

# Glad Tidings

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF YOKEFELLOW PRISON MINISTRY

## JOIN US FOR OUR 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY FUNDRAISING BENEFIT!

**tickets \$20**

### More Frequent Blue Card Trainings Coming

Per a contact with the NC State Prisons, state prisons will soon be offering blue card trainings on a more frequent basis. In some areas, blue card trainings for one state prison will grant access to other state prisons located in the same region. We will share more details as they become available.

## Yokefellow Receives Grant

On July 10, Yokefellow received an unexpected large grant award from a private foundation, which has asked Yokefellow not to disclose its name publicly. Yokefellow is grateful for this unanticipated financial support.



## Upcoming Fundraisers

# Fundraising Benefit Sep 7

Yokefellow has two big fundraisers planned for September. Tickets are on sale now for the Fundraising Benefit on Sep 7. Now is the time to register your church for Yokefellow Sunday on or around Sep 22. See details on Page 4.

# Yokefellow Sunday Sep 22

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## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Yokefellow volunteer Jazzi Richardson was recently recognized as Polk Correctional Institution's Volunteer of the Year!

In 2015, Yokefellow volunteer Pat Hoyle encouraged Jazzi to join Yokefellow. Mentoring young adults has been her passion for years. In Seattle, she created and taught a program centered around teaching behavioral changes for school-aged children. She later formed an adult training program that emphasized the importance of using common courtesies. Today, she applies these skills as a Yokefellow volunteer with Polk in Butner. Although she welcomes any topic of conversation, she gets many return visits to discuss everyday life issues and ways to avoid and diffuse conflict. She applies biblical wisdom to help inmates constructively overcome adversities.

Jazzi loves when the "light comes on" in an inmate's eyes – when it's obvious that they've heard or learned something new: a new concept, vision, or word of encouragement not shared in quite the same way. She is not afraid to speak truth because love is always at the root of her wisdom.

Jazzi is inspired by her fellow Yokefellow volunteers and appreciative of Chaplains Eldridge and Fox, who support Yokefellow's efforts and encourage inmate participation.



*Jazzi Richardson with her Volunteer of the Year Award from Polk Correctional.*

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Learn more about John Tector,  
Member of the Board of Directors

### **What is your involvement with Yokefellow Prison Ministry?**

I am a Yokefellow volunteer Wednesday evenings from 6:30pm till 8:30pm at Polk Youth Center prison in Butner, North Carolina. I also serve on the Board of Directors.

### **Why did you get involved with YPM?**

Mike Shea at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Raleigh encouraged me to start volunteering in the Fall of 1997. I have been doing it ever since.

### **Why do you care about prison ministry?**

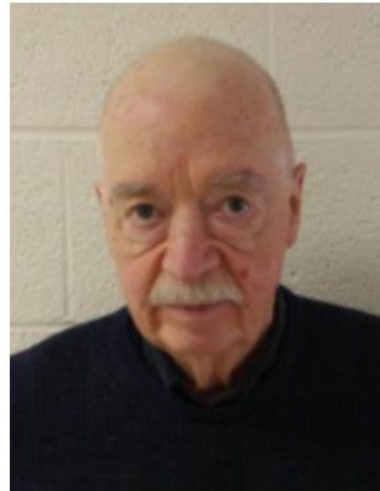
It seems to touch the prisoners who participate in a positive way.

### **What is your vision for YFM?**

I see it as a ministry that needs to be continued as long as we have prisoners.

### **What is something that most people don't know about you**

I used to teach at North Carolina State University (NC State).



### **What do you like to do for fun?**

I have good times with my wife. We have been married for 54 years and have three children and four grandchildren.

### **What else would you like to share?**

It is important that we encourage others to join us. Some of us are over 80 years old and may not be able to continue this in a while. Although Mike Shea is still doing it at 90.

Yokefellow Prison Ministry is a ministry that is incredibly im-



portant. It allows prisoners to discuss the things that are on their minds in a context that will not cause them worry or concern. They are free to speak what is on their minds and not have to face criticism for doing it. It provides an opportunity for prayer for them and those dear to them. It provides an opportunity for them to express the concepts that are on their minds without negative impact. What is discussed at the table stays at the table. It allows them to hear what others think of what they are saying. The only downside is that one volunteer can only handle three prisoners at his or her table. If 10 volunteers can make it on a given Wednesday, that means that only 30 prisoners get to participate. There are a lot more than 30 prisoners at Polk. Finding more volunteers is a slow process.

