



SAVE THE DATE



Ephesians 2:11-22

NO LONGER STRANGERS
166TH NC REGIONAL ASSEMBLY
Raleigh North Carolina

April 25-27, 2014

NORTH RALEIGH HILTON HOTEL

NO LONGER STRANGERS

“Precious Memories” Regional Assembly 2012



You're no longer strangers or outsiders. You belong here, with as much right to the name Christian as anyone. God is building a home. He's using us all – irrespective of how we got here – in what he is building. He used the apostles and prophets for the foundation. Now he's using you, fitting you in brick by brick, stone by stone, with Christ Jesus as the cornerstone that holds all the parts together. We see it taking shape day after day – a holy temple built by God, all of us built into it, a temple in which God is quite at home. Ephesians 2:11-22, The Message

My son, who is not quite two, has fallen in love with Legos. The big, chunky kind that he can't swallow, but nonetheless still hurt your feet when you step on them where they are, inevitably, strewn across the living room floor. Mostly, he likes the sound they make when he dumps out the whole bucket, the clash of plastic on plastic as they tumble into a pile. But lately, he's started building towers, which he loves to show off to the rest of us, tall spires of blocks a foot or two high.

When I build towers with him, my tendency is to make patterns with the blocks: neat pyramids, or sequenced colors, two reds, then a blue, two reds, then a blue, or alternating yellow and green. My son wants none of that, though: his towers are multi-colored mish-mashes of as many blocks as possible. He follows no pattern or order whatsoever, but uses every block he can find.

He's probably on to something. I suppose the apostle Paul never played with Legos, but I think he would have liked my son's version better.

The church has never fit into neatly organized patterns. We who gather in the name of Jesus are a rag-tag bunch. At first glance, you wouldn't think we go together at all, what with all our varied backgrounds, languages, and experiences. Sometimes, we don't even know how to talk to each other.

But something happens when we claim the name Christian. Something happens when we join our voices in song and prayer, when our hands work together in service for the world, when we take care to listen to one another's stories. The pieces that don't seem to go together at all suddenly fit, and we get a little glimpse of that holy temple God is building with us.

Think about that, will you? God is building a temple with us. Imagine what that looks like. Imagine how beautiful that will be. We are the blocks, held together by Jesus Christ. Each of us, with all our pointy edges and mismatched colors. Each of us, wherever we came from and however we got here. Each of us, whatever language we speak. We are no longer strangers here, because this is the household of God.

*Shared by Lee Hull Moses, Pastor
First Christian Church, Greensboro, NC*

ABOUT THE NEW LOGO...



The full circle globe with multi-racial images of depicts the universal strength of God’s citizenry as quoted in the scripture ¹⁹ *Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household,* ²⁰ *built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.*

It is my deepest prayer that this logo will show the church as an unlimited reservoir of spirit and humanity. The Red chalice in this logo, re-emphasizes that the blood that unites us is truly thicker than any issue that seeks to divides us. We are all Citizens of the Kingdom of God, arriving from many different cultures, locations, and even theologies, to a table of welcoming for all!

*Logo created by Christopher Chestnut
St. Mark Church of Christ, Disciples of Christ, Goldsboro, NC*



TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Friday, April 25, 2014

- 8am Displays Setup
- 11:30am Ministers & Mates Luncheon
- 12:30pm Registration
- 2:00 Workshops
- 3:30 Business Session I
- 5:30 Youth Registration Dinner
- 6:30 Concert Youth to Worship
- 7:00 Worship
- 8:30 Youth Activities
- 9:00 Reception Multiple Book Signings
- 10:00 Youth Prayer Stations



IMPORTANT DATES

MARK YOUR 2014 CALENDARS NOW!!

JANUARY 25TH
Business Items filed
Resolutions Submitted

FEBRUARY 24TH
Voting & Alternate
Delegates Submitted

MARCH 2ND
Assembly
Registration Sunday

APRIL 25-27TH
Regional Assembly

SCHEDULE NOTES:
Unless otherwise noted

Youth Events located
at Hilton Hotel & St.
Paul's CC

All Assembly Events
located at North
Raleigh Hilton
Midtown (NRH)

