



## MARCH 2010 NEWSLETTER

### **Albemarle District Office of United Methodist Church**

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Dear Friends,

Last week, Dr. Lillie Jones shares this prayer poem by Archbishop Oscar Romero with the cabinet as we spent a morning in prayer and contemplation at Belmont Abbey. I share it with you as an important reminder of who and whose we are.

### **A FUTURE NOT OUR OWN**

It helps, now and then, to step back  
and take the long view.

The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts,  
it is beyond our vision.

We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny  
fraction of the magnificent enterprise  
that is God's work.

Nothing we do is complete,  
which is another way of saying

that the kingdom always lies beyond us.

No statement says all that could be said.

No prayer fully expresses our faith.

No confession brings perfection.

No pastoral visit brings wholeness.

No program accomplishes the church's  
mission.

No set of goals and objectives includes  
everything.

This is what we are about:

We plant seeds that one day will grow.  
We water seeds already planted, knowing  
that they hold future promise.  
We lay foundations that need further  
development.  
We provide yeast that produces effect  
beyond our capabilities.  
We cannot do everything.  
And there is a sense of liberation in realizing  
that.  
This enables us to do something,  
and to do it very well.

It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning,  
a step along the way,  
an opportunity for God's grace to enter and  
do the rest.  
We may never see the end results,  
but that is the difference between  
the master builder and the worker.  
We are workers, not master builders  
Ministers, not messiahs  
We are prophets of a future not our own.

I pray that this Lenten season continues to be a holy one for you, Amy

### **SERIES OF COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICES AND LUNCHES**

Everyone is invited to attend this year's series of Community Lenten services to be held on Wednesdays at 12:00 noon at First Lutheran Church in Albemarle. This year's theme is "Christ on Trial". The following pastors will be the weekly preachers:

- February 24--Rev. Lee Shelnett of Westminster Presbyterian
- March 3--Rev. Roger Thomas of First Baptist
- March 10--Rev. John Futterer of First Lutheran
- March 17--Rev. Lanny Lancaster of Stony Hill UMC
- March 24--Rev. Bob Gruver of First Assembly of God

A luncheon will be served each week following the service at 12:30. The love offering received from the lunch will benefit Samaritan's Purse--Haiti Relief. The churches in the Downtown Albemarle Ministerial Association are sponsoring this series.

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### **REGISTRATION DEADLINE EXTENDED!**

Don't Miss Out On The Bishop's Confirmation Celebration!

Three dates and locations!

- March 13<sup>th</sup> @ Brevard College (Deadline to Register March 5<sup>th</sup>)
- March 20<sup>th</sup> @ Pfeiffer University (Deadline to Register March 12<sup>th</sup>)**
- March 27<sup>th</sup> @ Bennett College (Deadline to Register March 19<sup>th</sup>)

Event Format: Interactive sessions which includes the commitments confirmands will make of prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness!

Download the attached flyer at  
<http://www.wnccumc.org/yth/confirmation.htm> for more information.



Pfeiffer University students are taking a mission trip to Cuba in May and they are seeking churches who would like to partner with them on the mission.

The students can go to churches to make a night or Sunday presentation. If your church, Sunday school class or UMW unit are interested please contact Dr. Philip Wingeier-Rayo (704) 219-6718 or [phil.wingeier@pfeiffer.edu](mailto:phil.wingeier@pfeiffer.edu).



"I look on all the world as my parish; thus far I mean, that, in whatever part of it I am, I judge it meet, right, and my bounden duty, to declare unto all that are willing to hear, the glad tidings of salvation."  
John Wesley June 11, 1739

## Tuesday, March 16

**Central UMC, Albemarle  
6:30pm**

**Bishop Goodpaster will have a time of conversation with the laity of the district. Pastors are also invited to be a part of this time with the Bishop with the reminder that the purpose is for him to share with and hear from the laity.**



Hinton Rural Life Center is hosting an intense two-day workshop with Eddie Hammett, author of Reaching People Under 40 While Keeping People Over 60: Being Church For All Generations. This event, which will be held **May 10-11, 2010**, is an opportunity for both clergy and laity to learn new hands-on tools that can with the rest of the congregation. For more information, please visit [www.hintoncenter.org](http://www.hintoncenter.org). Reservations are available.



