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## Local Methodist participate in Family Camp

by Yvonne Barnes Dial  
Tribes across the nation share an enthusiasm to worship God and study issues each year as they prepare themselves to attend one of the major events of the United Methodist Church for Native Americans. From the North Carolina eastern jurisdiction and the Rockingham District Native American Cooperative Ministry, the relative tribes of these areas met with other tribes throughout the U.S. to celebrate Family Camp in Gore, Oklahoma July 13-17. Rev. Alvin Deer, executive director for the Native American International Caucus for the United Methodist Church, welcomed everyone on Sunday with Rev. Freeman and members of the local area, served as host of the land and blessed the camp. Afterward, participants enjoyed a Muskogee Creek Church service with Creeks hymns and Rev. Josephine Deere presented the sermon. Rev. Harry Long, a highly respected elder, conducted holy communion. Each morning, ministers of various tribes shared a devotion and

United Methodist Church, the General Board of Church and Society, was the keynote speaker as he informed the audience that "the environment is sacred ground," and "man has a relationship to the earth." Various speakers shared valuable information during the plenary sessions as the harmful effects of uranium fields on native citizens that the US government has left unattended by Patty Bullard, a nutrition center in Cookson, Oklahoma which has made a positive impact on so many Native Americans by Rev. Meredith Whitaker, young adults involved in missions work across the nation by Jennifer Battiest, religious literature for Native Americans by Maesel Dorn, informed and history about the Cherokees by Dr. Julia Coates, and traditions and beliefs of Native Americans by Dr. Richard Grounds. Pastors participated in workshops, "I and the Land are One," conducted by Dr. Thom Fasset and "Healing the Land," by Rev. Tom Hazelwood. Other participants attended the workshop, "How to Write Resolutions/Legislation to General Conference," conducted

by Gary Locklear and Yvonne Dial. Rev. Alvin Deer, conducted a Bible Study and an elder session was held to assist the senior citizens in receiving various health services. The children and youth also participated in activities and worship, and later in the week, each group made a presentation for the adult audience. Tuesday, participants enjoyed a delightful trip to Teleequah to the Cherokee Heritage Center as entertainers shared story telling, stomp dancing, ceremonial dancing, a frybread dinner. The host of the center shared history of the Cherokee and the hazards and tragic encounters endured on the Trail of Tears. Everyone enjoyed a delicious picnic served by the Finn and Feather Resort. Wednesday night, many performed in the talent show. An auction was held to raise funds for the caucus. Thursday, Rev.

Lois Neal shared her message of encouragement and blessing. Afterward, the youth presented a video presentation and interviewed several adults on the use and effects of smoking, role playing the average youth being influenced by peers and others making strong statements on the dangerous effects of drug use.



Participants enjoyed the scenic views, workshops, preaching and fellowship at Family Camp in Gore, Oklahoma.

Rev. Dr. Thom Wolf Fasset, general secretary of the International Rights Organization of the

## FirstHealth's Blue named one of the state's top 100 nurses

**PINEHURST-Scarlett Blue** wears two professional hats. At heart and by training, she is a registered nurse, known throughout FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital for the special care she provided to patients on floors and in the surgical service area. By title and current position, she is Director of Clinical Development in the Business Development Department of FirstHealth of the Carolinas, a job that takes her into communities throughout 15 mid-Carolina counties to promote clinical services provided by all three FirstHealth hospitals. She wears both hats very well, so well that she has just been chosen one of the top 100 nurses in North Carolina. "It is," she says, "a great honor." The designation comes from The Great 100 Inc., a grassroots peer organization that promotes the nursing profession in North Carolina through its annual list of 100 of the best nurses in the state. Award recipients for 2003 will be recognized during an Oct 4 event

at the Joseph S. Koury Convention Center in Greensboro. In nominating Blue for the Great 100 list, Lynn DeJaco, FirstHealth's Senior Vice President for Finance, noted her 26 years of nursing experience as well as her professional involvement in various local, state and national nursing organizations and a variety of FirstHealth-related team, service line and committee activities.

