

University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Elizabeth Hardin, Greg Gillespi, Ivan H.M. Peden, Julie Putnam, James Dudley, Janice Martin, Thomas Stockton, Morgan Roseborough, Mary Lynne Calhoun, Viviane Avant, Ward Mesienheimer. *Ex Officio*: George E. Thompson, Phil Tonnesen, Eddie Bass, Sam Roberson.

University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Don McCrickard, Susan Norman Vickers, Steve Danford, Zac Greene, Laurie Weaver, Scott Romine, Wendy Woodlief, Jay Hilbinger, Gaye Clifton, Doris Hall, Lynne Lewallen, Leslie Veach, Sarah Beale, Mark Davenport, Corey Hearne, Amy van Schagen, Angie Kapely. *Ex Officio*: Frank H. (Duke) Ison, Amy J. Rio-Anderson.

Western Carolina University

June Benson, Kerri Bernhardt, Sandy Carper, Duane Dunlap, Tom Frazier, Lee Gale, Frank Grice, Meredith LeCroy, Gene McAbee, Elizabeth McRae, Sarah Messer, Jed Tate, Manning Wimberly. *Ex Officio*: G. David Reeves, Timothy S. Moore, J. Alexander Ward, Jr.

Winston-Salem Wesley Foundation

Christy Buchanan, Laura A. Elliott, Eric Rimes, Avery White, Cass Mitchell, Lamar Parker, Lauren P. Richardson, Elinor Starling, Dennis Booth, Roger Echols, Allison Hicks, Nathan E. Kirkpatrick, Sheryl Squires, Jordan Jones, Greg Schuetz, Ryan Wilson, Allyson Westover, Leslie Phillips.

CONSORTIUM ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES INSTITUTIONS**1. ALDERSGATE UNITED METHODIST RETIREMENT COMMUNITY**

The Mission of Aldersgate is to provide excellent continuing care services for older adults.

For many years, we have used this space to report on the plans, finances, structure, and programs of the wonderful place we call Aldersgate. This year, we decided to take a little different structure. We earnestly invite you to read all about the Aldersgate community on our website, www.aldersgateccrc.com. On the website, you will see the new cottage community that is being developed and learn about our other accommodations and programs. For a thorough review of our finances, admission policies, and other operational matters, you can visit our offices in Charlotte and review our Disclosure Statement (a document that gives an in-depth perspective on the many facets of our organization and business plan). Or, you could log onto the North Carolina Division of Insurance website, http://www.ncdoi.com/FED/fed_se_home.asp, and read at your leisure the many facets of the legal and business perspectives of Aldersgate, as well as the missional aspects.

In this report, we are going to concentrate on what we like to call the heart of Aldersgate: stories about the people who live here.

Our outreach is primarily coordinated through the AldersGate Committee and consists of many facets of our ministry to the people of the Charlotte area. What is most important among those endeavors is the ministry accomplished directly as a result of resident members of the community. Resident volunteer activities for the past year included such things as tutoring at community college, knitting caps and blankets for "Newborns in Need," quilting for "Victory Junction Gang," volunteering at hospital, telephone reassurance program, teaching classes at senior center, rolling bandages for Samaritan's Purse, making "cool collars" for troops in Iraq, and many other activities. The residents totaled 2,478 hours of volunteer service, and Aldersgate was able to claim thousands of dollars in Community Benefit Services for their grand efforts. The total amount of Community Benefit for the organization was \$684,252.00, which included the resident amount.

The Heart of Aldersgate. A part of chairman Carroll Thomas' goals for the coming years is to publish each month a story about some relationship or act of kindness at Aldersgate that typifies "The Heart of Aldersgate." These stories, according to Mr. Thomas, are what we are about. It is the essence of who we are. The first of the stories is about a man and a bird—a very special relationship:

Bob lives at Aldersgate. He is a resident at the skilled nursing facility, Asbury Care Center. Bob had a much beloved bird, Tweety, who came with him when he came to live at Aldersgate. Bob made Tweety a part of his family over 15 years ago. He was very proud of Tweety, regularly showing him off to other residents and staff. Bob took excellent care of Tweety, as evidenced by his long life. One icy morning, Betty, the nurses' aide, and another staff person entered Bob's room to help him get his day started. They quickly realized that they weren't hearing the familiar birdsong from Tweety's cage. After confirming what they dreaded—Tweety had passed away—the CNA turned and with great tenderness broke the news to Bob. As he began to sob, Betty stood by him with her arms around him as the other staff gently took Tweety from the cage for Bob to have a chance to say "goodbye" to his friend. What followed were continued exceptional acts of kindness, as Steve, the manager of the grounds department, immediately committed to burying Tweety in the garden next to Asbury, so Bob could visit whenever he wanted. The next day, Yvette, the director of nursing, having learned that Steve had already broken through the frozen ground to lay Tweety to rest, wrapped up Bob in blankets and strolled him out in his wheelchair, to view Tweety's grave. What they found was that not only had Steve buried Tweety in a most appropriate location in the garden, but also that he had found a beautiful landscaping stone, with a picture of bird on it, to mark Tweety's site. A few days after having heard of Tweety's demise, Barbara, the director of member services, asked Bob if he would be willing to care for a couple of birds from another area of the Aldersgate campus that needed someone to take care of them. He enthusiastically agreed, and soon "Zig" and "Zag" found a home with Bob in his room at Asbury. Now, Brian, the activity assistant at Asbury, makes sure that Bob has ample opportunity to bring out Zig and Zag as part of various events on the floor, so that Bob can share his love of his birds with other residents.

Betty, Steve, Yvette, Barbara, Brian...they are Bob's family.
Bob lives at Aldersgate...? No, Aldersgate is Bob's home.

Come visit us in Charlotte, or on our website, to start your own story regarding the Heart of Aldersgate.

