Metro District of the United Methodist Church Electronic Newsletter

July 24, 2013 Volume 2-lssue 4

Metro Messenger

Order Your 2013 WNCC Journal

The 2013 Western
North Carolina Conference Journal will be available on a USB drive (\$25 each).
Journal order forms and checks are due by July 31st.
Order form available on Page 5.

Gathering of the Laity

This annual event will be held August 9-11 at Lake Junaluska. This year's theme is "Transformers," Transforming our communities, our churches, our lives! Keynote speakers are Rev. Dr. Tony Campolo, Rev. Dr. Arnetta Beverly and Rev. David Christy. Registration forms available at the district office or visit

http:// www.wnccumc.org/ events/2013-gathering -laity-transformers



this issue

Tippers Into Tithers P.3

Extravagant Generosity P.7

Upcoming Events P.8-11

2013-2014 Appointment Changes in the Metro District

On July 1-3 pastors and parsonage families from across the Western NC Conference began the process of starting a new life and ministry in a new place. It is what we Methodist know as "Moving Day." As we express well wishes and deep appreciation to those pastors and families who have moved, we take this opportunity to welcome those persons who have come into the Metro District. You are asked to join us in prayers for all these clergy families. Below and continued on page 2 of this newsletter is a list of the Metro District incoming and outgoing pastors. The first Sunday in their new pulpit was July 14th.

Concord Community

Ann Street – Incoming: Rev. Adam Love; Outgoing: Rev. Merrill Perkins (Re-Retiring in the Metro Dist)

Epworth – Incoming: Rev. Wayne Allen; Outgoing: Rev. Glenn Myers (Mocksville: First, Yadkin Valley Dist)

Pine Bluff/Locust – Incoming: Rev. Craig Sefa; Outgoing: Rev. Kevin "Bird" McCormac (West (NS) Associate, Metro Dist)

Kannapolis Community

First: Landis - Incoming: Rev. Alexis Coleman

Trinity – Incoming: Rev. Kirk Tutterow

(Continued from Page 1 2013-2014 Appointments)

Lake Norman Community

Broad Street – Incoming: Rev. Ray Surratt; Outgoing: Rev. Amy Freeze (Christ (Drexel), Catawba Valley Dist)

Davidson Associate – Incoming: Rev. Katie Lineberger; Outgoing: Rev. Ashley Thomas (Stokesdale, NP Dist)

Park Avenue – Incoming: Rev. Melita Padilla; Outgoing: Rev. Dutch Handlang (relocating)

West (NS) Associate - Incoming: Rev. Kevin "Bird" McCormac

North Charlotte Community

Covenant – Incoming: Rev. Fredrick Bowman; Outgoing: Rev. David Lee (Summerfield, NP Dist)

Huntersville – Incoming: Rev. Paul Thompson; Outgoing: Rev. Mike Goode (Hickory Grove, Metro Dist)

Plaza – Incoming: Rev. Chris Campbell; Outgoing: Rev. Fredrick Bowman

*Cole Memorial - Commonwealth will become a charge.

South Charlotte Community

Matthews Associate - Incoming: Stephen Knopp

St. Mark's – Incoming: Rev. Jessie Keaton; Outgoing: Rev. Paul Milton (Memorial, NP Dist)

Wesley – Joining Matthews Campus. Designated Pastor: Rev. Judi Hunt; Outgoing: Rev. Hyung Jae Lee (Calvary, Metro Dist)

*Zoar will join the Good Shepherd Campus

Central Charlotte Community

Calvary – Incoming: Rev. H. Jae Lee; Outgoing: Rev. Melita Padilla (Park Avenue, Metro Dist)

Hawthorne Lane – Incoming: Rev. Tom Steagald; Rev. Carrie Wright appointed Minister of Music; Outgoing: Rev. Andrew Brown (Wilkesboro, AP Dist)

Hickory Grove – Incoming: Rev. Mike Goode; Outgoing: Rev. Arnie Corriher (retiring)

Sedgefield (formerly St. Paul) – Incoming: Rev. Carol Carkin; Outgoing: Rev. AJ Thomas (Morehead, NP Dist)

*Kilgo – St. Luke will become a charge.

Union Community

Bethel: Monroe – Rev. Doug Harr appointed pastor.