"This nominee cares for people in the broader sense," DeJaco said in her nomination letter. "Patients, families, colleagues, communities, she consistently puts the needs of others first and never leaves a task undone." Blue has twice, in 1989 and 1991, received the Excellence in Nursing Award from the North Carolina Nurses Association, an honor based on nominations

made by physicians. FirstHealth affiliated physicians know Blue well-by virtue of her floor and surgical nursing experience and

through her current position in Business Development. She has come to know many of them on a first-name basis while accompanying them throughout the region to introduce FirstHealth services to an expanding coverage area.

A native of Chatham County, Blue graduated from the associate degree nursing program at Sandhills Community College at age 19 and took a job as a staff nurse on the 27-bed Chapin Hall at Moore Regional Hospital immediately afterward. Blue continued her education while working-first with a B.S. degree in nursing from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and later with a master's degree in nursing administration from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

## Robeson Deputy Reggle Strickland Receives Advanced Certificate

Officer Reggle Strickland of the Robeson County Sheriff's Office was awarded the Advanced Professional Law Enforcement Certificate by the North Carolina Sheriff's Education and Training Standards Commission on August 27, 2003. Officer Strickland was awarded this certificate for a combination of 7 years of full time service a B.A. degree and 47.3 law enforcement training points. Officer Strickland is one of 66 sheriffs and deputy sheriffs to be approved for the Advanced Professional Law Enforcement Certificate during the Commission's meeting on August 27, 2003. The North Carolina Sheriff's Education and Training Standards Commission was established in September, 1983. The purpose of the North Carolina Sheriff's Education and Training Standards Commission is to upgrade the capabilities, competence, and proficiency of sheriffs' departmental personnel through programs, standards, and procedures involving employment, improvement, career development, and retention of the sheriffs' office personnel. The North Carolina Sheriff's Education and Training Standards Commission currently maintains certification files on over 16,000 deputy sheriffs, detention officers and telecommunicators. The purpose of the Advanced

Professional Law Enforcement Certificate is to recognize the level of competence of sheriffs and deputy sheriffs serving North Carolina Sheriff's Offices, to foster increased interest in college education and professional law enforcement training and to attract highly qualified individuals into a law enforcement career. The Advanced Professional Law Enforcement Certificate is the highest Professional Certificate awarded to sheriffs and deputy sheriffs in North Carolina. To qualify for the Advanced Professional Law Enforcement Certificate, sheriffs and deputy sheriffs must complete a combination of professional training and relevant education, as well as meet the minimum experience requirements.

## Fall Learning Together Program scheduled

The Robeson County Family Support Program is sponsoring the FALL Session of the Learning Together Program for 3, 4, and 5 year old children and their parents/caregiver who have had no Pre-school or Headstart experience. The Learning Together Program is a School-Readiness, Smart Start funded Program that prepares children and parents/caregivers for kindergarten. Weekly 2-hour sessions begin September

## Big Sweep 2003

**BIG SWEEP**, North Carolina's annual clean-up of our waterways and shorelines, will be held on the Lumber River, Saturday, September 20, from 9am until 1pm. Neill Lee, ROBESON COUNTY BIG SWEEP Co-ordinator, is looking for individuals and organizations who are interested in volunteering to clean up the Lumber River by boat or at bridges and landings along the river.

Last September, during 2002 Big Sweep, 84 citizens of Robeson County and river lovers from all over volunteered to spend a Saturday morning picking up 14,000 lbs of trash tossed into the

Lumber River by thoughtless litterbugs. Across North Carolina, 15,117 volunteers picked up 573,855 lbs of trash from our state's waterways and shorelines. Unfortunately these same inconsiderate litterbugs have had another year to pollute the Lumber River with their drink bottles, worm cups, fishing line, tires, cigarette butts, styrofoam containers, oil containers, dead animals and whatever else they could find to throw in the river. To volunteer to clean up after these Lumber River polluters or for more information, contact Neill Lee at Lumber River State Park at (910) 628-9844. Your help and support will be appreciated!

