

NC United Methodist Conference Youth Newsletter



Fall/Winter
2004-2005
Newsletter

Strive

Strive for the dawn of a more gracious world,
Thrive in the vision of true joy unfurled.
Pray for the day when all men are equal
Stay for the time when have has a sequel
Stand for the things that you know to be right
Understand hardships of souls without sight
Give to the people who have less than you
Live to give credit where credit is due
Endure rocky relationships forgive and forget
Hope for the time that leaves nothing to mourn
Cope with the trials of change as they're born
Fight for the wounded in body and heart
Unite the cultures long-since torn apart
Speak for the people who haven't a voice,
Seek for the option to be given a choice
Exist for the chance to right wrongs old and new
Resist any force that defies what you do
Strive for the dawn of a more gracious world,
Thrive in the vision of true joy unfurled.

By: Anastasia Cassidy

Submitted by: Laura Lord

The next newsletter will be in April/ May. If you are interested in submitting something, please contact me at: fireworks74@hotmail.com. I think that it would be awesome to get poetry, artwork, devotions, and photographs in here! Just realize that everything will be in black and white, but the online newsletter can be in color! Thanks!

—Laura Lord, Secretary

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(See Matthew 2:1-12)

12-24-2002

Pilgrimage 2004

Pilgrimage was held this year on November 12-14, 2004 at the Crowne Coliseum in Fayetteville, NC. The weekend featured four worship sessions around the theme "Where Have You Been? Where Are You Going?", praise music, a concert by By The Tree, a Walk/Run for Hunger to help Hunger Neighbors, a visit from the new Bishop, Al Gwinn, and communion. Ed Trimmer, head of the

School of Religion at Pfiffer University was this year's speaker.

A new record of attendance was set this year at 6,347 people. Two-hundred fifteen churches were represented, and all twelve districts were there. The district of the year was the Burlington District. The church youth group of distinction was Christ Community Church in Clayton, NC. \$27,000 was raised in the

Walk/Run for Hunger that helps the No Hungry Neighbors Initiative to help fight hunger across North Carolina. The church that raised the most was St. Luke UMC in Sanford which raised \$1,872. Mark your calendars for next year's Pilgrimage, November 11-13th, 2005!!!!

From the Conference Youth Coordinator...

Getting My Attention

God has all kinds of ways of getting our attention – sometimes it is very subtle and gentle and sometimes it is almost like God slaps us across the face. I had one of those slaps across the face the week after Pilgrimage. There were several nudges before and in the days immediately after Pilgrimage but the real wake up call came on Sunday morning, November 21. I was still worn out from Pilgrimage; and it was a real temptation just to stay in bed on Sunday morning but I got up and got myself to church. As I looked over the bulletin before the service started I began to second guess my resisting the temptation to stay in bed – our Duke student was preaching and the Scripture passage wasn't even the "right" one for that Sunday but it was one of my favorite stories in Scripture so I prepared myself to go with it. The nudging got more emphatic during our teachable moment (children's sermon) – I'll describe this more in a moment. The real wake up call came as our Duke student read the Scripture passage for the moment and started preaching. The Scripture was I Kings 19:1-15a. I hope you'll go read it but for now it's the story of the great prophet of Israel Elijah's big victory over the prophets of Baal which made Queen Jezebel mad so that she threatened Elijah. Elijah was scared and ran away, telling God he was fed up with it all and claiming himself to be the only one left faithful to God. He fled into the wilderness and God provided for his needs. Then God asked Elijah what he was doing there. Elijah starts in with his "poor pitiful me" speech about being the only one left faithful and tired of all the mess he was having to put up with. God then told Elijah to stand on the mountain and God's presence would pass by. Then there were all sorts of dramatic occurrences – hurricane, earthquake, fire – but none of them was God. Then came a gentle whisper or as another translation puts it "sound of sheer silence" and that was God. God gave Elijah his instructions on what to do next in that whispered silence.

I don't know how anybody else in that congregation felt Sunday morning but I knew that God was speaking right to me! Wow but could I identify with Elijah! Here I've been working as hard as I know how for God through the NC Conference United Methodist Church. We had just had Pilgrimage which was a huge success by most measures and I should have been singing God's praises for that. But I had my own "Queen Jezebel" to deal with. A couple of people had registered complaints over how I had interrupted the concert on Saturday night at Pilgrimage to ask folks to