Blair Road Associate – Incoming: Rev. Innocent Justice; Outgoing: Rev. Johnny Lord (Palmyra / Stokesburg, YV Dist)

Mineral Springs Associate – Incoming: Rev. Jeff McCumber

Pleasant Grove – Becoming Station Church. Incoming: Rev. Emily Kroeger

Weddington Associate - Rev. David Locke

Stallings – Incoming: Rev. Scott Ireland; Outgoing: Rev. Bart Milleson (Trinity, YV Dist)

Zion – Incoming: Rev. John Stein; Outgoing: Rev. David McCauley (Porter-Randall, Uwharrie Dist.)

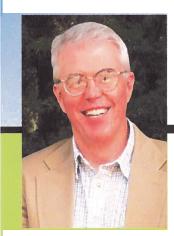
*Bond's Grove & Marvin will join the Weddington Campus

Other

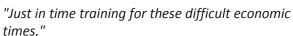
Rev. Byron Alexander going to May's Chapel, CV Dist; Rev. Diron Chloe going to Addie's Chapel, BR Dist; Rev. Mike Fongemy NS (Journey), Metro Dist; Rev. Vincent Harris going to Mott's Grove, CV Dist; Rev. Elizabeth Coppedge-Henley going to UM foundation; Rev. Colston Morris appointed Associate at Spencer Memorial, Metro Dist.; Rev. Chris Luper appointed Director of Student and Social Media at St. Stephen, Metro Dist; Rev. Daniel Wilson appointed as Director of the On-Line Campus, Central: Concord

AUGUST 13, 2013 WEBINAR 6:30-8:30 p.m.

How To Develop



Tippers
Into
Tithers



Led by Paul Nickerson, Senior Associate with Griffith Coaching

When: August 13, 2013, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Limited to 100 church teams.

What: This webinar will help church teams learn:

- Principles in Giving
- Re-thinking Motives for Giving
- Re-thinking the Stewardship Letter Helping People Grow in their Giving

Registration: Register with Candy Caron@ 704.535.2260 or email to ccaron@wnccumc.org. The cost is \$100 per church team /includes workbook. A link to log on to the webinar will be sent to participants after they have registered.

Registration deadline: August 5, 2013

*The webinar allows convenience for your team, meeting together at your church or a local setting. With the webinar, you may have as many people from your finance team as desired. Paul Nickerson will also offer follow-up coaching after the training for any churches that desire this option.



Holiness and the Renewal of Ministry

Lake Junaluska, NC September 16, 2013 to September 18, 2013



This annual gathering, which alternates between a "day apart" and a multi-day retreat, is an opportunity to celebrate the connection of elders in the Western North Carolina Conference.

The theme for this year's retreat is "Holiness and the Renewal of Ministry." In a series of four presentations, Rev. Dr. Jason E. Vickers will help us to contemplate the nature of God's holiness, to think about where and how we encounter God's holiness, and to reflect on how we become holy. In his concluding presentation, Dr. Vickers will contend that we can find tremendous freedom in holiness – a freedom that can bring about our renewal and the renewal of our ministries.

Bishop Larry Goodpaster and the conference's Order of Elders hope that you will set aside these days to remember your call, share in fellowship with each other, and be renewed.

Register at http://divinity.duke.edu/ initiatives-centers/lifelong-learning/wncc-elders-retreat



Supply Wish List 2013-2014

(Along with all Head Start locations across the country, our budget has been cut significantly.

We thank you for taking this into consideration when assessing our needs.)

Head Start Students

- Glue Sticks
- Colored Paper
- Crayons (Large and Jumbo)
- Washable Markers (Regular)
- Colored Pencils
- Washable Paint
- Paint Brushes (large or jumbo)
- Pipe Cleaners/ Pompoms
- Large Jingle Bells/ Large Googly Eyes
- 9/12 Felt Sheets (All Colors)
- Popsicle Sticks
- Colored tissue paper
- Masking Tape
- Backpacks

OTHER: Kleenex, Paper Towels, Heavy Duty Trash Bags, Waste Paper Basket Trash Bags (28 qt.) and White or Clear Gallon Trash Bags.

Prayer for a New School Year

Father,
We thank you for the opportunity
to begin this new school year,
and we ask that you bless
the students, faculty, and student families
that make our school a great place.
We pray that you will guide us in all ways,
so that we will seek your will
in everything that we do.
Amen
-David Benton-

Your donations will be appreciated by August 19th. If questions, please contact Renee Bromfield, Director of Community Relations at rbromfield@bethlehemcenter.org; 704-371-7404 (o), 704-930-8877 (c).

