The Anguish and Joy of the Appointment Season

At this time of the year, my mind turns toward the arduous and invigorating process of appointment-making, the art of deploying clergy to serve churches. I still have a few more consultation meetings with clergy that may be involved in a move and then will begin the process of PPRC meetings for churches that may find a change in the pulpit in July. With 164 churches, this is a daunting task that takes a lot of time. I sincerely request your prayers for me, the other cabinet members and our bishop and we begin the process of much discussion, prayer and sleepless nights. Until I became a District Superintendent, I really had no concept of the amount of work, consultation and prayer that goes into the United Methodist process of assigning pastors. We seek to discern the Spirit’s leading and make the best matches possible to strengthen our local churches.

I strongly believe that our model for sending forth clergy to serve churches is the New Testament model for the mission of the church. Barnabas and Saul were prayed over by the church at Antioch and then sent out. “While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.’ Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off” (Acts 13:2, 3). The concept of congregations calling churches to be their pastors is not found in the New Testament. The churches in Corinth, Philippi, and Rome did not call Paul to serve them. He was sent to them by the leadership in Antioch. The appointive system of deploying clergy began in the New Testament. In the book of Titus, Paul told Titus that “I left you behind in Crete, so that you . . . should appoint elders in every town” (Titus 1:5). Notice the word “appoint” in that verse. Sounds United Methodist, doesn’t it?

I have thought often that the United Methodist itinerant method of ministry was one of God’s unique means of grace given to the Methodist family. I have experienced great grace through the way the Methodist family assigns clergy. I have gone places I would have never gone had I not been a United Methodist elder who has taken a vow to go where sent. I have served people I would have never met had I not been a United Methodist elder who has taken a vow to go where sent. God was always present when I arrived to take charge of an appointment. Through all of my itinerancy, I have found God to be good, faithful and challenging. God has used our itinerant system to grow me as a pastor and leader. I have found the joy of surrender.

I give God thanks for the honor of serving as a United Methodist elder. I thank God that there has been a place for me in the church. I thank God that I was never left to the whims of my own desires and wishes, but rather benefited greatly from the wisdom that is in our connection. I have truly found that “in an abundance of counselors there is safety” (Prov. 11:14). I am grateful for all the bishops and district superintendents that God has used to direct my path.

Please pray for the bishop and cabinet as we seek to serve the church and transform the world. May God work through us and, if necessary, in spite of us.

With Confidence in Christ,
Jeff Patterson
The **Yadkin Valley District Leadership Conference** has been rescheduled for **SUNDAY, February 5, 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.** at Burhead UMC, 5250 Silas Creek Parkway, Winston-Salem. There will be **five** break-out groups at this event for Lay Leaders, Finance personnel (treasurer, finance chair, etc.), Older Adult Coordinators, members of the Trustees, as well as members of the Staff /Pastor Parish Relations committees. At the end of our time, Rev Rene Wilt will lead a workshop for everyone on how to run a committee meeting. No advance reservations are necessary, but we do want to tailor this event to meet your needs. If you have burning questions you need answered pertaining to any of the five topics, please email Amy at ajohnson@wnccumc.org.

**TRAVEL TO THE HOLY LAND WITH DR. JEFF PATTERSON**

**AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES**

**October 27 – November 6, 2017**

Dr. Patterson’s trip to Israel is coming together well. This 11-day pilgrimage will be visiting Caesarea Maritima, Nazareth, Caesarea Philippi, Tel Dan, Golan Heights, Nimrod’s Castle, Sea of Galilee, Capernaum, Mount of Beatitudes, Magdala, Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Masada and the Dead Sea. This will be Dr. Patterson’s seventh pilgrimage to the Holy Land. A Pilgrimage to the Holy Land is life-changing as the Bible and the Christian faith take on new life. Cost starts around $3900 and covers everything but lunches and souvenirs. For a complete brochure with complete details, contact Dr. Patterson at jpatterson@wnccumc.org.

