Center in Terrell to sort and pack humanitarian aid items. Please contact Dwaine Morgan, 828.478.2106, to schedule a time.

**Needed - Wooden Pallets:** Either 40" X 48" or 36" X 48" wooden pallets for shipping UMCOR Cleaning Buckets. If anyone has access to pallets of these sizes, please contact Dwaine Morgan, 828.478.2106, at the Mission Response Center.

**Hours:** Every Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and first Saturday of month, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

**Email:** dmorgan@wnccumc.org

**Phone:** Call 828.478.2106 in advance, in case the manager needs to be away during those times.

**Mail:** PO Box 284, Terrell NC 28682

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**BOOK OF DISCIPLINE 2012 ERRATA POSTED**

If you have a 2012 Book of Discipline, please note that there are a few minor errors in it. We have posted the most recent Errata in PDF form on the Conference website. You may want to print it and tuck it in your Discipline for reference.

Payments must be received in the Conference Office by 3:00 p.m.
District Concerns and Celebrations

CELEBRATIONS: (births, marriages, etc.)
- Baby Noah, born November 1 to Derek Cline (Friendship Catawba Assistant) and Mitzi Cline
- Baby Emmalena, born November 21 to Ann Duncan (Shelby: Hoyle Memorial) and Nathan Duncan

CONCERNS: (illnesses, surgeries, military deployments, etc.)
- Ron Karriker (Shiloh Assistant)
- Danny Tapp (Mount Harmony-Burke Chapel)
- Al Spicer, husband of Cindy Spicer (Beulah-Concord)
- Bobby Hallyburton (Friendship (Burke)-Shady Grove)
- Gregg Plott (Gastonia: First Associate)
- Ed Biggers (Retired)

SYMPATHY:
- The family of Faye Stephenson, wife of Ed Stephenson (Arneys Fairview)
- The family of Renie Miner, mother of David Miner Sr (West Casar Charge)
District Clergy Birthdays - December

4th Larry Puryear – Retired
5th Randi Godfrey – Retired
5th Robert Whittaker – Belmont: Saint Mark’s Assistant
5th Jeremy Morris – Shelby: Aldersgate Associate
6th Laura Auten – Gastonia: Maylo
7th Tony Bowman – Hildebran: First
8th Mitch Murrow – Retired
10th Anita Sain – Asbury
12th Priscilla Walker – Hoey Memorial-Sulphur Springs
13th Ken Curtis – Mount Pleasant (Catawba)
13th Tony Sayer – Ebenezer (Catawba)
13th Richard Randolph – Retired
13th Ellen Harkey – Retired
15th Jeff Johnsen – Denver: Denver
15th Alexander McCorkle – Denver: Brevard’s Chapel
16th Heather Kilbourne – Morganton: Saint Matthew’s
16th Thomas Griffis – Retired
19th Ted Powell – Retired
20th Wayne Smith – Retired
21st Neil Brantley – Table Rock: Linville-Mountain Grove
22nd Keys Pendleton – Retired
23rd Tommy Conder – McKendree
23rd Charles Kyker – Christ (Catawba)
28th Bruce Hobson – Retired
31st H L Talbert – Leave
31st Rich Tuttle – Catawba

The United Methodist Church Catawba Valley District
166 East Main Avenue – Gastonia, NC 28052
Telephone 704-865-3580 • Fax 704-866-9792
DS Email – LSorrells@wnccumc.org • District Office Email – DBaliles@wnccumc.org
Congregational Vitality Strategist Email – CBrendel@wnccumc.net
Website – http://www.wnccumc.org/districts/catawba-valley
http://www.facebook.com/catawbavalleyumc