

CHURCH COUNCIL BULLETIN

Volume 74, No. 1

Winter/Spring 2016

North Carolina Council of Churches

Transitions in 2015, Growth for 2016

The retirement of longtime Executive Director George Reed and arrival of new ED Jennifer Copeland made 2015 a year of significant transitions for the NC Council of Churches. Reed's departure came after almost 20 years with the Council, first working on its legislative program before stepping into the leadership role. After 16 years as the United Methodist chaplain at Duke, Copeland became the Council's first female executive director.

Reed and Copeland worked together to insure the Council's work was uninterrupted. Indeed, new initiatives were begun in 2015 and additional staff hired to extend and deepen programming.

In cooperation with Health Care for All NC and with funding from the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust, Liz Millar was hired for a six-month role to work on Medicaid expansion through faith communities specifically in economically challenged, Tier 1 counties. Liz is currently finishing her Master in Public Health degree at UNC-Chapel Hill.

And Chris Pernel joined the Partners in Health and Wholeness Program where she now serves as Program Coordinator. She had most recently worked for a faith-based, nonprofit medical clinic serving the uninsured and under-served of Franklin County.

The Council re-engaged with partner organizations to work against changes in federal law that could prompt the return of payday lending to the state. And the Council renewed its work against gun violence as part of a coalition of primarily Triangle-area groups. Among those efforts that have carried over into 2016 are plans for the creation of faith-based resources and the commemoration of the first anniversary of the shootings at Mother Emmanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston.

Already 2016 has been a busy year. North Carolina Interfaith Power and Light coordinated a speaking tour by Katharine Hayhoe, an internationally known climate

scientist who is also an evangelical Christian, on why people of faith must be involved in care of creation.

Additional expansion of PHW continued with the hiring of two new regional coordinators who will begin work in May in the far western and northeastern parts of the state thanks to funding by the Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina Foundation and The Duke Endowment.

The annual Farmworker Institute takes place on April 21 in Chapel Hill, bringing together advocates from across the state who will have the chance to learn from and update one another on the latest issues affecting farmworkers.

In March, the Council found itself among those opposing House Bill 2 as discriminatory and hateful. In partnership with EqualityNC and the Equality Federation, the NCCC is co-sponsoring a panel on Christian ethics and HB2 featuring David Gushee, T. Anthony Spearman, and William Meyer. That takes place on Sunday, April 24. And one day prior, the Council holds its biennial Critical Issues Seminar, with this year's focus on Race, Power, and Privilege. George Reed will receive the Council's Distinguished Service Award at the event. Details about the seminar are on page 5 and information about other upcoming events is on page 6.

**2016 Critical Issues Seminar
Race, Power, and Privilege
Saturday, April 23
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
(Check-in begins at 8:15 a.m.)
St. Matthews United Methodist Church
600 East Florida Street, Greensboro
Registration on page 5**

Donor Support Vital to Council's Work

A crucial source of support for the North Carolina Council of Churches is its **member bodies**. African Methodist Episcopal Church-North Carolina Conference, African Methodist Episcopal Church-Western North Carolina Conference, African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church-Central North Carolina Conference, African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church-North Carolina Conference, Alliance of Baptist-North Carolina Alliance, Episcopal Diocese of East Carolina, Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina, Episcopal Diocese of Western North Carolina, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America-North Carolina Synod, Knollwood Baptist Church, Mars Hill Baptist Church, Moravian Church in America-Southern Province, Myers Park Baptist Church-Charlotte, Olin Binkley Memorial Baptist Church-Chapel Hill, Presbyterian Church USA-Charlotte, Presbyterian Church USA-Coastal Carolina, Presbyterian Church USA-New Hope, Presbyterian Church USA-Salem, Presbyterian Church USA-Western North Carolina, Pullen Memorial Baptist Church-Raleigh, Religious Society of Friends-North Carolina Yearly Meeting, United Church of Christ-Eastern North Carolina Association Southern Conference, United Church of Christ-Southern Conference, United Methodist Church-North Carolina Conference, United Methodist Church-Western North Carolina Conference, and Watts Street Baptist Church-Durham.