Looking for a peaceful retreat setting for a group from your church? Check out Providence Lodge, located on the grounds of Lake Junaluska. This cozy, rustic lodge, built in 1915 can accommodate corporate meetings, retreats, family reunions, board meetings, Bible study groups, youth trips – or any gatherings of up to about 36 people. For more information, check out the website: [www.providencelodge.com](http://www.providencelodge.com) or call Susan Pate at 1-888-631-3400 (toll free) or 828-456-6486.

**Birthdays**

- 3-6 *Lucille Blizzard*
- 3-18 *J. David Colson*
- 3-18 *Mark Curtis*
- 3-19 *Mark Weekley*
- 3-21 *Jimmie Furr*
- 3-22 *Kristy Burnette*
- 3-28 *Britt Hadley*
- 3-29 *Marion Clarke*
- 3-29 *Ron Setzer*
- 3-30 *Randy Blanton*

**Anniversaries**

- 3-3 *Ed & Gini Briggs*
- 3-8 *Eddie & Brenda Black*
- 3-9 *Howard & Sandra Moore*
- 3-14 *Jimmie & Barbara Furr*
- 3-20 *David & Candice Lawrence*
- 3-20 *Doris & Jimmy Cornelius*
- 3-22 *Tony & Erin Allen*
- 3-31 *Rob & June Rollins*

**Prayer concerns within the District**

Rev. Marilyn Wooten is recovering from back surgery.

Rev. Nick Rochester's, grandson, Cameron, has been put on "kidney transplant list" for a donor.

Rev. Tim Whittington's wife, Linda will have open heart surgery in April.

Rev. Jim Chrisawn, wife, Edie, is undergoing a lot of trouble with cardiovascular edema in both legs.

**If you have any prayer concerns that you would like shared in the newsletter, Please contact the District Office.**

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**One Great Hour of Sharing (March 14, 2010)**

When the first tremors of the earthquake in Haiti rocked that island nation, UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) staff were already in country, strategizing how United Methodists could help improve the lives of the people there. Their work is a direct result of the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering, which supports the operating expenses of those who bring healing and help in our name. It makes it possible, when we respond to an emergency like Haiti, to know that 100% of our gift goes directly to where the suffering is happening.

Every year, but this year more than ever, I hope you'll give your people the opportunity to join with the faithful across the church to support the One Great Hour of Sharing.

Call (888) 346-3862 today to order envelopes and other resources so your congregation can participate in this church-wide offering. They will be sent at no cost to your church! Find more at [umcgiving.org/specialsundays](http://umcgiving.org/specialsundays).

Thanks in advance for your participation! Amy



United Methodists from across the Western North Carolina Conference will be **impacting our communities with the love of Jesus Christ** through a conference-wide missions workday on **Saturday, June 5** (the

Saturday before Annual Conference). This event is similar to the One Great Day of Service that was held in the district last year – only it will include all 15 districts. UCom is partnering with us to provide media coverage before and after the event. To participate, here's what you need to do:

**Each local church is asked to name an Impact! coordinator to help facilitate and promote this ministry within the church and community.**

**Send the name and contact information of your local church coordinator to the district office.**

**This coordinator and the pastor should plan to attend a training session at Love's Grove UMC on Tuesday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm.**

**Ask church members not only to save this date but also to invite their un-churched friends to join them in helping to meet the needs of others in your community and beyond!**

### **Hands-On "MobilePack" to Feed Children In Haiti**

Three large MultiPack Events are being organized to feed children in Haiti. The goal is to pack 1,000,000 meals:

June 1-5 350,000 meals Mineral Springs UMC

**(a part of the Albemarle District Impact! event)**

June 16-19 300,000 meals SW Charlotte

June 22-26 350,000 meals NE Charlotte

In total, these events will require 5,000 volunteers and donations totaling \$170,000 to pay for the meals. Faith UMC and others are reaching out to surrounding communities and extending the plea to other churches, mosques, synagogues and business to come together as one community working for one common vision – feed 1,000,000 starving children.

Each meal costs 17 cents. An organization called "Feed My Starving Children" ([www.fmssc.org](http://www.fmssc.org)) will arrive with a truck loaded with rice, soy nuggets, vitamins, dehydrated vegetables and chicken flavoring. Volunteers from 3<sup>rd</sup> grade to adults will form packing stations to put together the highly nutritious meals in small pouches.