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



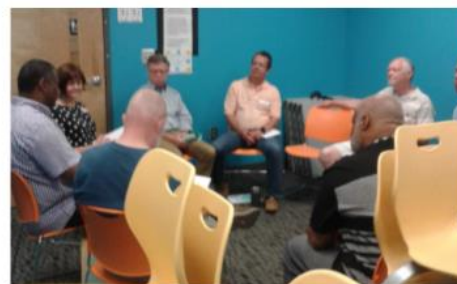
*We love our Yokefellow volunteers at Orange Correctional!*



# Raleigh Continuing Education Volunteer Event



Yokefellow held a Continuing Education Volunteer Event at First Assembly of God Church in Raleigh on July 13. Three Board members and two Staff members led small group discussions with 14 volunteers. It was a great event!



Biblical scholars have described God's garden as a mixture of plants that bear good and bad fruit. The plants in God's garden grow side-by-side. They receive the same sunlight and are nourished by the same rains. We view the garden as a jumbled mess: sinners and saints; good people and not-so-good people intermingled; regular and irregular folks side-by-side. It is our hope and belief that things will be sorted out, evaluated, and judged.

## MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

We live and grow, blossoming and producing fruit within a messy and jumbled garden. As Christians, we call it grace.

As we plant and sow during this season, let's consider the blessings of being a part of God's creation. I encourage us to remember the love and assurance that God provides us. I encourage us to seek to be reconciled and offer words and actions of reconciliation to others in Jesus' name. Jesus' abundant grace makes it possible for us to be made as "new creations." As Christians, we call it grace.

The Yokefellow movement, a movement that you are involved in, is an organization that is made of

people who are focused on pleasing God. Yokefellows are a people who enjoy a very special quality of fellowship. It is a sweet, sweet spirit!

Yokefellow is a grace-driven organization, and we attract all kinds of disobedient people. I say this because the people of our world hunger for grace. Sinful humans are drawn to grace. We see this in the way people responded to Jesus. We see this in the way people are drawn to you.

Let's pray together.

O Lord,  
You are the light that guides our feet.  
You are the map that gives us direction.

You are the peace that makes us strong.  
You are the leader whom we faithfully follow.

May your light illuminate our lives  
And your guidance bring direction.  
May we find inspiration in your word  
and peace in our hearts as we follow you. Amen.

I pray that God will continue to bless each of us as we strive to be His faithful servants. I extend my best to you. Blessed be the tie that binds us as Yokefellows.

David Morton, President  
Yokefellow Prison Ministry of NC

# You are Cordially Invited...

## Yokefellow Sunday

Yokefellow Sunday is **September 22**. Invite your church to participate by airing a two-minute promotional video and/or distributing inserts about the ministry in church bulletins on or near September 22 (does not have to be celebrated on that date). Visit [yokefellowprisonministry.org/events](http://yokefellowprisonministry.org/events) for details. If every Yokefellow supporter recruits his/her own church, then hundreds of churches will participate, letting the Body of Christ know about this important ministry!

Come as you are, or dress in your favorite 70's or 80's outfit. Be ready to enjoy...

- ◇ The sounds of Classic Contemporary Christian Music, provided by Mo Music.
- ◇ Heavy appetizers provided by Bella Luna Ristorante, located in Oak Ridge.



## Join us for our 50th Anniversary Fundraising Benefit!

- ◇ Testimonies of how God is working in NC prisons.
- ◇ Bidding on various items in our Silent Auction. (HINT: Two NASCAR grandstand tickets!)

Come join us for a fun evening with all proceeds growing Yokefellow Prison Ministry!

Order tickets at [yokefellowprisonministrync@gmail.com](mailto:yokefellowprisonministrync@gmail.com) or 336-724-9801.

**Date:** Sat, 9/7/2019

**Time:** 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

**Place:** Greensboro Shrine Club, 5010 High Point Rd Greensboro

**Tickets:** \$20



## Yokefellow Annual Meeting

The Yokefellow Annual Meeting will take place on **Saturday, 10/26/19, at 10:30 a.m.** at Guilford College United Methodist Church, 1205 Fleming Road, Greensboro.



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Yokefellow Prison Ministry

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