In addition, the Council, its programs, and the Sister Evelyn Mattern Fund received donations from congregations, organizations, and individuals in 2015.

Congregations and organizations include: Church Women United in North Carolina, Church Women United in Raleigh/Wake County, Community United Church of Christ-Raleigh, Congregational United Church of Christ-Greensboro, Covenant Community Church, Elon Community Church United Church of Christ, First Christian Church-Greensboro, Guilford Park Presbyterian Church, Hillsborough Presbyterian Church, Hillsborough United Church of Christ, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church-Raleigh, Insight Fund, Milford Hills United Methodist Church, Parkway United Church of Christ-Winston-Salem, Pilgrim United Church of Christ-Durham, Selwyn Avenue Presbyterian Church-Charlotte, St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, St. Therese Catholic Church-Wrightsville Beach, Ten Thousand Villages-Greensboro, Ten Thousand Villages-Raleigh, United Church of Chapel Hill, Virlina District of Church of the Brethren-Roanoke, West Raleigh Presbyterian Church-Raleigh, Western North Carolina Conference, United Methodist Women, Westminster Presbyterian Church-Durham, Wilmington Friends Meeting.

Individuals include: Jim & Diane Abbott, Allen Adams, Jana Albritton, Teresa Aldahondo, Terry Allebaugh, Sarah & Carl Almblad, Jane Almon, Sarah Anderson, John & Mary-Scott Arnold, Rebecca Askew & Nell Summerlin, William Dave Austin, Shannon Axtell Martin, Sally & Marvin Aycock, Cleta Baker, Ann & Joseph Bauer, Jim & Laura Bazan, John Becton & Nancy Tannenbaum, Jennie Belle, Sarah Benbow, Debbie & David Biesack, Bob & Carol Bilbro, Charles Blanchard, David Bland, Willem & Janet Bodisco Massink, Dennis & Kathy Boos, Sory & Henry Bowers, George Brine, Bob & Mae Brizendine, Andrew Brown, Jr., Bev & Sam Brown, Joe & Sandra Brown, Sr., Cavell & Cecil Brownie, Bob & Loven Bruhn, Nancy Bryant, Sally Buckner, Carolyn Burrus, Joe & Linda Burton, Daisy Chambers, Jean Chapman, Ted & Moffett Churn, Jeffrey Cline, Joe & Eva Clontz, Laurie Coffman, Jennifer Copeland, Joyce Corbett, Jill Crainshaw, Kaye & Joe Crawford, Jimmy Creech & Chris Weedy, Kay Crum, Anne Dahle, Gwen Dale Taylor, Christie Dalton, Claude & Elizabeth Deal, Paula Dempsey, Leah & Joe Devlin, E.C. Dobson, Anne & Jim Drennan, James & Marilyn Dunn, Priscilla Durkin, Elsie Eads, Ginger & Ed Eckermann, Steve & Sylvia Edwards, Julia Elsee, Robert & Joyce Estill, Diane Eubanks Hill, Lori Fernald Khamala, Jim & Doris Ferree, John Ferris, Sue Fitzgerald, Joanne & Ted Frazer, Bob Freeman, Don & Linda Frey, Barbara Gerhard, Lois & Ed Gibbon, Carol & David Goehring, Jean Gordon, Bob & Barbara Gosney, Chris Graebe, Ferrel & Kat Guillory, Rose & Michael Gurkin, Nancy & Norm Gustaveson, David Guthrie, Alberta Hairston, Sèkinah Hamlin, Jo Hancock, Janet Hansen, Betty Jo Hardy, Tom & Polly Harris, Cheryl & Andrew Henry, Mary Herr, Kristin Herzog, Linda Hiatt & Peter Reichard, Steve & Peggy Hickle, Donna Hicks, Hilda & Larry Highfill, June & Matt Highfill, Steve & Gearlene Hoffman, Penny & Mark Hooper, Bob Hudak, Frances Huetter, Lee Hull Moses, Mac & Peggy Hulslander, Elwood & Janet Hutchins, Sandy & Deane Irving, Terri & Michael Jarina, Charles & Dorothy Jeffress, Ann Jennings, Ross & Gwin Jones, Sharon Jones, Belton Joyner, David Kaylor, Beth & Mel Keiser, Gail Kelley, Connie Kelley-Sidberry, Jane Kendall & Ran Coble, Martha Keravuori, Collins Kilburn & Martha Hamilton, Mary Kilburn & Eric Ellwood, Stan Kimer, Bill & Helen King, Burton & Alice King, Edmund & Ruth Klemmer, George Kloster, Jr., John & Olivia LaMotte, Fran Langstaff, Carleton & Emily Lee, Margaret & Clarence Leinbach, Michael Lienesch & Ann Baker, Paul & Caroline Lindsay, Marjorie & Quentin Lindsey, Chris & Tana Liu-Beers, Patricia Long, Susan Lupton & Bob Schall, (see page 4)

