

# Native American Newsletter

November, 2008

Volume 16, Issue 2

## Chair's Corner: Success

By Z. Tracy Pender

As I prepared to write this version of the chair's corner, I wondered if there was a single word that would describe where we are at right now. The answer that came to me was "success." While we still have a long road to travel to achieve our goals, the reflection over the last six months is "success."

With that thought, I found myself reflecting on how the Old Testament describes success. A path has been laid for us to travel and if we travel it in His name, the ultimate outcome is success. Take a minute and read these passages of scripture, and I'm sure you will see the same.

1 Chronicles 12:18 states, "Success, success to you and success to those who help you for your God will help you." 22:13 advises, "Then you will have success if you are careful to observe the decrees and laws the Lord gave Moses..." In 2 Chronicles, 26:5, we find, "as long as he sought the Lord, God gave him success." "Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers, they succeed." "Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed" - Proverbs 15:22 and 16:3. Finally, Proverbs 21:30 tell us, "there is no wisdom, no insight, no plan that can succeed against the Lord."

By turning our mission and program over to the Lord, God, and working together as a team supported by all members of our conference, we are succeeding. Nothing can stand in the way of the Lord. We are truly one people, regardless of race, color, creed or gender, united through the blood of Christ. With that reflection, I want to share our success story.

In December, we had one of most successful years with the Elder Basket program with 154 baskets distributed to Indian elders throughout the state. We appreciate so much the donations by the churches in gathering the laundry baskets and filling them with the supplies. We cannot thank enough those congregations who took the

time to do this activity. We were also impressed with those that donated monetary funds to help with our travel expenses in delivering the baskets. We all know how the cost of gas has impacted programs; thus, this was a blessing in itself. We will continue the project this year, so please see the **Elder Basket article** in this newsletter. **We would like to deliver over 175 baskets this year.**

In February, we held our 5<sup>th</sup> Native American Representative Training. Once again, it was a success, training over 68 people.

This past year, we were blessed to have the session taped for DVD, so we can provide the training to the districts for those who cannot attend. We appreciate the Wasamasaw drummers for their participation in the worship. We are hoping for big things with our upcoming 6<sup>th</sup> training for Native American Representatives. We are inviting the Bishop, cabinet members, and district superintendents to attend. Ethnic Local Church Concerns (ELCC) committee members are invited. The Director of SE-JANAM (Southeastern Jurisdiction Agency of Native Americans) will be in attendance to provide information about the changes involving this organization. It should be an exciting event. If you are Native American Representative for your church and have not attended, we strongly recommend that you do. Again, look for the article on **Native American Representative Training**.

Read the article on **Native American Ministries Sunday** to find yet another success story. We had one of our most productive years with Native American Ministries Sunday. We reached more churches this year than any time in our history. As chair, I truly felt like a traveling missionary. I found myself on the road just about every Sunday traveling to the wonderful churches throughout this conference. At one point, I was on the road from mid January through the end of June except for two Sundays. It was blessing to go to my home church on those two Sundays. Many of our committee members spent more time on the road this year as well. (Continued on Page 3)

### Inside this issue:

AISA	2
Elder baskets	2
NA Sunday	4
Training	5
Pee Dee	5
Catawba	5
PAIA Cherokee	6
Rev. Mangum	7

Looking for S.C. Native Americans! Please contact

Sarah Sanchez,

editor of this Newsletter, if you would like to be on our mailing list:

803 788-2925

Contact Jackie Morris at this email address if you would like to receive email updates:

scnativeamericans@yahoo.com

## South Carolina Delegation to AISA

The American Indian Scouting Association held its 51st Seminar July 11-16 in Cullowhee, NC with the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians serving as host

this seminar. The youth and adults made new friends and enjoyed time with old ones. The youth are networking through the Internet and look forward to seeing

each other in the future. The seminar for 2009 will be held in Pocatello, Idaho with the Fort Hall Shoshone Bannock Tribes hosting. Tracy Pender, Native American Committee Chair, is serving as AISA Chair for the 2009 Semi-



tribe. Western Carolina University was the host college. The tribe went all out to share their history and culture with the group. The area tours were comprehensive. The traditional meal was served the old fashioned way.

