

Burke United Christian Ministries  
305-B West Union Street  
Morganton, NC 28655

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# Annual Report

Fiscal Year — 2009—2010

The Annual Report of Burke United Christian Ministries



"In all things, give thanks."



## IN MEMORIAM

**Vera Beach Brittain** was a beloved volunteer at Burke United Christian Ministries. She went to be with her Lord and Savior on June 13, 2010. Vera was a dedicated Food Pantry volunteer and provided the example of giving of one's time, talent and treasure. We will miss her joyful spirit and feel privileged to have called her a friend and supporter of Burke United Christian Ministries. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family.

### Correction to March / April Newsletter

We failed to acknowledge **Hannah Rhodes** as a donor to our first Annual Golfing for Good tournament. Our thanks is extended to Ms. Rhodes for helping make the tournament a success.

### MOBILE FOOD PANTRY TRAVELS THROUGHOUT BURKE COUNTY!

The Fiscal Year 2009-2010 was a busy one for the Mobile Food Pantry. With the Second Harvest of Metrolina, our Mobile Food Pantry traveled to ten different locations throughout the year. The Mobile Food Pantry is a ministry that reaches out to those in need in their own communities. Thanks to our supporting churches, businesses and a volunteer fire department, 2,271 households were served reaching a total of 5,651 individuals. The Mobile Pantry traveled throughout Burke County, (from Lake James, through Morganton, to Valdese, out to Pilot Mountain, over to Salem and ending in the heart of Morganton.) Our thanks go out to the following churches, businesses and organizations for their willingness to host this ministry:

July 2009	Lake James Fire Department	178 HouseholdServed
August 2009	Grace Hospital	207 Households Served
September 2009	First Baptist Church – Morganton	237 Households served
October 2009	First United Methodist Church Valdese	235 Households Served
November 2009	Gaston Chapel	253 Households Served
December 2009	Shiloh AME	198 Households Served
March 2010	First United Methodist Church-Pilot Mountain	128 Households Served
April 2010	First United Methodist Church-Salem	304 Households Served
May 2010	First United Methodist Church-Morg.	254 Households Served
June 2010	New Day Christian Church	277 Households Served



*The Mission of Burke United Christian Ministries is to put compassion into action demonstrating the love of Christ by providing food, clothing, shelter and crisis assistance to all of God's children in need.*

### Board of Directors

*Liz Beach  
Jill King  
Rev. Francis King  
Carol Ervin Largent  
Dennis Lee  
Susan C. Pollpeter  
David Pope  
Ed Redman  
Nick Roberto  
Vera Salter  
Jackie Scott  
Anne Walsh*

### Burke United Christian Ministries Staff

*Nancy W. Taylor  
Interim Executive Director  
Beth Cook  
Office Manager  
Diane Bradshaw  
Clothing Store Manager  
Mary Sue Ervin  
Asst. Clothing Manager  
Dot Beam  
Sales Floor Manager  
Rosemary Ohnesorge  
Chief Crisis Counselor  
Will Stanley  
Asst. Crisis Counselor  
Pat Tyson  
Food Services Manager  
Earlene Nestor  
Food Service Assistant*

## Food Pantry Exceeds 430,000 Pounds in Distribution for Fiscal Year 2009-2010

The Food Pantry at Burke United Christian Ministries had another busy year. **430,996 pounds of food were distributed during the fiscal year of 2009-2010 and 3,921 households were served.**

After our clients interview with the Crisis Counselors, they are given a grocery voucher that allows each person to enter the Food Pantry and select food. Each household is given food based upon the size of the household. Clients are allowed to select their own food. This promotes a sense of independence and dignity as they shop.

Our volunteers are trained to assist our clients as they shop. They are also responsible for weighing the food.

Two different food types are available for clients. USDA Commodity Food is one source of food in our Food Pantry and the second source is donations from individuals, businesses, and our Food Harvesting program.

**Our Food Harvesting program generates an average of over 30,000 pounds of excess food per month.** The Food Lion Corporation has been a dedicated supporter of Burke United Christian Ministries and harvests over 25,000 pounds per month for our food ministry. Harris Teeter and Bi-Lo are also strong supporters of our program.