*new address 2702 Norfolk Avenue, Charlotte, NC 28203 www.bethlehemcenter.org

Bethlehem Center of Charlotte provides educational opportunities to low-income children and their families, to improve the quality of their lives.



2013 CONFERENCE JOURNAL USB DRIVE ORDER FORM

The USB drive will consist of the following information:

- ❖ The 2013 Western North Carolina Conference Journal
- ❖ All of the Conference Journals since 2004
- ❖ The statistical tables for all churches since 1974

NAME	(Please Print)	(USB drives must be mailed to an individual)	
ADDRESS			
	(Please Print)		
CITY		STATE ZIP	
	(Please Print)		
PHONE			
	(Please Print)		
EMAIL			
	(Please Print)		
		Number of Journals on USB drives:	
		\$25 each Total: \$	
	(Please	e make checks made payable to: WNC Conference Treasurer)	

Please submit this form with payment by <u>July 31, 2013</u> to:

Conference Secretary's Office 2013 Journal P. O. Box 18005 Charlotte, NC 28218-0005

The Western North Carolina Conference will not be printing any copies of The Journal for sale.

However, if **YOU** want a printed copy, **YOU** must contact: www.mimeo.co.

Bound copies of the 2013 Journal will cost you approx. \$35 and spiral bound will cost you approx. \$55. **YOU** will need to provide Mimeo.Com with the link to the Conference Website where the Journal will be located.

A Message from our Congregational Vitality Strategist



Rev. Brenda Newman

"I have great news: prayer affects more than you! Our research demonstrates that when people pray, talk with a prayer partner, and talk about faith with others at church, something exciting happens. Relationships improve. People who pray mysteriously 'have the words' when the Holy Spirit arranges situations for them to talk with people who don't have a conscious faith life. Prayer helps us listen to other people for real."

Martha Grace Reese shares this encouragement at the beginning of a prayer journal.

Developing a strong prayer life is the **first** key to revitalization in your church and in your personal spiritual journey. During the summer, I invite you to follow my blog (http://www.benewbevital.tumblr.com) as I journey through the **steps for revitalization** in our churches. The blog is also posted on the District Facebook Page.

The first step for all of us is to grow in our own relationship with Jesus so that God may be able to strengthen us with His power through the Spirit. We are not going to magically wake up one day into spiritual maturity. I am challenging myself to deepen my prayer life this summer. Below are some tips to help develop an effective prayer life:

- 1. Pray for a greater desire to pray. Ask God to create within you the desire for a closer connection, an ache to know and feel God's presence as a strengthening, companioning daily presence.
- 2. Decide the best time for you to pray, remembering that you may spread your prayers through the day.
- 3. Commit to it.
- 4. Pray specifically. God cares about us on a personal level. Psalm 139:2 shares, "*Lord, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up...*" Ask God for exactly what is needed in each and every situation.
- 5. Pray expansively. The scripture teaches us to pray for EVERYONE. Pray for the 70% of the population in the United States that is not in church on Sunday mornings. Pray for those who feel hopeless and alone. Pray for those who grieve. Walk the neighborhood surrounding your church and pray for God to open your eyes and heart to the needs that exist even next door.
- 6. Pray for 'What is Good'. Pray for what is truly in one's best interest and will help us mature and be better people.
- 7. Pray for 'What is God's Glory.' Pray for what benefits God's good creation and furthers God's kingdom.
- 8. Practice silence during every prayer.
- 9. Keep praying even when you do not feel like it.
- 10. Find a prayer partner and guide your church to form a prayer team.

"To try to pray is to pray. You can't fail at it. It's the only human endeavor I can think of where trying is doing.

Reaching out is holding on. Joining in is letting go."

Rick Hamlin in the book "10 Prayers You Can't Live Without".

Rev. Brenda Newman, Congregational Vitality Strategist
Serving the Metro and Uwharrie Districts 704-785-7948 or 704-537-2894

Focuses on developing vital congregations seeking to reach more people, younger people, and more diverse people for Christ. **Her role is to serve you-** to connect clergy and congregations with needed resources, to provide training, and to offer coaching.

Hands Linked in Extravagant Generosity

Last year during charge conference season, after praying about and discussing the annual conference's invitation to join in the Revitalization movement, our church decided to begin the process with the "5 Practices of Fruitful Congregations" resource. This tool seemed the most accessible to a congregation like ours — our membership is small, older, and relatively new to visioning.