Many states and tribes were represented at

nar. Charlotte Barker is AISA PR Chair. For information about AISA and its seminar visit our website at [www.amerindscouting.org](http://www.amerindscouting.org). If you would like to receive a mailing for this event contact Charlotte at [kaybarker1@earthlink.net](mailto:kaybarker1@earthlink.net).

***This year NC,  
next year:***

***Idaho!***

## Christmas Project: Elder Baskets

We are starting our fifth year for the Elder Basket Christmas project. Last year, we put together 154 baskets for all of the tribes that requested baskets. We would like to increase our number of baskets this year, and we need your assistance. We had a few baskets already ready, and we used them for tornado victims this past spring. People in that area did not have much, so we felt it was a good Christian thing to do.

Elders play an important role in Native American communities. However, many of our native peoples, including elders, live in substandard conditions. Considering this, many do without during one of the most important times of year. The church has had a tradition of reaching out, especially during Christmas. John Wesley was known for his outreach to the American Indians – going where others would not go. In honor of Christ's birth and our Methodist tradition, we have established our outreach with the Elder baskets.

However, we cannot pull off this outreach project without the help of the local churches. Many churches have asked our committee how can we help or can we sponsor a tribe? Our answer is that we want the local churches to help with this one special, annual outreach project. Cathy Nelson, our vice chair, along with assistance from the Keepers of the Word will put the baskets together and ensure equal distribution. This way every tribe in the state is guaranteed to get an equal number, and no tribe is left out.

We are simply asking the churches to collect the items needed for the baskets and give Cathy Nelson a call. Cathy will make arrangements to pick up the material. **Cathy Nelson's number is 843-835-8589.** (Continued on page 3)

## Chair's Corner (continued)

I hope the conference continues to fill our calendars. Yet, we have only reached a small fraction of the churches in this conference.

This summer, we were blessed to provide \$2,016 in scholarships for native peoples in South Carolina to attend the SEJANAM summer Indian conference. The conference provided outstanding worship, learning workshops, networking and the unity of native peoples gathering from the southeastern jurisdiction.

While at the conference, our committee and conference achieved a true first. Beckee Garris, a Catawba, a United Methodist, and a NAC committee member, was elected as the chair for the Southeastern Regional Native American Caucus (SERNAC). Additionally, Charlotte Barker, a Cherokee, a United Methodist, and a NAC committee member, was elected as the SERNAC secretary. Both will now have an opportunity to represent our committee, conference and jurisdiction while attending the Native American International Caucus of the United Methodist Church and represent us through the Native American Comprehensive Plan. I cannot tell you how my heart felt to see this come to pass. We have come a long way.

### Elder Baskets (continued from page 2)

The following items are needed: A small laundry basket (which is filled with the supplies); non-perishable cans or package goods of meats, vegetables and staples (can be done through a canned food drive); laundry detergent; dish washing liquid; bath soap; shampoo; hand/body lotion; toothpaste; toothbrush; toilet paper; boxes of tissue; health care items (bandages, cotton balls, etc); men's and women's facial care products; nail clippers; Christmas candy.

If you do have the time or cannot put together the baskets, the Native American Committee will be happy to accept any monetary donations. There are transportation costs especially with gas prices. Please write your check to the Native American Committee and indicate in the memo section that the money is for the Elder Baskets. I am happy to report that with the monetary assistance we received last year, we were able to complete the baskets and pay for the transportation. Send the checks to the conference office (attention: Gail Corn) or to the Native American Committee chair, Zan Tracy Pender (803-905-5672). Tracy's address is 2270 Clematis Trail, Sumter, SC 29150.