J. Carroll Thomas., *Chairperson*
Raymond O. Hall, *President*

Proposals: Aldersgate Boards

(Petition 7) (Adopted on June 8, 2007)

- The Board of Advisors of Aldersgate United Methodist Retirement Community, Inc., proposes that the following persons be confirmed as members of that board (* denotes new member):
Class of 2010

Nancy Keever Andersen	Thomas R. Bethune, Jr.	Joseph H. Cathey, Jr.
LeRoy Deabler	Zane E. Eargle	Deborah Elvington*
Norma Farnsworth*	James Heddens*	Sandra Heironymus*
Theodore S. Hoffmann*	Myra Jenkins	Tom P. Phillips
C. Ronald Riley	W. Leonard Robinson	James Sample*
Michael R. Smith	Sam H. Smith, Jr.*	G. Everett Suddreth
Edwin H. Wadsworth		
- The Board of Advisors of Aldersgate United Methodist Retirement Community, Inc., proposes that the following persons be confirmed as members of the Board of Directors of Aldersgate (*denotes new member):
Class of 2008

Margaret Fisher	Ann Tyler*	
	<i>Class of 2010</i>	
Michael G. Carle	G. William Climer, Jr.	W. Leonard Robinson
Michael R. Smith	Sam H. Smith, Jr.	

Chair-elect: William T. Jeffries

2. ARBOR ACRES UNITED METHODIST RETIREMENT COMMUNITY, INC.

A year of transition and preparation for the future, 2006 saw a sea-change in the leadership of Arbor Acres. Veterans who shaped the culture of Arbor Acres retired after more than two decades of dedicated service to the church and to the residents. Walter Moore, CFO, and Sarah Blizard, corporate secretary, began working at Arbor Acres in 1984. Walt leaves a legacy of financial strength and long-term financial viability. Sarah's legacy exists, not only in the orderliness of the corporate records, but also in the commitment to customer service which she embodied daily.

Additionally, in April, Cynthia Schaub retired after six years of service as chief operating officer, thus assuring that 2006 would be ground-shifting. Preparing for, managing, and absorbing leadership change of this magnitude has been the great challenge and accomplishment of 2006. Having mourned its losses, Arbor Acres has emerged well equipped for new levels of service in the years to come. Accomplishments in 2006 include the following:

- Recruitment, selection, and hiring of new leadership.** Lurana Day joined the staff of Arbor Acres as chief operating officer in April, bringing with her years of experience in health care and retirement community operations management. Ken Boyles arrived in September and succeeded Walt as CFO at yearend. Katrina Bodford came in October and stepped fully into the role of corporate secretary in December of 2006. Each has brought skills, talents, and graces needed to expand on Arbor Acres' existing strengths.
- Commencement of Strategic Planning:** Having served residents for more than 25 years, Arbor Acres faces strategic challenges, including aging facilities, changes in consumer demand, and the continuing need to increase funding for financial assistance. Accordingly, this year the board of directors undertook the most extensive strategic-planning process since the inception of Arbor Acres. After all research and analysis are concluded, a plan will be developed by which Arbor Acres may continue to grow in its capacity to fulfill its mission.
- Refinancing of Bond Indebtedness:** Opportunity presented this year to refinance the bonds issued in 2002, to permit construction of the Stockton Apartment Building and other major renovations to the Arbor Acres campus. This successful refinancing will save \$1.6 million over the 30-year life of the bonds.
- Successful 2006 Mother's Day Offering and Annual Fund Campaign:** Charitable giving to Arbor Acres to permit provision of financial assistance to residents remains strong. This year's goal of \$200,000 was exceeded by more than \$15,000. Arbor Acres remains grateful to those who support generously the heart of Arbor Acres' mission, the delivery of care to those who lack the personal financial resources to provide for themselves. Thirty residents received financial assistance this year, at a total cost of \$819,511, that amount representing income from multiple sources, including the apportionment of \$81,400 from the Western North Carolina Annual Conference.

Gratefully, we acknowledge the level of contentment of residents, who report consistently their high satisfaction with services and programs. The partnership among residents, staff, and board remains strong. The Resident Council, under the leadership of Dot Peacock as council president, assures that the voice of residents is heard and considered in all matters relating to the life of Arbor Acres. Employee turnover is declining. Morale remains high. The board of directors, chaired by Richard Marvin, has provided stellar leadership in strategic planning, and in the board's primary area of responsibility, assuring that Arbor Acres' mission remains relevant and dynamic. The year 2006 has been rich, indeed, with manifestations of God's grace toward Arbor Acres and all

associated with this ministry. For that grace, and for the confidence and support of the Western North Carolina Conference, Arbor Acres expresses its deep and lasting gratitude.

W. David Piner, *President and CEO*
Richard M. Marvin, *Chairman, Board of Directors*

Proposals: Arbor Acres Board of Directors

(Petition 8) (Adopted June 8, 2007)

The following persons are proposed for election as members of the Board of Directors of Arbor Acres United Methodist Retirement Community, Inc.:

	<i>Class of 2007</i>	
Judy M. Briggs	Gregory B. Hunter	Neal E. Tackabery
Thomas B. Cannon	Richard M. Marvin	Robert D. Turner
Linda G. Davis	Michael L. Robinson	W. Earl Wilson, Jr.
	Gerald E. Smith	
	<i>Class of 2008</i>	
David W. Bailey	David E. Cassells	Dyeann Jordan
William L. Ball, Jr.	James H. Corrigan	Anita H. Ogburn
Edward L. Beason	James W. Ferree	Susan S. Schwartz
Richard V. Bennett	Richard Fulp	Althea Taylor-Jones
Emma Graham	Edwin L. Welch, Jr.	
	<i>Ex-Officio</i>	
J. Lawrence McCleskey, <i>Resident Bishop</i>		
Annetta E. Beverly, <i>Northeast District Superintendent</i>		
Lynne B. Caldwell, <i>High Point District Superintendent</i>		
Frank H. Ison, <i>Greensboro District Superintendent</i>		
R. A. (Alan) Rice, Jr., <i>North Wilkesboro District Superintendent</i>		
J. Hurley Thomas III, <i>Winston-Salem District Superintendent</i>		
C. M. Worthy, Jr., <i>Lexington District Superintendent</i>		

3. THE CHILDREN'S HOME, INC.

I am pleased to report that your Children's Home is very much alive and well as we near the end of our first century of ministry. Critically important work—caring for hurting children and their struggling families—is occurring daily on both our Winston-Salem and Franklin campuses, as we continue to answer our Lord's call to serve the "least of these."

