

May 2010

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Hand-in-Hand in the Rock Hill District

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2010 Annual Conference



Thursday, June 10

10:30 AM — Clergy Session
11:00 AM — Laity Orientation

Friday, June 11

Afternoon: *Great Day of Service*

Saturday, June 12

11:00 AM — Retiree Service
7:00 PM — Ordination

Sunday, June 13

Sending Forth & Fixing of the Appointments

Thoughts from Our District Superintendent



Sara White

Every conversation that I have had lately seems to start with somebody saying to me, “I know that you’re busy.” I suspect that means I’m not returning calls and emails as quickly as they are needed and I apologize. Everybody is busy, say the experts, and the folks who are not busy are lonely. In fact, studies show that calendars are fuller than ever for most people and yet more people are lonely. I suspect that most of us know what it is like to have a full calendar and yet suspect that a lot of it doesn’t mean much (and yes, preachers, I know that means monthly preacher’s meetings). A lot of the time it seems that we are very busy with small things that do not create greater ones. I want to intrude to lift up two items that are already on your radar and that offer us a chance to be a part of something bigger than the present moment. One is the **Mother’s Day Offering for Epworth Children’s Home** and the second is the **District Clergy Meeting and Sending Forth** on May 27 at India Hook UMC (Gathering at 9:30; Meeting at 10:00).

The **Mother’s Day Offering** makes such a difference to the individual lives of the children and to the corporate life of the state of South Carolina. Last year offerings were up over \$200,000. That kind of money makes a difference. Thank you.

The **District Clergy Meeting and Sending Forth** offers the chance to prayerfully acknowledge and bless the shared work of pastors in this district. The connection is strengthened and the prayers make a difference.

I know that you’re busy. Let the little things mean a lot. ~ Sara

Equipping and Connecting *Thoughts from Our Congregational Specialist*

When I went off to seminary from my local church, I had very little understanding about the United Methodist gift of the Connection. Since I had always been Methodist, I did not know that we have an opportunity in our denomination that other denominations do not experience to the same extent.

John Wesley believed in local churches connecting with each other in order to do ministry that would be difficult to do solo. I am thankful that we in South Carolina are still learning how to connect in meaningful ways.

One way that Connectional Ministries is hoping to strengthen that connection is with the structure change to be proposed at annual conference in June. If the proposal passes, the focus of Connectional Ministries work will begin to shift more intentionally toward equipping and connecting local churches at the district level. The District Council of Connectional Ministries will be reconfigured around the areas of Discipleship, Outreach, Advocacy, and Lay Leadership. Connectional Ministries funds will be allocated to the districts to support this work. If you want to read



Kathy James

more about the proposed change, you can do so [here](#). I invite you to be in prayer for God to be at work through this proposal and the decision of the annual conference regarding it.

I am thankful today for the conference Board of Ordained Ministry's new internship program that allows seminary students to serve in our conference during the summer. What an opportunity for our future church leaders to see the value and potential of our Methodist connection early in their formation for ministry! Connectional Ministries is pleased to have an intern who will be researching and indexing resources for

each of the eight quality characteristics for Natural Church Development. The intern will be identifying resources that local churches in our conference and the congregational specialists have found to be useful. Our hope is that by the end of the summer, we will have a user-friendly quality characteristic resource for churches to use. This work represents the next step in our effort to make the Natural Church Development process accessible to local churches.

I find great joy in working with churches in the Rock Hill District and in seeing how God's Spirit is moving among us in creative and energizing ways. Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can support your ministry in any way. You can reach me at 803-493-6192 or kljames@umcsc.org. Blessings to you and your church this summer!

~ Kathy

ConnX Newsletter

ConnX is the bi-monthly Connectional Ministries newsletter. Click [here](#) to read the May/June 2010 edition.

If you have an event, training, resource or idea you'd like to share conference-wide,

please email them to mbrodie@umcsc.org.

The goal is to promote things at least 6 months in advance, so please don't wait until the last minute to submit things.

District Prayer Concerns



Mr. Hank Wilson, father of **Rev. Miriam Mick**, Spiritual Director, St. John’s (Rock Hill), who is under the care of Serenity Palliative and Hospice Care in Lyman, SC.

The Rev. April Hall, on incapacity leave from the Rock Hill district living in Virginia.

Continue to remember all of our **deployed military personnel** serving around the globe, including:

Randy Parker, son of Rev. Larry Parker, deployed to Iraq for his *third* tour of duty.