This summer, we provided \$700 in scholarships for South Carolina native youth to attend the American Indian Scouting Association (AISA) Seminar being hosted by the Eastern Band Cherokee in North Carolina. It is a gathering of Indian scouts from throughout the nation. The South Carolina delegation represented the largest number of native people from South Carolina to ever attend this event. Again, we can only offer thanks to God for this success. Some of the scouts are raising funds and planning on making the trip to Pocatello, Idaho, for next year's seminar. If you are interested in attending or more information on this event, please contact **Charlotte Barker, 803 754-7037 or [Kaybarker1@earthlink.net](mailto:Kaybarker1@earthlink.net)**. She is the PR chair for AISA. Likewise, if you want to sponsor an American Indian youth from South Carolina to attend, please let me know.

Yet, I must temper my excitement. As I stated, we have a long ways to go and it is not an easy road. Sadly, our Native American Salkehatchie Camp had to be cancelled. We failed to get the funding and the volunteers needed to have the camp. Our long range plans were to spend two years with the Wassamassaw people and then two

years with the Catawba. There are many homes in these communities that need repairs and our help along with some tribal structures. With our camp being one of the smaller camps, it is difficult to compete against the larger ones. We are praying that a church or two may take us under their wings and ensure our camp happens. Indian communities are very thankful for such assistance and are willing to share their culture when campers come. You might even get a traditional meal.

Overall, **success** is the word that best describes our committee's efforts over the last six months. I hope that you will share in our triumphs because without everyone in this conference and your support, none of this is possible. This conference is a true reflection of Open Hearts, Open Minds, and Open Doors. We live by example. We know we walk a good Red road with Grandfather, God. While we still have many struggles to overcome, He has shown us the way and what He is capable of. I can only imagine our potential with Him leading the way. If you have any questions, comments, concerns, or want to set up a way to assist us, please contact me (803-905-5672).

We live by  
example.  
We know we walk  
a good Red road  
with Grandfather,  
God

# Native American Ministries Sunday

*It doesn't have to be in April and it is not too early to plan for next year.*

*It doesn't  
have to be  
in April— we can  
arrange to come on  
other Sundays*

One of the special worship Sundays in the church is Native American Ministries Sunday. This past year it was held in April. For 2009, it will be April 19<sup>th</sup>. We acknowledge that there are lots of special observance Sundays to work into a church calendar. However, the South Carolina United Methodist Native American committee is asking that you place this special Sunday on your church calendar. It is not too late to have it done this year and definitely not too early to plan for next year. With only eight committee members, our calendars fill fast.

One of the purposes of Native American Ministries Sunday is to provide education about American Indians. How many things have you heard about American Indians growing up that are really myths and stereotypes and are not the truth? Do you know how many tribes there are in South Carolina? Most people can only name one or two, but there are more. What is the history of American Indians in this state? What obstacles did American Indian people face? What is the current status of American Indians within this state? How much do you know about American Indian spirituality? Did you know the United Methodists have books and resources that address these issues? What outreach does our conference provide for the native peoples of South Carolina? Did you know we have a traditionally worshipping congregation in the state? All of these questions and more can be answered during Native American Ministries Sunday.

One of John Wesley's major missions was outreach to American Indians. He went where others would not go. Funds collected on Native American Ministries Sunday nurture outreach to Native Americans and provide scholarships for United Methodist Native American seminarians. Half of the monies raised stay in the state to support our outreach to the tribes of South Carolina. This provides a means to maintain and reestablish cultural traditions, regalia, and other needs for the tribes. It provides for worship outreach. We have provided for medical needs and services. Many of our native peoples in this state live in substandard conditions. There is a great need within our own state.

With these reasons in mind, we are asking that churches within the conference schedule a Native American Ministries Sunday. The South Carolina United Methodist Native American Committee is here to help and assist you with this special worship Sunday. We are willing to work with a church to schedule this Sunday any time during the year. November is also Native American Heritage month for the United States.

For that first presentation at your church, our chair person typically provides the message during the sermon. The message covers myths and stereotypes about the South Carolina American Indian people from past to present, American Indian spirituality, the Native American Committee, and the connection with our conference. We have brochures and a display presentation. We can also provide worship materials for this service from United Methodist resources. This year has been our best year, but we have a long way to go to getting this message into the majority of our churches. After the message, many congregations have been surprised about what they did not know and about the misconceptions about native peoples. You will also get an opportunity to experience a cultural and religious tradition of gift giving during that service.