The number of people receiving direct services increased dramatically in 2006. About 425 were assisted through our various programs: residential care, day treatment, foster care, family counseling, community services, adoptions, and higher education. It is our vision to continually develop the means to expand these services and add new ones, so that even more can be served in the name of the church. By mid-summer, we plan to re-open our 70-year-old Gray Cottage to provide residential services to 10 additional youth. Additionally, our trustees have approved extensive renovation of our historic Reynolds Cottage over the next year, in preparation for an exciting new collaborative program for homeless teen moms, to be known as "My Aunt's House." Yet another new venture, already under way, is our "Triad Team Adventures"—a team-building program for any interested organization, featuring a state-of-the-art high-ropes course. Always in our planning do we demonstrate faithful stewardship of our land and facilities. For example, our old main campus farm has taken on new meaning as its programming is strengthening for the therapeutic benefit of our youngsters, and as it provides a wonderfully unique "green space" in the midst of our urban community.

We continue to be blessed with wonderful volunteers, including a dedicated board of trustees. Over the past 12 months, more than 6,000 volunteer hours have been recorded, with a dozen or so United Methodist churches joining in to provide maintenance for our buildings and grounds. The financial equivalent of these volunteer hours is very substantial, and complements the faithful financial support we continue to receive through the apportionment and directly from many of our churches and their individual members. Even though our apportionment income has been down in recent years, our annual Children's Home Sunday giving showed a nice gain for 2006 (totaled about \$60,000). In order to expand our services, update our aging facilities, and serve more of God's children, we must rely more than ever upon the increased generosity of our western North Carolina United Methodist constituency. I ask that you keep our kids and their families in your prayers, and partner with us in this grand old ministry through your volunteer efforts and through your personal and local church financial support.

George M. Bryan, Jr., *President/CEO*

Proposal: Children's Home Trustees**(Petition 9)
(Adopted on June 8, 2007)**

The Board of Trustees of The Children's Home, Inc., proposes that the following persons be confirmed as members of that board:

<i>Class of 2008</i>	<i>Class of 2009</i>	<i>Class of 2010</i>
Mildred S. Carter	Lynne H. Berry	L. M. (Bud) Baker
Rebecca K. Johnson	Jane G. Hanes	Jennifer P. Davis
Donald L. Martin, Jr.	R. Harper Heckman	Linda G. Davis
Martha Y. Martinat	Jean R. Irvin	Bob L. Dunnigan
Richard J. Tamer	Thomas W. Lambeth	James W. Ferree
J. Alexander Ward, Jr.	James H. Wilson	Merry A. Lowe
Edwin L. Welch, Jr.	Robert H. Winchester	Etta W. Marcellus
Dee S. Wood	Loy H. Witherspoon	Wanda S. Merschel
<i>Ex Officio:</i>	J. Lawrence McCleskey, <i>Resident Bishop, Western North Carolina Conference</i>	
	J. Hurley Thomas III, <i>Superintendent, Winston-Salem District</i>	

4. GIVENS ESTATES UNITED METHODIST RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

The completion of Givens Estates' expansion in 2005 and renovations in 2006 marked only the beginning of our growth as an expanded community. Reaching far beyond the new buildings and activity spaces, we are truly blessed to have a blended population of residents from diverse backgrounds, residents who have lived at Givens for many years, and residents who have just moved in, all joining together to create a lively and vibrant culture. Resident participation in the many new and enhanced programs has been extraordinary. Through a variety of classes, programs, clubs, and activities, residents are forming new friendships, sharing their creative talents, adopting a wellness-based lifestyle, and embracing the spirit of community.

Last summer, Givens Estates joined with the Southeastern Methodist Association for Rehabilitation (SEMAR), the Southeastern Jurisdiction Administrative Council (SEJAC), many business partners, and friends in Haywood County to celebrate the groundbreaking for The Laurels of Junaluska. This affordable housing community for seniors with low to modest incomes features 36 one-bedroom and 64 two-bedroom apartments, common area spaces, library, exercise room, and outdoor activity areas. The project is uniquely financed through several funding sources, including a grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), federal and state tax credits, and grant funding from The Duke Endowment. Eligibility requirements for residency will be based upon age and income limit parameters established by HUD. Construction of the Laurels is progressing on schedule, and occupancy is planned to begin by December 2007. As co-developer and manager of the project, Givens Estates remains enthusiastic about this opportunity to share our mission and ministry with seniors in western North Carolina.

In September 2006, Bishop J. Lawrence McCleskey and Joseph M. Fulk, Jr., our director of ministries, led a meaningful service of worship to consecrate the new Norma F. Pulliam Chapel. We are humbled by the generosity of so many residents and friends of Givens Estates who made the completion of the chapel possible through their financial gifts, prayers, and support. We are grateful to our resident woodworkers, who graciously gave of their time and talents to handcraft the beautiful chancel furniture from white oak harvested from the expansion property. We also recognize the continued contributions of the residents who are assisting with the design of the stained-glass windows, the crafting of the earthenware baptismal font, and sewing needlepoint cushions for the kneeling benches. The Pulliam Chapel, a beautiful place for worship and fellowship, is a wonderful and fitting conclusion to the expansion project.