Beginning in February, I preached a sermon series on the "5 Practices of Fruitful Congregations" to begin to familiarize all of us with these practices. Then, to follow-up the series and dig a little deeper into the material, I led a study using the "5 Practices of Fruitful Congregations" DVD kit made available by the office of the former Salisbury District.

At the end of the study, participants asked, "What's next?"

I wasn't sure! So I read the Leader's Manual that came with the media, and I discovered and then shared with my leadership that the "5 Practices of Fruitful Congregations" is ultimately intended to be a Parish—Wide Initiative. We followed the manual's plan, which plainly spells out the whole process for inviting everyone in the congregation to participate in the initiative.

Our Council met three times over a three-week period to read and discuss together Bishop Schnase's book the "5 Practices of Fruitful Congregations." Leaders each purchased their own copy of the book as a sign of their commitment to this initiative. We planned to invite every member to read the book together over the month of September, but we knew it was unlikely we could get every member to purchase their own copy. After much prayer and discussion of how to make the book accessible to every member, someone asked, "Do you think some of the larger churches nearby might have copies we could borrow?"

Again, I wasn't sure! So I sent out an email to 40 larger churches in the new Metro and Uwharrie Districts. The email explained that our goal was to borrow 30 copies, which would be enough to give out one copy per household. I was amazed by the response to this email. First of all, I received personal responses back from my pastor colleagues at 33 of the 40 churches letting me know whether they could help us – one way or the other! Then, we started feeling blessed. Forest Hill UMC in Concord gave us 11 copies...Homestead UMC in Charlotte gave us 6 copies...the Resource Center at the Conference Office had 4 copies...Pastors were offering to give me their personal copies...we were almost there!

Then, in our eyes at least, God gave us a real miracle. I received an email from Rev. Steve Combs: "We will pay for some new copies...our way of joining in with you all." Milford Hills UMC in Salisbury bought 30 brand new copies of the book and gifted them to us at the cost of nearly \$400!

Then, another miracle came. I got an email from Rev. Michael Goode: "Huntersville UMC will contribute \$300 for the purchase of some books for you to keep."

I was so surprised, I forwarded the email to a friend asking, "Am I reading this correctly?" I told Mike I was speechless and didn't know what to say, except "Thank You." He just responded, "Hey, we're in this together."

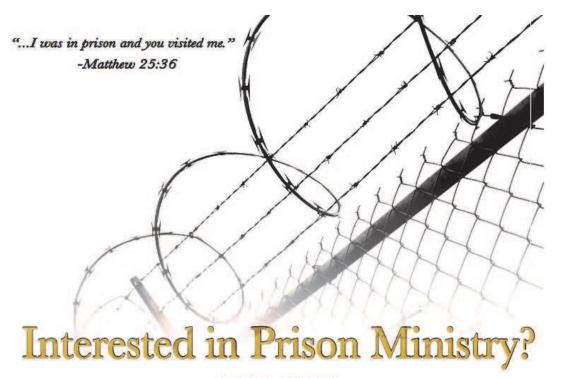
With the gift from Huntersville UMC in Huntersville, we were able to obtain 25 more copies of the book. We now had enough to give every member a copy rather than giving one per household.

Our church read the book and studied it together during the month of September. Then, after more prayer and discussion, our leadership decided we needed to pay it forward. As a small church with absolutely no wiggle room in our budget, we know what an extravagantly generous gift we have received, and we want other small churches to benefit from this gift as well. So we invited members to either keep their copy if they wrote in it and would use it as a reference tool for the future, or to return it if they felt they could part with it in order to share it with someone else.

The United Methodist Downtown Salisbury Cooperative Parish is gifting 50 copies of the "5 Practices of Fruitful Congregations" book to Rev. Brenda Newman's Congregational Vitality Office.

The Spirit is moving!

Rev. Anna Mandelstamm, Downtown Cooperative Parish, Uwharrie District



Learn how to get involved!

Already involved? Come fellowship and share your testimony!

Join Disciple Bible Outreach Ministries for a half-day retreat

Metro District Retreat:

Saturday, August 24 10 am - 2 pm

Optimal: Stay from 2-4pm to be trained as a DISCIPLE facilitator

Matthews UMC 801 South Trade Street Matthews, NC 28105

Register at www.disciplebibleoutreach.org

Fellowship with others in your district

Learn about volunteer opportunities

Discuss God's call to us as Christians

Lunch provided!

