

Franklinton Center at Bricks, July Enews

A Safe Place, A Sacred Space, A Nurturing Place, God's Place

Franklinton Center at Bricks (FCAB), Your Conference and Retreat Center in Whitakers NC, sends Greetings to you* and all 'Friends of Franklinton'.

*****FRANKLINTON CENTER DAY is Saturday, August 7, 2010! This annual celebration and fund raiser will feature powerful and prophetic preaching, sensational and spirit-filled singing, fabulous food, fellowship and fund raising. A banquet is planned for the night before and accommodations are available at special rates. Come on over and meet your friends and bring your family. This is the official Franklinton Center at Bricks celebration of "It's so good to see you again! Remember when we.....here at Franklinton Center!!" For more information give us a call at 1-800-345-1850 or e mail Director Ervin Milton at miltone@ucc.org

*****JUSTICE L.E.D. SOUTHERN REGIONAL TRAINING will be held at Franklinton Center at Bricks in Whitakers NC on August 12-14 (Th-F-S), 2010. Justice Leaders Engaging and Developing (Justice LED) is a faith-based, biblically grounded leadership training program developed by Justice & Witness Ministries (JWM) of the United Church of Christ. Go to this site (<http://www.ucc.org/justice/training>) to find out more about the application process. Expenses for those selected will be paid for by JWM. Local churches interested in developing and sustaining justice ministries are the ultimate recipients of the Justice LED program. For more information about this training, contact Gail McAfee at GDMcAfee14@aol.com or 910-670-4571.

***** (UBC) UNITED BLACK CHRISTIANS EMERGING LEADERS. The United Black Christians United Church of Christ of Region III is launching a leadership development program aimed at training and nurturing a new generation of leaders for the United Church of Christ (UCC). These "emerging Leaders" will be equipped to serve at the local, Association and/or National levels of the United Church of Christ. On Saturday, August 7, 2010, a bus for Emerging Leaders and their Mentors will depart from Peoples Congregational UCC in Washington DC to attend Franklinton Center Day and participate in workshops, tours, games, swimming and an Emerging Leaders Induction. For more information, contact Onra Dillard at 202-543-3918 or Barbara Ferguson Kamara at barbarakamara@yahoo.com (Submitted by Brenda James, FCAB Trustee)

*****DONATE ONLINE TODAY! [Franklinton Center at Bricks](#) is a conference, retreat, and educational facility in eastern North Carolina with a focus on justice advocacy and leadership development. It is a historic center of transformation where issues affecting the marginalized, the oppressed, and the poor are addressed. Your generous gift will make youth and young adult leadership development, justice work and transformation training possible. With your help, the Franklinton Center can continue its policy of accepting all persons regardless of ability to pay. Please make your donation to this ministry today.

https://secure3.convio.net/ucc/site/Donation2?df_id=1800&1800.donation=form1

*****WHY DO I DO IT? In June our Youth Football Campers had a great time with special thanks to several football coaches. When asked "why do you donate a week to football camp?" Head Coach Charles Scott of Chester VA says "I love being around the kids and it makes me feel good to see young talent developing and see their skills improve from Monday to Friday as well as from year to year". Jawarren Cowles, the camp's Running Back Specialist from Fredericksburg VA, says he enjoys the opportunity to be a positive male role model while giving

back to others. Our camp Linebacker Specialist, Michael Peebles from Weldon NC, tells us “I like demonstrating football and life skills and particularly like teaching the football campers ways to enhance their decision making.” Gene Townsel, another adult coach, says “God blessed me with talent; football was good to me when I played and I thought it was over when I was injured. However, through this program, I’m able to give back -- therefore I am staying in the game!”

