

The Quick Source

Central United Methodist Church

Online Newsletter

Volume 1, No 18

August 11, 2011

ANNUAL CONFERENCE ACTS ON SUNDAY ALCOHOL SALES, IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES, AND BLACK CHURCHES

By Dr. Ashleigh May



The 145th Annual Conference of North Georgia United Methodist took place this year at the Classic Center in Athens, with nearly 3,000 people from North Georgia congregations beginning each day with prayer, praise, devotion and communion.

Central was well-represented by members of the congregation including two Central youth: **Leah Cotton and Crystal Mason** who served as youth delegates.

All business proceedings were presided over by Bishop Benjamin Michael Watson. We continued the tradition of connecting our conference theme with our denomination's quadrennial areas of focus. Under the overarching theme: "MAKE ME A SERVANT HUMBLE AND MEEK; LORD LET ME LIFT UP THOSE WHO ARE WEAK".

Conference members adopted several resolutions including:

* Resolution 708 "Resolution to the South and North Georgia Annual Conferences regarding Sunday Alcohol Sales." Citizens of Georgia are asked to call **their legislators to vote against adding Sunday as a day for the sale of alcohol.**

* "The Resolution on Immigrant Communities" follows the UMC Discipline which opposes the immigration reform bill. It says "**The United Methodist Church affirms the human rights of all immigrants regardless of status**". Resolution 3281 of The Book of Resolution of The United Methodist Church (2008), "Welcoming the Migrant to the U.S, **affirms that human rights are inherent and do not stop at the border. The church calls for an end to all detention and deportation until the broken immigration system is fixed**".

The Black church Development Task Force put together a design team of eight lay and eight clergy led by Dr. Fred Allen to support the General Church initiative SBC21, **Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century**. This resolution was designed to assist black churches in search of new ideas and revitalization by providing resources and facilitating intentional exploration and regaining enthusiasm.

Conference attendees celebrated how our North Georgia Conference membership, local churches, and agencies actively engage in ministry with the poor. Bishop Watson encouraged those in attendance to let the prayer of our hearts be to seek the lost, make the weak strong, and, with justice, feed the poor with sustenance, hope, and healing.

Bishop Alfred L. Norris, past president of Gammon Theological Seminary, delivered a rousing, impassioned message and made a call for those being commissioned or ordained to practice servant leadership. He emphasized the need for the pursuit of spiritual discipline and loving all God's people. The service concluded with the commissioning of 21 provisional members and the ordination of 6 deacons in full connection and 18 elders in full connection.

SUMMER WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

By Lauren A. Scott



MY THOUGHTS ON JOHN 15: "ABIDE IN THE VINE"

I think as followers of Christ, we easily forget the significance of **John 15**. This summer, the Holy Spirit has completely used this chapter to change my walk with the Lord. There is so much truth in the simple phrase: "*Abide in me.*"

I just spent three weeks in Kansas City, at the International House of Prayer (IHOP) where I attended a MUSIC IN WORSHIP program and took a few classes on the Holy Spirit. While I was there, I heard a message based on John 15: by IHOP.

Pastor Mike Bickle. He explained the passage as Jesus saying to us: "*Talk to me, and I will talk to you.*" He inserted the word "talk" in place of "abide" or "remain" in me.

It's so simple! God says if we talk to Him, He will answer. If we bring our burdens and requests to the Lord, He will respond. He loves us too much to keep silent.

It continues by saying, "*No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in me.*" In other words, we can do nothing - NOTHING without God.

I heard a story while in KC about a woman who was in a terrible car wreck. She blanked out, and upon opening her eyes, all she saw was a man screaming at her, accusing her of killing the hurt passengers on the scene of the accident. The woman had "*Abide in the vine*" tattooed on her wrist. She looked at it, and asked Jesus to take her away from the confusion and disarray in that hour. As a doctor put her on a stretcher, she saw Jesus' arms cover her head, as he wrapped himself around her and removed her from the scene. When she awoke, she said, He had comforted her and told her that none of it was her fault, and that He was there for her.

Central Night at the High Museum
Thursday, September 8, 2011
Tickets are \$5.00

See Ashleigh May, Doris Birch or Wilhelmina Bailey

THE QUICK SOURCE
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