

# YOKEFELLOW NEWS

A Fellowship of YOKEFELLOWS

Dedicated To A Ministry Of Reconciliation



Winston-Salem, N.C.

*Take My Yoke Upon You*

Winter, 2011

## Annual Meeting stresses unity

The Yokefellow Prison Ministry of North Carolina held its 2011 annual meeting on Saturday, Oct. 29, in Burlington. A lively and spirited gathering of Yokefellow volunteers from across the state gathered for celebration and information regarding the long established prison ministry.

Featured speakers included J. C. Huggins, Henry Parks, and Rev. Sidney Dunston. Mr. Huggins is an Administrator with the N.C. Division of Prisons, having served in many capacities during the years of his service. He meaningfully proclaimed his faith in Jesus Christ. Mr. Huggins enabled Yokefellows to understand that prison officials, from officers to administrators, are likely people of faith, and have understanding and support for prison ministries such as Yokefellows.



**HENRY PARKS**

Parks is now employed as a Substance Abuse Counselor for the N.C. Division of Prisons. However, he shared with the gathering, Parks was once a substance abuser,



**SIDNEY DUNSTON**

and a resident of the N.C. Division of Prisons. He shared his journey from drug user to drug counselor, expressing appreciation for Yokefellow Prison Ministry volunteers who stood by him and provided encouragement.

Dunston, a retired chaplain in the state prison system now living in Louisburg, developed the theme, "That they may be one," for the volunteers. His inspirational message of encouragement was well received.

During the business portion of the meeting, those present approved the 2012 budget of \$37,000, and took an offering that raised \$3,362. New Yokefellow Board members Henry Gregory and Richard Williams were elected to serve three-year terms, bringing the total Board membership to 20.

Other new members joining the board during the past year were Skip Pike, Reg-



**VOLUNTEERS LISTEN INTENTLY TO ANNUAL MEETING SPEAKERS.**

**(Continued on Back Page)**

# Yokefellow Contributors — 2010

**INDIVIDUALS:****\$1 - \$499**

Bob Attridge, Rolesville  
 Ken Barker, Burlington  
 Thomas and Marcia Beam, Raleigh  
 Theresa Blount, Greenville  
 Keith Boulware, New Bern  
 Martha Bowen, Hope Mills  
 Joe and Reba Bowman, Sanford  
 Annie Braswell, Greenville  
 Robin Bunker and John Paul Timmins,  
 Greensboro  
 Rev. and Mrs. David Burkette, Jefferson  
 Nancy and Wayne Burkette, Pfafftown  
 Kenneth Carder, Waynesville  
 Joan and David Cotterill, Winston-Salem  
 Mike and Teresa Cude, Pilot Mountain  
 Gloria Davis, Winston-Salem  
 Nova Dennis, Thomasville  
 Mary Jane and John Dewees, Winston-Salem  
 Frank Driscoll, Winston-Salem  
 Chaplain Priscilla Durkin, Mount Gilead  
 Nancy Edwards, Greensboro  
 Ramona and Donald Ensley, Greenville  
 Pat Ford, Raleigh  
 Gil Frank, Clemmons  
 Anne and Jack Geis, Winston-Salem  
 Bill Hall, Morganton  
 William Hoffman, Maggie Valley  
 Ilean Howard, Apex  
 The Howson Family, Planto, TX  
 Rev. and Mrs. John Kale, Greensboro  
 Sandra Kieffer, Yadkinville  
 Cathy and Horace Kimel, Greensboro  
 Tim Kute, Winston-Salem  
 Evelyn and William Laycock, Lake Junaluska  
 Leon Long, Roxboro  
 Mandy Lotz, Greensboro  
 Henry and Bobbie May, Yadkinville  
 Betty Mooney, Stoneville  
 Richard Moore, Winston-Salem  
 The Honorable Fred G. Morrison, Raleigh  
 Rev. and Mrs. Leon Morrow, Lenoir  
 Ronald Murray, Rolesville  
 Betty Osborne, Raleigh  
 Michael and Barbara Osborne, Cary  
 Rev. and Mrs. Bruce Pate, Lake Junaluska  
 Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Payne, Greenville  
 Rev. Robert Peek, Winston-Salem  
 Steve and Carolyn Phelps, Winston-Salem  
 Ruth Poole, Durham  
 Betty Priestly, Greensboro  
 Amy and Larry Putman, Sylva  
 Rev. Jerry Richards, Apex  
 Janine Rierson, Winston-Salem  
 Rev. and Mrs. Robert Rierson, Winston-Salem  
 Mrs. Elynor F. Rights, Clemmons  
 Rt. Rev. and Mrs. Graham Rights, Winston-Salem  
 Rev. John Rights, Winston-Salem  
 J. L. Roberson, Greensboro  
 Rev. and Mrs. Ken Robinson, Winston-Salem  
 Dewey Sawyer, Swans Quarter

