

From: "Lou Ann Allred" <lallred@nccumc.org>
Subject: **[Clergy-radistrict] From Jon (the Methodist): Hearts and Hands 2.4.10**
Date: February 4, 2010 2:37:08 PM EST
To: "Clergy- Raleigh District" <clergy-radistrict@listserv.nccumc.org>, "Laity - Raleigh District" <ralaity@listserv.nccumc.org>, "Missions - Raleigh District" <ramissions@listserv.nccumc.org>, <raleigh-keyleaders@listserv.nccumc.org>
▶ 1 Attachment, 29.8 KB



Hearts and Hands

Is your heart right, as my heart is toward your heart?...
if it is, give me your hand." II Kings 10:15 NKJV

Hearts and Hands – February 4, 2010

Fruit That Will Last.....

This is our debut edition of **Hearts and Hands**, a new e-publication intended to strengthen our ties as leaders in the congregations of The Raleigh District. Many of you will remember our district-wide gatherings last summer. In those gatherings I often said that our district sometimes functions with ties that are so faint that it would appear we are sixty individual islands, with none connected to the others. That, of course, was/is an overstatement of the issue, but with good intention. We are "United" Methodists for a reason. Our congregations are linked in a world-wide partnership, "making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." This is God's intention, for each congregation and for all of us –TO BE IN MINISTRY TOGETHER. As Jesus said to his first followers, he says now to us.

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last. -- John 15:6a

My prayer for the Raleigh District is that we will continue to "go and bear fruit" for God. The articles/items contained in this inaugural edition are intended to inspire, challenge, encourage and connect us as we link our **Hearts and Hands** with God's in one singular mission – to go and make disciples. Please share any and all of this information in your congregation with all who will receive it. And please visit our district website www.raleighdistrictumc.org and subscribe to automatic updates delivered to your email of choice. *Let the adventure begin!*

In Christ,

Jon (the Methodist)

This issue contains information regarding:

- n FRED notes on Holland's UMC from Chris Graebe, District Lay Leader
- n 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness in Raleigh/Wake County
- n Update from Jo Elaine Harris on our continuing response to Haiti
- n "Fiesta Cristiana" Worship Launch on February 21
- n Methodist Home for Children Sunday – February 21
- n Camping Sunday – February 28
- n Our district's continuing partnership to Mississippi post-Katrina
- n Celebration from District Youth Rally and "Stop Hunger Now"
- n The Academy for Leadership Excellence "Being a Transformational Leader"
- n Ministry Positions Available at Mount Zion UMC
- n DivorceCare, DivorceCare for Kids, and GriefShare programs

FRED Notes from our District Lay Leader re: Holland's UMC

FRED (Faithful, Reproducible, Effective Discipleship) Notes is a monthly series designed to share ideas among United Methodist churches in the Raleigh District by sharing ideas for ministry that can be reproduced in other churches and inviting communication among clergy and lay leaders in our churches. It is designed to (a) take 3 minutes or less to read, (b) give our churches ideas for ministries that are working right now in our district, and (3) provide contacts for more information.

THE BASICS

Pastor: Gary Allred, gary@hollandsumc.com
Lay Contacts: Tim Bowes, tbowes@bbmassociates.com
Lucy Whipple, lwhipple@nc.rr.com
Jim Gregory, jgregory@ncdoj.gov
Location: 9433 Ten-Ten Road, Raleigh, NC 27603 (near Garner)
Website: www.hollandsumc.com
Mission Statement: "We are a caring community that invites and equips people to follow Jesus."

THE MINISTRIES

Holland's excels at certain ministries and projects that lots of churches have, and it has several unique projects. Here are a few that you can reproduce at your church, and Holland's can help you.

Barbecue. You can't talk about Holland's without talking about the semi-annual barbecue sale, which has been going on since 1935. Twice each year, they serve 4000 plates to raise money for the general fund. But the barbecue is about more than money. Holland's intentionally brings together lots of different groups within the church to work together and strengthen their internal bond of fellowship. They promote the event with radio and television advertising. They have tables set up in the fellowship hall to encourage folks to stay and be together. If you want to start a barbecue sale fundraiser, contact Holland's.

Inter-church connections. Holland's is involved in two exciting cooperative efforts with other churches in the area. First, Power of 7 came together to build a Habitat for Humanity house. Seven United Methodist churches in the area found that they wanted to build a Habitat house but couldn't come up with the required \$70,000 alone. They came together, pooled their money, and are achieving their common goal. Holland's also participates in a group of five churches in the area that come together for special services like Ash Wednesday, Thanksgiving, and the like. How many of our churches hold sparsely attended special services? Why not combine with others, Methodist or not, to hold these special services together? Holland's can tell you how they do it.