*****BRICKS COMMUNITY CEMETERY. The Bricks Community Cemetery comprises about 1 acre of land and is located at the end of an unpaved lane off Moore Farm Road and within the Moore family farm tract. The cemetery dates back over 100 years and is a final resting place for both families of those people who were enslaved here on the Wiggins and Garrett plantations before the end of the Civil War as well as families associated with the Joseph K Brick School. In 1955, when the American Missionary Association sold 155 acres to Franklinton Center and sold off other farm tracts to African American farmers, the AMA turned the cemetery over to the Bricks community which has kept it up since. Primarily the Phillips and Garrett families have maintained the cemetery in good condition. One of the more recent people to be buried there was Mrs. Mary Boddie, who was once postmistress of the Bricks post office and also a well known school teacher and piano teacher who lived in the Bricks community on US 301. (Submitted by Jim Wrenn, FCAB Trustee)

BOARD OF TRUSTEES UNANIMOUSLY ENDORSES NEW MISSION STATEMENT!

Franklinton Center at Bricks is called by God to promote social transformation by empowering people through training, education, community development, and direct action. We affirm our heritage in the Christian faith, lived out in the United Church of Christ, in our historic and various traditions. To fulfill this sacred mission we will:

- nurture the Spirit of Christ among us by embodying his love as we seek to do his will;
- work to eliminate racism, achieve racial justice and realize racial reconciliation;
- preserve this institution’s African American heritage while including all others who are oppressed;
- provide sacred space for persons to gather, reflect, and do their justice work.

(Submitted by Linda Jaramillo, FCAB Trustee)

*****BRICKS CLUB meets at Franklinton Center at Bricks on 4th Sundays. Persons with family connections to Bricks school are cordially invited. For more information you may contact President Robert F. Shields at cell phone (252) 813-4076 or Enfield Mayor Barbara Simmons at barbarasimmons27823@hotmail.com

*****VIOLA BULLOCK of Raleigh is a member of Maple Temple UCC and also serves on the Eastern North Carolina Association Church and Ministry Commission. On June 16 Viola emailed “I really commend Franklinton Center at Bricks for composing and sending out the E-news and Spring newsletter. What a great effort! I love being a recipient of all this FCAB news and look forward to future communications. The information --past, present and future [events] -- helps to keep me informed and updated so that I can pass it along to others. Be blessed and may God’s gift of Creativity continue to thrive at Franklinton Center.”

COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT ASSOCIATION. In the Enfield-Whitakers area, here in the area around Franklinton Center at Bricks, neighborhoods can be defined by which side of the street on which one lives. At one point these various neighborhoods did not cooperate as entities, even though they were literally next door neighbors. The Community Empowerment Association, which meets once a month at The Center, came into being to promote cooperation and thus empowerment between these small, rural, mostly minority, neighborhood associations. The CEA is diverse and energetic and has tackled issues ranging from pro union activity to fighting a criminal justice system unfair to African Americans to political awareness to economic

empowerment. The Center provides staff, administrative support and meeting space. (Submitted by Hudson Barksdale, Staff)

*****PERCEL O. ALSTON is the author of a paper called "The Afro-Christian Connection" at <http://www.ucc.org/about-us/hidden-histories/the-afro-christian-connection.html>

The Percel Alston Institute is devoted to Christian Education in the broadest perspective and in keeping with the history of Franklinton Center at Bricks as "sacred space." We examine critical issues facing our church generally and Black folks in the church specifically. Our "sacred space" is also "safe space" for vigorous discussion. This year's Institute will be held on 11/18-20/10. Our theme will be "The Black Church in a Multi-Cultural World." The Percel Alston Institute is open to lay persons and clergy alike. Contact FCAB at 252-437-1723 for more info.

AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN IN MINISTRY CONFERENCE. October 7-9, 2010. This powerful event has featured such giants as Rev. Dr. Bernice Powell-Jackson and Rev. Dr. Yvonne Delk. In addition to extraordinary preaching there will be teaching, workshops and more, all designed to address the unique situation of African American women in ministry. Justice will be a key theme. This one is destined to be memorable!