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The manner in which the hours of freedom are spent determines, no less than labor and war, the moral worth of a nation.  
—Maurice Maeterlinck

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The acquiring of culture is the developing of an avid hunger for knowledge and beauty.  
—Jesse Lee Bennett

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The only way you can truly control how you're seen is by being honest all the time.  
—Tom Hanks

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Fallon McNeill

## Fallon McNeill to participate in Miss North Carolina Teen

Fallon Victoria McNeill from Pembroke, daughter of Larry and Glinda McNeill has been selected to participate in the MISS NORTH CAROLINA (TEEN) USA 2004 PAGEANT at THE HIGH POINT THEATER AND EXHIBITION CENTER in High Point on October 24 & 25, 2003. Each delegate will be judged in swimsuit, evening gown, and personal interview. The winner will represent the Tarheel State in the NBC nationally televised MISS (TEEN) USA pageant in 2004. Among her many state prizes will be: cash, A Luxurious Fur Coat, Wardrobe, Evening Gown, 14K gold Crown Ring designed exclusively for our state winners, and the opportunity to interview with top commercial Talent Agencies. The most exciting prize is an expense paid trip to the telecast

of the MISS (TEEN) USA pageant where she will compete for the prestigious title of MISS (TEEN) USA 2004 and traditionally \$225,000.00 (for Teen this number would be \$150,000.00) in cash and prizes. Fallon Victoria McNeill is a student at UNCP. She has been sponsored by The Golden Comb, Dr. Joseph Roberts, Familycare and Will and Frieda Porter. Fallon McNeill invites everyone to attend Friday's preliminary and Saturday's final competition. The pageant begins Friday at 8:00 Saturday night at 7:30. Tickets to both events are available at the door to anyone wishing to support Fallon McNeill and cheer her on to become the next MISS NORTH CAROLINA (TEEN) USA.

## LRDA sponsors WIA workshop for classroom participants

The LRDA Workforce Investment Act Program (WIA) held an Orientation program for the upcoming Classroom Participants. Over 20 new and returning students participated in the training. The orientation and training program consisted of personnel introductions, administrative procedures and forms, programs requirements and expectations, as well as an informative lecture on local schools and universities. William Locklear, director of WIA and the LRDA Employment Department, stated "It is an important day for these participants. Each one now has an opportunity to reach their goals and succeed in their plans." The WIA program is broken into 4 sections-Classroom Training, Work Experience, Job Training, and On-the-Job Training. Each section is specifically designed to assist participants in becoming educated and/or trained in a specific job or career. These programs help to promote the growth and stability of local

government agencies and businesses by paying the salaries of workers in training or half of the salaries of the workers enrolled in on the job training. The staff works closely with area industries and employers to keep informed on job openings and placement opportunities.

The Workforce Investment Act Program of LRDA has served as a leader in providing employment and training opportunities for 30 years. Since 1973, LRDA has sponsored various federally funded employment and training programs that have had a total impact on many thousands of people. The program and its staff have helped many Indian people to get an entry-level job and begin a successful career. For more information about this program or any other program at the LRDA, please visit our website online at

www.lumbee.org or call (910) 521-8602

## A "Strike at the Wind" season to remember

Pembroke, NC-On Saturday, August 23, 2003, the outdoor drama Strike at the Wind closed with an audience for the last two nights well over 2,000. David Oxendine, the drama's Artistic Director once again did his Elvis impersonation for the hundreds of new University of North Carolina at Pembroke students. Special guests for the final performance included Rev. Julian Ransom who played the original leader for over ten seasons. He was joined by his daughter Victoria who was a member of the 1976 cast. Mr. & Mrs. Ned Sampson, the parents of Oklahoma Sooners coach, Kelvin Sampson, along with former SATW cast members James Bass and Vinita "Cookie" Maynor Clark, author of "Our Strike at the Wind Memories" were in attendance.

Clark's memory book is now in the Special Collections at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke. The book has reached as far west as California, as far

North as Philadelphia and Washington, DC and as far south as Florida. When the final curtain came cast members ran out into the audience with several announcing their retirement from the outdoor drama. Cast members Edward Strickland and Natasha Lowry announced their engagement and approaching marriage. Davita Carter presented cast member Todd Harris with a birthday cake. Then, everyone enjoyed a party on stage and a pool party.