By serving as the clinical training site for the geriatric rotation of the Family Practice Residency Program, Givens Estates has enjoyed a long-standing relationship with the Mountain Area Health and Education Clinic (MAHEC). Five years ago, MAHEC began providing on-site clinic services for Givens residents. New clinic space in Asbury Commons has enabled MAHEC to expand these services for Givens residents to four days a week. Recognizing the medical-care needs of our neighbors in Buncombe County and the larger region, Givens and MAHEC are collaborating on a new family-care practice, which will be constructed on the Givens campus, immediately adjacent to Sweeten Creek Road. The family practice will also afford geriatric fellows the opportunity to instruct and train interns interested in specializing in geriatric medicine. The clinic will be open to Givens residents and the general public alike. Construction will begin by mid-2007.

We were deeply saddened by the January 7 passing of J. Clay Madison. Dr. Madison was one of three original founders of Givens Estates and remained involved with our community in many capacities throughout the years. He was an honorary life member of the Givens Board, a cherished resident, and a dear friend.

As one of Givens' outreach ministries, the LifeMinistries program continues to grow and serve rural churches in many of our neighboring towns and counties. Medical equipment loan closets have been established at two area churches and are supplied with used equipment donated by Givens and other organizations. A new ministry, the Baby Equipment And Resource (B.E.A.R.) Closet, opened in Candler and served 25 families within the first three months of operation. A second B.E.A.R. closet is being planned for the Asheville area. Since 1998, LifeMinistries has touched over 7,000 people in our region.

At the heart of our mission is a legacy of passion for our financial assistance ministry. Within our community, many residents benefit from our commitment to providing quality care and services to those less fortunate. Within the mountains of western North Carolina, many people benefit from our commitment to outreach ministries. Our ability to be faithful to these commitments is directly correlated to the support of our friends. We are blessed by this partnership!

Kenneth M. Partin, *Chief Executive Officer*

Proposal: Givens Estates Directors

**(Petition 10)
(Adopted on June 8, 2007)**

It is proposed that the following be elected as members of the Board of Directors of Givens Estates United Methodist Retirement Community:

	<i>Class of 2008</i>	
Myron L. Coulter	Kathy Rabb	Maurice E. West, Sr.
Gordon C. Goodgame	Phillip J. Tate	Louisa R. Goebel
Charles E. Nesbitt	Donald L. Watrous	
	<i>Class of 2009</i>	
William F. Depp	Virginia Robinson	Elaine T. Wolf
Doris P. Loomis	Patricia S. Smith	George W. Wooten
Billy S. Martin	Judith H. Toney	
	<i>Class of 2010</i>	
Mark B. Clasby	Robert E. Shepherd	Steven E. Arnaudin
Gregory D. Hutchins	Hal F. Starnes	Kathleen M. Wilson
Kenneth W. Swayze, Jr.	G. Edward Towson II	
	<i>Ex Officio</i>	
William B. Cagle (Honorary Life)	Frances C. Waser (Honorary Life)	
Thomas E. Camp III (Givens Trust)	Alfred J. Whitesides, Jr. (Honorary Life)	
Lucian C. Rice (Medical)	Richard A. Wood, Jr. (Chairman Emeritus)	
Ronald A. Sistrunk (Resident Council Rep.)		
	<i>(Clergy)</i>	
Robert M. Blackburn, Jr.	D. Michael Jordan	C. Sydnor Thompson III
Ben W. Curry	W. Lyn Sorrells	James W. White
J. Lawrence McCleskey, <i>Resident Bishop</i>		
James T. Trollinger, <i>Assistant to the Bishop</i>		
Ashley Crowder Stanley, <i>Asheville District Superintendent</i>		
Phillip B. Cole, <i>Marion District Superintendent</i>		
Arnetta E. Beverly, <i>Conference Director of Connectional Ministries</i>		
J. Alexander Ward, Jr., <i>Waynesville District Superintendent</i>		

5. UMAR–WNC, INC.

Through Our Doors, Lives Are Changing!

Since 1983, UMAR has provided quality services to adults with developmental disabilities. In 2006, UMAR continued to provide quality services and increase fiscal health, all the while continuing to expand current services and develop new services in order to meet population needs that continue to grow and increase in their sophistication.

Highlights for 2006:

- Ended the calendar year in the best fiscal position in more than 12 years.
- Began occupation of the Angel Home. Located on the property of Aldersgate Retirement Community, the Angel Home houses six women and is UMAR's third home on the Aldersgate property.
- Added an additional grounds crew to UMAR's group employment services.
- Completed the transition of Givens Estates into UMAR's inaugural home for seniors with developmental disabilities.
- Added four individuals to the supported-living-through-apartments program.
- Implementation of a church cultivation program. UMAR's church cultivator, Ruby Navarro, will focus on developing relationships with districts and churches of the conference that allow the conference and UMAR to partner to improve education and supports for adults with developmental disabilities.
- UMAR was rated the No. 1 provider by Mecklenburg County's Compliance Unit. Ratings are based on assessments and reviews conducted by the Mecklenburg County Area Authority.
- Resurrected UMAR's foundation, the Guardian Society. The purpose of the foundation is to educate UMAR's stakeholders on the benefits of including UMAR in their planned-giving strategies.
- Received all monies raised through the sales of Jane Golden's book, *A Bird Sings*.
- Began selling UMAR note cards in Cokesbury and church bookstores. The note cards feature original artwork by UMAR residents.

Anticipated highlights for 2007:

- Complete construction and occupancy of the Barnabas Home. Located on the property of Mt. Zion Church, Cornelius, the Barnabas Home will house six men. Demand for the Barnabas Home has resulted in the need for a second men's home in the Lake Norman area.

