



# SOUTHERN SPIRIT

October / November 2007 Southern Conference edition Section B



"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." [Jeremiah 29:11 NRSV]  
-- One of Kate Huey's favorite texts



Rev. Randy Orwig described a scene on the "Hike to the Bear Cave" at Johns River Valley Camp where a young tree found root in an old stump, out of which it grew. The illustration was offered as a metaphor projecting a hopeful future for Southern Conference.

How  
Do  
We  
Face  
Our  
Future?



Rev. Kate Huey (left) offers direction, stories, reflection at September 8 meeting. "How do we face our future?" she asked. "I'm a middle child of nine. We had to learn how to share at my dinner table." Rev. Dale Kennedy (right) WNCA president, attempts to record shared responses from approximately 35 participants.

- C. L. Stumb photo

By Rev. C. L. "Curly" Stumb

"I used to be bitter but now I'm better," said a woman who had come to the Church House (UCC Cleveland headquarters) in an adversarial way. This woman's story was among narratives shared by Rev. Kate Huey, (UCC national staff, Local Church Ministries) as she engaged members of the Southern Conference Board of Directors and members of all three association boards (EVA, ENCA, WNCA) in a process of conversation that kept bumping into the phrase "Our Church's Wider Mission."

The woman who had gone to Cleveland, explained Huey, had her eyes opened as she was guided through the hallways of the seven story office complex, discovering a scope of ministry beyond anything this person had ever previously imagined. Participants at the gathering in Burlington who were being prompted by Kate's questions and reflective comments had come together on September 8 to begin examination of the future fortune or fate of being about ministry in the Southern Conference of the United Church of Christ. If one could detect a nudge in any direction by the facilitator, the bias

of Huey's convictions was made clear in her expression to "operate out of an abundance theology, because God has given us so much."

Without hesitation she responded to the description of someone's dream expressed with images of a drowning metaphor. Said Huey, "In an abundance mode, we have to think of ourselves as being underwater, going to the bottom, and then kicking ourselves off the bottom and coming up for air."

Rev. Randy Orwig was think-

Continued on B-2 - FUTURE



Persons ponder questions put before them in the course of the day on September 8. For example, question #4 asked, "What would be the advantages and disadvantages in the Southern Conference to having Associate Conference Ministers defined by skill sets or program expertise or resource areas rather than by geography?" - C. L. Stumb photo

## Associations Will Face Tough Questions

Church leaders are promising that the fall meetings of the three associations will be times of friendship, business, and perhaps even fun. Delegates will learn about various ministries and mission work that have occurred in the covenantal relationship that is shared with Southern Conference.

Two associations have engaged guest leaders to facilitate discussion around tomorrow's Southern Conference. A third promises quali-

ty time for meaningful workshop experiences and mission matters.

And the future, hopes Conference Minister Steve Camp, will be discussed with seriousness and earnestness. "You will not want to miss the presentation and discussion about where the Southern Conference is with finances, mission and its ministry to our local churches and people," says Camp. He has asked that some quality time be designed into each association

agenda to allow a presentation projecting some future scenarios for the Southern Conference, and enable association representatives with an opportunity to grapple with the covenant that intricately binds conference, association, and local church. "Something will have to give financially, said Steve Camp at the September 8 meeting, " and we have so little time."

See B-2 for DETAILS OF ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

## Just 1% ... Imagine That!

# Camp's Notes

by Stephen W. Camp  
Conference Minister



Steve Camp

There is a lot of talk these days about the future of the Southern Conference. Some of it surely centers around money, but the real, the pressing and central concern is the mission thrust of the conference for the months and years ahead. 'How will we be together in mission?' is a significant question. Will we continue to offer a training program for those who emerge from our pews seeking to serve our churches in ministry in the years ahead? Will we offer effective tools to our laity for caring service to the communities around our churches and give them reasons to want to impact the wider world? Will new churches and renewed churches spring up like water from a mountain spring? Will our church maintain a place and a purpose for our youth and young adults? Will we celebrate the diversity that is ours in the Southern Conference, with intentionality rather than only talking the talk? And of course will we offer our financial offerings out of a sense of abundance, as an investment in the future or complain about the scarcity that seems so easily present with us? The point will be made to you in the weeks ahead, that and if every local church just gave 1% more toward (OCWM) Our Churches Wider Mission (basic financial support for the conference) or if every local church made a real effort to give a percent or two more per year to the mission of the conference, then the financial woes and need for mission dollars would be nil in Southern Conference. Just 1% would make a difference!