To show your commitment to the Council's mission of social justice, peace and Christian unity, you can make an online contribution at www.ncchurches.org or by mail to NCCC, 27 HORNE St., Raleigh, NC 27607.

A Snapshot of Activities in 2015

Briefly summarizing a year's work by all the Council's programs gives only a glimpse of what has been accomplished, so we encourage you to visit our website, www.ncchurches.org, for additional information and to subscribe to the Council's *Weekly E-news* by e-mailing info@ncchurches.org. Meanwhile, here is a sample of what was done last year:

Immigration & Farmworkers

www.welcometheimmigrant.org
www.ncfarmworkers.org

Our successful **clergy breakfasts** continued across the state and the **2015 Faith & Immigration Statewide Summit** focused on issues affecting children and youth. We expanded our work: hosting an **interfaith prayer vigil for refugees and community potluck** and coordinating an **photography exhibit** with Pulitzer Prize winner José Galvez, whose work focuses on Latino life in NC. Most of December and January was dedicated to **ACA outreach** to our Latino brother and sisters. We created and distributed bulletin inserts in Spanish and English about the Health Insurance Marketplace, organized two enrollment events in rural areas, and our work was shared by the Public News Service.

Partners in Health & Wholeness

www.healthandwholeness.org

In our work to improve physical health within faith communities, **236 Strive to Revive congregations** have received automated defibrillators for their facilities and in 2015 PHW made **maintenance and training grants** available to AED recipients. We also **certified 39 congregations** at either the bronze, silver, or gold level and awarded **\$28,760 in mini-grants**. In addition, generous funding from the Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina Foundation and The Duke Endowment will allow us to **expand our programming statewide** with regional coordinators in the western and northeastern corners of NC.

North Carolina Interfaith Power & Light

www.ncipl.org

NCIPL was a leader in a number of activities and events focused on the **encyclical by Pope Francis** on care of creation. We advocated on behalf of **clean renewable energy policies** and for the Environmental Protection Agency's **Clean Power Plan**. We worked with **Audubon NC** to provide climate ambassador trainings, provided faith-based analysis of the **Paris Climate Talks**, and partnered with Mom's Clean Air Force to hold a **Playin' and Prayin'**, family-focused event highlighting our moral call to protect the health of our children and the environment.

Resources & Events

www.ncchurches.org

Along with **Raleigh Report**, our periodic newsletter published throughout the General Assembly session, we also continued to publish a weekly **E-news** letter with information from all our programs and from like-minded organizations. In 2015, we also held our **Legislative Seminar** to equip people of faith to be grassroots advocates around issues they care about. We partnered with other organizations for a strong federal law to keep **payday lending** out of North Carolina, to **expand Medicaid**, and to collaborate against **gun violence**. Our lectionary-based **Advent Guide** took as its theme the plight of our refugee sisters and brothers. And we entered into a partnership with the **Public News Service** to bring broader attention to the Council's areas of work.