Hand-in-Hand. A public school teacher at Holland's realized that her local school and its teachers needed some support. This ministry to and with Vance Elementary School brings together church members and teachers in two ways: (1) prayer partners at Holland's commit to pray for a particular teacher, and (2) members volunteer as tutors for the students. Holland's also holds luncheons for the teachers occasionally during the lunch hour at school. If you'd like to reach out to the teachers who serve our children in school, contact Holland's for ideas.

Wednesday Night Live. Holland's tries to coordinate meetings and programs on Wednesday evenings and combines them with a simple fellowship meal in advance. A committee or group will commit to preparing the meal once a year, and they collect a donation to defray cost. We're all coming to church meetings in the evening, so why not try to put several things on a single night and include gathering together at the table? What a simple but great idea! Holland's can share ideas on making it work.

Disciple, Emmaus, sanctuary sharing. Holland's has well-attended Disciple Bible Study and Walk to Emmaus programs. They share their sanctuary at no charge with a growing Latino congregation. If your congregation wants ideas about how to promote or start these ministries, Holland's can help.

Thanks to Gary Allred and everyone at Holland's UMC for your hospitality and inspiration. We pray for your continued example and witness among the churches of our district.

Chris Graebe, Raleigh District Lay Leader

Cell 919-417-7948 email cgraebe@ghwlawfirm.com

Raleigh/Wake 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness: Faith Support Circle Program Community Information Meeting

You are invited to join the community-wide effort to end homelessness in Wake County. To learn more about how your faith community can assist in breaking the cycle of poverty by helping a family who is homeless move towards self-sufficiency, please plan to attend the next Community Information Meeting.

Date: Tuesday, February 23, 2010

Time: 6:00-8:00 pm

Location: Millbrook United Methodist Church
1712 E. Millbrook Road, Raleigh, NC 27609

(A light meal will be served. Please register early.) Key elements of the meeting:

- *How to organize a Support Circle team within your faith community*
- *Roles and responsibilities of the Support Circle team*

Testimonials from active Support Circle team members

For additional information about the Support Circle Program or to register for this training, please contact:

Latonya Agard at 919-790-8533 ext. 27 or latonya.agard@raldioc.org
Roberta Macauley at 919-790-8533 ext. 32 or Roberta.macauley@raldioc.org

Heather Rodrigues
Associate Pastor, Millbrook United Methodist Church
1712 East Millbrook Road, Raleigh, NC 27609
www.millbrookumc.org
(919) 876-0865 (919) 218-2129

Our Continuing Response to Haiti

Following is an email we sent out last week about our relocated warehouse where we will receive and pack items for our brothers and sisters in Haiti. Please continue to collect the food, water, medical kits and medical supplies. These items are taking priority over all others we are shipping, so we will focus on them. Please know that our items are getting to the people of Haiti: food and water is in their hungry stomachs, medical supplies are in the hospitals and clinics, and medical kits are in the camps where they are desperately needed.

As you will note in the email below, we have limited warehouse hours (Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 10 - 3), but we will have people there anytime if you have a special delivery to make. We still need volunteers to help us receive and pack the materials so we can send them to MERCI already completed and ready for shipment. See below for details. Thank you for all you are doing: please continue to collect!

Copied from 1/28/10 email to Raleigh District:

We continue to collect *specific* donations to send to Haiti. As before, we will collect, sort, pack and palletize the items and then take them to MERCI for distribution. Our re-located warehouse space is located at 1053C East Whitaker Mill Road, on the northwest corner of Whitaker Mill and Atlantic. You will note the address 1053C on one of the warehouses. Thanks to Trevor Spear, owner of the warehouse and Hayes Barton UMC member!

Important details follow. Please read through to the end so you are fully informed.

Donations we will receive The Raleigh District has been asked to focus on **food collection*** which we will certainly do. However, we may continue other collections that we may already be doing. We have well over 100

partially completed **health kits**. We need nail clippers (or files) and new hand towels to complete those kits. I know several of our churches were working on collecting and assembling health kits, so please continue those efforts.

We will also accept **medical donations** as several of you are already in the process of collecting these as well. We ask that all other donations be taken directly to MERCI.

