

THE COMMISSION ON COMMUNICATIONS

The Conference Year 2006-2007 has been an exciting year for communications. We continue to increase the functionality and resources of the website. For the first time the Journal is available online, and the online calendar is continuously updated.

The resource center has updated its resources and the entire catalog is now available online at their new website: www.umcsc.org/resourcecenter.

Connx the online and print publication that comes as an insert in the Advocate remains a strong communications tool that helps to fill our connection with the local churches. However, we hope that with the proposed changes in the Advocate, *Connx* will no longer be necessary.

The Communications Director, Matt Brodie, has been working hard producing videos for different boards and agencies of the Annual Conference, and designing the new logos for Connectional Ministries, The South Carolina Communities of Shalom and the Annual Conference logo "to serve the present age" as well as some billboards in Florence to be shown during Annual Conference. He has also made sure the Conference website is maintained and has created several websites for groups in the Conference including Shalom Literacy, The Youth Workers Movement, COSROW, and the Fatherhood Initiative. He also worked with a mission team to create a photo Calendar called "Under the Zimbabwe Sun" that was sold around the world to raise funds and awareness for the water project at The Old Mutare Mission in Zimbabwe.

Jim Crews, the Director of Information Technology, worked with Clergy Services, the Conference Secretary and the Print Shop to create a system that allows much of the information in Section XII of the Journal to be automatically uploaded from the Clergy Services database. As the Treasurer's Office moved to a new accounting system, Jim Crews, with input from Jim Knowles-Tuell, updated the apportionment and remittance pieces of the online system. Additionally, Jim Crews outfitted congregational specialists with computers, blackberry devices, and other technology equipment to assist them in their work and help provide effective mobile offices.

While communications has had a great year, we know we have much more work to do to bring the conference were it needs to be in regards to how we communicate to the local churches and to the secular world. We will continue to take steps forward and strengthen the communications of the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Harry Bright, Chairperson