- Complete construction of the Lincoln County (LCGH) replacement home. UMAR took over ownership and operation of the LCGH in 2006. The home has benefited, programmatically and financially, from being part of the UMAR family.
- Completion of the Lexington District's fundraising effort to build the first of two homes in the district. The Ardell & Edna Lanier Home will house six men. The district's second home is anticipated to house six women.
- Anticipated start of construction for a second Lake Norman area home.
- Further implementation of UMAR's social capital program. The emphasis of social capital is to integrate our residents into their communities through the development and leveraging of their network of relationships.
- Attainment of funding for additional apartment settings. Apartment settings provide living options for residents needing and wanting more independence.

Proposal: UMAR Trustees

(Petition 11) (Adopted on June 8, 2007)

The Board of Trustees of UMAR-WNC, Inc., proposes that the following persons be elected as members of that board as of January 1, 2007:

<i>Class of 2007</i>	<i>Class of 2008</i>	<i>Class of 2009</i>
Jim Cochran	Sallie Close	Dwight Marshall
Bobbie Hankins	Bill Eller	Carolyn Middlebrooks
Morry Johnston	George Fleming	Linda Weisbruch
Charlie Lieske	Libby Privette	Mike Wilson
	<i>Ex Officio</i>	
James H. Graves	James T. Trollinger	Aaron W. Moss
Theresa Hall	Bob King	Ginger Kelly
	Bill Ervin	
	Tom Hollowell	

6. CHRYSALIS COUNSELING CENTER

As long as our world continues to change, so must pastoral care and counseling ministry. Because of these changes, counseling centers in our society must constantly be attuned to the needs of people and their problems, asserting professional, clinical standards in the marketplace for Jesus Christ.

That is why Chrysalis Counseling Center—with counselors in the Greensboro, High Point, and Lexington districts—will always be committed to pastoral care and counseling in the context of a uniting and sustaining Methodist faith. United Methodists gave birth to the core belief of our center when John Wesley proclaimed the world as his parish. Our new name signals a first step in responding to the call for a more open, ecumenical identity in a ministry of pastoral care and counseling. Our new name has growth at its heart. It is time for us to reach out to those persons attempting to grow in faith in the context of severe emotional distress. My hope is that, theologically and philosophically, Chrysalis Counseling Center will always embody the highest values of a caring church.

Just as pastoral counseling has had to change over the years, so, too, must our center expand in meeting the needs of God's people in a new day.

For 24 years, since its beginning under the leadership of Harry G. Long, Jr., the Methodist Counseling Center has provided professional, fee-based pastoral care to the community. Changing our name to Chrysalis was the first step toward a long-term vision of expanding the reach and services of the center. In addition to counseling persons through mental and emotional problems, the center also produces workshops and seminars which educate churches on various areas of mental health issues and faith. Coaching and consultation are available for churches and pastors in crisis. Direct care and counseling is provided for pastors and their families. Supervision of marriage and family counselors is also done through our clinical director, Dr. Long. Increasingly, each year since 2002, more persons use the center on their road to healing and wholeness.

The board, through the guidance of our district superintendents, clergy, and laypersons, continues to be committed to spiritual and emotional health.

Changes in state insurance/mental health coverage and the paradigm shift in church funding leave few financial resources for those in crisis. A Samaritan Fund is planned for 2007-2008, to make available additional funds for persons in need. It is open to all churches. Equipping pastors for the growing demands of church leadership is also critical. The Greensboro center will sponsor a Pastoral Care Specialist program, in addition to the one in the Lexington District, for nurturing and teaching care and counseling ministry to pastors in the local churches. The Chrysalis Center's calling is to provide valuable resources to care for a sea of persons arriving at our churches, waiting on a word from the Lord that their suffering is over and that their days of darkness have come to an end.

Gary L. Kling, D.Min., LPC, *Executive Director*

7. METHODIST COUNSELING AND CONSULTATION SERVICES (MCCS)

Methodist Counseling and Consultation Services (MCCS) is a specialized ministry, extending the ministry of local congregations to persons who seek hope in the midst of their despair, light in their darkness, and God's healing grace. MCCS provides certified pastoral counselors who meet persons where they are on their journey through this life. In a high-tech society, our pastoral counselors bring a personal touch. While psychiatrists offer

pills to treat life's problems, and psychologists offer limited sessions due to managed-care restrictions, our pastoral counselors offer a relationship that will last as long as the process of healing takes, and at considerably less cost.

MCCS serves as an important referral source for pastors, who often do not have the time or the specialized training to work with persons in local congregations who are hurting. Having qualified pastoral counselors that you respect makes referral for your parishioners a lot easier.

MCCS historically serves five districts that cover an 11-county area. In the past year, MCCS provided 7,008 hours of individual, marital, family, and group therapy. We provided 36 hours of consultation with various congregations. We also conducted 249 workshops and educational events for congregations. We have updated our website, a move that has generated a significant response. Additionally, we have started an on-line journal, *Cardia-gram*, which has produced issues for the first two quarters of 2007. The winter journal focused on depression, while the spring journal addressed the topic of clergy care. The journal can be accessed by visiting the MCCS website at www.mccsvs.com. MCCS is a service center that is accredited by both the American Association of Pastoral Counselors (AAPC) and the Samaritan Institute.

Thanks to Nancy Ratcliff, who handles the finances for MCCS, and John V. Arey, Jr., who serves as clinical services director and as a delegate to the MCCS board. We have had an excellent year. We are at the point of seeking several additional counselors.

This will not be a rapid expansion, but rather one that is thoughtful, deliberate, and focused on quality therapists who are qualified and ready to come on board with us. It is our belief that seeking licensed pastoral counselors who are able to provide caring, compassionate, and quality ministry provides a sound basis for helping and healing others through this arm of the annual conference.

To learn more about the MCCS clinical services and sites, workshops, and consultations, as well as to make contributions to the Samaritan Client Assistance Fund to aid persons without the financial means who seek professional pastoral counseling, visit the MCCS website at www.mccsvs.org.