A second year could involve traditional story telling. This involves Native Storytelling with a connection to the stories of the Bible and the parables of Jesus. Third and subsequent services can cover many different areas including presentations from members of South Carolina tribes and the unique history of that tribe or some traditional aspects of native worship.

This is a part of our denomination. Let's live by open hearts, open minds, and open doors. We are asking you to have a Native American Ministries Sunday and provide that outreach and nurture to the native peoples. We are often the Invisible or Forgotten people, and we want to change this perception. Please help us with this mission.

**To arrange a Native American Ministries Sunday, please contact Z. Tracy Pender, Native American Chair, 803 905-5672.**



# Native American Representative Training

For the fifth time, the South Carolina United Methodist Native American Committee (NAC) is sponsoring and providing Native American Representative Training. The training date is February 7th at Bethel United Methodist Church in Columbia. Registration will begin at 9 a.m. with the training starting at 9:30 and ending at 3:30pm. The training provides an in-depth look into the past and present for the South Carolina Native American tribes, myths and stereotypes, Native American Spirituality, the role of the United Methodist Church and our conference, the Native American Committee and the responsibilities of the Native American Representative.

*The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church (2004) (653) states: "Every local church at charge conference shall designate by nomination and election a minimum of one person per charge (without regard to race or ethnic origin) to represent the need for better awareness of Native American contributions in the local church."* It is the responsibility of the NAC to provide training to these representatives. To date, we have trained over 240.

## Pee Dee Indian Nation

In the Pee Dee Indian Nation community there are many poor and elders with less than average income. Having to make ends meet is very difficult. The Native American Committee helped us purchase 4 window units for our elders. Now these older people can cool off at least one room of their home during the hot weather. Thanks to the Methodist Church for their "open hearts and open minds."

Chief Carolyn Chavis Bolton

## News from the Catawba Indian Nation

The Catawba Cultural Center just completed its third Summer Cultural Immersion Day Camp for 45 Catawba children. They were taught simple Catawba words and phrases, the poem "Iswa Children Stand Tall" in both English and Catawba, Earth Science, and how to make Catawba pottery, among other things about their culture.

The Cultural Center renovated its Exhibits building from one large open room

into three rooms: media, computer lab and homework rooms. The staff worked 11 days straight to have the renovations completed in time for the after-school start up date. When the children were actually allowed into their new and improved building, some of the comments from the children were: "This is the bestest day of my life" and "This is totally cool".

The Catawba Indian Nation held a special event on

Friday, September 12, 2008 to celebrate their new Adult Education Computer Room. They received a \$150,000 grant to furnish the room and train our Senior Citizens on how to use a computer. Other programs offered include studying for the GED and learning to read and write. A meal of bar-b-que sandwiches was enjoyed by all after the ceremony.

Beckee Garris

The job of the representative is to be a contact person between the local church and our committee, secure a calendar date for the church to observe Native American Ministries Sunday, encourage awareness and appreciation of Native American history, traditions, and spirituality, advocate for inclusion of Native Americans within the conference, provide reports to the local church, and be aware of the Native American Comprehensive Plan.

We have invited the Bishop, Cabinet members and District Superintendents to attend this year. Additionally, Charlotte Grooms, the Ethnic Local Church Concerns (ELCC) chair has invited ELCC committee members to attend. Finally, Darlene Jacobs, CEO for the Southeastern Jurisdictional Agency for Native American Ministries (SEJANAM) will be attending and discussing the recent changes in their structure.

There is a \$5.00, non-refundable registration charge. Lunch is provided.

**To register for this course and receive more information, please contact Beckee Garris, NAC member, at 803 325-4194 or [beckeeg@yahoo.com](mailto:beckeeg@yahoo.com).**

**Native American  
Representative  
Training  
scheduled for  
February 7, 2009**

# PAIA Lower Eastern Cherokee Nation

PAIA Lower Eastern Cherokee Nation SC participated in several events over the past few months. In May, we joined with other SC tribes in the Annual Pow Wow on the State House grounds which was sponsored by the SC Indian Affairs Commission. Vice Chief Mary Louise Worthy attended the National Indian and Native American Employment and Training Conference in Wisconsin, sponsored by the Ho Chunk Indian Nation. She serves on the executive committee.

