Dear Church Family,

We have officially moved to our temporary location at 806 Clarendon Street and had our first worship experience last Sunday. It was a great celebration and for a holiday weekend the attendance was outstanding. I am so grateful for the prayers and support of each of you during this transition. I am especially thankful for the GENEROSITY of the pastor, Alice Davis, trustee David Radford, Chair, Randy Bell, Marie Phelps, the leaders and members of Asbury church.

Generosity is so important in the life of God’s church. God is a wondrous, generous giver. God makes a feast for us every single day of our lives, and we can take in all that God has to give to us in the way of grace, love, and forgiveness and so much more, because God also provides for us in ways that we often forget and take for granted. God gives so much on a daily basis in such a way that we can’t help but see that God puts it there for us. This is where generosity begins – a spirit of reflecting his light, a spirit of sharing God with others, a real sense that God has richly blessed.

I trust we will do all we can in response to this generosity to make this transition a blessing to this church and the community we serve.

We give thanks for the generosity of our Connectional sisters and brothers of Asbury church as we move into God’s preferred future.

Blessings for Journey,

Pastor Albert
Being a “Good Guest”

It has been a busy time for New Creation as we completed our move to Asbury UMC on June 21st and held our first worship service in our new location on July 3. Packing and unpacking; finding and losing; checking and re-checking; placing and replacing; from the familiar to the unfamiliar can be disconcerting as well as exciting. In our excitement though we must remember that we have moved to shared space. Though maybe not guests in the traditional sense, we are here on a temporary bases, sharing space with the more permanent occupants, the Pastor, staff and members of Asbury UMW who have been most hospitable in welcoming us.

Hospitality to guests is required of us as Christians, however guests have a responsibility to act in a way that encourages such hospitality. As old adage by Benjamin Franklin states guests like fish begin to smell after three days. An old Jewish proverb declares a guest is like rain: when he lingers on, he becomes a nuisance. A more biblical reference about guests is from proverbs 25:17; Let your foot rarely be in your neighbor’s house, or he will become weary of you and hate you. Our feet will often be in Asbury, and we are more likely be here three years rather than three days. How then should we behave so that we will remain welcome additions to this body of Christ? Below I have devised the “Ten Commandments of Being a good Guest”.

- We shall not remove things without asking.
- We shall put things back where we find them.
- We shall clean up after ourselves in the sanctuary, classrooms and other spaces in the church building.
- We shall be flexible and open to change when necessary.
- We shall be open, honest, considerate and respectful at all times. If conflict arises the pastor should be informed.
- We shall be mindful at all times of “how things are done” to avoid misunderstandings.
- We shall make sure to schedule all regular meetings through the Administrative Assistant to assure that there are no scheduling conflicts.
- We shall make sure doors are locked and lights are off after using the building.
- We shall discuss all ministry events and programs that will require space in the church building or on the grounds with Pastor AI to assure proper communications and appropriate notice is given.
- We shall communicate, communicate and communicate again about anything of substance. Not doing so is a disaster when spending any time sharing space.

Hmmm. Now that I think about it we don’t need to have these special “commandments”. We should have been following these “rules” when we were at home!

Gloria McAuley, Chair, Administrative Council
Apportionments
Our Finance Committee has made a special appeal for designated offerings to help pay our apportionments. The goal is to remit $3,000.00 per month towards New Creation’s apportionment. But you may be asking, “What are apportionments?”.

Apportioned Funds
The main way we support the ministries of the church is through our apportioned funds, a method of giving that proportionally allocates the church-wide budget to conferences and local churches. For United Methodists this method of giving has become a strong, generous tradition. Together, through our connected congregations, we accomplish what no single church, district or annual conference ever could hope to do alone. In this way, each individual, each family, each congregation gives a fair share for the church’s work. We combine our prayers, presence, gifts and service to make a significant difference in the lives of God’s people.

The general funds include:

World Service Fund Apportionment

Through the World Service Fund, we:

• Undergird our network of missionaries serving around the world
• Strengthen evangelism efforts, stimulate church growth, expand Bible studies and nurture spiritual development
• Enrich our congregational life with worship, retreat and camping resources, leadership development and stewardship training
• Provide leadership and coordination for denominational youth ministry
• Continue nearly 200 years of commitment to higher education
• Equip and nurture our lay leaders through education and professional support
• Support a program of chaplain certification
• Certify UM professional Christian educators, communicators and musicians
• Assure United Methodists advocate and help build a just world.
• Fund our denomination’s presence in the mass media
• Support ministries of peace and justice and efforts to build a truly inclusive church and a society

For more information, go to www.umcgiving.org
World Service Fund

The World Service Fund is the essential core of our global outreach ministry, underwriting Christian mission around the world. By giving to World Service we empower United Methodist evangelistic efforts...stimulate Bible study and spiritual commitment...encourage church growth and discipleship...and help God’s children everywhere.