2015 Donors (con't from page 2)

Jack MacDowall, Marvin & Margie Maddox, Jennifer Manis & Charles Williams, Christopher Mann, Joe & Ann Mann, Tom Mann, Kenneth & Sue Marks, David McBriar, Richard & Wendy McBride, Jocleen McCall, Margaret & Richard McCann, Ann & Webb McCracken, Bill & Carol McElveen, Jennifer McGovern & Steve Unruhe, Clara Milko, Jack Mitchell IV, Larry & Claire Morse, Betty Morton, Rick Moser, Joseph & Betty Mullin, Steve & Connie Mullinix, David & Megan Nerz, Sue Northcraft, Rod & Sylvia O'Connor, Judy Occhetti-Klohr & Leo Klohr, Rush & Deborah Otey, Aleta Payne, Owen & Mary Peeler, Toddie Peters & Jeffrey Hatcher, Ruth Petersen & Beat Steiner, Bob & Gail Phares, Dickson Phillips & Lisa Frost-Phillips, Paul & Cynthia Phillips, Jim & Susan Pike, Reggie & Carrie Ponder, Isabelle Powell, Jack Preiss, David & Lisa Price, Conrad & Helen Pridgen, Kathy Putnam & Michael Goodyear, Alice Ratliff, George & Susan Reed, Jeannine & John Richardson, Graham & Sybil Rights, John D. Rights, Ruth & Russell Roberson, Jean & Charlie Rodenbough, Bob & Linda Rodriguez, Cally Rogers-Witte, Tom & Tish Rokoske, Harold & Gladys Rose, Valerie Rosenquist, Art & Jan Ross, Ben & Jeanne Rouse, Michael Rulison, Betsy & Rollin Russell, Clarence Schmidt, Bob Seymour, Linda Shaw, Eulene Shepherd, Carolyn Shinn, Carl & Emilie Sigel, George & Mary Simmons, Sandra Sink, Jonathan Sledge & Deborah Norton, David & Sally Sloop, Dick & Alice Smith, Jane & Gary Smith, Steve & Rachel Smith, Winnie Smith, Nancy Carol Stahl, Lynn Stall, Willona Stallings, Amelia & Tom Stinson-Wesley, Jeanette Stokes, Linda & William Stone, Jr., Brenda Summers, Joy & Eugene Sumner, Tom Tate, Linda & Dan Textoris, Charles Thompson, Harriette Thompson, Nori Torbert, Susannah Tuttle, Vernon & Martha Tyson, Nancy Van Antwerp, Joe Vetter, Marie Vetter, Isaac & Katie Villegas, Andrew Vizoso & Andrew Short, Barbara & Dick Volk, Geoffrey & Margaret Wainwright, Hope Morgan Ward & Mike Ward, Grace & Donald Washington, Janet Watrous & Bob Kochersberger, Mary Wayne Watson, Patricia Watts & Wally Hill, Jennifer Weiss & Bruce Hamilton, Nelson & Elaine Weller, Judith West, Gordon Whitaker, Jaye White, Brooks Wicker & Pat Hielscher, Tony Wike, Whitney Wilkinson, Don & Norma Willhoit, Joy Williams, Polly Williams, Sue Woodling, Marietta Wynands, Ellen & Dewey Yarborough, Larry & Sue Yarger, Doris Yeattes, Ashley Yohman, Fran & Ed Yohman, Tyanna Yonkers, and Barbara Zelter.

Gifts were given in honor of: Council Staff by Terry Allebaugh, George & Susan Reed, Susannah Tuttle, Janet Watrous & Bob Kochersberger, and Barbara Zelter; Holy Covenant United Church of Christ by Isabelle Powell; Council Search Committee by George & Susan Reed; Nancy Allison by Isabelle Powell; Bill & Annette Bingham by Priscilla Durkin; Jennifer Copeland by Sory & Henry Bowers, Sharon Jones, Rick Moser, George & Susan Reed, and West Raleigh Presbyterian Church; Tom Droppers by Sally & Marvin Aycock; Julia Elsee by Sarah Anderson and George & Susan Reed; Carmen Hiott by Mary Wayne Watson; Collins Kilburn

