

YOKEFELLOW NEWS

A Fellowship of YOKEFELLOWS

Dedicated To A Ministry Of Reconciliation



Winston-Salem, N.C.

Take My Yoke Upon You

Winter, 2009

Annual meeting a day to remember

By DAVID GUTHRIE

For the third year, our Yokefellow Annual Meeting was held at First Baptist Church in Burlington on Oct. 24. The weather may have been rainy, but once again, the hospitality was warm and generous and the lunch that was provided was delicious.

This truly was a day to remember, as we celebrated 40 years of ministry together. We are the longest organized, continuous prison ministry in North Carolina. Our gathering gave opportunity to give thanks for all of the ways God has blessed and guided our service through the years.

The program included a powerful testimony by Vernon Hatley, a resident at Orange Correctional Center, who reminded us that Yokefellow is a “gift from

God” which generates in us the desire to serve others and is a “living illustration of the fruit of the Spirit.”

The Rev. Jerry Murray challenged us to make deeper connections between Yokefellow “outside” and “inside” and to consider developing transitional “aftercare” programs to compliment our primary mission of holding meetings within the correctional centers of our state.

The Rev. John Kale commended Yokefellow volunteers who have heard the cry of our brothers and sisters in prison in North Carolina, and provided a cup of water, a listening ear, small groups, and support for those who are hurting.

Current Board member, The Rev. Bruce Pate, lifted up four things to celebrate: the longevity of our ministry, its consistency



INMATE VERNON HATLEY (R.) CHATTED WITH VOLUNTEERS.

week in and week out, our openness in welcoming all to our meetings, and our unique willingness to listen to those we serve.

Oliver Toomey — expressing the experience of many of our volunteers — recalled the day he told God in prayer, “I’m old, I’m tired and I think I am going to leave the prison ministry.” He heard God’s response: “I’ll tell you when to quit,” and is still at it today!

Millie Gordon, who has been involved in the music program for over 25 years at Western Youth Institution, put it simply “Let them talk. They desperately

need someone to listen.”

Chaplain “Bud” Walker recalled the day early in his career as a prison chaplain when he met Yokefellow who were real, full of faith, full of love, had a penchant for justice, and were interdenominational and interracial. He said to himself: “those are my kind of people.” Bud pointed out how Yokefellow encourages inmates to minister to one another.

For the special occasion of our 40th birthday, an oppor-

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VOLUNTEERS ENJOYED FELLOWSHIP AROUND TABLES.

Yokefellow Contributors — 2008

Gifts: \$1 - \$499

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 Home Moravian Women's Fellowship, Winston-Salem, NC
 Hopewell United Methodist Church, Sherrills Ford, NC
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 Tim Kute, Winston-Salem, NC
 Leaksville Moravian Church, Eden, NC
 Hilda Leatherwood, Lake Junaluska, NC
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 Madison United Methodist Church, Madison, NC
 Maple Grove United Methodist Church, Clyde, NC
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 Gwyn McIntosh, Waynesville, NC
 Jim and Carolyn McLean, Greensboro, NC

Diana Mills, Waynesville, NC
 Betty Mooney, Stoneville, NC
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 Nancy M. Myers, Shallotte, NC
 North Raleigh United Methodist Church, Raleigh, NC
 Annette Nunnery, Stedman, NC
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 Jerry Parker, Summerfield, NC
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 Janine Rierson, Winston-Salem, NC
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 Terra Ceia Yokefellow Meeting, Tgerra Ceia, NC
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 Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Toomey, Goldsboro, NC
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 Wake Forest United Methodist Church, Wake Forest, NC
 Chaplain R.A.L. Walker, Asheville, NC
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 Norman and Helen Warren, Oak Ridge, NC
 Wells Memorial Church Of God In Christ, Greensboro, NC
 Robert Whitley, Washington, NC
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 Woodmont United Methodist Women, Reidsville, NC

