

Final June 16 FCAB ENEWS June 2010

“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’.

JUSTICE and WITNESS. The Franklinton Center at Bricks is a conference, retreat and educational facility in eastern North Carolina with a focus on justice advocacy and leadership development. At this historic center of transformation, issues affecting the marginalized, the oppressed, and the poor are addressed. On site staff members are available to work with you in providing content and program for your group. Call (252) 437-1723 now to start a conversation for change.

LEADERSHIP IN TRANSITION. After many years of devoted service to Franklinton Center at Bricks, Center Director Rev. Ervin Milton has submitted his resignation effective December 31, 2010. His generous notice gives sufficient time for a search to take place and provide for smooth transition. Rev. Milton says “My life has been enriched by all of the donors and users of the Center. I love Franklinton Center at Bricks and will remain a part of its life and mission in some way.” Complete information for this national search, which will be launched on June 17, can be found at <http://www.ucc.org/classified>. Candidates are encouraged to send a resume and cover letter to Alisa M. Lewis, Director of Human Resources, United Church of Christ, 700 Prospect Ave., Cleveland, OH 44115.; lewisam@ucc.org. The Director of Franklinton Center at Bricks is an employee of Justice and Witness Ministries of the United Church of Christ.

BRICKS HIGH SCHOOL. “Phillips High School, one of four high schools in Edgecombe County for Negro children, was constructed in 1949 for grades 8-12. Prior to the construction of Phillips High School, many students in Halifax, Nash, and Edgecombe Counties attended Bricks High School in the Bricks Community. Unfortunately, when Bricks High School was destroyed by fire, students were scattered among several sites until a permanent building could be constructed to accommodate them.” So begins a one page article from Helen Hines Hunter. If you would like more information, you may reply to franklintoncenter@ucc.org and request the word document entitled “Phillips High School”.

NEIGHBORS in NEED. This special mission offering of the United Church of Christ supports ministries, including Franklinton Center at Bricks, which work to address issues of poverty, economic development, human rights, peacemaking, violence, racial and economic justice, environmental concerns, and public policy advocacy. Please encourage your church to be generous on October 3, 2010. For more information visit: www.ucc.org/nin/

“I CAME HOME LOOKING AT THE WORLD IN A DIFFERENT WAY” says one of the Hood College students who participated in an Alternative Spring Break program at Franklinton Center at Bricks for a week in March 2010. The trip involved both work and service learning. Along with painting, cleaning, and providing general maintenance help, the group also created a new nature trail and meditation site for the Center. Several days were dedicated to learning about Franklinton’s history as a former slave plantation and school for free blacks after Emancipation. The Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson, UCC National staff Minister for Justice and Witness Ministries, led the group in discussions on the legacy of slavery in the United States, the history of prejudice and ongoing issues related to social justice and faith-based responses. The students were also able to make connections between US history, civil rights and their own

school which also has its roots in the educational mission of the United Church of Christ. One student commented, 'This trip helped me to understand why we have some of the problems we do, and how we can try to address them.'

NEEDS LIST. The campus at Franklinton Center at Bricks has a consistent need for a variety of things such as a commercial quality washer and dryer and some commercial quality vacuum cleaners. It would also be great to have a volunteer bring a lawn edger to trim up our aging cement sidewalks or maybe someone has a working lawn edger to donate; a \$5,000 donation could improve our walkways considerably. Demand continues for TVs with DirectTV hookups in individual rooms at the new Hospitality House; \$100 each for 20 rooms would move us forward with these requests. For persons who enjoy working with wood, several ramp entrances made of wood are ready to be replaced and building signage is needed to help us be extravagantly welcoming. Outside picnic tables would also be welcome. Check with us at (252) 437-1723 if you or your church group would like a particular 'project' to fund.

COMMUNITY APPRECIATION DAY. A number of local residents were warmly welcomed by staff and their family members on Saturday May 29 for music provided by Rodney Milton and Wayne Solomon and then singing led by Mamie Jenkins which featured Sharon Whitaker and her daughters from Greater Saints Chapel Church in Enfield. We are grateful to Norman Salomon for MC'ing the program. Most of our guests had never before visited FCAB so Director Ervin Milton overviewed the history, tradition and mission of Franklinton Center at Bricks and offered our visitors a tour of the grounds and buildings. Since the day wasn't ideal pool weather, passes were distributed for 'one free day' of using the pool this summer. The festivities concluded with a delicious fried chicken lunch for all in the dining hall. The publicity for Community Appreciation Day has let local folks know FCAB appreciates them and has already increased local awareness. Comments overheard that day included: "this is my first visit here" "it's a wonderful facility right here in our own backyards!" and "I'll be back!"