Surely there are things that we all value in the life of the Southern Conference? There must be ministry and mission we can all (or most of us can) celebrate.

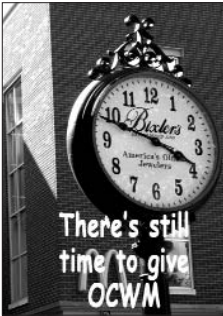
This year in the fall annual gatherings of each associations, delegates and visitors will have an opportunity to begin a conversation that we hope will then be taken to each local congregation in the Southern Conference. The more members of the Southern Conference who hear and participate in this conversation, the better off the Southern Conference will be as it seeks to embrace the future. We hope to increase the conversation that is vital for all of us to have, as it concerns our shared future. Each church and local church member is invited into this important time of discernment. This conversation is not just for those who stand in the pulpit or those in the board rooms of any and all Southern Conference local churches. It is a conversation for every valued member in each and every Southern Conference church. I am sure that it's time to talk about the future and many will engage the conversation fully if asked. Surely there are things that we all value in

the life of the Southern Conference? There must be ministry and mission we can all (or most of us can) celebrate. As Christians living in a world of great change and diversity, there are some things that we can work on together as a Southern Conference community. We are limited only by our own imagination and the size of our collective will. What and where are those common points that we can all find and share?

I would share with you that I regret that so many churches decided to leave our conference over the last several years. It was painful for us when they made those decisions to separate from us. It gave us pause. We were diminished, bowed, but not broken. The challenges that their leaving created was enormous at the time. Friendship and families were affected by the changes, the tearing away of some and the trauma of that day lingers for some still. Yet, while we wish them well in their future, we also are prayerful and hopeful for our own future too. We shall not sit back and sulk in the milk that has been spilled, or think of what could have been due to their absence; it is not healthy or helpful. We have been moving forward by God's grace, God's love and God's direction to us. We go into the future, a future unknown but assured. We continue by faith. As we climb to new vistas, looking down could make us dizzy.

We look up! Our resolve and our hope is that we recognize, acknowledge and celebrate that each church in the Southern Conference today is a partner with each other church. No church or person is outside the circle. We live more clearly with the conviction that each church matters as we seek to be the new creation called forth by God. As a conference that God is shaping and making, we find joy and strength for the journey. God still speaks and we can see that as God speaks, we are reforming and reshaping for ministry and mission that matters in our world today.

Yes, there is a lot of talk today. It is talk about the future. We hope the talk is not a cheap form of gossip, but a meeting of the minds and hearts here in the Southern Conference. Each voice matters and is welcome around our table and in the conversation. Jesus sits always at the head of the table and is foremost in the conversation. The Southern Conference remains an important topic of conversation. Come to your annual association gathering this fall. Find out for yourselves what all the buzz is about. We know you will have something good to contribute toward the future of the Southern Conference, something that will help us build new and vital mission for our future. Just giving 1% more, imagine that. Just a little time.



### Opportunities for Stewardship

Those of us deeply connected to the Southern Conference might well have found ourselves in conversations in which we assume that everyone everywhere knows who and what we are. That of course is a faulty assumption and will often leave us confronted with the obvious question: "What is the Southern Conference?"

We do well to reflect upon this question from time to time. Indeed, what is the Southern Conference? Somewhere in the process of answering we would no doubt

mention that we are a faith community who evangelizes, builds churches, nurtures youth, trains clergy and lay leaders, announces our witness and seeks faithful stewardship of our resources.

These priorities have a long standing place in our history and form an integral part of the hope we place in the future. We continue to have tangible opportunities to invest in that which forms our identity. Through continued support of the "Live the Vision" Campaign and our newly established Planned Giving Emphasis you can contribute to that which constitutes our vitality.

One lay leader from Eastern Virginia made this comment about "Live the Vision" following our most recent annual meeting: "This is the stuff we were born to do. This is ministry. This is our ministry."

If you would like a visit or information about either of these programs please contact Phil Hardy at the Conference office.



Phil Hardy

### Continued from B-1 - Future

ing fully in abundance mode when he described an image on one of the hiking trails at Johns River Valley Camp. He described in detail a dead tree stump on the "Bear Cave Trail" where a young tree found root and grew out of it. "We have the chance," said Orwig, "to do something wonderful." Reflected Huey, "Randy is not denying the existence of the stump, but acknowledging new life."