Adam Hamilton, well known teacher and pastor, will be leading a tour of The Journeys of Paul, **October 6-17, 2017**. The Jewel of the Seas will embark from Italy and venture through Greece and Turkey. Adam will do the teaching aboard ship during the days at sea and Educational Opportunities, a Christian travel agency, will make all of the arrangements for air, sea and land excursions. All-inclusive pricing from New York begins at $3498. Contact Donna Cooke, Director of Traditional Worship Arts, Mt. Tabor UMC, for information and brochures (donna.cooke@mttaborumc.org).

**FaithHealthNC** continues to expand its reach into surrounding counties and stretching boundaries into eastern North Carolina. There is a need for partner churches in the Kernersville area. If your congregation is interested in serving neighbors whom you do not know in your community, please contact UM Connector, Donna Cooke, donna.cooke@faithhealthnc.org. There is a simple informational meeting with basic parameters of Right Door, Right Time, Ready to be Treated and Not Alone to begin the process.

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**New Yadkin Valley District President of United Methodist Men**

Please welcome Eddie Foster as the new District President of the Yadkin Valley United Methodist Men. Eddie is a member of Ardmore UMC, and has served on the District UMM Executive Committee for several years. You may contact Eddie at 336-945-9464 (home), 336-816-0088 (cell, or by email at eberfoster@aol.com.
Resources Available from the District Resource Center

The District Resource Center has several resources available for Lent. A sampling of resources available:

“Parables and Passion – Jesus’ Stories for the Days of Lent” by John Indermark. This book allows reflection on one parable each day arranged around one them per week during Lent. A leader’s guide is included to outline the six-week study.

“Near the Cross – A Lenten Journey of Prayer” By Bishop Kenneth Carter, Jr. Based on Paul’s Letter to the Philippians, the book explores the connection between the cross and prayer in spiritual formation, in service, in our identity, and in our life together in Christian community. The study has seven sessions, one for each Sunday of Lent and one for Easter. The study can be used by individuals or small groups.

“40 Days of Decrease” by Alicia Britt Chole. This book invites you to walk with Jesus through the holy decrease of less and loss. Each days offers a meaningful consideration of Jesus’ journey through reading and reflection and issues a challenging daily fast.

“Forgetiveness” by Marjorie Thompson. Forgiving others and asking for forgiveness are central disciplines for all Christian believers. Lent is an appropriate time to deepen our understanding and practice of forgiveness. This study is six sessions, and is appropriate for either individual reflection or group discussion.

“Wind in the Wilderness” – a Lenten study on the Prophets by DJ Del Rosario. This resource is designed to be used by individuals and small groups during Lent. The study focuses on the Hebrew prophets and their message of justice, calling participants to call their attention to issues of justice in today’s world.

“On the Road to the Cross” by Rob Burkhart. This resource allows you to experience Easter through the eyes of the everyday people who witnessed the triumphal entry, saw Jesus drag his cross to Calvary, and cried through Christ’s last words. Each new perspective opens the door to a fresh consideration of Easter and its impact on their lives and ours.

“Give It Up!” by Dottie Escobedo-Frank. This is a seven-week study that encourages participants to fast from different “distractions” that can sometimes monopolize our minds and isolate us from God. I’m sure there are probably things like social media, television, telephones that are included as items to give up for Lent.

Worship in a Flash for Lent and Easter - Drawing on a vast library of worship resources, this USB drive provides everything you need to plan worship throughout Lent and Easter.

“Creative Ideas for Lent” – This handbook contains programming ideas for worship, family activities, as well as activities and lessons for children and youth.

“Worship Innovations: Lent and Easter Season Resources” by Janet Burton. This resource offers monologues, planned worship events, a children’s drama, and interactive readings, all designed to give your Lenten, Easter, and Pentecost services fresh life and meaning.

