

The 2010 South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church

The Annual Conference of the S.C. Conference of the United Methodist Church was held in the Florence Civic Center, June 10th – 13th with some 1,800 delegates in attendance. It was a time for worship, doing the business of the conference, renewing friendships and making new acquaintances.

The theme for this year's conference "For the Least of These" was carried out through the Great Day of Service on Friday and in worship services and through the testimonies given during Morning Prayer time. Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor's sermon addressing the plight of the people in Manila and Jim Winkler's (General Secretary of Board of Church & Society), given testimony of his visit to the region were most moving. Another testimony rendered during Morning Prayer was that of Dr. Chris Griffin, a member of Main Street United Methodist Church, Abbeville, SC, who was in Haiti on a medical team mission trip during the earthquake. He gave reflection about his work there and how his team was able to get back home with the help of Bahamas Methodist Habitat Organization.

"This year's approximately 45 projects carried out during the "Great Day of Service" included everything from installing cabinets at the Durant Children's Center to participating in prayer walks to writing letters and assembling care packages for the troops." The Great Day of Service was followed by a youth-focused evening of worship and reflection.

Other highlights of the conference included a memorial service honoring pastors and wives and husbands of pastors who passed away in the last year and the ordination service for new deacons and elders and a clergy retirement ceremony. The video clips of state-wide retiring ministers sharing their wisdom and experiences with others were most impressive.

During the business of the conference several changes were made in the standing rules, many reports and awards given, much debate on the 2011 budget, and several resolutions were voted upon. It is always a sad moment when a resolution is brought before the body to discontinue a church as was the case of the Broomfield United Methodist Church in the Walterboro District.

The conference ended with the fixing of the appointments. We are so blessed to be able to keep our clergy with us for another year.

The dates for the 2011 annual conference are June 8th – 12th and will again be held in the Florence Civic Center.

It is always a privilege to represent First United Methodist Church as a lay member to the annual conference and thank you for the opportunity to serve our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ in this way.

Submitted by,

Jean Clemmons.