All Assembly Closing
Worship located at
St. Paul's CC
Sunday-9:00am

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE



MEDIA PROMOTION FOR DISPLAYS

As a part of your participation in the 166th North Carolina Regional Assembly displays, you may elect to provide promotional information that will be viewed prior to Assembly events to promote the success of your ministry. If you are interested in participating then please include digital pictures or video clips (no printed photos) that are 30-60 seconds in length with your Display Request Form which must be received no later than March 3, 2014. Once the Media team has shared your promotional material, it may be retrieved at the media desk during the Assembly. For more information, please contact: Ronald Glover, Display chairperson at rgmpccd@att.net or call 336.707.3621

Saturday, April 26, 2014

- 8:00 Registration Opens
Displays Open
Youth Breakfast
- 9:00 Business Session II
Youth Activities
- 10:45 Bible Lecture
Workshops
Mission Projects
- 12:00pm Luncheons
- 1:30-3:30 Plenary Session
Mission Projects
- 3:30 All Assembly Choir
Rehearsal
- 5:30 All Saints Dinner
Youth Dinner
- 6:30 Youth to Worship
- 7:00 Worship
- 8:45 Youth Activities
9:00 Reception
- 10:00 Youth Prayer Stations



Sunday, April 27, 2014

- 8:30am Youth Breakfast
- 9:00 All Assembly Closing
Worship
- All sessions will be held at the
North Raleigh Hilton
Hotel except for Sunday
morning worship which will be
held at St. Paul's
3331 Blue Ridge Road
Raleigh, NC
Rev. Phil Jones, Host Pastor*



FOCUSING ON WORSHIP

It is amazing how the Church can bring together people with such diverse backgrounds and personalities who can find common ground in their mutual lives together in Christ. This is accomplished because we understand that "church fellowship" is more than a demonstration of unity. It is one way God has ordained for believers to give of themselves to the Lord and one another and to get in return, mutual admonition, encouragement and community. This cannot be accomplished in isolation, for you see, adoption is a family idea! In adoption, God takes us into His family and into His fellowship where He establishes us as His children and heirs, where affection, communication, understanding and harmony are at the heart of the relationship.

What we have in common is our faith in Jesus Christ that is so strong and so abiding that personal differences are laid aside. In other words, the glue that holds us together is our shared, spiritual identity that has the power to both identify the barriers and tear down the walls dividing us!

As Disciple's, we have prayed together, ministered together, learned, laughed and cried together! Through storms and tornadoes, we huddled together and in volunteer partnerships, we have rebuilt together! Yes, we struggled and disagreed with one another, but we also stretched and continued growing together! This citizenship with God and each other is eternal and irrevocable. We are no longer strangers!

Regional Assembly Worship has been designed to reinforce, reignite and remind each of you that we are connected...sisters and brothers...believers...disciples...family...walking in friendship, fellowship, relationship, citizenship or whatever you choose to call it, but, at the end of the day (or end of the regional assembly), all of us can resonate together that..."there are no strangers in this house"...everyone is welcome, so, find your cousins and your kinfolks and enjoy!



*Shared by: Jackie McHenry
Pastor of True Community CC, Burlington, NC*

It would hardly be a Disciples gathering if we didn't share the feast at the Lord's Table. To make sure that everyone is fed, we need a team of deacons from around the region to help serve communion at the assembly worship services. If you would like to serve, please contact:

Lee Hull Moses
pastor@fccgreensboro.org



The Information Booth will be ready for you, when you arrive at the Regional Assembly next April. Volunteers at the booth will be ready to help with 'FAQ' and your unique questions as well. 'Who, what, where, and when?' If you have a question we can't answer immediately, we'll find the information you need. So, look for the Information Booth at Regional Assembly. "Who Knew?" - the volunteers at the Information Booth will be the ones.