“Essential Lent – Holy Moments and Sacred Experiences for Your Whole Congregation” In one volume, you will find easy-to-prepare activities and worship resources that invite your church to delve a little deeper into the season of Lent and to make it more meaningful than ever.
Congratulations to the following churches who have paid 100% of their District AND Conference apportionments for 2016:

**District Apportionments:**
- Advance
- Asbury
- Bethel (King)
- Bethlehem (Advance)
- Beulah
- Brookstown
- Canaan
  - Central (Thomasville)
  - Chestnut Grove (King)
- Concord (Mocksville)
- Delta
- Elbaville
  - Fairview (Pinnacle)
  - First (Mocksville)
- Germanton
- Hardison
- Hillsdale
- Lewisville
  - Mallalie-Jones
  - Mitchell’s Chapel
  - Mount Herman
- Mount Pleasant (Tobaccoville)
- New Home
  - Oak Grove (Mocksville)
  - Pine Grove (Winston-Salem)
- prospect
  - Sedge Garden
  - Shoals
  - St. James
- St. Paul (W-S)
  - Stony Knoll (Dobson)
- Trinity (W-S)
  - Wesley Memorial
  - Zion
- Antioch (Belews Creek)
  - Bailey’s Chapel
  - Bethel (Mocksville)
  - Bethlehem (W-S)
  - Blackwater
  - Bunker Hill
  - Centenary (Winston-Salem)
  - Central Terrace
  - Chestnut Grove (Mocksville)
  - Cooleemee
  - Dobson
  - Elm Grove
  - Fairview (Thomasville)
  - First (Pilot Mountain)
  - Good Hope
  - Harmony Grove
  - Johnstown
  - Longtown
  - Maple Grove
  - Mocks
  - Mount Olive
  - Mt. Pleasant (Winston-Salem)
  - New Hope (Pilot Mountain)
  - Palmyra
  - Pisgah
  - Saints Home
  - Shady Grove (East Bend)
  - Siloam
  - St. Mark
  - St. Stephen
  - Stony Knoll (East Bend)
  - Union
  - Whitaker’s Chapel
- Ardmore
  - Baltimore
  - Bethel (Thomasville)
  - Bethesda (Pine Hall)
  - Boonville
  - Burkhead
  - Center (Mocksville)
  - Cherry Street
  - Clemmons
  - Cornatzer
  - Dulin
  - Epworth
  - Faith
  - Forest Chapel
  - Hanes
  - Hatcher’s Chapel
  - Kingswood
  - Love’s
  - Marvin
  - Morris Chapel
  - Mount Olivet
  - Mount Zion (Pinnacle)
  - New Union
  - Pilot View
  - Pleasant Grove
  - Salem (Mocksville)
  - Shady Grove (W-S)
  - Smith Grove
  - St. Paul (Hamptonville)
  - Stanford
  - Tabernacle
  - Union Chapel
  - Withers Chapel
- Crews
  - East Bend
  - Fair Grove
  - Farmington
  - Fulton
  - Hanes Grove
  - Hickory Ridge
  - Level Cross
  - Main Street
  - Memorial
  - Mount Carmel
  - Mount Pleasant (Boonville)
  - Mountain Grove
  - Oak Forest
  - Pine Grove (Kernersville)
  - Pleasant Hill
  - Salem (Mt. Airy)
  - Shiloh (Germanton)
  - St. Andrew’s
  - St. Paul (Kernersville)
  - Stokesburg
  - Trinity (King)
  - Union Ridge
  - Yadkin College

**Conference Apportionments:**
- Arcadia
- Bethel (Winston-Salem)
- Bethlehem (Lexington)
- Center (Welcome)
- Centennial
- Central (Mt. Airy)
- Central Heights
- New Hope (Winston-Salem)
- Franklin Heights
- Konocti Hills
- New Mount Vernon
- Oak Grove (Mt. Airy)
- Piney Grove (Advance)
- Pine Woods
- Piney Peak
- Rockford Street
- Sharon
- Snow Hill

Congratulations to the following churches who paid 100% of their District apportionments for 2016:

- Arcadia
- Bethel (Winston-Salem)
- Bethel (Montville)
- Bethesda (Lexington)
- Center (Welcome)
- Central Heights
- New Hope (Winston-Salem)
- Franklin Heights
- Konocti Hills
- New Mount Vernon
- Oak Grove (Mt. Airy)
- Piney Grove (Advance)
- Pine Woods
- Piney Peak
- Rockford Street
- Sharon
- Snow Hill

