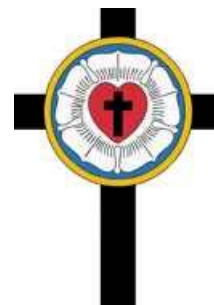


SOUTH CAROLINA UNITED METHODIST CONFERENCE

February 2012



Hand-in-Hand in the Rock Hill District



Message from the District Superintendent

Traveling is a new experience for me. I have spent my entire adult life as a United Methodist pastor who works on weekends with the salary of a United Methodist pastor as funding. Being a superintendent has required and offered more chances to travel. Sometimes I've wanted to travel, and sometimes I've just traveled.

Last week I was on St. Simon's Island in south Georgia for a continuing education event. The leader of the event, Gil Rendle, may be familiar to you from his book, *Journey in the Wilderness*, which describes the challenges and opportunities that are ours as Jesus' current generation. He is a wonderful speaker and so gently speaks to you the hard words that you are actually able to hear them rather than cower away in self-enforced deafness.

One of the words that I heard from Rendle last week was necessity – the necessity of moving into awareness that the appropriate response to so many of the questions posed by our life today is not action but learning. And then moving forward with each newly acquired bit of knowledge/expertise to find the next brings you the possibility that you will have learned the answers that you need. He warned me – and everybody there – of the dangers created when action occurs without learning.

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, March 4, 3:00-6:00 p.m.
Woodland United Methodist Church

*To Serve the Present Age ~ A Call to
Action*

Worship, Service, and Learning
Opportunities
Celebration of Vital
Congregations' Goals

For United Methodists of the
Rock Hill District

Details to follow. Don't miss it!!!!

Additionally, I was so reassured when Rendle noted that one of the necessities of mastering a profession was to spend some time being overwhelmed as you moved into mastery. In a very real way, you and I as congregation members and clergy of the United Methodist church are trying to master a new way of life as congregations in mission for Jesus.

The final thing that I'll share is his reminder that we are not in mission for ourselves. Rendle says that we are the resources for the mission which is the transformation of the world through Jesus Christ. We don't work for our satisfaction. We work for the satisfaction of that mission.

It was a lot of learning for a week. And, Rendle noted that I'd probably only retain 10 percent of it (I'm hoping for a miraculous 25 percent). On the 23rd, I leave for the South Carolina Conference Holy Land trip for the Ordination Classes of 2010 and 2011. It will be a lot to learn.

I want to share with you my 10 percent from my first trip. We were in Caesarea Phillippi. I had no idea that it was at one time a place where offerings including human sacrifice were offered to pagan gods until I was told. It was a fearful spot full of beauty. And, it gave me the creeps. It gave me a new appreciation of Jesus' question, "Who do you say that I am?" What audacity to ask in the place where the old gods ghost haunt. And I think bravo for Peter who pushed aside the ghosts and said "You are the Son of the living God."

We live and learn in the presence of the living God. I'll be back in the office on February 4. I still have a lot to learn.

And also . . .

Please welcome **Lollie Haselden** to the District Office as Office Administrator. She began work on the 25th of January. A former middle school teacher, Lollie's assumption of this position proves again how God takes care of us. She is the wife of Rett Haselden, associate pastor of St. John's UMC, Rock Hill and the mother of Wyatt who is the youngest member of the parsonage families of the Rock Hill District.

And please join me in thanking Karen Hill who leaves the district office for a full time position. She made quite an impression in a short period of time.

When I consider Brenda Curtis, Karen Hill and now Lollie Haselden I have to think that God has been very, very good to the Rock Hill District.

Peace,

Sara

Newsletter information: We want to know all there is to know about your church's activities, news and upcoming events. So send your articles, announcements, pictures, etc. to Teresa Glass, tkg278@carolina.rr.com by the 25th of each month.

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, CLOVER

124 BETHEL STREET

CLOVER, SC 29710

803-222-3496

The Food Project

First UMC, Clover just launched a new ministry to combat hunger in the Clover area. Called the "Food Project," this program will be giving away food to those in need on the **3rd Saturday** of every month. The first giveaway took place on January 21 at 9:00 a.m. and approximately 28 families were provided with groceries and other household products and prayer. Dave Wray is chairing this project, and he can be reached at wraydave@aol.com or 803-367-1351.



Haiti Study

United Methodist Women (UMW) of First, Clover and Clover Chapel will host a study on Haiti in the Mission and Fellowship center of First, Clover on Sunday, **February 12, at 2:00 p.m.** Rebecca Rochester, formerly Social Action Coordinator and currently Assistant Dean of the School of Christian Mission of the SC Conference United Methodist Women, will conduct the session around the 2011-2012 UMW geographical study, "Haiti: Challenges and Change." James Smith, member of Cornerstone United Methodist Church, Rock Hill, will share his experiences on his four mission trips to Haiti, three occurring since the 2010 earthquake. An offering will be taken for the Haiti Advance Special. United Methodist churches in the York-Clover area have been invited, and the study is open to anyone who wishes to attend.

Valentine's Dinner

First, Clover will host a **Valentine's dinner on Saturday, February 11, beginning at 7:00 p.m.** in the Missions & Fellowship Center. Good food, great fellowship and musical entertainment will be provided. The cost is \$30.00 per couple (single ladies get in free). All are invited to join in this annual treat hosted by Clover's United Methodist Men. Tickets are available in the church office.