*Reminder on food: do not pack into zip lock bags; do not send glass jars of any kind; do not send powdered baby formula. Please check for expired items before sending them to the warehouse.

Where to take the donations There are two places you can drop off the specified items:

1. At any of the four churches in our district which have agreed to serve as drop-off sites. They will bring the items to the warehouse for packing and shipping. Those four churches are:

Edenton St. UMC	Renae Newmiller	919-832-7535 ext. 231	rnewmiller@esumc.org	9:00-4:30 M-F
Fuquay-Varina UMC	Jane Gue	919-552-4331	igue@fvumc.org	8:30-5:00 M-F or call church office
Knightdale UMC	Keith Brown	919-610-2920	kbrown614@yahoo.com	9:00-4:00 M-F
St. Mark's UMC	Wes Hare	919-389-3459	wesh@theodavis.com	9:00-5:00 M-TH 9:00-12 FR

2. You may choose to take your items directly to the warehouse located at Whitaker Mill Road.

Warehouse Operation The warehouse will be open Saturdays and Tuesdays from 10 - 3. We had hoped to start January 30, but the weather has prevented our doing so. Therefore, we will start Tuesday, February 2. We will add an extra day next week, February 4, as we believe the churches will have accumulated quite a supply by then. We will be able to make special arrangements to meet you at the warehouse if you need to come at times other than those listed. To set up *alternative dates* to drop off, contact Linda (who offices at the warehouse): (w) 758-8002; (c) 369-4710; or Jo Elaine (609-0821). If it looks like more days of operations is required, we will set additional days.

Sheila Prosser (ds_prosser@yahoo.com; 889-9045) and Gwen Gray (gsggray@nc.rr.com; 266-0548) have consented to help lead the activities at the warehouse. They were with me practically everyday in Clayton and are familiar with the logistics and standards of our packing efforts.

If you have a particularly large donation, please contact us ahead of time so we can arrange for additional people.

Volunteers Needed Volunteers are needed at the warehouse to accept deliveries, assemble health kits, sort, build boxes, weigh, and palletize -- everything we did at the Clayton warehouse. Some jobs can be done sitting down, but most will require standing, and some require heavy lifting. We would like at least 8 people at all times there.

Please bring your lunch, snacks and drinks with you. There is a refrigerator and microwave we may use.

I cannot guarantee that you will have things to do the entire time you are there: deliveries are sporadic, as many of you know. There are times when we are so busy we can't even stop to eat; other times give us the opportunity to get to know our fellow workers better.

We are asking you as individuals and as groups to call to set up times to volunteer. Due to the limited hours of operation, it is critical we have enough people to cover all the tasks. To set up times, please contact Kellie Baker: 919-961-9618, kp103baker@yahoo.com.

"What else is needed?" you ask. We need borrow scales to weigh our boxes before we palletize them; we need pallets; strong boxes of the same size to box our donations; and we need the plastic wrap used to wrap around our pallets. All of those materials we had at our Clayton warehouse were sent to MERCI. "Got truck?" -- we need to transport the loaded pallets to MERCI.

Additional ways to help Financial contributions are critical for our sustained efforts to help Haiti. Please encourage your churches, businesses, families and friends to donate to the following:

- UMCOR: Haiti Disaster - Advance #418325 (Disaster relief/response in Haiti)
- NC Disaster Appeal - Conference Advance #S00096 (This is to assist in covering shipping costs.
- MERCI Mission Center - Conference Advance Special #S000136 (To operate MERCI as shipping & coordination point.)

Please continue your efforts collecting the food, health kits and medical supplies.

Great News! Some of our supplies that we collected and packed are already in the hospitals and in the make-shift homes. Many doubted we could do it; however, we have the Holy Spirit leading our efforts. Our District is working with the NC Conference, Stop Hunger Now, the military, and various NGOs. We have flown goods in and we have put them on ships (even the Royal

Caribbean lines!). Our hard work for those devastated by the earthquake in Haiti is paying dividends. Please continue! The need is great and is long-term.

See you at MERCI! We will be taking our donated items to MERCI every week or so. Workers are needed there to help with the influx of donated goods. Our Raleigh District workday at MERCI is February 27! I hope to see you there.