Congratulations to the following churches who paid 100% of their Conference apportionments for 2016:

- Arcadia
- Bethel (Winston-Salem)
- Bethlehem (Lexington)
- Center (Welcome)
- Central Heights
- New Hope (Winston-Salem)
- Franklin Heights
- Konocti Hills
- New Mount Vernon
- Oak Grove (Mt. Airy)
- Piney Grove (Advance)
- Pine Woods
- Piney Peak
- Rockford Street
- Sharon
- Snow Hill
Yadkin Valley District
Worship Design Workshop
February 3-4, 2017

Join us in a two-day workshop led by Dr. Marcia McFee as we explore ways to make worship more sensory-rich, more deeply spiritual, more participatory and anticipatory. Have more ease, more fun and less stress planning worship week after week. Topics included in the workshop are:

* Sensory-Rich Worship  * Creating Worship with Deep Soul
* Paying Attention to Dynamics and Energy
* Think Like a Filmmaker
* Creating a Plan-Ahead, Plan-Together Model of Worship Design

Our workshop will begin on Friday, February 3, at Faith United Methodist Church, 1645 Griffin Road, Rural Hall, 7:00-9:00 p.m. Faith utilizes a multi-purpose worship center in their worship experience.

The workshop continues on Saturday, February 4, at Mt. Tabor United Methodist Church, 3543 Robinhood Road, Winston-Salem, 8:30 a.m.—3:30 p.m. (lunch included). Mt. Tabor’s setting is more traditional.

One church will have the opportunity for Dr. McFee to worship with you on Sunday, February 5, and provide feedback on your worship service. If you would like your church to be considered for this opportunity, please submit a written request stating why you would like her to be with you, along with your registration information by January 23.

Regardless if you are a small congregation or a large congregation, you will benefit from Dr. McFee’s teaching. The Yadkin Valley District is making this two-day workshop available to you for just $100 per team (up to 5 persons). Churches may bring more than one team.

To Register: Send $100 check (made payable to Yadkin Valley District) along with the names of your participants to:

Yadkin Valley District Office
1031 Reynolda Road
Winston-Salem, NC 27104


For questions, please email at ajohnson@wnccumc.org or call 336-725-4502.
Yadkin Valley District
2017 Lay Servant Training Registration

**Location: Burkhead UMC**, 5250 Silas Creek Parkway, Winston-Salem, NC
Five consecutive Sunday afternoons (February 26 – March 26, 2017), 2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Please check one: Basic Course __________ ($20.00)
Advanced Courses: “Planning Worship” __________ ($20.00)
(Please note: “Leading Worship” offered in 2016)
“Dancing with Words” __________ ($20.00)

**Location: Oak Forest UMC**, 11461 Old US Hwy. 52, Winston-Salem, NC 27107
Five consecutive Sunday afternoons (February 26 – March 26, 2017), 2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Please check one: Basic Course __________ ($20.00)
Advanced Courses: “You Can Preach” __________ ($20.00)
“Leading Bible Study” __________ ($20.00)

**Location: First UMC Family Life Center**, 305 N. Main Street, Mocksville, NC 27028
(The Family Life Center is the building across the street from the church)
Five consecutive Tuesday evenings (February 28-March 28, 2017), 6:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m.

Please check one:
Advanced Courses: “Devotional Life in the Wesleyan Tradition” __________ ($20.00)
“Justice in Everyday Life” __________ ($20.00)

Name ____________________________
Address __________________________
______________________________
Telephone ______________ Church ____________________
E-mail __________________________ Amount Enclosed: $__________

Approved: ___________________________ Signature of Pastor

Make checks payable to **Yadkin Valley District Office**
1031 Reynolda Road
Winston-Salem, NC 27104

Registration due by **January 31, 2017**. THERE WILL BE NO ON-SITE REGISTRATION.