Contact Person: Richard Weikel
rtweikel@hotmail.com or 919.738.8842

YOUTH ASSEMBLY

Friday 4/25@5:30pm—Sunday 4/27@10am

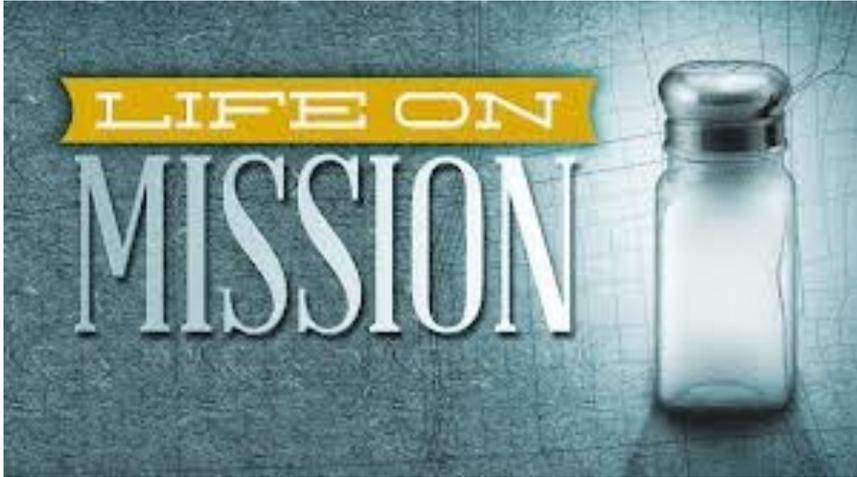
For Grades 6-12

- * **CONNECT** with youth from across North Carolina
See camp friends and make new friends—it's like a HUGE 2-night lock-in with dozens of other churches!
- * **BREAK DOWN WALLS** that divide us
We'll explore our theme -That All May Be One - by looking at what we have in common and what makes us unique
- * **SERVE** neighbors in need
Make a difference by volunteering on a service project
- * **DEEPEN** your faith
Experience new types of worship
- * **GROW** closer to God and other Christians
We'll talk with a panel of Christians who worship and see God in many different ways
- * **USE YOUR VOICE!**
Instead of one keynote speaker, YOU will ask questions, talk about your faith, and dialogue with other youth
- * **PLAY, EAT, LAUGH, SING, & MAKE MUSIC**
Including sardines and all your favorite youth activities!

Don't miss it!



OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES



Outreach Opportunities

Samaritan Health Center

A free clinic for the homeless, uninsured and underinsured

**Collect: Vitamins Adult or Prenatal
Anti-itch cream (hydrocortisone)
Advil or Aleve**

Church in the Woods

Meeting the needs of the homeless

**Collect: Back Packs & Toiletries
Volunteer: Distribution & Prayers
Location TBA**

**Stay Tuned for more details about outreach including
Youth Mission Moments!**

For More Information Contact:
Melissa Acres
melisacr9@aol.com
919.738.8798

We invite you to join the Publicity Committee to assist with convening NC Disciples from congregations from across our State for the 2014 Regional Assembly at the North Raleigh Hilton.

We are seeking volunteers from each District to assist with publicizing this great event. Our first committee meeting will take place on July 23rd at 6:30 pm at the North Raleigh Hilton. We seek open hearts, creative minds and willing hands to assist with publicizing this Assembly far and wide, in hopes of reaching the Vision Team's strategic design to register 700 disciples for our 2014 Regional Assembly.

For more information contact Addie Rawls:

merawls@embarqmail.com
919.333.3003

The Decorations Committee
If you love beautifying your surroundings please join our committee. Contact:

Mary Coleman
r19lc39@aol.com
336-926-4480

Adele Staton
astat222@bellsouth.net
336-342-1799.

Aesthetics Matter!

Strategic Design
Media Design



"**W**e **A**re **O**ne **I**n **T**he **S**pirit." Believe it; sing it; and/or lip sync it with the All Assembly "pick-up" Choir. Let us know you will participate. Contact the Music Team: Angel Lorton, Chair of the Assembly Music Team at aandj@suddenlink.net or 252.671.7551. She will tell you how, when, and where. Amen?

Hospitality lies at the heart of our theme "No Longer Strangers." We hope hospitality will pervade every aspect of our time together. The goal of our committee is to make people feel welcome and comfortable. For those reasons, we need many volunteers! Specifically, we are asking that at least one person from each church in the Mill Creek and Central Districts help with at least one of the following tasks before the assembly and one task during the assembly:



Before the Assembly:

1. Donate some welcoming gifts for our registration bags and speaker baskets
2. Contact the local Visitor's Center/Bureau to see what they offer for incoming conventions (coupons, discounts, etc.)
3. Help assemble bags a day or so before the assembly begins
4. Help with pre-assembly needs.

