

Glad Tidings

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF YOKEFELLOW PRISON MINISTRY



Yokefellow President David Morton, Secretary Priscilla Durkin, Executive Director Vita Alligood, and State Developer Carlton Gooding hosted a New Volunteer Training at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Asheville on January 19.

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New Ministry Launches in March at Swannanoa Correctional for Women

On March 21, Yokefellow will launch a new ministry at Swannanoa Correctional Center for Women (SCCW) in Black Mountain. This is a minimum-security prison where women are transferred before being released back into society in the Western part of the State.

Because Yokefellow Prison Ministry was active at Eastern Correctional and Southern Correctional for a number of years (both have transitioned over to housing men) and continues to be

active at the North Carolina Correctional Institution for Women (NCCIW) in Raleigh, many of the inmates at SCCW have prior experience with Yokefellow Prison Ministry and have been asking for a Yokefellow ministry to launch at this prison as well.

Chaplain Carol Dalton has been working with Yokefellow Board Secretary Priscilla Durkin, former chaplain at Southern Correctional, for months to coordinate this launch. We appreciate all they have done. Please pray for a smooth launch in March!



Do you pray regularly for Yokefellow? Sign up to be a Yokefellow **Prayer Warrior!**

Yokefellow would like to have one prayer warrior dedicated to praying for each local ministry.

Email yokefellownc.statedeveloper@gmail.com for more information.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Yokefellow Prison Ministry would like to welcome its newest Local Coordinator, Selena Kittrell! Selena has agreed to coordinate the launch of Yokefellow's newest local prison ministry at Swannanoa Correctional Center for Women in Black Mountain, where 30 new volunteers have already been trained in preparation for a launch date of March 21, 2019. Welcome, Selena!



Selena has ample experience in coordinating volunteers. She recently retired as a Director of Volunteer Services for Mission Hospital, where she worked for 25 years.

Her story: "I decided to get into prison ministry because of the conviction of the Holy Spirit that I had been living out too much of my Christian life facing inward, trying to stay comfortable, and all the while trying to appear as holy as possible! Jesus loves me too much to leave me in that 'comfortable' place, and last Fall He opened my eyes and heart to a very uncomfortable place for me....Swannanoa Correctional Center for Women. My heart is excited and scared, as He is leading me to learn to love these brand new neighbors of mine at SCCW."

Spotlight artwork courtesy of <https://openclipart.org/detail/284958/theater-or-studio-spotlight-on-roof-mount>

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Learn more about Priscilla Durkin,
Secretary for the Board of Directors

What is your involvement with Yokefellow Prison Ministry (YPM)?

I am currently the Secretary of the Board of Directors.

Why did you get involved?

When I became a Chaplain at Southern Correctional Institution (SCI) in 2007, YPM was one of the programs I was charged to supervise. SCI at that time housed approximately 500 female residents/inmates (Medium/Close custody) and 200+ male residents (Minimum custody). YPM was one of the few programs that ministered to both female and male residents. Shortly after I began my 10-year tenure as chaplain, I was invited to attend a Board of Directors meeting. I was invited to become a Board member as a representative of active chaplaincy and of the Presbyterian Church USA, the denomination in which I am a "teaching elder" or Minister of Word and Sacrament.

What is your life ministry and call?

My ministry since graduating from college has led me from Chapel Hill to Atlanta to Dallas to Gaithersburg (a suburb of Washington DC), back to Anson and Montgomery Counties in NC and currently to Montreat (east of Asheville). My ministry has been as diverse as the geography in which I moved. I was involved in education and information technology in the business world for many years, and then I spent my last 20 years of full-time employ-



ment as a pastor in a small town and then a chaplain in the prison. I can often see how the diversity of my experiences has given me common ground with many of those with whom I come into contact. The "listening" that is such a foundational cornerstone of YPM was crucial to the changes I made throughout my careers. I am always aware that I can learn something from the person across the table.