District Lay Servant Ministries Committee of the Yadkin Valley District:
Amy Johnson, Chairperson
Tom Bridges, District Lay Leader
Louise Jones
Carol Roberts
Sara Williams
2017 Lay Servant Course Descriptions

The Basic Course acquaints you with your gifts, calling, and responsibilities as a follower of Christ. It offers guidelines for best practices as a church leader and in mission and ministry in the community and in daily life. This course is the foundational course for lay speaker training and is a pre-requisite for any Advanced Course. This course will be led by Rev. Bart Milleson at Burkhead UMC and Rev. Donald Jenkins at Oak Forest UMC. Due to low enrollment the past few years, a basic course will not be offered at First UMC.

The Advanced Courses being offered at Burkhead UMC in Winston-Salem:

“Planning Worship” will be led by Rev. Suzanne Michael. NOTE: Participants must have completed the “Leading Worship” advanced course offered in March 2016. This course builds on the course “Leading Worship,” and it is grounded in the principles and practices of worship planning.

“Dancing with Words” will be led by Rev. Bonnie Harris. Participants will learn what constitutes a good story, discover storytelling styles, learn the techniques of effective storytelling, and practice creating stories from their experiences.

The Advanced Courses being offered at Oak Forest UMC:

“Go Preach” will be led by Rev. Darren Alexander. This course is designed for those who have not completed formal preaching training, for those who are called upon to preach in a pastor’s absence.

“Leading Bible Study” will be led by Rev. Dana Bunn. This course opens a new world for many lay servants who have not had professional training in biblical interpretation. It reminds us as United Methodists that Bible study and biblical interpretation are a core part of our spiritual journey.

The Advanced Courses being offered at First UMC Family Life Center in Mocksville are:

“Devotional Life in the Wesleyan Tradition” will be led by Rev. Darren Crotts. Structured around John Wesley’s “Means of Grace,” this study covers, among other topics, prayer, Scripture, the Lord’s Supper, and fasting – major features in John Wesley’s devotional life. Participants will learn how they can apply Wesley’s ministry to their own life.

“Justice in Everyday Life” will be led by Rev. Gary Elrod. This course will take an in-depth look at the Social Principles of The United Methodist Church – the church’s attempt to speak on contemporary issues with which it is confronted today. The book covers topics such as the Natural World, Social Community, Economic Community, Political Community, Biblical Foundations of the Social Principles, and Teaching the Social Principles.
The Yadkin Valley District & The Inner Hue Offer the...

Pastor’s Living Sabbatical

The Pastor’s Living Sabbatical (PLS) honors the frantic rhythms of pastoral life and recognizes regular times to honestly encounter Christ (without leading it) are both rare and pivotal with life-giving implications for those you know. The PLS creates new corners for you to turn in your faith journey and paths to more fully walk into the power and compassion of Christ in, with and through your life with others.

WHAT: Regular time apart for clergy to experience group spiritual direction centered on encountering Christ simply, confronting ourselves compassionately and discovering new life effortlessly. We leave all results and goals to Christ and each person. $50.00 nonrefundable deposit to hold your spot. District will scholarship rest of costs for each participant.

DATES: FEB 6, MAR 6, APR 3, MAY 8, JUN 5, JUL 17, AUG 7, SEP 11, OCT 2 & NOV 6

WHO: Limited to first 12 participants, but will also take a waiting list.

TIME: 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., Mondays

WHERE: Winston-Salem, NC Area–specific location TBD

WHAT TO BRING: You (Fast as able [water only] just after dinner night before through our session), The Story of God, The Story of Us by Sean Gladding (1st Chapter read by Feb. 6 meeting) & a journal dedicated to this year’s journey in the PLS.

DEADLINE TO SIGN UP: Feb 1, 2017 by emailing Rene Wilt, YV Church Vitality Strategist @ RWilt@wnccumc.org

COMMITMENT: Attend all 10 sessions. Exceptions can be discussed by emailing Duke@TheInnerHue.com. To explore more about who we are and our passion for knowing the life of Christ within get to know us @ www.TheInnerHue.com.
Happenings Around the District and Conference

The Millikin University Choir will present a concert at 7:00pm on Friday, January 20 in the Sanctuary of Centenary UMC, 646 W. Fifth Street, Winston-Salem, as part of its annual winter tour. The Choir has an extensive touring history that includes performances in Scandinavia, Russia, Haiti, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, China, Taiwan, the Baltic States and throughout the United Kingdom. Additionally the Choir has seven CDs to its credit. Recent appearances at National Conferences of the American Choral Director’s Association have garnered new attention to the Choir’s approach to tone. The Millikin University Choir is under the direction of Dr. Bradley Holmes, Professor of Music and Director of Choral Studies. He has led the choir since 1991. The concert will also include a guest appearance of the Glenn High School Choir. The concert is free and open to the public, with a love offering taken up for the choir. For more information, contact Cat Zachary at 336.397.1336.