Rebecca and Mike Schlosser, Greensboro  
 Joe Sellers, Whiteville  
 Marta Smith, Carolina Beach  
 Chaplain Melvin Solomon, Vass  
 Amy Sommers, Durham  
 Mary Jo and Arthur Spaug, Winston-Salem  
 S & R Gladden, Greensboro  
 The 114 S. Tremonters, Greensboro  
 Elizabeth Thomas, Greensboro  
 Fred and Kay Timberlake, Lubbock, TX  
 Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Toomey, Goldsboro  
 Bill and Jean Ward, Greensboro  
 Linda Rhyne and Paul Williams, Greensboro  
 Wyant Family, Raleigh  
 Clement Yancey, Oxford

**\$500 - \$999**

Rev. and Mrs. Wayne Byerly, Walburg  
 Frances Gladden, Greensboro  
 Rev. David Guthrie, Winston-Salem  
 Gene Johnson, Winston-Salem  
 Dr. Leslie R. Smith, High Point  
 Mary Stevens, Raleigh

**\$1,000 - \$5,000**

Rev. and Mrs. David Canady, Parkton  
 Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Evans, New Bern  
 Jerry Murray, Rural Hall

**CHURCHES:****\$1 - \$499**

Calvary Moravian Church, Winston-Salem  
 First Assembly Of God, Belhaven  
 First UMC, Mt. Gilead  
 Fuquay-Varina UMC, Fuquay-Varina  
 Kingdom Impact Global Ministries, Fayetteville  
 Konnoak Hilla Moravian, Winston-Salem  
 Leaksville Moravian, Eden  
 Pamlico UMC, Oriental  
 St. Francis Springs Prayer Center, Stoneville  
 Terra Ceia Christian Reformed Church, Terra  
 Ceia  
 Trinity UMC, Statesville  
 Watts Chapel Baptist Church, Raleigh  
 Zion UMC, Albemarle

**\$500 - \$999**

New Philadelphia Moravian, Winston-Salem  
 North Raleigh UMC, Raleigh  
 N. C. Conference UMC - Advance Specials

**\$1,000 - \$4,999**

Augsburg Lutheran Church, Winston-Salem  
 Friedberg Moravian, Winston-Salem  
 Home Moravian, Winston-Salem  
 Long's Chapel UMC, Lake Junaluska  
 Moravian Church, Salem Congregation,  
 Winston-Salem  
 Moravian Church, BEHM, Winston-Salem  
 N. C. Conference UMC - Grant  
 Western N.C. Conference UMC - Advance  
 Specials

**CHURCH GROUPS:****\$1 - \$500**

Church Women United, Durham  
 Home Moravian Men of the Church, Winston-

Salem  
 Home Moravian Women's Fellowship,  
 Winston-Salem  
 Rose Bay Baptist Church Sunday School, Swans  
 Quarter  
 Spring Hope UMC Men, Spring Hope  
 Woodmont UMC Women, Reidsville

**YOKEFELLOW GROUPS:****\$1 - \$499**

Eastern Region, North - Terra Ceia  
 Guess Road Yokefellows, Durham

**\$1,000 - \$4,999**

Yokefellowship of N.C.  
 Cash offering, Annual Meeting

**GIFTS IN MEMORY OF:****Bill Cottrell**

by Rev. and Mrs. David Canady, Parkton  
**Reverend Roger Geyer**  
 by Rev. and Mrs. Bruce Pate, Lake Junaluska  
**Ann Kuhlman, Yokefellow Volunteer**  
 by Karen and Robert Howson, Planto, Tex.  
 by Fred and Kay Timberlake, Lubbock, Tex.

**Judy Canady Miller**

by Rev. and Mrs. David Canady, Parkton  
**Dean Townsend**  
 by Rev. and Mrs. David Canady, Parkton  
**Mary Wilson**  
 by The 114 S. Tremonters, Greensboro

**GIFTS IN HONOR OF:****Tammy and Frankie Blackman's 25<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary**

by Rev. and Mrs. David Canady, Parkton  
**Nancy Burkette**  
 by Henry and Bobbie May, Yadkinville  
**David Canady**  
 by Martha Bowen, Hope Mills  
**In Honor of Elsie N. Canady's 99<sup>th</sup> Birthday**  
 by Martha C. Bowen, Hope Mills

**Gray Cash**

by The Wyant Family, Raleigh  
**Cathy Kimel**  
 by Mandy Lotz, Greensboro  
 by Linda Rhyne and Paul Williams, Greensboro  
**Bruce Pate**  
 by Evelyn and William Laycock, Lake  
 Junaluska

**Reverend Lewis Swaim**

by Henry and Bobbie May, Yadkinville  
**Bill Wrenn**  
 by Cathy and Horace Kimel, Greensboro

**IN APPRECIATION OF:****First Baptist Church of St. Paul's**

by Rev. and Mrs. David Canady, Parkton  
**Gail and Glenn Riddle**  
 by Rev. and Mrs. David Canady, Parkton  
**Mr. Neil Willis**  
 by Rev. and Mrs. David Canady, Parkton

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

# Training sharpens our saws

By PAT FORD

Volunteers are becoming increasingly vital to our society. We know from experience that volunteers, no matter where they serve, are always at their best when they are healthy in all three of the following areas: Physical, Mental, and Spiritual.