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 Living Word Church, Chadbourne, NC
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 Salem, NC
 Mount Tabor United Methodist Church, Winston-Salem, NC
 Dr. Jerry D. Murray, Rural Hall, NC
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\$1,000 - \$4,999

Centenary United Methodist Church, Winston-Salem, NC
 Friedberg Moravian Church, Winston-Salem, NC
 Home Moravian Church, Winston-Salem, NC
 Home Moravian Men, Winston-Salem, NC

Long's Chapel United Methodist Church, Lake Junaluska,
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 Mary Duke Biddle Foundation, Durham, NC
 Moravian Church - Salem Congregation, Winston-Salem,
 NC
 Skyland United Methodist Church, Skyland, NC
 Western NC Conference, United Methodist Church - Grant

\$5,000 - \$10,000

North Carolina Conference, United Methodist Church, Grant

GIFT IN APPRECIATION OF HOPE MILLS CONGRE- GATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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Rev. Bruce and Jean Pate, Lake Junaluska, NC

If your name has been inadvertently omitted from this list, please let us know so we can make the correction.

Yokefellow board and group coordinators

Board of Directors

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 Rev. David Canady, Parkton, NC
 Chaplain Pricilla Durkin, Troy, NC
 Laura Elliott, Winston-Salem, NC
 C. B. Evans, New Bern, NC
 Pat Ford, Raleigh, NC
 Frances Gladden, Greensboro, NC
 Rev. David Guthrie, Winston-Salem, NC
 Cathy Kimel, Greensboro, NC
 Rev. Leon Morrow, Lenoir, NC
 Rev. Bruce Pate, Lake Junaluska, NC
 Rev. Robert Rierson, Winston-Salem, NC
 Ken Ripley, Spring Hope, NC
 Rebecca Schlosser, Greensboro, NC
 Chaplain Melvin Solomon, Vass, NC
 Cleveland Walker, Winston-Salem, NC

Executive Director

Nancy Burkette

State Trainer/Developer

Rev. David Canady

Welcome to new Board Member!

Rev. Leon Morrow

Group Coordinators

Anson CC: Ben Tillman
 Avery-Mitchell CI: David Hauser
 Bertie CI: Ben Jones
 Bladen CC: Chaplain Daniel Bryan
 Brown Creek CI: Chaplains Louis Moore and Marian Cooper
 Buncombe CC: Nancy Trepes
 Carteret CC: Chaplain John Steen
 Catawba CC: Chaplain Reggie Longcrier
 Columbus CI: Chaplain Gary Bauer
 Craven CI: Chaplain John Pierce
 Dan River Prison Work Farm: Chaplain Bruce Hill
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 Eastern CI: Linda Chamberlain
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 Forsyth CC: Doris Chunn
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 Polk CI: Pat Ford
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 Sampson CC: Hameed Shereef
 Sanford CC: Harold York
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 Southern CI: Chaplain Arlester Simpson and Richard Lundy
 Tyrrell Prison Work Farm: Robert Lassiter
 Wake CC: Josephine Drayton
 Wayne CC: Ruby Singleton
 Western Youth Inst.: Chaplain Mark Menhinick
 Wilkes CC: Frank Shealey

How you can help Yokefellow Prison Ministry

For 40 years Yokefellow Prison Ministry has provided a ministry of listening and caring to inmates in the prisons of North Carolina. We look back with thanksgiving and look forward with expectation for all that God will do in and through our ministry together.

We live in hopeful, but challenging times. Our organization, like many others, needs strong financial support. Every contribution, of any size, helps to move us forward in service to those in prison. We have one paid staff person for a state-wide ministry in 52 correctional facilities involving more than 800 volunteers. Our small budget is not funded by the government, the United Way, foundations, or a big endowment. It is supported by the gifts of churches, church groups, Board members, volunteers, and interested individuals.