Union Ridge UMC, located at 3620 Old Lexington Road in Winston-Salem, will host a Community Prayer Meeting on Sunday, January 29, beginning at 3:00 pm. They invite churches and their members to join them as they seek God in answer to His promise in 2 Chronicles 7: 14 - "If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land."

West Yadkin Missional Network Hymn Sing - Sunday, January 29, 3:00-5:00 p.m. at Mitchell's Chapel United Methodist Church, located at 2410 Center Road, Boonville. Everyone is invited to enjoy our church choirs and congregational singing followed by fellowship time together. If your church would like to sing, please email Claudia Harrelson (charreson@wnccumc.net).

Hardison UMC, located at 1630 Jericho Church Road in Mocksville, will host a Fifth Sunday Sing with covered dish meal on Sunday, January 29, at 5:00 p.m. Music will be provided by Heart Afire from Inman, SC. http://www.heartsafiremusic.com
Shiloh UMC, located at 943 N. NC Highway 150 in Lexington will host a buffet breakfast on **Saturday, February 4**, 6:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. The selection includes country ham, homemade sausage, bacon, homemade biscuits, pancakes, grits, cooked apples, redevye & milk gravie, fruit, and beverages. The cost is $7.00 for adults and $3.00 for kids. The project is sponsored by the Shiloh UMW and UMM and proceeds benefit their mission projects.

**Mocks UMC**, located at the corner of Mocks Church Road and Beauchamp Road in Advance, will host a breakfast on **Saturday, February 11**, 6:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Cost is $7.00, which includes meat, eggs, grits, sausage gravy, biscuits and beverage. The breakfast is sponsored by the Mocks United Methodist Men and proceeds benefit their mission projects.

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**Attention Yadkin Valley District Clergy:**

You are invited to come out to **Seven Springs Estate** - 118 Alder Lane in Mocksville, NC on **Friday, March 3, from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.** to catch your breath with a **Lenten Sabbath Day.** During our retreat, we will enjoy a time of:

- Worship
- Sabbath Teaching
- Prayer & Reflection
- Sabbath Planning
- Walking Trails

*Lunch will be provided. The cost for this event is only $10.*

To Register: Contact Yadkin Valley Sabbath Chaplains- Revs. Jonathan Brake at jbrake@centenary-ws.org or Dianne Lawhorn at dianne.lawhorn@mttaborumc.org by **February 25th.** This retreat is offered as a part of the ministry of Blessed Earth.

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**February 25, 2017**

**IDK** (I don’t know) is an event to help youth explore that sense of calling.

This day-long event will provide youth a place to hear about what a calling is, hear call stories, explore their spiritual gifts, and connect with each other. Youth are asked to bring an adult lay mentor with them who can spend this time learning how to support a young person who is feeling called into ministry.

Where: St. Luke’s UMC in Hickory, NC

Time: 9 am until 4 pm

Registration Fee: $20 per person *(It is recommended that the church pay the registration fee for the youth and their lay mentor to show their support of God’s calling at work.)*

Register online at

[www.callingidk.com](http://www.callingidk.com)

Sponsored by the **WNCC Conference Call and Vocation Team**
Yadkin Valley Church Transformation Team

Allan Van Meter, Chair of the Yadkin Valley District Church Transformation Team, would like to make our district churches aware of our District Church Transformation Team. Their purpose is to help prepare churches and church leaders for ministry in the 21st Century as we all become agents of God’s transforming grace for our communities. We realize that in this ever changing world, we as leaders and congregations will need to change and be transformed on a continual bases to remain vibrant and healthy. Your District Church Transformation Team is here to help in this process. A wide variety of services are available for our district churches depending on where a church is in its lifecycle as well as struggles that may be occurring. Please feel free to contact Allan for more information. 336-403-6792 (cell) or avanmeter@wnccumc.net.