Jo Elaine Harris
Raleigh District Pastor of Missions
The United Methodist Church
7071 Forestville Road
P. O. Box 83
Knightdale, NC 27545
Telephone: 919-266-2373, ext. 108
Email: joelaine@nccumc.org

Fiesta Cristiana Worship Launch, February 21 at 1PM

Join us to celebrate the start of "Fiesta Cristiana," our Spanish worship service at Apex UMC. Fiesta Cristiana will launch its weekly worship services on February 21 at 1PM. After that, join us for a seven week launch season of **open hearts and open doors**. For more information on this emerging congregation, contact Pastor Jose Luis Villasenor at (919) 362-7807 Ext. 294 or joseluis.villasenor@apexumc.org.

MHC Sunday is February 21

Each year congregations throughout the North Carolina Conference are invited to take a special offering for the children and families served by Methodist Home for Children (MHC). MHC Sunday was instituted to help local churches support the mission of this important agency. The United Methodist Women have been very instrumental in making MHC Sunday successful and coordinate the distribution of offering envelopes and materials. Each local UMW chapter has received their materials from their district presidents and those materials should be already in place in your churches.

Methodist Home for Children works to build strong families, protect children who are hurting, and help heal the scars of abuse, neglect, and family disruption. Its mission, in service to God, is to build upon the social, physical, emotional, and spiritual strengths of children, youth and families and to affirm their worth. MHC serves more than 1,400 children and families each year through an array of community-based services, including residential group homes, therapeutic foster care, and family counseling.

The dedicated workers of MHC can tell you real stories of neglect and abuse of children that is happening right here in our very own communities. While we are sensitive to the many horrors that are happening across the globe, we must not forget the least of these, right here at home. Please consider inviting an MHC representative to speak at your church during a Sunday service between the February and March 2010. You can contact Jennifer Cooper at jccooper@mhfc.org or call 1-888-305-4321, ext. 305.

Also, you may **visit the MHC website** at www.mhfc.org to **download a bulletin insert for your congregation** or make a gift online. To download a bulletin insert, visit our Methodist Connections Page at www.mhfc.org/who/family/methodist.aspx

Camping Sunday – February 28

Good morning on this cold day! I hope you are all doing well. I have met and know many of you, but for those of you whom I haven't met, I am Dail Ballard, Development Director with the NC UM Camp & Retreat Ministries.

The camping ministry is an extension of the NC United Methodist churches and includes Chestnut Ridge near Chapel Hill, Don Lee near New Bern and Rockfish near Fayetteville. ALL of your camps eagerly anticipate partnering with you in getting your congregation outside and engaged in spiritual formation.

To celebrate our partnership and the exciting programs that await you and your congregation at camp, Camp Sunday has been scheduled on the church calendar for **Sunday, February 28, 2010.**

Camp Sunday is the perfect opportunity to schedule a minute or two within the church service for a camper, camper parent, camp staff or even the pastor to talk about their own camp story...how it changed their lives...how they drew closer to Jesus at camp... how they achieved something beyond their perceived capabilities....how they met friends that will remain with them in their spiritual walk for a lifetime.

We have a variety of materials that can help this experience be successful in the churches. Please visit our website at <http://www.ncumcamps.org/> for more materials.

We have also identified "Camp Advocates" in various churches in the conference who are willing to present during the church service on the 28th. We are providing these folks with camp brochures, talking points and various other materials to help make their time with the congregations meaningful. Pastors should be hearing from these volunteers soon.

If any pastor would like materials beyond these attachments, please contact me at this email address. We can provide brochures that detail the upcoming summer camp opportunities along with the Talking Points that give information on each camp and their programming.

THANK YOU for helping us get the word out about the camps and the experience of a lifetime that awaits.

We enjoy and appreciate our partnership with you!

Dail Ballard

Dail D. Ballard
Development Director
NC United Methodist Camp & Retreat Ministries
910-352-8081

"The Steady Hands Project" Coming In May

"When Moses' hands grew tired, they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it. Aaron and Hur held his hands up—one on one side, one on the other—so that his hands remained steady till sunset. So Joshua overcame the Amalekite army..." Exodus 17:12-13