"We did want to raise the *dis-ease*," explained Rick Edens, representing the Restructure and By-law Committee which had helped formulate the five questions for the day's discussion. "We need to raise more money or deal with consequences."

A sheet handed out to those present displayed a budget deficit figure that had participants vacillating between images of "a glass

as half full or a glass as half empty." There was talk of spending mortgage money or sharing mission dollars; of being passive in the pews or becoming passionate in mission; of accepting the status quo or asking to raise the bar with regard to expectations for a vital church. "Stir it up," said Rev. Linda Clark. "We talk about what it's going to do to keep this church afloat. But there's more to it than that. We need to spend more time talking about religion." Or put another way, "When you talk about what you value, people get excited," stated Rev. Jay Kennett.

"In the military after there's a plane crash," reflected Walter Hughes, "they have a 'stand down,' to look at safety issues. Perhaps we should have a 'stand down' to ask what it means to be in the church."

Some practical suggestions surfaced in the course of the meeting. It would only require raising congregations' OCWM response by 1%, from 2.4 of their total giving to 3.4% to address the current Conference fiscal crisis. Henry Lister wanted to push these numbers even further and advocated raising the bar with the challenge "Does your congregation tithe?" Another proposed "fix" suggested reducing the number of associations from three to two. But said David Sanford in response, "Eliminating an association will bring a feeling of neglect."

As the meeting drew toward a close, Rev. Kelly Barefoot offered some reflective thoughts. "In moments of brokenness, when we run out of options, we must not forget that God is able to provide. Maybe we don't have because we don't ask."

<b>FALL MEETINGS</b>	<b>ENCA - October 13:</b> <i>Being in Covenant</i> / with Rev. Dick Sparrow (Parish Life and Leadership Team of Local Church Ministries)
	<b>EVA - October 20:</b> <i>Celebrating the Past, Embracing the Future</i> / with Rev. Mark Suriano, former national staff; now local church pastor; he will lead group in a conversation around "appreciative Inquiry," a method of finding the good things we value and can do together.
	<b>WNCA - October 27:</b> Worship ... Business ... Workshops ... Discussion ... Mission

News and Notes from around the Conference

**Catawba President Announces Retirement**

Salisbury, N.C. -- Dr. Robert Knott, Catawba College's 20th President, publicly announced his plans to retire at the end of the 2007-2008 academic year during an annual gathering of faculty and staff August 14th. Knott, who is entering his sixth year of service at the institution, said his planned retirement "was in the best interest of the College" and would allow new leadership "to build on what we've done and move into a new and exciting future."

"It has been my pleasure and an honor for Brenda and me to return to Catawba College," Knott said. "I hope each of you can look back on our time here and take some satisfaction in our collective successes. I see Catawba College as strong or stronger than it has ever been."

This June, Catawba learned that it had successfully and unconditionally completed its reaffirmation of accreditation process with the Southern Association of Colleges and School, a process that is now undertaken every 10 years. With Knott at the helm, the College embarked on a campaign to grow its endowment and thereby make it competitive with its aspirant institutions. The goal for that endowment campaign was set at \$35 million, a goal that has been exceeded and will likely surpass \$40 million by the

end of this academic year. With the goal of the campaign met and with another \$30-35 million in pledges outstanding, Catawba's endowment will exceed \$70 million.

During Knott's presidency, the institution embarked on an ambitious campus facilities campaign. It included the construction of five new residence halls comprising Abernethy Village, which are now open and housing upper class students; renovations to Hoke Hall, to house the college's information technology center; renovations to the Corriher-Linn-Black Library; and renovations and an addition to the Cannon Student Center. All projects included in the facilities campaign will be completed by the time Knott leaves office (May 2008).

Catawba's student body has also undergone some transformations under Knott's leadership. One of the goals of the strategic plan was to recruit students of stronger academic ability who would be able to persist in their college studies to graduation. During one recent recruiting year, the average SAT score for incoming students grew by 60 points and now stands at an all-time high. The current retention rate for freshmen to sophomore students stands at 72%.

**Elon Educator Steps Down**

Elon, N.C. --Gerald Dillashaw, who has been dean of Elon University's School of Education since 1992, will step down at the conclusion of the 2007-08 academic year. He will continue his work at Elon, teaching full-time in the School of Education.

"It has been exciting to have been a participant in the phenomenal growth of the university and the School of Education over the last 15 years," Dillashaw says.