Brotherhood/Sisterhood Sunday

February 19 is designated in our WNCC as Brotherhood/Sisterhood Sunday. We encourage all churches to include the following information in their church newsletters and bulletins to inform the lay members of this ministry to our clergy families and to lift up our ministry during their worship services that day or on a more convenient Sunday closest to it.

The Brotherhood/Sisterhood of the Western North Carolina Conference has been actively caring for the families of deceased clergy members ever since this voluntary association of clergy and laity was organized in 1894. With the founding 121 clergy members pledging $5.00 and with laity who joined as honorary members pledging $1.00 or more after the death of a member, clergy families received $400.00 to help with funeral and other expenses.

The amount of the death benefit is $9,500.00 as we begin 2017 with 674 clergy members pledging $8.00 and nearly 1,807 lay members contributing $3.00 or more per call. While we anticipate an average of 15 deaths during each Conference year, there was an abnormally high number of deaths (29) in 2013-2014, followed by 16 in 2014-2015 and 15 in 2015-2016.

After having had more than 1,000 clergy and 3,000 lay members enrolled, the number of clergy and lay members has decreased in recent years. Your Board of Directors is searching for ways to increase our membership, and we rejoice that 26 new clergy and 23 new lay members have joined since this past June.

With deep gratitude for the faithful and generous support for this connectional expression of compassion and love to clergy families at a critical time in their lives, we invite everyone to join us. Please visit our website at brotherhoodsisterhood.com to learn more about your Brotherhood/Sisterhood including how to become a member and make contributions. We welcome your thoughts about ways to strengthen our ministry, and we will be happy to respond to your questions.

Your brother in Christ,

Roland T. Barnhardt, Executive Director
Robbie Carr, Administrative Assistant
Brotherhood/Sisterhood of the WNCC
PO Box 1096, Belmont, NC  28012

Cell phone: 336-406-1879
Office phone: 704-825-1333
Email address: BSHSWNCC@BellSouth.net
District Joys and Concerns

We extend our sincere sympathy to:

**Reverend Ardis Payne** (retired) on the death of his wife, **Alline Payne**, on December 26

**Reverend Dr. James Ferree** (retired) on the death of his sister, **Mary Evans**, on December 29

Congratulations to **Dr. Ivan Peden and wife, Carol**, (Lewisville UMC) on the birth of a granddaughter, **Emma Grace Isla Peden**, on December 28

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Upcoming Dates

- January 23 – Registrations due for District Worship Workshop
- January 30 - Meeting with Missional Network Leaders, 7:00 p.m., St. Andrew’s UMC
- January 31 – Registrations due for Lay Servant Training
- January 31 – YEAR-END STATISTICAL REPORTS DUE

February 3-4 – District Worship Workshop with Dr. Marcia McFee
February 5 – District Leadership Training, Burkhead UMC, 3:00-5:00 p.m.
February 9 – DS Book Club, 11:00 a.m., District Office
February 22 – Open Conversation with Bishop Leeland for African-American Pastors
  St. Stephen UMC, Lexington, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
February 26 – Lay Servant Training Begins at Burkhead UMC and Oak Forest UMC
February 28 – Lay Servant Training Begins at First UMC, Mocksville

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Yadkin Valley District Staff

**Jeffrey S. Patterson**, District Superintendent, 336-725-4502, [jpatterson@wnccumc.org](mailto:jpatterson@wnccumc.org)

**Rene Wilt**, Church Vitality Specialist, 704-535-2260, [rwilt@wnccumc.org](mailto:rwilt@wnccumc.org)

**Amy Johnson**, District Administrator, 336-725-4502, [ajohnson@wnccumc.org](mailto:ajohnson@wnccumc.org)

Office Hours:
Monday-Thursday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Closed on Friday