District Mission Society Grant Application Process Changes

As you know, we are still in the midst of the transition as we continue to make decisions on how to best "make disciples and transform the world."

The Metro District Board of Mission and Revitalization (formerly District Mission Society and District Congregational Development) will look at ways to expand the vision and look beyond just facility and programs to ways we can revitalize churches to become healthy, outward focusing agents of spiritual change. We want to become more "proactive" as we help guide pastors and churches to make good decisions. This is why Rev. Brenda Newman, our Congregational Vitality Strategist will be an active part of our board.

The board is in the process of developing a new grant application form. Once this process is complete the application form, details and a new deadline date will be made available to you. Stay tuned for an update in the months to come.



The African Children's Choir

Wednesday, August 14, 2013 7:00 pm Central United Methodist Church 6030 Albemarle Road, Charlotte, NC

For More Info Call: 704-536-9157 or 704-996-6203

This choir made up of some of the neediest children in African countries come through the *Music for Life* camps. Selected children spend about five months at the Choir Training Academy in Three Rivers, South Africa preparing for their world tour. While in Charlotte, the children and their chaperones will be staying in homes of Central UMC members and attending other activities at the church and in the city. The concert is free, although a free will offering will go to support the *Music for Life* program, which includes a commitment of supporting the children through secondary and post-secondary education after they return from their tour.



Contact bronah@mpumc.org 704-295-4802

REMINDER



UMY Splash!

Sunday, July 28, 2013 10am—7pm

Come share in the

fellowship at *Wet'n Wild Emerald Pointe* as we celebrate Pfeiffer University's *UMY Splash*. Special worship guests include Steve Keaton from Tsunami Ministries and 7-*Miles*. All UMY are invited to experience this special event

soaked with excitement and adventure. Be sure to join us for faith and fun at the Ultimate Daycation destination. See brochure and registration details at http://www.wnccumc.org/events/umy-splash. Contact Sherri Barnes at 704-463-3073 or sherri.barnes@pfeiffer.edu.



Reservation form sent to your universal.net email address. RSVP by August 5th.

Calling All Deacons, Elders, and Local Pastors!

Get excited about "Practicing What We Proclaim" at The George E. Thompson Proclamation Institute* co-sponsored by U.M. Metro District of the Western North Carolina Conference and Pfeiffer University Charlotte Campus.

The date will be Thursday, August 22 from 10 am to 3:30 pm. The focus of this year's Institute will be on the key elements that provide the foundation for effective proclamation as well as constructive self evaluation and group feedback! There will be 4 presentations followed by an opportunity for each person to elect to participate in regional reflection groups around the conference that will be organized on August 22.

Sessions:

- "Elder & Deacon: Complement not Compete"
- "Digging for Treasure"
- "Preacher as Scribe: Connecting Old and New Treasure"
- "Check Yourself Before You Wreck Yourself!"

Reflection/Feedback Group

Our speakers are members or former members of the Board of Ordained Ministry, Western North Carolina Conference, or are experts in their field of knowledge. Come engage in the conversation!

Registration form will be sent via email to your universal .net email address.

*The Rev. Dr. George Thompson Proclamation Institute is geared towards Deacons, Elders, and Local Pastors who are preparing for their commissioning and ordination. Those who are already ordained and would like a chance to refresh their knowledge in these areas are also welcome.

Convocation & Pastors' School

"Renewing the Church"



October 14-15, 2013

The annual Convocation & Pastors' School is an intensive two-day conference that offers lectures, worship and seminars for Christian leaders of all traditions.

Vibrant Christian communities take many forms. But at the heart of each are imaginative people shaped by Scripture, working together to cultivate spaces where God's spirit can take root and where we can fulfill our created purpose.

Join James K.A. Smith,
Jorge Acevedo, Laceye
Warner, and Jeremy
Troxler as they lead us to
look beyond narratives of
declining attendance,
anemic giving, and social
controversy to explore
how thriving Christian
communities are meeting
the deep needs of the
world and in the process,
breathing new life into
the church.

Registration form: http://divinity.duke.edu/ cps2013

Contact Information - Update Required by Each Clergy

This year at Annual Conference some clergy noticed during registration that there were no address cards to complete. In the past this information was obtained from the clergy at registration. This year that process was not used. Instead, when a clergy logs in to the WNCC admin site (http://www.wnccadmin.org/) they will be directed to a page that allows them to enter their contact information.



