



Amity

United Methodist Church

Believe . . . Belong . . . Become . . .



The Staff-Parish Relations Committee is pleased to announce that Bishop Gwinn has appointed the Rev. Vernon Tyson as Interim Pastor to Amity UMC for January through June 2008.

Rev. Tyson retired from active ministry after 50 years of ministry but has continued to serve in Interim pastorships. His father and brothers were also ministers. His determination to be “God’s man” led him to the front lines of the civil rights movement as he served Methodist churches across North Carolina. “I didn’t know how to escape the issue of race and be a Christian minister,” says Tyson. “Race was put on my plate.” His ministry of racial reconciliation is at the heart of *Blood Done Sign My Name*, a memoir by his son, Timothy B. Tyson. (*DIVINITY, online edition, Duke Divinity School, Fall 2004, Volume 4, No. 1* <http://www.divinity.duke.edu/publications/2004.09/features/tyson/01.htm>).

Rev. Tyson and his wife Martha, a retired schoolteacher and current Sunday School teacher at Edenton Street UMC, live in Raleigh. They have four children and four grandchildren, two of whom live in Chapel Hill. His sister Merle married Trillis Sparrow’s brother, so he already has a connection to Amity.

Rev. Tyson’s love for ministry is obvious and enthusiastic. He told the Staff-Parish Relations Committee “The best is yet to come!” His two areas of focus at Amity will be the worship service and providing pastoral care to those who are in the most need. His office hours will be Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings.

Rev. Tyson successfully re-built a previous interim congregation from a handful to over 80 members. With his wholehearted commitment to make the most of his six months of ministry to Amity – “God’s church, not our church”, we can indeed believe “The best is yet to come!”.

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Mindful of our vows to support this church by our prayers, presence, gifts and service, we understand our mission as the church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

amityumc.org

Located at the corner of Estes and Martin Luther King (Old Airport Road)