ValentinesDay  **Tuesday, February 14**

FRIENDSHIP UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1200 NEELY STORE ROAD
ROCK HILL, SC 29730
803-324-0172

The WOW Program, February 1 - March 7

The Me I Want to Be: Becoming God's Best Version of You. This is a five-week video study by John Ortberg. “As God helps you grow, you will change, but you will always be you. An acorn can grow into an oak tree. It can be a healthy oak, or it can be a stunted oak, but it will never be a rose bush. You will always be you, a growing you or a languishing you – but God did not create you to be anyone else. He pre-wired your temperament. He determined your natural gifts and talents. He made you to feel certain passions and desires. He planned your body and mind. Your uniqueness is God-designed.” “Here’s the good news: When you flourish, you become more you. You become more that person God had in mind when He thought you up. You don’t just become holier, you become you-ier.” “God wants to redeem you, not exchange you.”



Youth Fundraisers

Friendship Youth would like to thank everyone for making the youth auction a huge success. Through participation by many, donations and gifts of time and talents, the total amount raised was \$2400.00. Many thanks from all the youth and adult leaders.

The Youth Mission Fundraiser schedule for February follows:

- Thursday, February 2 – Thirty One Gifts Fundraiser (open to the public), 6:30 p.m.
- Sunday, February 12 – Valentine’s Lunch and Bake Sale following morning worship
- Thursday, February 23 – Chick-fil-A Spirit Night – Dave Lyle, 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.
- Saturday, February 25 – Youth Yard Sale, 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Mission Work through FAMILY PROMISE OF ROCK HILL

“Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by doing so some have entertained angels without knowing it.” Hebrews 13:2

Family Promise of Rock Hill provides housing, meals and other assistance to homeless families in the York County Area. Every week the families rotate their stay among 13 churches in the area. These churches provide a place to stay and meals to the families.

Woodland UMC is one of these churches. Each night a male and a female volunteer must stay with the families at Woodland. Therefore, 14 slots must be filled for the program to work. This is a large undertaking even for a church the size of Woodland. Thus, Friendship has offered to fill some of the slots each quarter when it is Woodland’s turn to host the families.



These families are usually young folks who have been blessed with children they love, but who have not yet learned the work skills to support a family. Family Promise helps them obtain skills and employment and teaches them how to manage money. Friendship has been supporting this ministry for over a year now and has not encountered the same family twice since the program strives to make families self-sufficient as soon as possible. Often couples from Friendship have volunteered to spend the night at Woodland together. One couple from Friendship shared how this ministry has blessed them:

“Our first volunteer opportunity with Family Promise involved staying overnight with one young woman. Since there was only one guest that night, we decided to go out to eat rather than have another team prepare a meal at the church. We asked where she wanted to go and she chose IHOP. She was a young, educated woman, who was seven months pregnant and homeless. During our conversation over dinner we found out that she had studied to be a medical assistant, but was currently working at a local retail shop where Family Promise found her employment. However, she was hoping to find something in her field after her baby came. We played cards and talked more later at the church - it was more like ‘family night’ with games, hot chocolate, and talk. We felt blessed that she spent time with us and shared with us.

“You never know who you will meet or what they will share but you always are blessed by the experience.”

Our next opportunity was a little less ‘quiet’ – there were three families staying with us overnight; a husband and wife with three small boys, a single mom and her two small girls and a mom and her teenage son. This time, we shared a meal at the church and while it was a little more challenging to interact with everyone, we did enjoy conversations with each of them that night and the next morning over coffee and had an opportunity to celebrate news of a new job with one of them.

We have been blessed from our experiences with Family Promise. You never know who you will meet or what they will share but you always are blessed by the experience.”

Do you wish to be blessed by this ministry? The next opportunity is the week starting Sunday night February 5. All you have to do is show up at Woodland on Cherry Road about 7:00 p.m. and meet the families in the church Sunday school wing. The families are usually in their rooms and getting ready for bed by 9:30 p.m. Volunteers stay the night until 7:00 a.m. Air mattresses are provided by Woodland. You just need to provide you own sheets, blanket, and pillows. The next two opportunities are the weeks beginning on Sunday night of May 27 and September 16. You will never find an easier and more fulfilling volunteer job. Most of it involves just being there for emergencies, meeting and playing with the kids and sleeping. Anyone interested in volunteering should contact Tony Jackson at Tony.Jackson@duke-energy.com or 803-366-8541.

Serving Our Community

Friendship UMC has been in ministry with the Bethel Men's Shelter for several months. Several bags of clothes and coats collected from our members were delivered before opening night so that the administrator had time to organize them. Cards made by our children have been placed on the beds many nights. Sandy, the Bethel church secretary, told us how much the men appreciate the cards. We prepared and served supper on November 28, December 23 and December 26. We had a good time getting to know the guests as we served them supper. Knit Wits brought hats which were distributed to the men as they ate on the Friday before Christmas. Lots of laughter and some meaningful discussions made for a blessed evening every time we were there. Many FUMC members donated bottled soft drinks, crackers, cereal bars, candy, homemade cookies, brownies and other snacks for the men to fill "to-go" bags for the next day. All of the men made a point of thanking us and commented on how much they enjoyed Friendship's cooks! Note - no one under 18 is allowed to visit the men's shelter.



LYNNWOOD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1753 LYNNWOOD DRIVE
LANCASTER, SC 29720
803-285-5472

Please come and join us for **The Bridge**, a contemporary praise and worship service held **each Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.** in the sanctuary. Our worship leader, Ross Cooke, is returning from a mission trip to Haiti and will be showing pictures and sharing his testimony a little each week. A food and clothing pantry is available as well.

The Bridge is in need of food, especially sugar, flour, grits, cereal, peanut butter, pancake mix, syrup, rice, tea bags. All food is appreciated. We also have a great need for larger size ladies clothes (18-24).

Lynnwood received into membership 9 new members on January 29. These new members had been attending our Bridge worship and responded to God's call to become a part of the Body of Christ. Seven were baptized that day. We praise God for each of these new members.