In 2008, Yokefellow Prison Ministry received three denominational gifts, 33 individual church gifts, eight church group gifts, 19 gifts from Board Members, three gifts from

Yokefellow groups, 18 gifts from volunteers, and 53 gifts from interested individuals.

As more people respond to the opportunity to give, our finances will remain strong and we can continue to share Christ's transforming love.

How you can help:

- Pray that, as in the past, God will continue to bless and provide for the financial

needs of Yokefellows.

- If you are able to make an on-going, or one-time, or year-end gift to Yokefellow Prison Ministry, please do so today!

- Consider asking family members, friends, a Sunday school class, mission group, or your local church to provide a gift or special offerings for Yokefellow.

YES, I want to help Yokefellow Prison Ministry by...

- Praying for God's blessings on Yokefellow and its ministry to inmates.
- Making a financial donation.
- Asking a family member or friend to make a financial donation.
- Asking my church, church group, or Sunday School to make a donation.
- Please send me more information about Yokefellow.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Return to: Yokefellow Prison Ministry of N.C., 1001 Reynolda Rd., Winston-Salem, NC 27104

Meeting celebrates 40th anniversary

(Continued from Page 1)

tunity was provided for those who wished to do so to make a financial gift to the ministry. Over \$1,000 was raised through this offering.

Yokefellows from 15 units were present for this anniversary celebration. The program was indeed a blessing and inspiration to all. We thank all who planned and participated.

Thanks to Chaplain Ken Barker, a member of our Board, for making arrangements for this event.

Business Meeting Report

At each Annual Meeting we elect members to our Board of Directors and approve the annual budget for the coming year. At this year's business meeting, Cathy Kimel and Rebecca Schlosser were elected to a one-year term (2010), and Melvin Solomon was elected to a three-year term (2012). Cathy, Rebecca and Melvin were completing their current terms on the Board and we thank them for their willingness

to continue serving. We also passed a resolution permitting the Board of Directors to make additional appointments to the Board up to a total of 24, which is the maximum allowed in our By Laws.

Another item of business was the approval of a 2010 operating budget of \$37,000. This budget is about \$1,800 smaller than the 2009 budget, reflecting the challenging economic times everyone is facing.

David Guthrie, Board chair, reminded the group that gifts from churches, church groups and individual donors and volunteers provide the funding for this ministry.

He encouraged everyone to give if they are able and to tell the Yokefellow story and allow others the opportunity to contribute.

Fond Farewells

At this year's annual meeting we bid farewell to three Board members who chose not to stand for re-election: Chaplain Bill Hall, of Morganton, The Rev.

John D. Rights, of Winston-Salem, and The Rev. Jerry Richards of Apex.

These three made a significant contribution to the work of our Board and to our state-wide ministry stretching over more than the past two decades, including service on the Board,

as officers, on committees, as trainers, and as speakers and advocates for Yokefellows in the wider community.

We give thanks to God for their generous labor and pray God's blessings upon them as they move on to new endeavors for the Lord.

Yokefellow goes online with functioning website

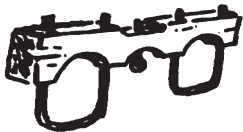
More and more people are getting news and information over the Internet. In 2009, thanks to the hard work of Board member Pat Ford and the generous assistance of Bill Hall, we were able to start our very own Yokefellow website. It can be found at this address: <http://www.yokefellowprisonministry.org>.

The website provides a way to post news and information for all of our groups, coordinators and volunteers across the state. It also allows people everywhere to learn about our ministry and how they can be involved. We are also able

to provide resources such as our newsletter, guidebook, training outlines and other items. We can also put videos on the website.

We call your attention to three videos currently on the website: testimonies from residents of one of our correctional centers, a brief summary of our annual meeting, and a video of our own Bruce Pate when he appeared on public television being interviewed by Bill Friday! Way to go, Bruce!

If you have not already found it, take time to look at the website soon! And check back often for updates.



Yokefellow Prison Ministry of N.C.

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