On June 14th, we held our annual Pow Wow Cultural Gathering on our tribal grounds in Gray Court; this event was partially sup-

ported by the SC United Methodist Native American Committee. Earlier in June, the Marriage Bill was passed which recognized Indian Chiefs and Spiritual Leaders as eligible to perform marriages. Rep. Garry Smith and Sen. David Thomas helped in getting the bill passed. Chief Gene Norris performed the first wedding under the new bill by marrying retired Chief Harold "Buster" Hatcher and acting Chief Susan Hayes of the Waccamaw Indian People.

In July, 3 of us attended the American Indian Scouting Association in NC. There were no words to express the joy that we had meeting other scouts from different

states and tribes. We are already planning to attend next year in Pocatello, Idaho. We hope to have more SC scouts attending next year.

In September, Vice Chief Worthy gave a presentation to a Greenville UMC Church and Chief Norris and Rene McAbee did a Lunch and Learn on NA herbs at the Upcountry History Museum in Greenville. We participated in festivals in Gray Court, Laurens and Clinton and did a NA Crafts Workshop in Greenville.

"Strong Beaver's Kids Camp" took place on October 17 and 18.

-Mary Louise Worthy

still have a lot to do, we know that the United Methodist Church is a friend in deed to the Native Americans in South Carolina. Many, many thanks to Tracy Pender, Charlotte Grooms and the Native American Committee.

**Indian Chiefs and Spiritual Leaders can legally perform marriage ceremonies as a result of recent legislation**

## Thanks!

Chief Gene Norris and Vice Chief Mary Louise Worthy would like to express their sincere thanks on behalf of the PAIA Lower Eastern Cherokee Nation SC, for all the help in grants from the NAC under the United

Methodist Church, South Carolina Conference. We have been able to repair parts of the roof on our barn, put in a concrete floor, etc. We were also able to do repairs to our tribal office. Although we

## Important information regarding Census 2010

On July 10th, Chief Norris attended a workshop in Raleigh, NC, about the upcoming 2010 Census. They met with Indians from all over the east to discuss how we were going to get a correct count of the Indian population. One very important thing was emphasized: make sure that your people know what tribe,

group, or association they belong to. For instance, we are Cherokee, but the name of our group is the PAIA Lower Eastern Cherokee Nation SC. It will make a big difference if you do not use the correct name. If you have your membership cards for wherever you belong, then you should list yourself as a member of

that group or tribe. It is important when we go after grants to let people know how many members you have in a group.

Temporary jobs will be available starting in 2009. The census will hire 1.3 million census workers at \$11.50 to \$25 per hour.

# Rev. Mangum still in mission

Many of you will remember Rev. Bob Mangum, the clergyman who was very involved in forming the Southeastern Jurisdiction Agency for Native American Ministries. He served as the executive director of SEJANAM for many years; prior to this he served Lumbee Indian congregations for the Methodist Church. Although now retired, Rev. Mangum is still active in the UM Church's mission efforts to Bolivia.

From the SEJANAM publication: *The final award was given in honor of Rev. Dr.*

*Robert Mangum and his wife Neila. The Bolivia Mission Ministry began under the direction and leadership of Rev. Dr. Robert L. Mangum. Rev. Mangum has been recognized by the Montero City Council, the people of the Guarani Village, the Red Cross Center, and SEJANAM with many gifts and plaques.*

*The foyer of the Red Cross Medical Clinic will now bear the name 'Rev. Bob and Neila Mangum' in honor and deep appreciation of their humanitarian efforts and for having started the construction of the Mother's Birthing*

*Center for 'the service of the people that need it the most.*

Congratulations to Rev. Mangum! The SC Native American Committee owes its inception to the leadership of Rev. Bob Mangum.