by Mary Kilburn & Eric Ellwood and Don & Norma Willhoit; W. Joseph Mann by Jane Kendall & Ran Coble and Christopher Mann; Jocleen McCall by George & Susan Reed; George Reed by Allen Adams, Teresa Aldahondo, Sarah & Carl Almlad, Sally & Marvin Aycock, Sarah Benbow, Bob & Carol Bilbro, Charles Blanchard, David Bland, Sory & Henry Bowers, George Brine, Bob & Mae Brizendine, Bev & Sam Brown, Sally Buckner, Joe & Eva Clontz, Joyce Corbett, Council staff, Anne Dahle, James & Marilyn Dunn, Elsie Eads, Julia Elsee, Robert & Joyce Estill, Diane Eubanks Hill, Jim & Doris Ferree, Sue Fitzgerald, Don & Linda Frey, Barbara Gerhard, Lois & Ed Gibbon, Chris Graebe, Nancy & Norm Gustaveson, Steve & Peggy Hickle, June & Matt Highfill, Bob Hudak, Mac & Peggy Hulslander, Terri & Michael Jarina, Charles & Dorothy Jeffress, Beth & Mel Keiser, Gail Kelley, Martha Keravuori, Collins Kilburn & Martha Hamilton, Burton & Alice King, Fran Langstaff, Susan Lupton & Bob Schall, Jennifer Manis & Charles Williams, Tom Mann, Kenneth & Sue Marks, David McBriar, Richard & Wendy McBride, Ann & Webb McCracken, Sue Northcraft, Jim & Susan Pike, Reggie & Carrie Ponder, Pullen Memorial Baptist Church, Jeannine & John Richardson, Tom & Tish Rokoske, Art & Jan Ross, Ben & Jeanne Rouse, Carolyn Shinn, Jonathan Sledge & Deborah Norton, David & Sally Sloop, Winnie Smith, Nancy Carol Stahl, Brenda Summers, Joy & Eugene Sumner, Tom Tate, Linda & Dan Textoris, Charles Thompson, Vernon & Martha Tyson, Barbara & Dick Volk, Hope Morgan Ward & Mike Ward, Janet Watrous & Bob Kochersberger, Patricia Watts & Wally Hill, Jennifer Weiss & Bruce Hamilton, Tony Wike, Polly Williams, Doris Yeattes; George & Susan Reed by Steve & Gearlene Hoffman; Rollin Russell by Isabelle Powell; Steve Smith by George & Susan Reed; Susannah Tuttle by Nancy Bryant and Penny & Mark Hooper; and Ashley Yohman by Fran & Ed Yohman.

Gifts were given in memory of: Emily Barrow by Mary Wayne Watson; Eugene Benbow by Sarah Benbow; Maurita Cox Hughes by John D. Rights; Marjorie Eckels by Mac & Peggy Hulslander; Mildred Fry by Sandra Sink; Frederick Herzog by Kristin Herzog; John Hiott by Mary Wayne Watson; Carolyn Loizeaux by Ginger & Ed Eckermann; Judy MacDowall by Jack MacDowall; Sister Evelyn Mattern by Lori Fernald Khamala; Charles Mulholland by George Kloster; Lucile Schmidt by Clarence Schmidt; Banks D. Shepherd by Eulene Shepherd; William C. Smith by Sue Fitzgerald and Winnie Smith; Sydnor Thompson by Janet Hansen, Linda & William Stone, Jr., Charles Thompson, Harriette Thompson; Deryl Torbert by Nori Torbert; and Don Winters by John D. Rights.

Gifts in kind were given by: Nathan Cox.

Generous foundation support has been received from: the Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina Foundation, The Duke Endowment, and the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation.

Every effort has been made to insure the accuracy of this list. Please alert us to any omissions or misspellings so that we might correct them.

North Carolina Council of Churches
2016 Critical Issues Seminar – Race, Power, and Privilege
Saturday, April 23; 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. (Check-in begins at 8:15 a.m.)
St. Matthews United Methodist Church, 600 East Florida Street, Greensboro
Registration Form

NAME _____ CHURCH/ORG _____

ADDRESS _____

EMAIL _____ PHONE: _____

WORKSHOP PREFERENCES:

Please indicate one choice per session by checking next to the workshop title.

Session 1 (12:30-1:30 p.m.)