During the past 15 years, Dillashaw has guided the growth of Elon's education and physical therapy programs, which currently serve nearly 800 students in teacher education, exercise and sport science and leisure/sport management, along with a master's program in education and a doctoral program in physical therapy.

Under Dillashaw's leadership, Elon's Teacher Education Program has received an exemplary rating from the North Carolina State Board of Education and has been continually accredited by NCATE, the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education.

Dillashaw is on the board of directors for Elon Homes for Children and a member of Elon Community Church.

**The Willows Under New Management**



Seated: Willows residents Caroline Starnes and Kathleen Edwards; Standing: UCHS/Willows staff Tonya Riley, Lynda Baker and Jeannette Breckenridge

Burlington, N.C. -- United Residential Services and United Church Homes and Services (UCHS) are pleased to announce their partnership in operating The Willows, a HUD supported program for independent seniors aged 62 or better.

The Willows, located at 124 Tarpley Street in Burlington, NC, first opened in 1998 and was originally conceived as an outreach of the First Reformed United Church of Christ. The outreach, doing business as United Residential Services, contracted with UCHS in July 2007 to manage the property on a day to day basis. The Willows

was formerly operated by Community Management Corporation.

The Willows has been home to hundreds of residents since it opened and has enjoyed an excellent reputation as a supportive housing community. UCHS owns/manages and operates five additional HUD 202 communities and has been in the business of senior housing and health services for over 35 years.

"We see this as a natural partnership, stated Douglas Fleegle, President and CEO of UCHS, and we look forward to developing a strong alliance with First Reformed UCC to enhance quality living opportunities at The Willows." J. Ray Deal, local attorney, church leader and UCHS board member agrees. "We're fortunate to have the expertise of this UCC affiliated corporation behind us, and confident that The Willows residents will benefit."

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**Justice Group Counters Community Fear**

Goldsboro, N.C. -- A grass roots movement is finding momentum in the Goldsboro area in response to a tragic shooting, probably drug related and perhaps gang-related, at a funeral in the spring of 2007. The Initiative is known as the *Unity Revival/Stop the Funeral* (further references will be to "the Initiative" or "Stop the Funeral"). "I first learned of the movement, says Rev. Richard Weikel, "at a CLIFF meeting in Goldsboro (CLIFF is "clergy living in faith and fellowship" – a group whose intention is to bridge racial divides in the community). Two colleagues noted trauma caused by the shooting, and invited all to join a group just forming to make a response. I remember them saying, 'This is not just a black issue – it's a community matter.' I took that to be a faithful challenge and a call."

on helping youth find positive alternatives to gang life. It is aimed at folks who are on the periphery of gang life, or who may be considering joining a gang. A goal for the near future is to sponsor a *Redemption Conference* at which young folks in Goldsboro will be invited to explore positive alternatives. The conference will include worship, classes and seminars, help with employment possibilities, and the encouragement of spiritual and personal growth.

Says Rev. Weikel, "As a UCC pastor, I have been challenged and thrilled by the possibilities the *Stop the Funeral Initiative* offers." "I believe that this Initiative puts our tried and true UCC concerns for economic and racial justice in sharp focus. This has been an opportunity to practice what the Gospel preaches: God's grace and hope in a seemingly hopeless situation."

The group's primary focus is

**Study Leads to Action**

Chapel Hill, N.C. -- A committee at United Church of Chapel Hill is hoping that all churches in Eastern North Carolina Association will become Economic Justice Churches. To that end a resolution has been drafted for presentation at the ENCA Annual Meeting on October 13 in Durham.

Explains Rollin Russell, "That committee was formed in 2006 after an adult study seminar read and discussed Jim Wallis's book, *God's Politics*. The participants were particularly interested in learning and doing more about the inequities in income, assets and power resulting from the current political economy."

This committee has found itself motivated to study more, leading to public policy advocacy on both a county and state basis.

**JRVC TO REPEAT SHALOM EVENT OFFERING**

Collettsville, N.C. -- As a program initiative of the Johns River Valley Camp Board, *Covenant of Shalom* will again be offered in 2008. By definition, Covenant of Shalom is understood to be 1) A "trust" (holding agreement) in "peace" (shalom: a state of well-being not fragmented by conflict); 2) A sacred journey of spiritual growth; 3) A training experience in conflict management; and 4) A preparation for mission in the suffering of a conflicted world.