Four years ago Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast and altered the lives of hundreds of thousands of people, wreaking havoc and devastation. Since then the Raleigh District has consistently and compassionately been invested in the lives of those who call Gulfport, D'Iberville, and Biloxi their home. Now we are preparing to return during three optimal weeks in May to strengthen the hands of those who have lived through the devastation and are running the marathon of reconstruction. District Superintendent, Jon Strother, and District UMM President, Charlie Gray visited this region December 28-30, meeting with representatives of the Mississippi Annual Conference and Heritage UMC. The resulting vision is for our district to create work teams of 30-40 people per week who will travel to Mississippi to lessen the load of the growing backlog of post-Katrina repair and reconstruction still to be done. Clergy and laity of the Raleigh District are encouraged to participate. The weeks we are scheduled to work are: May 9-14, May 16-21, and May 23-28. Each participant will be asked to choose their optimum week of participation and to register. Skills/experience surveys will be included in the registration. Traveling together, each week's team will fly from RDU to Gulfport on the Sunday afternoons, and then fly back to RDU on the following Fridays. Participants will have the option of staying in a nearby extended stay hotel for a reasonable cost, or staying at Heritage UMC in the "bunk house." Teams of 8-10 people will be guided during the week by skilled and experienced construction experts in a wide variety of projects. More details will unfold in the weeks to come. Stay tuned for updates as we move through the season of Lent. The estimated cost per participant is \$500. Local congregations are encouraged to help support a clergy and lay representative from each of our charges.

YOUTH Making a Difference

On Sunday, January 10, The Raleigh District celebrated a Youth Rally at White Plains UMC with the focus being on packaging food through Stop Hunger Now. 20, 000 meals were packaged in under an hour. See the note below from Andrew Sullivan to Rob Phillips (District Youth Coordinator).

I am excited to update you that meals from your packaging event have been shipped in a container full of 213,840 meals from our Raleigh Warehouse. The meals were shipped directly to Haiti which will go to feed thousands of earthquake victims every day. I have also attached an updated list of what Stop Hunger Now is doing and has done in Haiti in response to the earthquake. We want to thank you tremendously for partnering with us to help end world hunger in our lifetime.

Stop Hunger Now Haiti Earthquake Relief (To Date)

SHN shipped **1.5 million meals** to Haiti two months ago, which Mission of Hope and Haiti Outreach Ministries are using to feed **50,000 people each day**.

*In response to the earthquake, Stop Hunger Now has received **200 tons of aid supplies** for Haiti.*

- 157,416 bottles of purified water
- 123,000 cans of precooked chicken and roast beef
- 5,800 pounds of long grain rice
- 570,240 Stop Hunger Now rice-soy meals prepared at meal packaging events

SHN is also assisting with coordinating the transportation and distribution of more than **56 tons of medical supplies** and **blankets** being collected through the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Have a great day,

Andrew Sullivan

Warehouse Manager - Raleigh

Stop Hunger Now

Phone: 919-954-6480

Email: asullivan@stophungernow.org

Website: www.stophungernow.org

Stop Hunger Now Videos!

<http://www.youtube.com/user/StopHungerNow>

Being a Transformational Leader

The Academy For Leadership Excellence is pleased to announce the upcoming Day of Learning, "Being a Transformational Leader," featuring Jorge Acevedo from Grace UMC in Florida. Grace was a struggling church with 400 attendees per weekend that was turned around to a multi-site UMC that has over 2,500 attendees per weekend, all accomplished with a proportionally small budget. Grace has a noted recovery program with 800 weekly attendees, they adopted a declining church in 2003 that has since grown to 375 attendees and they have opened a community center as well as a third worshipping site in their region. <http://www.egracechurch.com/>

Acevedo will share the keys to his success in four different sessions: "Lessons I've Learned from a Turnaround Church," whereby Acevedo will teach the transferable principles about turnaround congregations. The second session is about "The Kind of Leaders God Uses"; Jorge will instruct what he has learned about leaders who grow prevailing churches. Session three will feature a panel discussion with Jorge, a former staff member and a lay leader, all of whom will share their diverse perspectives about Grace's success in reaching God's people. The final session will be a worship service with Jorge preaching on "The Raw Emotions of Ministry" as an encouragement to pastors and leaders. There will be ample time for Q & A as well as peer sharing with guided questions.

Details:

Tuesday, March 2, 2010 from 9am-3pm

Edenton Street UMC, Raleigh

\$75 per person, \$65 per person for teams of 3 or more

Registration is simple, email lwiebesmith@nccumc.org or call 919-208-2169

Please let us know if you have any questions!

Regards,

Leah

Leah Wiebe-Smith

Program Coordinator

Academy for Leadership Excellence

919.208.2169

Ministry Positions Available at Mount Zion UMC

Below are positions available at Mount Zion UMC. We are posting them as two separate part-time positions or as a combined full-time position.