During the Assembly:

1. Serve as a greeter
2. Help our workshop leaders find and set up their rooms

If you would be willing to help with any of the above, please contact one of the co-chairs:

Penny Ziemer

pbziemer@gmail.com / cell 919-920-4192

Eleanor Bradshaw

ebradshaw@sampsonnc.com

Cell 910-627-3471



PREPARING TO ENGAGE THE ASSEMBLY



Life within our nation and state are rapidly changing as global issues impact our daily lives. The cost of food, clothing, oil, and gas continue to rise. We feel it first and foremost in our wallets. But what is the human price to bring goods to the marketplace? Now, pause and consider the conditions in which the vast majority of people live and see them through the eyes of God. Upon reflection does your standard of living seem so low? As Christians are we called to provide for their needs?

The United States remains a beacon of hope for a brighter tomorrow to thousands of people. Immigrants seek entrance to the land of opportunity. Have you extended your hands to welcome them? Is your table open to them?

On a daily basis we are confronted with images of war torn regions and terrorists attacks. Acts of violence have become commonplace on the evening news in North Carolina and throughout our nation and beyond. How are we to respond as Christians? Where are we headed? What vision should the Church embrace to counteract the violence?

Ephesians 2: 18-19 states, *“For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household.”* We are called together as members of God's family. Christ has united us by the blood of his sacrifice, and he came to break down barriers of division, that we built around ourselves. By his grace we are no longer strangers. Join us at the 166th Regional Assembly, as we extend our hands to one another in his name as brothers and sisters of the priesthood.

*Shared by Melissa Acres, Pastor
Macclesfield CC*

REV. DR. SHARON WATKINS, GENERAL MINISTER & PRESIDENT

General Minister and President
of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

REV. DR. FRANK THOMAS, SENIOR MINISTER EMERITUS

Nettie Sweeney and Hugh Th. Miller Professor of Homiletics
Christian Theological Seminary of Indianapolis, Indiana

Friday: Worship Speaker

Saturday: Bible Lecturer

REV. DR. RONALD DEGGES, PRESIDENT

Disciples Home Missions, Indianapolis, IN

REV. DR. RICHARD HAMM, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Christian Churches Together in the USA

The North Raleigh

Hilton Midtown

3514 Wake Forest Road

Phone: 919.872.2323

www.hilton.com/NorthRaleigh





NO LONGER STRANGERS

Ephesians 2:11-22 (NIV)

THE 2014 VISION TEAM

Melissa Acres-Macclesfield, Macclesfield
Fred Clarke-FCC, Goldsboro
Lea Slaton-Wilson Mills, Wilson Mills
Trey Ragland-Wilson Mills, Wilson Mills
Jerry Burton-Mill Creek, Mill Creek
Beth Burton-Williams, FCC, Smithfield
Addie Rawls-New Generation, Smithfield
Vince Ruffin-New Generation, Smithfield
Sam Blackman-Beulah Hill, Four Oaks
Patrick Muston, Selah, Four Oaks
Lee Ann Higgins-Selah, Four Oaks
Jackie McHenry-True Community, Burlington
Ronald Glover-Mt. Pleasant, Greensboro
Tracy Thompson-Mt. Pleasant, Greensboro
Michael Thompson-Mt. Pleasant, Greensboro
Michael Cotton-Body of Christ, High Point
Michelle Tucker-FCC, Reidsville
Adele Staton-FCC, Reidsville
Edna McCollum-FCC, Reidsville
Richard Weikel-Pleasant Union-Newton
Penny Ziemer-Carr Memorial, Clinton
Eleanor Bradshaw-Carr Memorial, Clinton
Tonya G. Walker-Middlefork, Winston-Salem
Carolyn Needly-Middlefork, Winston-Salem
Mary Coleman-Middlefork, Winston-Salem
Daisy Chambers-Messiah Community, Winston-Salem
Bonita Newsome-Walnut Cove, Walnut Cove
William Broadnax-Little Bethlehem CC, Eden
Tim Shoaf-Pfafftown, Pfafftown
Ralph Botte-Wake Forest-Pfafftown, Pfafftown
Tonnette Artis-St. Paul, Wilson-Goldsboro-Raleigh
Lee Hull Moses-FCC, Greensboro
Angel Lorton, Broad Street, New Bern
Davon Smith, Goldsboro-Raleigh
Casey Whaley-FCC, Wilson
Valerie Melvin-Regional Staff

PLEASE DIRECT ALL QUESTIONS/COMMENTS TO:

Melissa Acres, Co-Chair

Phone: 919.738.8798

Email: melisacr9@aol.com

or

Valerie J. Melvin

252.291.4047

Email: valerie@ncdisciples.org

www.ncdisciples.org