Poverty and Affluence led by **Gene R. Nichol**, Boyd Tinsley Distinguished Professor, University of North Carolina School of Law; former Director, Center on Poverty, Work and Opportunity

Educational Achievement led by **Jane R. Wettach**, Clinical Professor, Duke University School of Law; Director, Children's Law Center

Housing led by **Satana Deberry**, Executive Director, N.C. Housing Coalition; **Samuel Gunter**, Director of Policy and Advocacy, N.C. Housing Coalition

Health Care led by **Nicole Dozier**, Co-Director, Health Access Coalition, N.C. Justice Center; **Adam Linker**, Program Officer, Health Care Division, Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust, and former Co-Director, Health Access Coalition

Civil Rights and the N.C. Council of Churches led by **George Reed**, Executive Director (Retired), N.C. Council of Churches

The Legislative Response led by **Rick Glazier**, Executive Director, N.C. Justice Center; former State Representative (D-Cumberland)

Immigration led by **David Fraccaro**, Executive Director, FaithAction International House, Greensboro; **Dulce Ortiz**, Administrative Assistant and Immigrant Outreach, FaithAction International House

Session 2 (1:45-2:45 p.m.)

Law Enforcement and Houses of Faith – Enhancing the Relationship led by **Timothy Bellamy**, Chief of Police, Retired, Greensboro

Pressures on Voting Rights led by **Anita Earls**, Executive Director, Southern Coalition for Social Justice

Racial Patterns and Worshiping Communities led by **G. Kevin Baker**, Lead Pastor, First United Methodist Church, Graham, and former Senior Pastor, Reconciliation United Methodist Church, Durham; **Albert Shuler**, Pastor, New Creation United Methodist Church, Durham

Faith-rooted Organizing – Place and Accountability led by **Camryn Smith**, a founding member of Communities in Partnerships-Old East Durham and Co-Chair of Organizing Against Racism-Durham; **Cathy Rimer-Surles** a core leadership team member of Episcopalians United Against Racism (EUAR-NC) and Co-Chair of Organizing Against Racism-Durham.

The Progressive Christian Response led by **Jennifer Copeland**, Executive Director, N.C. Council of Churches

Environmental Justice led by **Naeema Muhammad** and **Ayo Wilson**, Co-Directors, N.C. Environmental Justice Network

Registration Fee* (lunch included): Regular registration (\$25) Student (\$15)

Check here for vegetarian meal Check here for a vegan meal Check here for a gluten-free meal

***To reserve your space at the 2016 Seminar, please contact the Council by April 20. Lunch cannot be guaranteed after that date.**

Make checks payable and mail to: **NORTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES**, 27 HORNE Street, Raleigh, NC 27607.

For **questions** call 919-828-6501 or e-mail info@ncchurches.org. Register online at www.ncchurches.org.

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On the Web at:
www.ncchurches.org

Return Service Requested

Upcoming Council Events

2016 Farmworker Institute Summit

Thursday, April 21, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
United Church of Chapel Hill
1321 Martin Luther King Boulevard
Chapel Hill

Critical Issues Seminar

Saturday, April 23, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
St. Matthews United Methodist Church
600 East Florida Street
Greensboro

Christian Ethics and HB2

Sunday, April 24, 5 p.m.
Trinity United Methodist Church
215 North Church Street
Durham

Our Thanks to Departing Board Members and Welcome to New Arrivals

The Council is grateful for the dedicated service by the board members who completed their terms at the end of 2015. They are: Jill Crainshaw, Presbytery of Salem; Christie Dalton and Deborah Fox, Episcopal Diocese of NC; Kristy Dalton, Presbytery of Western NC; Joe Hoffman, United Church of Christ, Southern Conference; Joe Mann and Charles Smith, United Methodist Church, NC Conference; Tonyia Rawls, At-Large; and Jerome Washington, General Baptist State Convention.

We welcome the following new members to the board; Carol Beckwith, General Baptist State Convention; Jane Brown, At-Large; Jill Staton Bullard, Episcopal Diocese of NC; Patrick Campbell, United Church of Christ, Southern Conference; Mindy Douglas, Presbytery of New Hope; Nicole Dozier, At-Large; Bryan Faggart, United Methodist Church, NC Conference; and Sonja Lee, Unity Fellowship Church Movement.