James R. Westmoreland, *Chairperson*
John V. Arey, Jr., *Clinical Services Director*

Proposal: Methodist Counseling and Consultation Services Board

(Petition 12) (Adopted on June 8, 2007)

The Board of Directors of Methodist Counseling and Consultation Services proposes that the following persons be confirmed by the annual conference as members of that board:

Carroll Bostic	Ken Porter	Jacob C. (Ted) Troutman III
William T. Jeffries	Kenneth R. Roth, Jr.	James R. Westmoreland
Laura A. Knoespel		

Ex Officio:

The superintendents of the Albemarle, Charlotte, Gastonia, Salisbury, and Statesville Districts

8. THE POTTER'S TOUCH

The Potter's Touch is a network of counselors and trained spiritual directors who work with United Methodist clergy, laity, and church staff and their families in the Asheville, Waynesville, and Marion districts of The United Methodist Church.

Through our professionally trained counselors, support and healing are offered as we provide counseling, therapy, education, and consultation for United Methodists. Through our trained spiritual directors, we offer support for the process of discernment in one's life. We want to be an instrument of the church in answering Christ's call to bring spiritual and emotional healing and wholeness to individuals, families, and congregations.

The Potter's Touch provides limited financial assistance for counseling and spiritual direction for United Methodists in this region, making these ministries more available and affordable for persons in need. As a non-profit agency, we receive support from the generosity of local churches, individual donor gifts, districts, foundations, and annual conference funds. Persons are encouraged to use insurance and self-pay as they are able.

This year, the Potter's Touch has added two new providers to our network, providing greater service to the rural areas of the Waynesville and Asheville districts. The Potter's Touch hopes to add at least one provider in the Marion District by the end of the year 2007.

Our current providers in the Asheville area are

Susan Sihler, M.S.W., LCSW, Board Certified Diplomat, Counselor and Spiritual Director, 828-281-4566, ext. 1.

Alice Myer, M.S.W., LCSW, Counselor and Spiritual Director, 828-281-4566, ext. 3.

Wes Sharpe, M.Div., LPC, Counselor, 828-281-4566, ext. 2.

Don Kelley, Spiritual Director, 828-669-0756.

Katie Warren, Spiritual Director, 828-254-8564 or 828-251-1294.

In the Waynesville area, Diane Stamey, M.Div., NCLMFT, N.C. Licensed Pastoral Counselor, 828-452-1544, is our provider.

Our provider in the Mars Hill area is Irene Libretto, M.S.W., LCSW, Counselor, 828-680-9095, ext 4.

F. Edward Ingram, *Chairperson*

9. WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE DEAF MINISTRY

Deaf Ministry board meetings have been filled with active planning sessions this year. Utilizing SMART goals within our NOW-L structured board allows meaningful dialogue and strategic planning. This creates an active focus on getting the job done by promoting more face-to-face time among our members.

Deaf ministry is not a one-size-fits-all concept; rather, it is an effort to educate and provide resources to people with all levels of hearing loss, their families, and their friends. Deaf ministry seeks to address four of the seven Western North Carolina Conference Vision-for-Ministry emphases: to intentionally relate unchurched persons to Jesus Christ (and keep those already in the church connected), promote disciple-based Bible study, nurture unity in Christ that values diversity, and reach out to the poor and suffering in local communities. With these priorities in mind, we:

- Sponsored and coordinated the first full table of deaf women at the Blue Ridge Women's Walk to Emmaus in February. After years of prayers and preparation, the Lord truly blessed this weekend. His Spirit touched the hearts and lives of the deaf pilgrims and all those involved. This was the first time Walk to Emmaus has been made accessible to the deaf in North Carolina. Accessibility was made through technology and interpretation. One of the deaf ladies said it best: "I arrived for the weekend a pilgrim and I left a disciple of Jesus Christ!" One of the most important goals of deaf ministry is to make disciples for Jesus. Please pray we will be able to bring this same experience to the deaf men in our conference, as well.
- Provided computer-assisted note-taking services to annual conference in 2006 and 2007, equipping those with hearing loss to fully participate in worship and other activities in Stuart Auditorium. This service also provides a demonstration of this technology to the delegates, with hopes they will consider using it in their churches.
- Gave deaf ministry presentations in two of our 14 districts, using a PowerPoint presentation and several handouts. We presented to eight districts in 2006. We are striving to have one representative from each district on our board.
- Developed a newsletter, *His Hands and Feet*, to highlight deaf ministry activities, to be published twice annually. They will be mailed to worship team leaders and those who support deaf ministry with their gifts and placed in the August issue of *Missions Alive!* They will also be distributed at annual conference. Check out our display at the Terrace Hotel for your copy.
- Continue to be a source of information concerning d/Deaf/hh issues for our churches and members in both their church and daily lives, ministering to the whole person.
- Arranged for the Asheville Regional Resource Center to join us once again at annual conference, under the Wellness Tent, to demonstrate assistive listening devices and educate members and delegates in their use.
- Established criteria for the Tom Summey Memorial Fund. This scholarship/grant program is used to train interpreters and computer-assisted note-takers in local churches. Note-takers can be used to help our late-deafened, oral deaf, hard of hearing, and those with cochlear implants fully participate and stay connected within our churches. Applications can be found at our display in the Terrace or by contacting the Deaf Ministry at 828-734-9154 or on line at www.wnccumc.org/hhs/tomsummey.htm.
- Continue to encourage congregations and districts to consider the part they can play in the growth of deaf ministry in our conference, whether it is by prayer, awareness through educational programming, gifts, or considering a deaf ministry in their own churches.
- Are planning a workshop to feature how to use the Bible in American Sign Language.

From our hearts and hands to their eyes and hearts. We are faith touching lives.