Rev. Randall Mishoe, facilitator of the *Shalom* experience, Jungian Psychoanalyst, Pastoral Counselor, with a practice in Charlotte, likes to quote Carl Jung who makes some interesting observations about conflict: "A life without inner contradiction is either only half a life or

else a life in the Beyond, which is destined only for angels. But God loves human beings more than the angels." (*Letters*, Vol. I, p. 375). While conflict is inevitable, Mishoe's working definition of conflict also suggests that "The key appears to be the capacity of an individual or group to hold the opposites in creative tension..."

JRVC Director "Curly" Stumb would encourage local churches to identify an individual for training who could both grow personally and offer conflict management initiatives for his or her congregation.

The 2008 sessions will evolve over three Saturdays from 9:00 am-4:00 pm at the camp: February 2, March 1, and April 19. Registration forms are available at [www.jrvc.org](http://www.jrvc.org)

**SOUTHERN SPIRIT**

The Reverend Stephen Camp .....Conference Minister and Editor  
 Janelle Bunn ..... Administrative Secretary and Managing Editor  
 C. L. "Curly" Stumb, Irwin Smallwood, Linda Carter ..... Communication Team

The *Southern Spirit* is published bimonthly as an edition of the United Church News. The publication is a successor to the *Christian Sun* (1894), *The Standard* (*The College Visitor*, 1887), the *Newsletter* (1951), the *News of Southern Conference Ministries*, and the *Southern Conference News*.  
 News items and pictures of interest are welcome. Send to 252-B West Fifth Street, Burlington, NC 27215. Deadline is the fifth of each month prior to published editions.

**Black Lake Retreat Center** has rocking chairs strategically placed on the porch of Leonard Lodge, overlooking the site's seven acre lake. Three 'old timers' tried them out prior to the site's open house in the spring of 2007. From left to right sits Rev. Richard Rinker (retired SOC staff /CE & outdoor ministries), Rev. Bill Willett (first director of Black Lake Conference Center and retired pastor), and Mr. Worth Hutchens (former officer of WNCA Churchmen's Fellowship). For further information, contact the Conference Office at 336-222-8771. Send contributions directly to the Southern Conference clearly marked for "Black Lake Retreat Center."





Joe-Pye Weed  
Eupatorium  
Photographed at Johns River Valley Camp  
by C. L. Stumb  
Photos on B-4 also by C. L. Stumb

# 2007 Calendar

- October 4:** Black Lake Retreat Center Board meets at Conference Office
- October 9:** Catawba District Ministers meet at High Country UCC
- October 13:** ENCA Annual Meeting, Mt. Calvary UCC, Durham
- October 15-18:** "Caring for God's Creation" fall retreat / JRVC led by Rev. Steve Halsted
- October 16:** EVA Clergy meet
- October 19-21:** "Knitting / Crocheting for Peace" at JRVC, led by Rev. Beth Kennett
- October 20:** EVA Annual Meeting, Oakland Christian Church, Suffolk, VA
- October 27:** WNCA Annual Meeting, Grace UCC, Newton, NC
- October 26-28:** Southern Regional Meeting of UCC Women at Blowing Rock Conference Center
- October 28-29:** SOC Board Meeting
- November 3:** JRVC Board Meeting at site
- November 14-15:** Virginia Council of Churches
- November 16-17:** Perce O. Alston Institute at Franklinton Center
- November 19:** SOC Executive Committee
- December 27-29:** Kwanzaa Camp at Franklinton Center



## Calendar of Prayer Spotlights Ministry of Church

The *Calendar of Prayer* for the United Church of Christ contains stories from around the world and across the United States that both illustrate the depth and breadth of mission outreach of the United Church of Christ and lift up a partnership with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) through the common witness of Global Ministries. Says Jan Aerie in the introduction to the 2007 anthology of prayers, "*Calendar of Prayer* for the United Church of Christ serves as a reminder to us all that we are a united and uniting people, called to unflinchingly welcome all."

Southern Conference pilgrims who use this resource as a regular part of their devotions will discover periodic entries representing Southern Conference ministries.

These entries tell stories of local congregations, individuals and faith communities.

Scanning the fourth quarter section of 2007 reveals an entry each month representing a ministry rooted in Southern Conference.

**OCTOBER 29:** If the future of our church depends on strong youth leaders, we are in good hands with role models like Ashley Ekwen (An active member of Saints' Delight UCC, Louisburg, NC).

**NOVEMBER 12:** Rev. John Gundlach highlights the Sixty-six UCC chaplains [who] minister on behalf of the United Church of Christ in the military services, National Guard, and Civil Air Patrol.