Without a healthy body and the ability to move from place to place, we could find ourselves at home, unable to attend our Yokefellow sessions. To maintain a healthy body we

must manage our diet and exercise daily.

Without a healthy Christian faith or spirituality, others would find us hollow, with no clear witness to proclaim. To maintain a healthy spiritual life we must feed our hearts and minds by reading the Word of God, praying, worshiping God in our churches and seeking and providing fellowship, encouragement, and study within our Christian faith groups.

But why is the mental aspect import to Yokefellow volun-

teers? We know that in order to deliver God's message to the incarcerated we must go into the inmate's environment, the prisons of North Carolina. Prisons are difficult environments, unlike our safe surroundings. Here we find a setting of strict rules, mistrust, stress, tension, anger, confusion and anxiety. Yokefellows must be mentally prepared to volunteer effectively in this type of setting.

One helpful way to prepare ourselves to operate in this "harsh environment" is to take time to be teachable. *Teachable* here means that we should be willing to learn and listen and share in a classroom setting, with other Yokefellows, away from the prison environment.

This can become a time to

**Sharpen Your Saw** by participating in group sessions we call training. These sessions are opportunities for:

- **Listening** to the possibility of new techniques.
- **Reinforcing** proven techniques.
- **Reviewing** Yokefellow guidelines and DOC rules.
- **Sharing** experiences.

During this coming year there will be numerous training/refresh sessions conducted across the state. Opportunities for us to "Sharpen Our Saw" and thereby be the better enabled to deliver God's message of love and reconciliation as demonstrated by Jesus.

We sincerely hope that you will take some time this year to be teachable.

## Dear Moses

By PRISCILLA DURKIN

So often when the residents in the facilities we visit talk to us, it's to express a "worry." Where do we look when we are worried? I decided to write to some heroes of scripture and see what they could advise. This month I am sending my letter to Moses and his response. Maybe you can use this in your Yokefellow ministry.

**Dear Moses:**

I am so exhausted. I try to exercise and eat right. I try to do good things for my family and community. I've shopped for the perfect gifts and I'm just not sure I'm going to be ready for Christmas when the day comes.

I feel like I never have a minute for myself. I'm always being asked or expected to do one more thing. I feel guilty when I say "no" and I feel taken advantage of when I say "yes." I know I have lots of blessings, but I just feel like I'm stretched like a rubber band. Sometimes I want to take the phone off the

hook, climb into bed, and pull the covers over my head.

What should I do?

*Signed — Tempted to Quit in North Carolina.*

**Dear Tempted to Quit:**

When Jesus was tempted, he was able to deal with it because he was well-versed in scripture. If you remember, the first temptation was to produce bread from a stone. Jesus said, "One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord." (Deuteronomy 8:3).

You really only have one job — to keep the commandments of the Lord your God by walking in his ways and by fearing him. (Deuteronomy 8:6) We're not here to please people — we're here to please God. And you can't please God if you don't know God. Get to know him!

*Love, Moses*

(In future newsletters, I'll send my letter to and from James and to and from Matthew. Watch for them!)

## How YOU can help Yokefellow Prison Ministry

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. The need is greater than in previous years due to the State's decision to eliminate 25 chaplain positions in prisons in our state.

We have one paid staff person for a state-wide ministry in 46 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 interested individuals, churches, church groups, and volunteers.

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 offering for Yokefellow.

## Volunteer recognized for 38 years of service

At the Annual Meeting, Nova Dennis was recognized for her passion for Yokefellow Prison Ministry after serving as a volunteer for 38 years.

Nova served as Coordinator at the North Piedmont Correctional Center for Women in Lexington as well as attended the Yokefellow group at the Davidson Correctional Center.

Nova decided to step down as Yokefellow Coordinator, but she stressed at the meeting that

Yokefellow will always be part of her life and that she plans to continue assisting Yokefellow as a prayer volunteer.

Nova knows the importance of a listening ministry. She has been known to say that Yokefellow is not a preaching or teaching ministry but a listening and caring ministry, and that she was called to listen to those who often have no one else to talk with. Nova Dennis has done this well. Thank you.

## Annual Meeting held

(Continued from Front Page)

gie Long, Christopher Mitchell, and John Tector.

The following were elected as officers of Yokefellow Prison Ministry for the next year: David Canady, President; C. B. Evans, Vice President; Pat Ford, Secretary; Richard Moore, Treasurer.

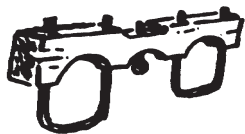
Making a return to the an-

nual meeting after several years was an opportunity for training. Several new members were able to receive the necessary training for being Yokefellow volunteers. Those in attendance were reminded of the necessity of receiving training, and training renewal each year as part of their commitment to being a Yokefellow Prison Ministry volunteer.



DAVID CANNADY HONORS VOLUNTEER NOVA DENNIS.

**For the latest information and valuable resources for your chapter, go to [www.yokefellowprisonministry.org](http://www.yokefellowprisonministry.org)!**



**Yokefellow Prison Ministry of N.C.**

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[www.yokefellowprisonministry.org](http://www.yokefellowprisonministry.org)

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