Youth Pastor:

Mount Zion United Methodist Church in Garner, NC is currently seeking an energetic individual to fill the position of Youth Pastor. This is a part time position (based on 20 hours per week) whose focus will be in ministries with youth (Grades 6-12). The candidate should be degreed or on track to receive a degree in Christian Education or related discipline and/or have experience in youth ministry. He/she will work closely with the church ministry team and will also assist in general pastoral ministry. Travel and continuing education funds are available. If you are looking for a challenging and rewarding career as part of a growing church family, send your resume with three references to: Mount Zion UMC, 15772 NC 50 North, Garner, NC 27529 or email to: info@mountzion-umc.org with “Youth Pastor” in the subject line.

Associate Pastor:

Mount Zion United Methodist Church in Garner, NC is currently seeking an energetic individual to fill the role of Associate Pastor. This is a part time position (based on 20 hours per week). The position will encompass working closely with the church ministry team and assisting the Lead Pastor with equipping, worship leadership, teaching, and pastoral care/counseling. The candidate should be degreed or on track to receive a degree in Theology or a related discipline and/or have experience in youth and pastoral ministry. Travel and continuing education funds are available. If you are looking for a challenging and rewarding career as part of a growing church family, send your resume with three references to: Mount Zion UMC, 15772 NC 50 North, Garner, NC 27529 or email to: info@mountzion-umc.org with “Youth Pastor” in the subject line.

Associate Pastor w/Concentration in Youth Ministry:

Mount Zion United Methodist Church in Garner, NC is currently seeking an energetic individual to fill the full time position of Associate Pastor. The position will encompass leadership in ministries with youth (Grades 6-12) and assisting the Lead Pastor with equipping, worship leadership, teaching, and pastoral care/counseling. The candidate should be degreed or on track to receive a degree in Theology or a related discipline and/or have experience in youth and pastoral ministry. He/she will work closely with the church ministry team. Travel and continuing education funds are available. If you are looking for a challenging and rewarding career as part of a growing church family, send your resume with three references to: Mount Zion UMC, 15772 NC 50 North, Garner, NC 27529 or email to: info@mountzion-umc.org with “Youth Pastor” in the subject line.

Leonard Rex
pastor.leonard@mountzion-umc.org
Pastor, Mount Zion UM Church
15772 NC 50 North
Garner, NC 27529
919-772-8415

DivorceCare, DivorceCare for Kids, and GriefShare Programs

In keeping with the United Methodist Church initiatives of Open Doors, One Million Points of Entry and Extravagant Hospitality, I am writing to introduce you to three programs that align precisely with these strategies. These programs—DivorceCare, DivorceCare for Kids and GriefShare—are powerful community outreach and ministry tools.

My passion, like the UMC, is to reach the hurting, unchurched adults and children. This is an opportunity to offer the community an open door to explore healing relationships with others and, most of all, with Jesus. These programs are proven to draw unchurched people from throughout local communities. Program participants often become active in the sponsoring church.

Presently, there are many United Methodist local churches throughout the US, Canada and worldwide offering these programs. Even so, there are many churches in our state or conference unaware of these programs.

We'd love your ideas, suggestions and help on ways to communicate the availability of these vital ministry tools.

I'd be glad to connect you with United Methodist churches that have a successful DivorceCare, DivorceCare for Kids or GriefShare program. They would be happy to share their experiences with you and present information about these programs at future district or conference events. We also have leading-edge webcast technology that allows us to communicate live with a group of denominational or church leaders, and we'd be delighted to create webcasts to communicate with churches under your supervision.

The following links will connect you with an overview of the DivorceCare, DivorceCare for Kids and GriefShare ministry material.

- DivorceCare: <http://www.divorcecare.org/startagroup/>
- DivorceCare for Kids: <http://www.dc4k.org/startagroup/>
- GriefShare: <http://www.griefshare.org/startagroup/>

Each of our programs contains strong training and support tools to equip local church lay leadership in starting and sustaining these effective outreach and healing ministries. Pastors tell us that our approach to equipping lay ministers is very effective, helping to create strong ministries.

Thank you for reviewing this information and the related web links and passing it forward to Jonathan Strother. Please feel free to contact me directly with questions. You are also welcome to share this information with your colleagues and churches.

Blessings,

Joseph Northcut
Director of Church Ministries
The Church Initiative, Inc.
250 South Allen Road
P. O. Box 1739
Wake Forest, NC 27588
800-395-5755
919-562-2112
<http://www.churchinitiative.org>

"Bound together in a "web of relationships" where all work together in mutual respect and trust to fulfill God's call through the Great Commission"

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