My current call is to help establish a YPM in Swannanoa Correctional Center for Women (SCCW) in Black Mountain. Several of the residents at SCCW were at Southern Correc-



tional Institution when I was chaplain there. I am delighted to be able to follow up with them and help shepherd them as they are released from incarceration. The current chaplain at SCCW asked me to help get YPM established here, and we hope to make this a reality this spring. I am delighted when a resident who formerly participated in YPM (at another facility) asks, "When are we getting Yokefellow here?"

What is something people don't know about you?

I was a Spanish major in college and have a real desire to be conversational in this language. When I was in college, I learned to read and write Spanish, but my day-to-day vocabulary is sorely lacking.

Anything else to share?

My dream is for each church in NC to adopt a resident when he/she is within two years of release and to create a safe and supportive community for that resident to join when he/she rejoins the "free world."



Yokefellow Prison Ministry offers its condolences to the family and friends of Rev. William (Bill) M. Hall, Nov 27, 1944 to Jan 2, 2019.

Bill was a long-term Board member and Past President.

New Volunteer Training in Asheville



On January 19, 30 new volunteers received training in preparation for launching a local ministry at Swannanoa Correctional Center for Women in Black Mountain. Thank you to everyone who attended!



MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

Paul wrote about the Body of Christ and different members of each church on his missionary quests. Paul celebrated the life and worth of every person, especially those who contributed to the common good. He realized that some had greater gifts than others, and he

emphasized that everyone was needed for an effective, healthy, and powerful community of faith.

Recently, we celebrated the life well lived of a Yokefellow leader and past President of the Board. Chaplain Bill Hall was laid to rest by the community of faith and friends after battling ill health. We remember Bill as a faithful servant of Christ. He contributed to the common good. Bill's witness lives among us, and we are grateful. His past leadership makes us a better organization. We pray for his family, his children, grandchildren, and his wife, Frances. We celebrate Bill's life, his giftedness, and his contribution to our community.

As our Yokefellow community continues to grow and work together during this New Year, we ask for your prayers, that God would form and create each of us as instruments of service and righteousness. Life, for all of us, emerges, and God beckons us to move and change, giving us opportunity to grow in Him. With new daily experiences, I have witnessed perspectives of how God is able to accomplish His ministry and purpose. Individuals representing Yokefellow Prison Ministry need your support and prayers. As we continue to work together as the Body of Christ, as people yoked together, we will become stronger in our mission in our communities,

to the individuals we serve, and to our world. I am thankful to God for this great opportunity to yoke with you in service. It is my prayer for 2019 that God will bless you, bless us, our passion for ministry in our communities, and the broader communities we serve and are yet to serve. I pray that God will lead us and that we will listen with ears and hearts. I extend to you today my thanks for the opportunity to serve. Our opportunities are great, and our service is needed. Praise be to God who leads us. And thank God we are called and equipped to serve in 2019.

David Morton, President





Mark your Calendar!

Yokefellow Prison Ministry has several events scheduled throughout 2019. Please add these to your calendar!

Local New Volunteer Training

- ◇ **Sat, 2/23/19 @ 9:30 a.m.**
Lewis Chapel Missionary Baptist Church
5422 Raeford Road
Fayetteville
- ◇ Other New Volunteer trainings are in the process of being scheduled.

Regional New Volunteer Training & Continuing Education Meetings for Volunteers

- ◇ **Eastern Regional**
Sat, 3/2/19 @ 9:30 a.m.
Christ Episcopal Church
320 Pollock Street
New Bern
- ◇ **Western Regional**
5/18/19 @ 9:30 a.m.
First Christian Church
201 Blue Ridge Road
Black Mountain, NC 28711

- ◇ **Central Regional**
10/26/19 @ 9:30 a.m.
Guilford College United Methodist Church
1205 Fleming Road
Greensboro

Fundraising Events

- ◇ **Annual Campaign & Donor Retention Drive**
Month of May

- ◇ **1970's/1980's-themed Fundraising Benefit**
Sat, 9/7/19
Greensboro

- ◇ **Yokefellow Sunday**
Sun, 9/22/19
Participating churches across the State

- ◇ **#GivingTuesday**
Tue, 12/3/19
Online



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