return to seating areas and keep the aisles clear. By the position to have to do that. Those complaints really bothered me and so I really identified with how Elijah felt. In her sermon our Duke student described it this way – Elijah was tired and felt like if he didn't get away he would go crazy. She went on to talk about how our world is moving at a break-neck pace and is so loud and so noisy that silence startles us. She also said that God was not in the hurricane or the earthquake or the fire ... or the rock concert. (I'm not kidding – she really said that). In the teachable moment (children's sermon) earlier in the service – the adult leader had the children moving around all over the sanctuary and kept giving them different instructions about where to stand or where to move to; then he called them all together and reminded them that in order not to get confused and in order to know what God wants us to do, sometimes we just have to stop and be still and quiet and listen for God to speak to us. In the sermon our Duke student talked about how even her own "quiet" devotional time with God is noisy as she basically goes over her to-do list with God. I could definitely identify with that as well – I find myself needing to have a piece of paper nearby so that while I'm having my "quiet" time with God in the mornings I can make notes to myself as stuff pops in my mind and a lot of that "quiet" time is me giving God a to-do list. I guess we're afraid if we really get quiet and hear what God will say to us that God will ask us to do something we don't want to do. The Duke student preaching also pointed that out. It made me think of the e-card my assistant sent me for boss's day back in October. It showed this person in the office running around working fast and furiously while making all the other folks in the office tired. That's been me. That Scripture and sermon on Sunday, November 21 was a wake up call from God to remind me that I've got to get quiet to hear what God wants to say to me. When I had to spend my vacation and with an increasing awareness that I needed to tend my own soul, I asked my boss for some time away in what we call renewal leave. So, December is the month I'll be away from work and the office on renewal leave. I'm going to spend a good bit of that time being quiet and trying to really listen to God – giving space and time for that whispering silence.

My prayer for you is that you'll take some time to be quiet and listen for God in the midst of the world's pace for the holiday season. God came to us in a quiet, unassuming stable as a child born to common

folk. There was a chorus of angels announcing his birth and there was a bustling busy city around him but I imagine what was more powerful was the whispering silence as the Word became flesh

and lived among us. Don't miss that in all the noise!

Love, Peace and JOY! to you
Sue Ellen

2005 Overall Theme!

A New Day Dawning

Lamentations 3:22-24

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. "The Lord is my portion," says my soul. "therefore I will hope in him." (NRVS)

2004-2005 Conference Youth Committee

Officers—

President: Taylor Shaw
Vice-President: Epiphany Bayliff
Secretary: Laura Lord
Treasurer: Ben Cobb
LAP: Breezy Mayo

Members at Large—

Lindsay Britt
Hollie Brooks
Scott Floyd
Ellen Frazier
Lauren Goodnight
Jane Royall
Ashley Wright

Designated Observers—

Abigail Brown
Sarah Beth Coley
Anna Cribb
Sarah Johnson
Luke McKeel

Junior High Representatives—

Leah Cribb
Ben Lord
CJ Pearce
Jon Pritchard

2005 Upcoming Conference Events!

Confirmation Celebration

Saturday, March 12

Global Vision

March 15-20 Washington DC/New York City
For Youth in Grades 10-12; Registration Deadline:
Jan. 28th; Cost: \$500; Theme: Making Harmony in
A World of Difference; Topic: Racism

Kaleidoscope

April 8-10, Don Lee Center; For Youth in Grades 6-8; Theme: Under Construction: God the Builder; Cost: \$85; Limited Spaces; Registration Deadline: March 11

Rally Day

April 24 3:00-6:00pm; NC Wesleyan College - Rocky Mount; NO cost. Pre-registration is not required to attend. Theme: The Big Shindig

Appalachian Trail Hike

June 11-18 Appalachian Trail; For Youth Completing Grades 9 - 12; Cost: \$125; Limited spaces; Registration Deadline: May 6; Theme: Love Is An Uphill Climb

Summer Breakaway

June 20-25 Louisburg College; For Youth Completing Grades 6-12; Cost: \$190; Limited spaces; Registration Deadline: April 15; Theme: What You Talkin' 'Bout Jesus?

ACS (Annual Conference Session)

July 18-23 Methodist College-Fayetteville; For Youth Completing Grades 9-12; Cost: \$200; Registration Deadline: July 1; Theme: Come Sail Away

Pilgrimage

November 11-13 Crown Coliseum, Fayetteville; Cost: \$18; Theme: Tuning Into God

Footprints

New!! Check out the brochure or online for more information!

Exploration

Fall, 2005

From the President...

Hey guys. I hope this year has been as enjoyable for you as it was for me. I hope everyone had a great time at Pilgrimage. I hope the music, speaker, and most importantly the word of God touched you in more ways than one. With a turnout of 6000+, I believe 2005 is going to be a great year for this conference. Well school is almost half way over and I'm sure everyone is looking forward to Christmas and a break from school. But remember in this holiday season that it isn't the presents we give each other that matter, but the gift that God gave his one and only son to die for us, that's the reason for the season. So I leave you now with a verse from John, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

Peace and Love,
Taylor Shaw

From the Vice President...