Their website is: [www.millionmealmission.org](http://www.millionmealmission.org). At this site, you can learn more, donate, or sign up for a packing shift. Each shift is two hours and the need is for 100 people per shift.

"Feed My Starving Children" has worked with mission partners in Haiti for more than 10 years, and currently holds close partnerships with nearly 200 Haiti-based programs. Several of these programs are already offering meals to victims of the earthquake. **One million meals are currently on the ground in Haiti.** "Feed My Starving Children" would like to send an additional three million meals for Haiti relief. We believe people in this area can provide one million of these meals.

FYI: Recently, one of our churches was informed by a risk audit through their insurance company that they could not display persons' pictures on their OPEN web site without their written consent and that they should not display pictures of children because of sexual predators searching the web and finding children for abuse. Thus, they have taken their site down and are in the process of redesigning it to have an open area and a protected area. You, too, might want discuss this matter with your insurance company and your church trustees.

## Coming to the Western North Carolina Conference

### Dr. Leonard Sweet

April 17, 2010

#### Key Note Address

***“Freely You Have Received, Freely Give: A Holistic Theology of Receiving and Giving”***

**What:** 2010 Spring Stewardship Event - *Life, Faith and Money*

**Sponsored by:** United Methodist Foundation of WNC Conference Stewardship Committee

**When:** April 17<sup>th</sup> 9:30 – 2:00

**Who:** Dr. Leonard Sweet, and leaders from WNC Conference

**Where:** Mt Tabor United Methodist Church, 3543 Robinhood Rd., Winston Salem, NC

**Cost:** \$20.00 Per Person (Payable at the door-lunch included)

**Event Schedule:**

- Key note address 10:00 – 11:00
- 1<sup>st</sup> Break-out Session 11:15 – 12:15
- Lunch 12:15 – 1:00
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Break-out Session 1:00 – 2:00

**4 Break Out Sessions:** You may choose 2

**Registration Deadline:** April 9, 2010

**How to Register:** <http://www.umfoundationwnc.org/april2010reg.cfm>

Participants will have the option to choose two of the following break-out sessions:

- 1) **The Simple Life** – Dr. Leonard Sweet
- 2) **Family/Children Stewardship** – Rev. Gloria Hughes/Caroline Wood
- 3) **Environmental Stewardship** – Rev. Dr. Boyd Holliday
- 4) **Clergy Communication Related to Stewardship** – Rev. Dr. Kenneth Carter

Dr. Leonard Sweet is author of more than two hundred articles, 1200 published sermons and almost forty books. Dr. Sweet is currently working on two textbooks: one on preaching (*Giving Blood*) and one on evangelism (*Pay Attention: Every Bush is Burning*). His most recent book is *So Beautiful: Divine Design for Life and the Church*. The last two years Dr. Sweet has been voted by his peers as “One of the 50 Most Influential Christians in America” as polled by Church Report magazine. His popular weekly podcast is called “Napkin Scribbles.” Currently occupying the E. Stanley Jones Chair of Evangelism, Dr. Sweet served from 1995 to 2001 as Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of the Theological School at Drew University, Madison, New Jersey. He is also a Visiting Distinguished Professor at George Fox University in Portland, Oregon, and President Emeritus of United Theological Seminary. He is a weekly contributor to the online preaching resource, [sermons.com](http://sermons.com).

## District Calendar

- **March 8**- District Clergy Meeting Starts at 9:00AM Each event will begin with a continental breakfast, courtesy of Duke, at 9:00 a.m. A team from the Clergy Health Initiative at Duke Divinity School will share progress of the initiative.
- **Mar. 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, and 21<sup>st</sup>**: Lay Speaker Training from 2:00 to 5:00 pm at First UMC in Wadesboro. Local Church Lay Speakers and Certified Lay Speaker courses being offered. Information has been emailed to Pastors and mailed hard copies to Lay Leaders.
- **March 16<sup>th</sup>**- Bishop Goodpaster will be in the Albemarle District. Meeting with laity. The Bishop has asked that the lay leader, lay member to annual conference, PPRC chair, and church council chair from each church be specifically invited to come.
- **March 18<sup>th</sup>**- UMW Prayer Breakfast. Starts at 8:00 at Central UMC in Monroe.