North Carolina’s Apportioned Amount $1,930,473
New Creation’s Apportioned Amount $23,473 - Paid $3,000

Between 1866 and 1882, following the Civil War, the former Methodist Episcopal Church organized the Freedmen’s Aid Society to help educate black people newly freed from slavery. Between 1866 and 1882, the society established more than 70 schools in the U.S. South and Southwest.

In 1972, The United Methodist Church established the Black College Fund to provide a constant reliable way to support United Methodist-related historically Black colleges. Today we support more historically Black colleges and universities than any other religious denomination.

The 11 U.S. historically Black colleges and universities supported by The United Methodist Church have played a unique role in U.S. higher education. Their graduates—teachers and doctors, ministers and bishops, judges, artists and entrepreneurs—are leaders in the African-American community and in a rapidly changing, more diverse United States.

Through United Methodist Church giving, we’re supporting the important work of 11 schools committed to academic excellence based on the Christian perspective of community service and social responsibility—where students are interacting with academic staffs that serve as strong cultural and spiritual mentors.

Bennett College, located in Greensboro, NC, is one on the 11 Black colleges supported by this fund. Betty Gibbs and Carolyn Black are graduates of Bennett College.

In February, New Creation hosted the Bethune-Cookman women’s basketball team. Bethune-Cookman is one of the 11 Black college supported by the Black College Fund

North Carolina’s Apportioned Amount $264,385
New Creation’s Apportioned Amount $363 - Paid $363
Africa University Fund

This vital fund supports the only United Methodist-related, degree-granting university on the continent of Africa—serving students from 21 countries, all across the continent of Africa. Africa University provides higher education of excellent quality, enriched with Christian values, for both men and women, developing visionary leaders of tomorrow.

Three decades ago, when African bishops of The United Methodist Church surveyed the emerging socio-economic and political needs in their countries, they called on the church to invest in higher education in Africa. At the cry of Bishops Arthur Kulah and Emilio J.M. de Carvalho—for “a university for all of Africa”—The United Methodist Church worldwide responded.

Today we’re still investing in Zimbabwe’s first private university for young men and women from all over Africa. These promising leaders are being equipped to transform their content through dynamic programs that include: agriculture and natural resources, education, health sciences, humanities and social sciences, management and administration and theology. The Institute of Peace, Leadership and Governance offers postgraduate diplomas and master’s programs.

By the turn of this century, one-fifth of the world’s population will live in Africa. This is why it’s so crucial that Africa’s greatest needs—sustainable agriculture, disease prevention, ethical leadership and governance, and more—continue to be impacted by Africa University’s 4000+ graduates.

In the largest graduation ceremony since its inception, Africa University celebrated 841 students during the commencement exercises at its campus in Old Mutare, Zimbabwe, June 11, 2016.

*North Carolina’s Apportioned Amount $59,184*
*New Creation’s Apportioned Amount $81 - Paid $81*
Interdenominational Cooperation Fund

While we’re proud of what makes The United Methodist Church distinct, we’re also committed to recognizing and celebrating the presence and work of Jesus Christ among other Christian fellowships throughout the world. Ignited by Jesus’ prayer, in John 17:21, that the Church’s unity would reflect Jesus’ own oneness with his Father, we’re fostering approaches to ministry and mission that more fully reflect the oneness of Christ’s church in the world.

The Interdenominational Cooperation Fund allows The United Methodist Church to partner with Christian sisters and brothers throughout the world to fulfill our shared mission.

Your giving makes shared ministry through Christ’s body possible today. Because of it, The United Methodist Church is able to partner with other Christians to witness together to the hope we have in Jesus Christ. Because of your support, the United Methodist Church continues to stand beside Christians around the globe as a witness to the unity of Christ’s church.

North Carolina’s Apportioned Amount $51,858
New Creation’s Apportioned Amount $81 - Paid $81

Episcopal Fund

Bishop Hope Ward, and other bishops around the globe, are hard at work for The United Methodist Church. Bishops prayerfully determine pastoral appointments. They counsel with pastors and encourage congregations. Our bishops not only lead in the connectional ministry of the church, but you will also find them on the forefront of world issues encouraging secular leaders to incorporate faith into their decision making.

The bishops serving The United Methodist Church today are ensuring that the ministry of Jesus Christ is being carried out by the church. The Episcopal Fund is what supports our bishops as they support The United Methodist Church.

Today the bishops of The United Methodist Church are providing spiritual leadership to more than 11 million persons in a broad range of settings on four continents, including North America, Europe, Africa and Asia.