Members of the work team to Bolivia included many Native Americans.

For more information, contact Darlene Jacobs, SEJANAM Executive Director, at 1.888.825.6316 or send your emails to

djacobs@lakejunaluska.com

## SEJANAM

The SC United Methodist Conference was represented at the Southeastern Jurisdictional Agency on Native American Ministries (SEJANAM) Board meeting and Summer Conference held June 26-29 at Lake Junaluska. The South Carolina Native American Committee (NAC) provides four Board members to this body. They are Tracy Pender, NAC Chair, Cathy Nelson (SEJANAM secretary), Charlotte Barker and Beckee Garris.

The South Carolina NAC provided scholarships totaling \$2,014 for a delegation of 18 from SC to the Summer Conference. The delegation participated in workshops, learning activities, worship services, ice cream social and a song fest.

SEJANAM was established by the 1984 Jurisdictional

Conference to help create: Awareness and Dialogue, New Congregations and Ministries, Leadership Enlistment and Training, Inter-Tribal Witness/ Sharing, Cross Cultural Witness/ Sharing, and Sensitivity to Inclusiveness. SEJANAM serves the fifteen annual conferences of the SEJ, twenty-three Native American churches, three ministries of the SEJ, and seeks to serve approximately 210,000 Native Americans of the nine southeastern states of the SEJ.

On Friday following the SEJANAM Board meeting on Thursday, the Southeastern Regional Native American Caucus (SERNAC) met to elect officers, conduct business and elect representatives to the Native American International Caucus (NAIC) and The Native American Compre-

hensive Plan. Beckee Garris was elected to serve as SERNAC chair person and Charlotte Barker was elected as secretary. SERNAC is charged to advocate for Native American issues relating to Native American ministries within the Southeastern jurisdiction, to assist in providing qualified leadership for positions made available by all board agencies of the United Methodist Church and to provide leadership training for Native American youth and young adults.

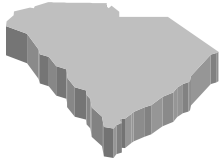
On Sunday, Cathy Nelson and Beckee Garris participated in the Summer Worship Series at the Lake Junaluska Stuart Auditorium, which is open to everyone. Cathy Nelson played the American Indian flute and Beckee Garris read a prayer and tribal blessing in her native Catawba language.

**SEJANAM, SERNAC  
and NAIC—all are  
organizations giving  
a voice to Native  
Americans in the  
United Methodist  
Church**

**Native American  
Committee of the S.C.  
United Methodist Church**

South Carolina Conference  
Connectional Ministries  
4908 Colonial Drive  
Columbia, S.C. 29203

Committee Members:  
Z. Tracy Pender, Chair; Cathy  
Nelson, Vice Chair; Charlotte  
Barker, Secretary; Rev. Bart  
Sistare, Carolyn Bolton, Chris  
Weik, Beckee Garris, Mary  
Louise Worthy, Terry Hatcher



**Please distribute  
this newsletter to  
Worship Chair,  
Religion and Race  
Chair, and Native  
American  
Representative**

***Native American  
Ministries Sunday,  
April 19, 2009***

**Non-Profit Org**

**U.S. Postage**

**PAID**

**Permit No. 3**

## **Giving Our Hearts Away: Native American Survival**

### **Two Year Mission Study**

United Methodist Women currently offer a study course structured to open pathways of understanding the history, cultural views, and values held by American Indians. The study also addresses the current and ongoing challenges to survival faced by Native American Indians today.

Cathy Nelson (Ojibwa) of the Native American Committee taught the course at the South Carolina School of Mission held at Spartanburg Methodist College this past July. Other course leaders are Jane Scott and Lisa Salters from United Methodist Women.

The course was well attended and received by the participants and will be offered again next summer. A short version of the course can be presented at local churches.

- ◇ Learn how the United Methodist Church and the South Carolina Annual Conference is in mission with Native American communities.
- ◇ Hear Native American stories of faith and survival.
- ◇ See where Native Americans live in the USA and South Carolina.
- ◇ Experience Native American Christian worship and music.