WISCONSIN CHURCH COMES TO FCAB FOR MISSION TRIP. Ebenezer UCC in Sheboygan WI will be at Franklinton Center at Bricks from Sunday, July 11th until Friday, July 16th on a mission trip. The group of 20 youth and adults will work on various projects at The Center ranging from carpentry to landscaping and help at Faith House, a nearby Enfield NC shelter that works with battered women. The Wisconsin group will also get a considerable portion of the history, mission and programming that makes up today's FCAB. Such mission trips not only serve to help others become familiar with FCAB, but also advance the justice work that is so important at this sacred space. Other churches and organizations wanting information on such mission trips can simply call The Center at 252-437-1723. (Submitted by Hudson Barksdale, Staff)

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE. Date TBA. The focus of this event is strengthening educational ministries of targeted churches. Pastors, teachers, church leaders and youth will be nurtured and equipped in the faith during this time. African American congregations in the Southern Conference of the United Church of Christ have been the primary target audience. Justice work as an integral part of educational ministries will be discussed.

CAMP KWANZA. December 28-30, 2010. This is a three day celebration for our youth to come together and learn and reflect on the holiday that is based on the African tradition of harvesting of the first fruits. The camp is designed to teach the seven symbols of kwanza, and that the meaning of each principle for the day is. The importance of family and the role that they play in their family is also part of these days.

*****FAREWELL AND THANKS. Mary and Bill Ruth, Partners in Service UCC Volunteers, have been with us at FCAB since March. They've put together an extensive Access database, reviewed our insurance, painted the pool house, sent out monthly E-NEWS, worked on a facilities assessment, produced a Spring newsletter and have become a part of the 'FCAB family' here at the center. They came to volunteer with us for six months, with a plan to be with us until mid-September, but their home sold so they can now move to Uplands Village in TN and their last day with us is July 9. I cannot begin to tell you what an asset they have been to Franklinton Center at Bricks. May God bless them on their continuing journey of serving others. (Submitted by Ervin Milton)

*****THE STAFF at Franklinton Center at Bricks are available to help plan programs and reserve space for your groups. Call 252-437-1723. After 16 years as director, Rev. Ervin Milton especially enjoys 'sharing the story' of FCAB. Minister for Program and Development, Rev. Rose Wright-Scott, welcomes opportunities to speak at your church as well as minister to hundreds of participants at FCAB. Minister for Community Program and Development, Rev. Hudson Barksdale, who will make reservations for your group and lead group discussions on justice issues for the next few months, has announced that he is leaving FCAB at the end of September and will be missed. Tracey Mann, Administrative Assistant, has been at FCAB for a few years and offers an optimistic and 'can do' attitude which is appreciated by everyone. Our Coordinator for Facility Services, Mary Wilkins, keeps up with daily duties and challenges and supervises Carol, Derrick, Linda and George who prepare meals for conferences and keep the buildings clean.

*****SWIMMING POOL IS OPEN! Lifeguard and pool attendant Trevatha (Tre) Harrison began duties recently and we're glad to have him on board. The pool is open for community swimming, at \$2.00 each, Tuesdays-Thursdays-Saturdays from 3 pm to 6:30 pm. Children under the age of 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

*****THE GROUNDS. The FCAB sits on 200 acres in the extreme northern part of Edgecombe County, bordered on the north by Fishing Creek (a tributary of the Tar River) and Halifax County and bordered on the west by CSX Railroad and Nash County. This is the rural Black Belt of northeastern NC, where the population is majority African American from the legacy of enslaved Africans brought here to labor on the many cotton plantations. Edgecombe County, so it is said, "had more slaves and worked them harder than any of her sister counties. Here the white crowned king (cotton) reigned supreme. Edgecombe County was one unbroken cotton field." The cotton picked by enslaved labor made Edgecombe the number one cotton producing county in NC and the slave owners very wealthy. Today our campus and grounds look especially well kept thanks to the devoted labor of Cle Wilkins who just finishes the mowable areas in time to start all over again! (Information provided by Jim Wrenn, FCAB Trustee)

PLANTATION. FACB was once part of a 1300 acre plantation owned by Mason Wiggins in the 1820s. Wiggins then sold the plantation and 43 enslaved persons to the Garrett brothers in 1857. In 1867, the Garretts sold 1107 acres (all land east of railroad) to Union General L. G. Estes, who ran this farm with labor from sharecroppers--many of whom were former slaves here. Mrs. Julia Brick of Brooklyn NC foreclosed on Estes in 1890 and in 1893 gave the plantation to the AMA (American Missionary Association) for J. K. Brick School which opened in 1895. (FCAB History and Tradition; electronic copy available. Reply with request.)