We wish to thank all the wonderful churches, individuals, and organizations that continue to faithfully support deaf ministry. You keep our hearts encouraged and our spirits blessed.

If anyone has questions concerning deaf ministry, has need for resource information, or would like to give a gift to deaf ministry, please send your correspondence to WNCC UMC Deaf Ministry, P.O. Box 5644, Asheville, NC 28813; phone 828-665-2158 (voice or TTY); or see www.wnccumc.org/hhs/deafministry.htm.

Kay C. Free, *Director*

10. DUKE UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER PASTORAL SERVICES

Duke Pastoral Services marked 50 years of offering pastoral care and clinical pastoral education at Duke Medical Center in October of 2006. The Western North Carolina Conference featured prominently in the sharing of our history. The vision of your conference in choosing to help fund a full-time chaplain's position at Duke Medical Center 50 years ago helped this ministry to become a reality. The Rev. P. Wesley Aitken served that position well for 30 years. This year has been one of transition for our department, as we celebrated 20 years of outstanding leadership from our director, Dr. James L. Travis. Jim retired in January of 2007. His leadership and friendship will be missed. We continue to serve the church by offering clinical pastoral education for students seeking to enhance their pastoral care skills. The majority of these students go on to serve in local churches. This year, we have worked with six pastoral care residents and 21 pastoral care interns. Our students and staff have provided more than 10,000 pastoral care visits to patients and families. We have offered financial help through our Fund For Compassion, including hotel rooms, meal passes, and parking passes for patients and families who do not have the resources to endure the added expense of hospitalization. We take seriously the Wesleyan emphasis on extending the church's ministry, such that "the world is our parish." We celebrate with you the ministry of the Western North Carolina Conference, and we thank you for your continued support of the Department of Pastoral Services at Duke Medical Center. We are delighted to be able to be your partner in ministry.

May God continue to bless all that you do.

Deborah Morgan, *Interim Director*

F. COUNCIL ON LAITY

The Council on Laity continues to support our conference vision to "Follow Jesus, Make Disciples, Transform the World." We believe that, through prayer and outreach, discipleship and leadership, we are making a difference. We are glad to report that 518 clergy and laity attended the Accountable Discipleship workshops, held in the fall of 2006. We intentionally seek to promote covenant disciple groups as a way to build Christ-centered churches. We seek to be sign communities of the coming reign of God.

The Council on Laity was saddened by the death of one of our members, Ray G. Boger, who chaired the Gathering of the Laity. Through his faithful planning, the 2007 gathering is scheduled for August 17-19 at Lake Junaluska. Joetta F. Rinehart is serving as interim chair. Bishop J. Lawrence McCleskey is one of the featured speakers, along with Susan Pendleton Jones, from our annual conference. Rosemary Brown, of the Tennessee Conference, and Clarence R. Brown, Jr., from the Virginia Conference, are also featured speakers. The Junaluska Singers will once again minister to us with their music. The theme of the gathering is, "Be a Witness." It will be dedicated to Ray's memory.

The council meets four times a year at various churches across the conference. Our November meeting was at Providence Church, in Salisbury. Our February meeting was held at Faith Church, in Rural Hall. We met at Central Church, in Asheboro, in May. It is always a joy to meet and worship with fellow Methodists in churches large or small.

We continue to advocate lay-speaker training, through the leadership of Mitchell Matthews, who is the director of lay speaking. We also celebrate the ministry of the laity through the Laity Service Award, given to selected persons from local churches who exemplify a Christ-like servanthood. This program is administered through Bobby Sharp, director of the Laity Service Award.

The Council on Laity of the Western North Carolina Conference is dedicated to the General Rule of Discipleship as found in the *Discipline*, ¶ 1118.2a: "To witness to Jesus Christ in the world, and to follow his teaching through acts of compassion, justice, worship, and devotion under the guidance of the Holy Spirit."

Betty Jo C. Hardy, *President and Conference Lay Leader*

G. UNITED METHODIST MEN

The Western North Carolina Conference United Methodist Men continue to work on their goal of "No Men Left Behind." Less than a year into my leadership of UMMen in our conference, I feel that we are developing relationships and getting a handle on the activities of our 14 districts. We have filled the vacancy of district president in the Albemarle District, making a total of five new district presidents since the middle of 2006. The district-president position in the Waynesville District remains vacant, and we are working on this. Most of our district presidents are active and enthusiastic and working hard in their districts. We have trained all but the latest new presidents.

We were saddened by the untimely death of our previous conference president, Ray G. Boger, last summer. Ray was a diligent worker, both for United Methodist Men and for the greater church. He is missed.

We had an excellent UMMen Rally at Lake Junaluska in April. The rally is our major fund-raiser for our major emphases, including the *Upper Room* Prayer Line, The Children's Home, Inc, scouting, and scholarships for second-career pastors. Bishop Lawrence McCleskey joined us at the rally and spoke with us about a number of issues that were on his heart.

We had numerous district leadership conferences with sessions for United Methodist Men. There is a lot of activity in building and rebuilding fellowships. We are emphasizing that, although "meet-and-eat" fellowships are nice, to interest the young men we must be mission driven. Younger men will rise to the occasion to go on mission trips and work teams and work on Habitat houses, etc. They want to accomplish things. They have little interest in meeting for meeting's sake.

We have written to all the churches in our annual conference, asking for their support. We are asking our district presidents to write to their fellowships on a quarterly basis, telling them what is going on and asking for their participation in our district and conference events. Communication is a big part of what we need to do.

Our longer-range goal is to reach out and bring more men into fellowships and to Christ. Collectively, we need to create tools and methodologies to do this better. We need a new vision and a new plan for transformation of our men's outreach and ministry in The United Methodist Church. I believe that this will be the best thing that we can do during the next few years.