In being Vice President I get to be involved. I get to go to the district wide youth services and talk to the youth about how incredibly awesome conference events are. Anybody that has ever gone to a conference event knows how awesome they are and knows that it can be a life-changing event. Everyone loves the conference events and it's my job to "spread the love" in a way. By going to these district events I get a chance to tell everyone about ACS, Breakaway, Kaleidoscope, and Pilgrimage, when they are and how they can apply to go. My motto is: the more people that know, the more people that go, and it's true. I hope by telling a lot of youth about these events we will have a good turnout and then they can be exposed to the awesome power of God through our North Carolina Conference.

God Bless,
Epiphany Bayliff

From the Secretary...

Hey Guys!!! This is my first newsletter as your secretary, and I have enjoyed putting it together. If you have any suggestions, please contact me because I am all ears! I hope everyone is getting ready for the holidays are looking forward to the school year being half way over; I KNOW I AM! As we enter the holiday season, I hope that we all remember the reason for the season. That there is more than a "COME QUICK! 50% OFF ONLY TODAY ON THE LATEST FASHIONS" sales and more than finding the perfect gifts for everyone. I hope you realize how lucky we all are to be living where we do, receiving free educations, having food on our table, and most importantly, people that love us. I am finally starting to realize how much I have to be thankful for, and I thank God for it all the time! I think that the best thing he's given to me has been all of the Conference events and friends I have made through them! My conference friends are the ones that make all my bad days become good ones! This has been a hard year for me with a lot of up and downs. I have finally figured out that I have to trust God as the pilot in my life and not try to do it myself. I have found that everyday is not going to walk in the park", not going to be a "walk in the park", but there are always good days to follow. So during this holiday season, I hope you count all your many blessings because as Christians, we have SO MANY!!!!, remember the reason for the season, and learn to let God be the pilot in your life!

God Bless <><,
Laura Lord

From the L.A.P. ...

Hey guys this is Breezy, new legislative affairs person. I'm really excited about rescom this year and look forward to working with everyone and hearing all of your ideas for ACS legislative affairs next year. We will be having a resolutions committee meeting in January so if anyone has any ideas or wants to come to any of the meetings, please do not hesitate to email me at Breezy3688@aol.com. I look forward to seeing you all there! I hope everyone has a blessed, happy and safe season.

All my love and best wishes,
Breezy Mayo

From the Treasurer...

Hey Guys,
Thanks so much for all of your support at Pilgrimage this year. We sold a lot of CDs and almost all of our shirts. You are making great contributions to YSF through buying our CDs and shirts. Just know that you are doing God's work and helping other people out when you make those purchases. We still have some CDs left over if you didn't get a chance to get one at Pilgrimage. I guess I can let the secret out now. The surprise on the CD, for those of you who have one, is the rainstorm. It's about 9 minutes into track 15 and it sounds awesome. We'll be selling them at Rally Day along with the new shirts and hoodies (which are really cool by the way). Thanks again!

Ben Cobb
Conference Youth Treasurer



District News!

- Burlington District: February 4, 2005 — Lock-in at Burlington YMCA
March 20, 2005 — Canned Food Drive, FUMC– Graham (Special: Graham Cinema for a movie)
May 1, 2005 — Chicken Pickin– Cedarock Park (Rain location: Belmont UMC)
- Durham District: Webpage: <http://www.geocities.com/durhamdistrict/>
- Elizabeth City District: Sunday, December 12th, from 5-8:30PM, the Elizabeth City District is holding its First Annual Holly Ball Christmas Gathering at Moyock UMC. Starts at 5:00PM with a pizza dinner and fellowship, music, and fun following. Then a worship service to end things with Christmas selections, devotion, prayers, and music. The cost is \$5/person + 1 canned food item. The \$5 cover charge will be the Elizabeth City District Youth Christmas Offering to the Elizabeth City New Church Start: Emmaus United Methodist Church.
Friday, February 18 through Sunday, February 20 begins our Elizabeth City District Annual Beach Retreat Weekend at Ramada Inn, Nags Head. Our theme this year is “The Reason”, and we will be talking about throughout the week end what it means for us to be followers of Jesus Christ in our world today, what is the reason behind our faith, what is the reason behind this journey, and as the great Hoobastank songs says, “the reason is You!” being Almighty God! We are looking forward to a wonderful weekend and will close our time of celebration with Communion and our own youth lead worship service.
- Fayetteville District: Webpage: <http://www.gbqm-umc.org/faydist/youth.htm> — Check soon for updates!!
- Goldsboro District: The Goldsboro District will be having a District Youth Rally at Centenary UMC. The date will be announced very shortly, and most likely it will be in March. Anyone with questions can contact Jay Locklear (phone: 934-2333, e-mail: outkry4123@yahoo.com or ythdirector@earthlink.net).
- Greenville District: Contact Taylor Mills at taymills@costalnet.com
- New Bern District: Contact Diane LeBlanc at ncleblancs@ec.rr.com
- Raleigh District: There will be a Youth-led worship service for the Raleigh District on Sunday, March 6. The location and time have not yet been determined. Contact Jack Mewborne at jsmewborne@aol.com to register your group and he will be back in touch with the details. Congratulations to Sarah Beth Coley, our new District President!!!
- Rockingham District: There is a planning meeting on January 9 at Saint Luke UMC to plan for 2005. We will be holding our first event of the year on Feb. 13 in Lumberton from 5:00 - 7:00 pm. We will be having a band play followed by worship and a time of fellowship.
- Rocky Mount District: They had 100 youth attend the district rally October 10th at Vollmer Farm in Bunn, and it was very successful! They can't wait for an even bigger group next time!
- Sanford District: We selected a new Sanford District Youth Council at our last District Youth Rally, and the new Youth Council includes Jonathan Hudson, Alan Foushee, Melinda Bowman, Ashley Lamanac, Ethan Bowman, Ellen Frazier, and Hamilton Ansley. We are excited about their new ministry! Also, the Sanford District Winter Youth Rally will be held at St. Luke UMC on January 9th, 2005, at 5:00 pm. It's going to be awesome!
- Wilmington District: Contact Penny Scott Owens at cowens@ec.rr.com