Rev. Curtis Wells, Chaplain serving in Germany.



Clergy Families’ Birthdays & Anniversaries

May

- | | | | |
|------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| 5 Bert Watson | 10 Oscar Smith | 15 Joseph Curtis | 27 Randy & Lori Madsen |
| 7 Laurie Ritter | 10 Danny Summey | 15 Kathy Owens | 30 Heather Elder |
| 7 Sara Rumford | 11 <i>Narcie & Mike Jeter</i> | 16 <i>Kevin & Amy Cooley</i> | |
| 8 Karen Kluever | 13 Kathy James | 16 Mike Jeter | |
| 10 Jackie Morris | 13 <i>Rebecca & Fred Wilkins</i> | 24 Tyler Batson | |

June

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 Sidney Galloway | 7 Enoch Jeter | 20 Fran Chambers |
| 2 Kate Smoak | 14 Amy Cooley | 21 Donna Lollis |
| 3 Harry Gindhart | 14 Dow Ritter | 23 <i>Robert & Carolyn Hopper</i> |
| 3 <i>Mike & Laurie Ritter</i> | 15 Betty Tysinger | 25 <i>Arthur & Margaret Vick</i> |
| 5 Zachary Elliott | 20 <i>Doug & Fran Chambers</i> | 29 Mike Catoe |



How to Contact the Editor

The editor of the Rock Hill District “Hand-in-Hand” newsletter and the webmaster of the District’s webpage is the Rev. Steve King. He may be contacted by e-mail at smking@umcsc.org, by phone at 803-327-1858 or by “snail” mail at 824 Lombardy Road, Rock Hill, SC 29730.

Hand-in-Hand with the Winthrop Wesley Foundation



The students of Wesley have stepped up to the plate this semester in fundraising so that they could take an international mission trip for Spring Break. Each student paid 60% of the cost of the trip themselves and the other 40% was raised by Wesley primarily through *Dollars for Wesley Sunday* and Wesley's *First Annual Yard Sale* in mid-April.

Dollars For Wesley Sunday

On Palm Sunday (March 28) more than 35 students spoke at local congregations, sharing what Wesley is and what it means to them. Students traveled all across the district, some riding the circuit with local pastors from church to church and others going to places they had never seen before. Each student got a taste of our local UMCs in action and got to see firsthand the people that support them through prayers, supply drives, work days, Wednesday night meals, and special giving.

Senior Jessica Beverstein, who visited Woodland UMC, said, "It was so

cool to see how much the local Methodist churches care about Wesley. It was also neat to interact with people at each church and show them that Wesley does make a huge difference in the lives of college students. The amount of money we raised and the support shown by the churches was incredible!!"

Students were amazed at the response of these churches to support them in their faith journey while they are in college. The fundraising day raised over \$6,000 and made a huge difference to this ministry. In these economic times when students are working multiple jobs to pay for school expenses, these gifts are visible witnesses to the love of congregations supporting them and they make a tremendous difference.

We are hugely appreciative of all of the churches that participated. We welcome you to Wesley anytime and if you ever would like a student to speak at your church, please do let us know.

Wesley's First Annual Yard Sale

Erica Oliveira, a student at York Technical College, led the charge for the Wesley Yard Sale. She communicated with local churches, asked for donations, and did all of the advertising.

Local pastors, congregation members and many, many students donated to the Yard Sale. Wesley House resident Leanna Greenwood said, "The yard sale was crazy! It was a true-life miracle that Wesley was able to raise over \$1,000 from other people's junk. I thought we might make \$300 at most from all the clothes and old cooking books piled in the Wesley House. It was such a blessing to have help from so many people in the community and from Wesley students." — *Narvie*

For more information about The Winthrop Wesley Foundation, visit www.winthropwesley.com email winthropwesley@gmail.com or call 803-327-5640.



**TAKE
NOTE**

of these Upcoming Events !!

May 27 — Clergy Meeting and Sending Forth at India Hook, 9:30 gathering, 10:00 meeting

May 31 — District Office Closed (Memorial Day)

June 10-13 — Annual Conference, Florence Civic Center

June 23-27 — Harambee, Lake Junaluska

June 30 — Moving Day

July 9-11 — Laity Convocation, Lake Junaluska

July 12-16 — Breeze Youth Week, Southern Wesleyan Univ.