Richard W. Strachan, *President*

H. UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The United Methodist Women of the Western North Carolina Conference experienced an extremely rewarding year of being in mission to women, children, and youth around the world.

For the sixth consecutive year, the United Methodist Women of this conference led the nation in their giving. We were first in the channels of Special Mission Recognition, Gift to Mission, Gift in Memory, and World Thank Offering. We were also first in total undesignated mission giving and in total giving. The local units again exceeded the \$1-million mark by giving \$1,077,715.88. While we rejoice at this accomplishment, this total reflects a decrease of \$30,598.63 from 2005, and we were unable to meet our pledge to Women's Division.

In May, 135 United Methodist Women from our conference traveled to Anaheim, California, to attend Assembly. What a wonderful experience to "Rise, Shine, Glory God!" with over 7,000 women from around the world.

All conference events were well attended. "Help! My Light Is under a Bushel" was the theme for the Spiritual Growth Retreat, where 1,219 UMWomen came together for a time "to know God." The School of Christian Mis-

sion, attended by 335 UMWomen, helped us to “*expand our concepts of mission*” as we studied Shalom-Salaam-Peace, led by Bishop McCleskey; India and Pakistan; and Globalization. United Methodist Women also brought 2,499 health kits as their hands-on mission project. We repeated the theme of “Rise, Shine, Glorify God!” from Assembly for Annual Meeting in September, which was attended by 704 UMWomen. Officer training was held in October, with 161 UMWomen in attendance.

We rejoiced with the chartering of two new units: Smethport UMWomen, in the North Wilkesboro District, and a unit at Pfeiffer University, in the Albemarle District. The unit at Pfeiffer is the 14th unit in the nation located on a college campus. Our conference was one of ten conferences chosen to participate in a teen and college-age resource program with Women’s Division.

The scholarship program continues to give aid to persons seeking church-related careers, awarding nine students scholarships. These recipients are enrolled at Pfeiffer University and Bennett College.

The *Conference Gram*, as well as district newsletters, is published four times each year to keep the local woman informed of events and projects. The conference UMWomen website and listserv are also available to post the latest information.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the local unit officers and members. YOU are the ones who make mission possible with your prayers, your giving, and the many ways in which you are in mission. It is my prayer that God will bless each of you as you continue to give of your time and talents as you serve in His name through UMWomen.

Amy L. Johnson, *President*

I. UNITED METHODIST YOUTH

My name is Chris Grimmatt and I am the president of your conference Council on Youth Ministries (CCYM). I am soon to be a senior at Trinity High School, in Randolph County, and I have served as president of CCYM for this past year. I have been actively attending events in our conference now for about four years. Growing up in such a youth-oriented conference has made me what I am today. Being president this past year has taught me so many valuable lessons I can use throughout my life. I have been so affected by each youth I have met, and I feel so honored to be able to represent each one’s voice to you, the conference. I have come to the realization that, of any title I have received in my lifetime, this is, by far, the one of which I am most proud. This job has taught me to act as a parent to the youth I represent and to do anything in my power to give them the best.

I have spoken to one of our youth in the conference of how SpiritUs, our summer retreat, has affected her. She said, “Before going to SpiritUs, I had slowly slipped in my faith and had tried smoking and drinking a few times. It made me realize how dumb I had been and how I was hiding behind a mask. It made me understand I needed to do things for God because **I wanted to**, not because **I am supposed to**.”

This is just one of many testimonies we get to hear at our youth retreats. Our youth retreats are designed for different age groups and different purposes. We have retreats for first-time believers and recommitters, retreats for those who want to learn how to share their faith, and even retreats for those called into ministry.

Though we have, over the years, focused youth ministry towards big conference events, we have changed our youth leadership and our direction. Our director of ministries with young people for the past eight years, Katie S. Fralic, resigned at the end of the year and for the next year will be replaced by Kimberly T. Ingram. In our new direction, we are not forgetting about the big events; we are now just putting in extra effort so we can also help the local churches. We want to help strengthen and empower the local churches, because we feel they need help from their conference to have their youth ministry flourish, and that is what your conference Council on Youth Ministries intends to do.

Chris Grimmatt, *President*

J. BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY

The Board of Ordained Ministry consists of clergy and laity from the annual conference, nominated by the bishop. These 51 persons have the primary responsibility for the recruitment of men and women to serve as elders and deacons in the church; for the examination of their calls to ministry, their skills in teaching and preaching, and their adherence to the doctrines of our tradition; and for the evaluation of their effectiveness and character. These responsibilities require a balance of support and accountability, grace and judgment. We also continue to work our way through the implications of the changes in the meaning of the two orders of ministry, deacon and elder, over the past twelve years.

A number of initiatives comprise the work of the board; some are formational, while others are in response to current trends and issues. The Residency in Ordained Ministry (RIOM) process continues to bring together commissioned clergy to “support the practice and work of their ministry as servant leaders, to contemplate the grounding of ordained ministry, and to understand covenant ministry in the life of the conference” (*The Book of Discipline*, ¶ 326). There was one training session held for those who mentor our candidates for ministry. We had an assessment workshop in September 2006, led by Rev. Jim Griffith, in conjunction with the Council on Congregational Development and the Cabinet. Our board met in October 2006 at Duke Divinity School with the North Carolina Conference Board of Ordained Ministry and the faculty of Duke Divinity School, for the purpose of opening up lines of communication between the two boards and the Duke faculty concerning our common areas of responsibility. Our fall meeting on October 24, 2006, was held at Givens Estates and included a panel discussion concerning racial and cultural sensitivity. The board ensures that background checks are conducted on entering clergy, so that patterns of behavior that might be obstacles to effective ministry might be identified. Candidates also receive psychological evaluations, and we encourage sponsoring congregations to help men and women called to ministry with this expense. Three retreats for probationary clergy will be held in 2007 on the themes of call and disciplined life, preaching, and theology and doctrine.