**DECEMBER 6:** "Our congregation, partnering with God, is creating a family together which has a wel-



Delegates at 2007 SOC Annual Meeting respond to music of *Voices of Praise Choir*.

come table with no corners, celebrating God's invitation which has no end," states the Rev. Shelly Wilson, the church's pastor. Read more: [www.ucc.org/worship/calendar/](http://www.ucc.org/worship/calendar/)

## Rhineland Church Watches and Prays for its American Partners

**editor's note:** *Christine Busch, Ecumenical officer for the Evangelical Church of the Rhineland (EKiR) shares a pastoral letter with partner churches in the United States. Both Christine Bush and Nikolaus Schneider (President of the Church in the Rhineland) were in attendance at the 2007 Annual Meeting in Elon.*

During this year's Synod, the *Collegium of Officers of the United Church of Christ published a Pastoral Letter on the War in Iraq, calling for the end of death and violence and the beginning of lasting peace through diplomacy in the Middle East.*

Through the unified leadership of its National Officers, Conference Ministers and Seminary Presidents, the *United Church of Christ is seeking to build an unprecedented faith-based movement "to join protest to prayer" in ending the war in Iraq.*

This October, the *Rev. John H. Thomas -- the UCC's General Minister and President -- will travel to Washington, DC, along with other church leaders, to call on the US government to end the war in Iraq. He*

*intends to carry with him the names of 100,000 people for peace, those who stand in solidarity with the UCC's Pastoral Letter on the Iraq War.*

Read more: [www.ucc.org/100kforpeace/](http://www.ucc.org/100kforpeace/)  
The following is *Christine Bush's communication with reference to the 100,000 for Peace:*

**D**ear Brothers and Sisters in the United Church of Christ,

In yesterday's meeting of our UCC working group we heard about the outstanding event of the 50th Anniversary of the UCC, celebrated by the General Synod in June this year.

We also discussed the Pastoral Letter on the Iraq war which was delivered at that occasion. We share this concern and believe that there will be many more than 100,000 peace people who will sign the petition. This is our statement:



Steve Camp and Christine Busch review agenda for SOC Annual Meeting

**WE, THE UCC UEK WORKING GROUP IN THE EVANGELICAL CHURCH OF THE RHINELAND (EKiR) THANKFULLY READ THE PASTORAL LETTER ON THE IRAQ WAR. WE WANT TO ASSURE YOU THAT YOUR WORDS SPEAK TO OUR HEARTS, AND WE SEND OR SAY OUR GREAT WITNESS HOPING IT WILL HELP TO FIND PEACE IN IRAQ AND IN THE SOCIETY AS WELL.**

The *watchword* of September 16 (15 Trinity) reads: "The Lord your God is a merciful God; he will neither abandon you nor destroy you; he will not forget the covenant with your ancestors that he swore to them." (Dtn. 4, 31) This is our hope and our belief.

Yours sincerely,  
Christine Busch

## Clergy Find New Revelations in Apocalyptic Study

Who preaches on the Book of Revelation, and why would a pastor block out time in one's busy schedule to attend a clergy retreat on the subject? A number of clergy took a chance in attending last spring's event, perhaps having heard good comments about Dr. Greg Carey (featured facilitator), or just having concluded the need for a retreat regardless of the calibre of the speaker. Stated Rev. Banks Shepherd about professor Carey of Lancaster Theological Seminary, "He has an admirable ability to open up his hearers' thinking to new ways of understanding the scriptures. He is not stubbornly dogmatic, but he states his point of view firmly and fairly."

Did participants learn anything? Rev. Linda Clark says she did. "I discovered that apocalyptic literature is approachable and I do not have to resist tackling it." Likewise, Rev. Charles Chappell highlighted one of the emphases of Carey's teachings in his reflection that it was "good to realize the many apocalyptic moments in the entire NT and not just Revelation. Some of his examples I had not thought of as Apocalyptic."

While opinions wavered over how such a retreat should balance scholarship against fellowship, worship, and individual time, Rev. Randy Orwig noted that "It is an important trend that we are gathering clergy for solid, scholarly



Dr. Greg Carey opens participants minds to new scholarship on Book of Revelation learning and growth opportunities."

A 2008 retreat -- given the present time mid-way between events -- is currently being planned by a committee in Western North Carolina Association. Featured

speaker will be Dr. Randall C. Bailey of Interdenominational Theological Center. Dates traditionally falls on Monday through Wednesday following Mothers Day, which in 2008 will be May 12-14.