Jesus Christ!

This method provides clergy with an opportunity to update at a time convenient to their schedule and also helps streamline registration at Annual Conference.

This update process is mandatory for all clergy, not just those that have moved, with the exception of unappointed retirees. If your information has not changed you still need to follow this process. It is crucial that this information be updated. This

database is used by the conference and districts to retrieve your mailing address and contact numbers when needed.

Clergy will not be able to access the rest of the site until the online form is completed. If you have not done so, please complete this process **no later than July 31st**.

Questions or assistance, contact the district office at 704-525-3395.



Still doing church in the 20th century? Land lines? Adding machines? Typewriters? Fountain pens? Offering plates? Newspaper advertising?

Join the church of the 21st century! Learn how United Methodist pastors, laity, and congregations both traditional and modern use new media to share the Gospel of

Thursday, October 10, 2013 9:00am – 4:00pm

Central United Methodist Church in Concord, NC

30 Union Street North, exit 58 off I-85 and head southeast three miles

Directions www.concordcentral.org

Cost \$30 per person

(includes refreshments/lunch/gifts plus registration fee)
Webpages! Online Worship! Blogs! Facebook! Tweets! EPublishing!
Online bookstores! Missions! EGiving! QR tags! Constant Contact!

Hear twenty national leaders and specialists from throughout the Western North Carolina Annual Conference teach you and your congregation how to live in our new media age!

Who is invited? United Methodist pastors, ministry students, communicators, treasurers, webmasters, and others in all congregations to learn the best practices and real help from other United Methodist leaders!

Register Online: connexionwncc.eventbrite.com

Hosted by: Concord Central United Methodist Church and the Western North Carolina Congregational Vitality Team

Upcoming Events



Space Still Available Register Now!

August 3-5 or August 9-11 Fort Caswell Beach, North Carolina Attn: Rising 7th through 12th graders, 2013 graduating seniors, and counselors. Absolutely NO children under 7th grade nor college students. Registration:

http://www.wnccumc.org/ events/2013-spiritusweekend-i

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JULY 2013

UM Youth Emerald Point Wet'n Wild (page 4) 28 Cabinet

AUGUST 2013

1	Cabinet
9-11	Gathering of the Laity, Lake Junaluska (page 1)
15	Clergy Family Welcome/New Conference Year Event,
	University City UMC, 6:30 pm (page 10)
17	Metro UM Women Annual Meeting, 9 am,
	Mineral Springs UMC (http://www.wnccumw.org/)
19	Metro Dist. Local Pastor Educational Event, Cokesbury UMC,
	7-9 pm (SKalish@wnccumc.net or rbritt@wnccumc.org)
22	Proclamation Institute- Elders, Deacons, LPs (page 10)
24	Metro Dist. Prison Ministry Day, 10 am-2 pm; DISCIPLE
	training 2-4 pm, Matthews UMC (page 8)
29	Clergy Ethics (make-up session), First UMC, Conover,
	10 am-3 pm (contact shargett@wnccumc.org)

SEPTEMBER 2013

- District Office Closed in Observance of Labor Day 6-8 Western NC UM Women Annual Meeting at Lake Junaluska (http://www.wnccumw.org/) 10 or 17 Metro District Clergy Retreat, 9:30 am-3:15 pm, registration deadline
- August 30th (reservation form sent via email)
- 16-18 Elders Retreat (page 3)
- 18-20 Cabinet

OCTOBER 2013

- Connexion (page 11)
- Convocation and Pastors' School (page 10) 14-15
- 19 Ubuntu Day at Bethlehem Center (http://www.wnccumw.org/)

Metro District Office of the Western NC Conference The Rev. Dr. Gary C. Royals, Metro District Superintendent

Location: 3400 Shamrock Drive, Charlotte, NC 28215 (Metro District Office is located in the WNC Conference Center facility)

> Mailing Address: PO Box 5622, Charlotte, NC 28299 Phone: 704-525-3395 Fax: 704-525-4238

> > Administrative Assistants:

Ravonda Britt (rbritt@wnccumc.org) Clergy Relations DeEtta Rivens (drivens@wnccumc.org) Church Relations

Website is in Transition - http://www.wnccumc.org/districts/metro

FaceBook (https://www.facebook.com/metroumc)