

Week of January 26, 2004

Vol. IV, Issi

Monday Morning in North Georgia

Official Newsletter of the North
Georgia Conference UMC**Faith**
Hope
Love JoyKEEPING *You* INFORMED

Who Needs Your Help?



Homeless Offering 2004

"Inasmuch as You Have. . ."

Because of your generosity, the Housing and Homeless Council has awarded 594 grants since 1990 totaling \$2,207,503 to churches and non-profit agencies. In addition to housing, these programs offer spiritual counsel, encouragement, and training. Often, they help with utilities, medicines, or groceries so that a family's meager resources can go toward housing. Virginia Tinsley, Director of the Council, stated, "The amount we are able to give depends on the gifts that churches contribute to the Homeless Offering. There were some really good programs which applied in the fall but did not get as much funding as they needed. We did

not have funds to give them what they requested."

The past year was filled with significant changes for the Housing and Homeless Council. Diana Roberts, Director for 11 years, retired at the 2003 Annual Conference. Virginia Tinsley, a Deacon in Full Connection and former Executive Director of Atlanta Urban Ministry, brought 20 years of experience in working with programs that serve homeless persons to the position. Previously housed with Action Ministries, Inc., the Council was changed to an Administrative Agency of the Annual Conference in 2003. A few weeks ago, the office moved to the United Methodist Center in Norcross (into a vacant Connectional Ministry office).

Virginia indicated, "I really like to be able to assist groups that are starting programs to serve homeless persons. Recently I have been in touch with New Oakland City Church in Atlanta to help them start an overflow shelter on very cold nights, which we have been experiencing frequently this winter. They are going to pick up people at the Atlanta Union Mission in their church van and bring them to the church for the night."

Homelessness is not just a big-city problem. Inadequate housing or a loss of housing extends into small towns and rural areas. An individualized approach is often needed. Mass shelters are not the answer. Domestic violence is a major cause of homelessness for women and children. Programs to assist are required in towns as well as cities. This past fall a grant was extended to Circle of Hope, a domestic violence shelter in Cornelia, to help build a larger shelter.

Through Habitat for Humanity, the Council has provided housing for low-income people in communities of all sizes. The construction of 112 homes (some in each of the Districts) has been assisted by gifts of \$538,325.

February 15th has been designated as the Sunday to receive the Housing and Homeless offering. Help continue the years of effective service by providing the resources to fund many worthwhile projects throughout the North Georgia Conference. Your church or your non-profit organization may apply to receive monies to help persons who are homeless or in danger of losing their housing. Deadlines for grant requests are March 1 and September 1. Offering Information

Calendar Highlights

- ◆ **January 26**
United Methodist Center
Chapel Service - Joseph Dy
preaching - 11:30 AM
- ◆ **January 27**
Atlanta Marietta District
Leadership Team Meeting -
Fair Oaks UMC - 7:00 PM
- ◆ **February 1**
LaGrange District Local Chu
Leadership Training - West
Point UMC - 3:00 PM - 5:00
- ◆ [Complete Calendar](#)

Retired Spouses and Clergy Birthdays

- ◆ **January 26**
Ethel Taylor
- ◆ **January 27**
Loretta Johnson
Mary Lanford
Sam Coker
Parke Renshaw
- ◆ **January 28**
Joyce Floyd
Mike Cordle
Calvin Ward
- ◆ **January 30**
Ruth Johnson
- ◆ **January 31**
Julia O'Neil
Mildred B. Ponder
Paul Davis
- ◆ **January 1**
Jean Kring
Jack Lamb
- ◆ **January 2**
Phyllis Dinkins
Aria A. Mitchell
Cynthia Runyon
Mildred Wiggins
Fred Pitman
- ◆ **January 3**
Sandra Phillips
Grace Ruff
Larry Amos
Charles A. Gillespie
Allen Jernigan

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Daily Bible Reading

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and Applications are available at www.nghhc.org. or by calling 678-533-1379.
Ed Tomlinson

take you through the entire Bible in a Year.

Lectionary Scriptures NIV

Sunday, Feb. 1, 04

4th Sunday after Epiphany

Green

◆ Psalm 71: 1-6

◆ Jer. 1: 4-10

◆ 1 Cor 13: 1-13

◆ Luke 4: 21-30

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