North Carolina’s Apportioned Amount $622,309
New Creation’s Apportioned Amount $855 - Paid $855
Past Service Liability
All of the aforementioned funds are denominational funds. New Creation also pays into a North Carolina Conference specific fund named the Past Service Liability Fund. At the 1997 Annual Conference, a proposal was approved to apportion the funding of the past service liability for pensions to the local churches as a separate and independent apportionment. This fund helps pay the unfunded (pre-1982) pension liability for pastors.

North Carolina’s Apportioned Amount $3,300,000
New Creation’s Apportioned Amount $4,532 - Paid $1,594

The Finance Team has moved to 806 Clarendon St! We are thankful for the facilities as Asbury UMC, including space for the Finance Team to oversee the stewardship of your donations. We are still getting settled, but here is what you can expect when giving your tithes and offerings in the near future:

- The New Creation envelopes will not be in the pews and actually aren’t necessary unless the contribution is made in cash.
- If you make a cash offering, ask the usher for an envelope and clearly note your name, the amount, and the fund(s) to which you are contributing.
- If you make a check offering, you do not need an envelope. If you are contributing to a fund other than tithes and offerings, note the fund(s) on the memo line.
- There may be an occasion when you miss the 9 a.m. New Creation Service, and opt to attend the 11 a.m. service with the Asbury congregation. There will be a secured safe (location to be determined) where you can drop your New Creation offering.

Financial snapshot. The graph below shows tithes and offerings to the Operating Account by month in 2015 (blue) and 2016 (gray). 2016 giving has been similar to last year. However, our goal is over $22,000 per month (dotted line below) in order to meet our obligations. Please help us to do this!
Apportionments and Missions. As of June 29, we have paid 20% of our apportionments, whereas 50% of the year has passed. We plan to pay $3000/month to catch up (equal monthly payments would be $2445). Thanks to everyone who made an additional offering for apportionments! If you can help in this effort, please make a “second mile” gift designated for apportionments.

Pledge Update. Pledging is a way to formalize your financial commitment to the ministry of New Creation, and pledges help us to better plan for ministry and worship expenses. You can pledge your tithes and offerings, which cover our operating and ministry expenses, and you can pledge your support for the campaign to build a worship center on our property at the corner of Martin Luther King and Fayetteville streets.

- **Tithes/Offerings.** For the 45 congregants who pledged regular tithes and offerings, 3 have fulfilled their pledges! Overall, we have received $82,505 of the $167,667 pledged (49%). As of June 30.

- **Pledges: MLK Construction.** For building fund pledges, 8 out of 37 congregants have fulfilled their pledges! Overall, we have received $33,157 of the $90,060 pledged (37%). As of June 30.

Summertime offerings. Summer is a season when church giving can fluctuate – people go out of town and may or may not send their regular donation. But our expenses – pastoral and administrative staff, music ministers, apportionments, utilities – remain steady. Please help by ensuring that your tithes and offerings are received all summer long! Here are ways to make that happen:

- **Realm — Online Giving** — is fast and almost effortless. Our website (http://www.newcreationumcdurham.org/links--contact-info/), has links; a quick registration will enable you to send your monetary gifts to the Church from anywhere. Anyone on the finance team can walk you through the steps of setting up an online offering.

- You can also go through your bank; most institutions offer “Bill Pay.” Offerings to New Creation may be generated automatically or you can have the bank only allow manual initiations of payments. Set up your payments to go to: New Creation UMC, P. O. Box 52326, Durham, NC 27717

- There is also the well-established method – mailing a paper check before you leave. Again, please use the post office box above.
Dear New Creation UMC Family,

We praise God for our church family. We deeply appreciate your expression of sympathy in the loss of Lottie Ware. We received cards, hugs, a gifts in memory and support. We are grateful for friends like you at this time of sorrow.

Love,

Felicia & Leroy Joyner

New Creation Church,

I want to thank all of you so much for being able to celebrate my graduation with me. Being able to attend a church with so many kind souls is truly a blessing and something that I will remember with a smile for my whole life. I love you all.

Isaiah Laster

p.s. Come to see some William and Mary football games!
July 09 - Christopher Cole  
July 19 - Jimmie Shuler  
July 21 - Sarah Vega

Note: If you have a July birthday and it is not listed above, please contact the church office.

Celebrating 60 years of Women’s Ordination

This year is the 60th anniversary of the ordination of women in the Methodist tradition. It was the 1956 General Conference, held in Minneapolis, where women were given the rights and privileges of being ordained. Before this General Conference's approval of full clergy rights for women, women were ordained as "local preachers" and appointed as supply pastors, but were not giving voting rights in the annual conference nor were they guaranteed pastoral appointments.

Do you have any news, announcements or photos to share with the New Creation community? If so, please contact our administrative assistant, LaNella Smith, at secretary@newcreationumcdurham.org

Please remember to submit all entries for the newsletter by the 24th of the month to avoid publishing delays.

Reverend Albert Shuler, Pastor
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