GET INVOLVED!!

NC Conference UM Youth Devotion Book-2005

The Conference Council on Youth Ministries is sponsoring a book of prayers and devotions for distribution at Conference youth events in 2005. The prayers and devotions in the book will be written by youth and adults in youth ministry from across the North Carolina Conference. The theme for the book is A New Day Dawning - our overall theme for Conference youth ministry in 2005. Scripture connected with this theme comes from Lamentations 3:22-24:

—The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him." New Revised Standard Version

—God's loyal love couldn't have run out, his merciful love couldn't have dried up. They're created new every morning. How great your faithfulness! I'm sticking with God (I say it over and over). He's all I've got left. The Message

Other resources: UM Hymnal #140: Great is Thy Faithfulness and #383: This is a Day of New Beginnings.

Any youth or adult in youth ministry from the Conference is invited to submit a contribution for the devotion book. Submissions must be made by February 25, 2005 via email attachment to senicholson@nccumc.org or floppy disc or CD mailed to Youth Ministry

PO Box 10955
Raleigh, NC 27605

In Microsoft Word format **ONLY!**

Please include name, age if a youth, and church.

Youth Lay Speaker Training

There will be Lay Speaker Training specifically for youth on Saturday, April 16, 2005 at the Methodist Building in Raleigh from 10am to 5pm (lunch provided). Lay speaker training prepares and equips laity for leadership in the church. Through this lay speaker training youth will understand ministry beyond preaching and worship. Youth will have opportunity to focus on God's calling to people in various forms of Christian ministry as well as skills in caring, communication and leadership - above all growing in faith. Linda Harris, Conference Director of Lay Speaking will lead the training. Further information and registration for this training will be available in early 2005. Interested youth may contact the Conference Office of Youth Ministries.

New Online Community!

An online community for Methodist youth to fellowship online is being currently being created! Check it out at <http://www.ncmyouth.net> in the upcoming months as it's being made! Also, there is an online web log (<http://www.livejournal.com/community/conferencekids>) if you want something else to do!

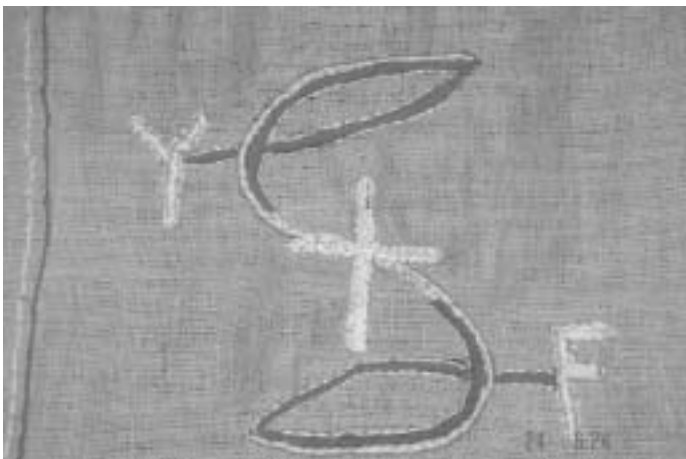


Pictures from Pilgrimage



New YSF Design!!!

Julia Royall from Centenary UMC in Smithfield has come up with our new YSF Hoodie design for the upcoming year!! They will be available at Rally Day for \$20. Also there will be the new YSF t-shirts that say "I Heart YSF"!! Start thinking of ideas for next year's!



The new YSF design

**NC Conference
The United Methodist Church
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