

## THE BOARD OF HEALTH AND WELFARE

The Board of Health and Welfare continues to work to uphold the ministry of Christ and the tradition of John Wesley, in the United Methodist Church, with the ministry of health and wholeness.

Del Soule chairs the sub-committee on Golden Cross. One of our goals is to make Golden Cross a more visible ministry to our churches. Because of your gifts to Golden Cross, we were able to award two health care scholarships in the amount of \$1,700. We awarded eight grants for medical assistance in the amount of \$7,426.29. We were not able to grant all the requests that we received this year. We received \$12,415.96 from local churches in the conference for Golden Cross. We also received \$1,037.49 from the Williams-Walker Trust Fund. We encourage all of our churches to remember Golden Cross Sunday, the first Sunday in February. It is through your donations that we are able to give assistance to those who are in need.

Rev. John P. Thomas chairs the programs sub-committee. Through the programs offered by our board, we awarded two grants to eliminate architectural barriers (\$964), and three grants for Health Fairs (\$1,386).

Rev. Harry Stullenbarger chairs our committee on nominations. Nominations are made for the Board of Trustees of Epworth Children's Home, Wesley Commons, Methodist Oaks, Pee Dee Manor and Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry. These Nominations are presented to the Conference Committee on Nominations and to the Annual Conference.

Rev. Athon Arant chairs the homes sub-committee. We continue to work for a strong positive relationship we share with each of the homes. We commend the splendid leadership provided by each home.

At present, there are nine housing units for retired clergy; four at the Methodist Oaks, which are occupied, one at the Pee Dee Manor, which is occupied, and four at Wesley Commons, two occupied and two vacant. We have worked together with the three homes, and have agreed to a more unified plan for filling the retired clergy units. As of December 31, 2006, there was a balance of \$89,165.88 in the Elma Hill Endowment Fund. The interest from this fund helps maintain the retired clergy units. \$4,600 has been given to Wesley Commons for repairs.

At present, the percentages of funds are allocated as follows: Methodist Oaks (50%), Wesley Commons (30%) and Pee Dee Manor (15%). We will continue to be in communication with the homes on the percentages and make recommendations as needed.

We are very grateful for the wonderful support and cooperation we have received throughout the conference. We look forward to working with you and for you as we continue the ministry of Christ, in the area of Health and Welfare.

*Athon M. Arant, Sr., Chairperson*