STRONG MEN'S CONFERENCE. The 2010 SMC was exciting, inspirational and informative. Fifty-seven men and young boys from Maryland, Washington, DC, Virginia and North Carolina participated in the conference which was coordinated by Rev. Rose Wright-Scott, FCAB Program staff member. The First Annual Brotherhood Cookout started this year's conference on Thursday, May 20th, as a pre-conference gathering. Its success proved to be filled with lots of potential for growth. The conference kicked off on Friday night with Rev. Lilton Marks delivering the message. On Saturday morning, Rev. Ervin Milton, Director of The Franklinton Center, opened the conference with Bible Study. Two workshops were presented on "The Mind and The Spirit" and a brief presentation was given on marital relationships. Rev. Leroy Dukes of Wilmington, NC delivered the closing message, "Meeting the Right One at the Right Time."

DAY TRIP PROGRAM. Three Mt. Auburn UCC (Drewry VA) members recently visited Franklinton Center at Bricks wanting to know more about FCAB and received a tour and overview of the facility. This visit has inspired FCAB to offer a 'day trip program' for small local church groups. The program could start at 10 am with an historical overview and tour, luncheon in the dining hall, and an afternoon session on justice issues ending at 2 pm. A suggestion is to bring a Bible Study group, Women's Circle or other small church group of 10 to 20 people, come on a Tuesday (let us know in advance!) and contribute at least \$10 per person. The history of FCAB is significant, the menu and the day of the week are both flexible, and the staff can address justice issues meaningful to your group. For more information contact Hudson Barksdale, barksdah@ucc.org or 252-437-1723.

TRUSTEES MAKE PROMISE. At its May 14, 2010, meeting, the Trustees of Franklinton Center at Bricks, led by President Rev. Dr. Yvonne Delk, took official action to alleviate a current cash flow situation and voted: 'each trustee present promises to give or get \$500 each to FCAB before June 30, 2010; trustees absent are invited to participate'. Several trustees wrote checks that day, others have indicated their contributions will be forthcoming, and some trustees are contacting friends of Franklinton Center.

CERTIFIED LIFEGUARD NEEDED. If you, or someone you know, is a Certified Life Guard and is looking for summer part time employment, please contact Director Ervin Milton at (252) 437-1723. The swimming pool at Franklinton Center at Bricks is freshly painted, the pool house is newly painted, the water is being tested and the facility being inspected. It will soon be open for our conferences, is available for group rentals, and will also be open regular hours for use by the local community.

BRING YOUR EVENT HERE. Franklinton Center at Bricks offers a variety of exciting programs and learning opportunities. Check out our webpage for upcoming events at www.franklintoncenteratbricks.org. If you'd like to plan your own event, our facilities are available for a variety of purposes, including: Family Reunions, Church Gatherings, Wedding Receptions, corporate meetings and more. For more information contact Hudson Barksdale, barksdah@ucc.org, 252-437-1723.

ANNUAL UCC AND COMMUNITY FOOTBALL CAMP. *June 21-25, 2010*. Teaching appropriate football skills. Work sessions include: gang awareness, healthy living, anger management, positive peer interaction, appropriate social skills, team building, swimming, fun, games and more! Contact FCAB at (252) 437-1723 to see if spaces are still available.

SONSHINE GIRLS EVENT. *July 18-24, 2010*. This event gathers young girls from various regions of the United Church of Christ and the local Community for a week of math, reading, peer interactions, team building work sessions, conversations about race relations, and more. Arts & Crafts, classes on etiquette, nutrition and other activities, as well as fun and games. For more information you may e-mail Rev. Rose Wright-Scott at scottr@ucc.org

HALL OF FAITH BANQUET. *August 6, 2010*. This event raises funds for Franklinton Center at Bricks. We will drape the walls of Hospitality House II with profiles of those that have lived out their passionate commitment of justice and faith at this sacred space. They will be inducted into the Hall of Faith and we will feature their pictures/names and bio's at this event. For more information call FCAB at (252) 437-1723. Questions? Call Tracey Mann at (252) 437-1723.

FRANKINTON CENTER DAY. *August 7, 2010*. This annual celebration is all about focusing on our future while celebrating our past. The Franklinton Center family comes together and talks, listens, eats, smiles, laughs, prays, preaches, gives, hugs, remembers, rededicates and rests.

(all who join are automatically part of the family!) Vendors display jewelry, clothes, books, artifacts, food and more. Kids play and swim. Adults are thankful for another year's journey.

BACK TO SCHOOL JAMBOREE. *August 28, 2010*. This is an evening event with parents and children to share tools and information about how to have a more productive and successful school year. Resources from local schools will be available for parents. Local faculty will be available for questions and answers.

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!!

LOOK WHO'S TALKING! "I attended a Church Women of the Southern Conference Summer Conference held at Franklinton Center in June of 2009 and enjoyed the whole area very much. All of the buildings are easily accessible and convenient and parking is close by so elderly people like myself find it very easy to negotiate it all. I am always reminded of the history of the Center and think of how much courage and faith the founders must have had to attempt and succeed in their plans to build the complex during such a difficult period of our history. I felt that spirit surrounding us and challenging us as we met together." Katherine Floyd, Elon Community UCC.

***YOUR FCAB NEWS? What would you like to read about in a Franklinton Center at Bricks ENEWS? Please submit your news and ideas to FranklintonCenter@ucc.org

*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