THE AREA surrounding FCAB includes the Tillery Community. During the New Deal, this was a resettlement farm by the US government to give land to blacks. This was linked to the Rural Life Center at Bricks during the 1930's-1940's. Today The Concerned Citizens of Tillery have a very active organization with a community center, free health clinic and a history house. Further north, Roanoke Rapids was once home to 7 plants of JP Stevens textile company. Workers here fought a nationally known fight to organize a union in the 1970's that won a union contract in 1979 and inspired the movie "Norma Rae". In nearby Rocky Mount the Imperial Center for Arts located in a restored tobacco factory has a display on Walter "Buck" Leonard, a Rocky Mount native who is in the Baseball Hall of Fame. Buck was one of the best ever in the Negro Leagues; he played for the Homestead Grays. (Submitted by Jim Wrenn, FCAB Trustee)

“THE BLACK SECOND” Congressional District of NC included Edgecomb and Halifax counties from 1872-1900. After the Civil War and liberation from slavery, the African American freed people who still picked cotton now also voted and picked elected representatives. Voters during that time elected four blacks to US Congress plus many more to state legislature and local county offices. James O’Hara of Enfield and George Henry White of Tarboro were two of the four black Congressmen. (Submitted by Jim Wrenn, FCAB Trustee)

THE TRUSTEES of Franklinton Center at Bricks remain loyal and faithful and will meet next in September. Some have stepped up to the ‘promise to give or get’ \$500 by June 30 and others are personally contacting Friends of Franklinton for donations to FCAB. The national search for a director to begin duties in 2011 is underway. We hope to be seeing you at Franklinton Center Day on Saturday August 7, 2010. President Rev. Dr. Yvonne Delk, Norfolk VA; Vice President Rev. Dr. Marvin Morgan, Atlanta GA; Secretary Ms. Mahalia Clark, Chesapeake VA; Treasurer Ms. Brenda James, Greensboro NC; Mr. Peter Barbosa, San Francisco CA; Ms. Beatrice Barrow, Greensboro NC; Ms. Jean Copeland, Suffolk VA; Rev. Dr. Emmett Floyd, Elon, NC; Rev. John Gill, Knoxville, TN; Rev. Dian Jackson, Gibsonville NC; Rev. Linda Jaramillo, Cleveland OH; Ms. Edith Lee, Durham NC; Rev. Dr. Isaac McDonald, Newport News VA; Mr. Luther Milteer, Suffolk VA; Rev. Dr. D. A. Pearce, Portsmouth VA; Rev. Julie Peeples, Greensboro NC; Mayor Delia Perkins, Princeville NC; Rev. Vertie Powers, Burlington NC; Mr. Sie-Chieh Redd, Sr., Garner NC; Ms. Virgie Alston Rodgers, Chesapeake VA; Rev. Dr. Rollin Russell, Hillsborough NC; Rev. Leon White, New Bern NC; Mr. James Wrenn, Tarboro NC.

*This email communication is for persons interested in Franklinton Center at Bricks. You are invited to pass this email news along to other ‘Friends of Franklinton’; more names and emails are welcome. If you want to be added to this email distribution list, update your contact information, have received this email in error, or wish not to receive further FCAB emails, please send your request to FranklintonCenter@ucc.org

Enews is facilitated by Mary Ruth, UCC Partners in Service Volunteer at

Franklinton Center at Bricks
Conference and Retreat Center
in Ministry with Justice & Witness Ministries, United Church of Christ

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