## Soup Kitchen Serves Record Number



Since 1985, Burke United Christian Ministries has embraced the mission of serving a meal to those who are in need. Mid-day meals are offered every day of the year and evening meals are provided on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

**During the period of July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010, 58,783 meals were prepared and served** by a host of extraordinary volunteers which include our churches, service leagues and community groups. **4,250 of those served were children and approximately 2,351 of the meals were for the homebound.** Our guests in the Soup Kitchen include, individuals, the elderly and disabled, the unemployed, or those who are homeless.

The Soup Kitchen, which is open to all who are hungry, is not only a place where food is served, but where our volunteers ensure that members of their community feel welcome and loved.

### Clothing Ministry Remains Strong in Fiscal Year 2009-2010

Our Clothing Ministry remains an integral part of Burke United Christian Ministries. Last year, proceeds from our retail clothing store soared to **\$113,037**. The retail store is open to the public. Our staff and volunteers are well trained to assist customers and clients. The proceeds from the retail store provide continuing financial support to Burke United Christian Ministries.

### NEEDS LIST

Underwear-NEW  
Athletic socks-All sizes  
Men's jeans  
Mens tennis shoes  
Toddler clothes  
Men's / women's plus size clothing  
Childrens shoes  
Pots and pans  
Gently used towels





Sometime in late May, I realized that I would have some free time on my hands this summer and wondered if there might be an organization that could use my help for a few months. I knew that the organization had to be a place where I could actually see that lives were being touched and enhanced in some manner and that any contributions I could make, would serve a stated mission. Fortunately for me, I found that place at Burke United Christian Ministries. Like many in the community, I've always known about Burke United Christian Ministries because my family would drop off clothing for the store or food for the pantry. What I didn't know and what I have since learned, is that once you become an

active part of this incredible ministry, your life changes forever.

It has been my privilege to have a first-hand lesson on how our Food Ministry, Clothing Ministry and Crisis Ministry serve this community. My education has come from those who administer these ministries as well as those who are served by these ministries. The staff and volunteers of Burke United Christian Ministries are some of the most dedicated and committed people with whom I have ever had the honor of working. The clients that we serve may be in great need, but they serve as a daily reminder that we are called to help each other. No one should go hungry, no one should go without clothes and no one should suffer in crisis without assistance.

I marvel at the faithful financial and volunteer commitment of our sustaining churches, businesses and individual donors. The trust that our sustaining churches, businesses and individual donors place in us with their financial support instills in us a sense of urgency to meet needs. The volunteers from our sustaining churches and community who work in the Soup Kitchen, the Food Pantry or the Clothing Store lift up this ministry each and every day.

Over the next few months, the Board of Directors will be launching a search for a new Executive Director, developing a strategic plan and examining ways the organization can move forward aggressively in serving those in need. While this transitional work is being done, please continue to support the Board, the staff and the volunteers through prayer as they embark on this journey and challenge. In the book, "Simple Truths," by Kent Nerburn, he provides the following message on giving:

*If you perform these simple acts, little by little you will start to understand the miracle of giving. You will begin to see the unprotected human heart and the honest smiles of human happiness. You will start to feel what is common among us, not what separates and differentiates us.*

*And, most of all, you will find the other givers. No matter where you live or where you travel, whether you speak their language or know their names, you will know them by their small acts, and they will recognize you by yours. You will become part of the community of humanity that trusts and shares and dares to reveal the softness of its heart.*

*Once you become a giver, you will never be alone.*

Nancy Taylor

Interim Executive Director

## NEW REFRIGERATOR FOR FOOD PANTRY



Food Service Manager Pat Tyson and Assistant Earlene Nestor are grateful for the new refrigerator.

### Second Harvest Food Bank

awarded Burke United Christian Ministries a grant to purchase a new refrigerator for the Food Pantry. With the help of Phil Scarboro, local restaurant owner, we located a refrigerator that we began using in June.

This new refrigerator will provide the space to offer a larger quantity of fresh vegetables, fruits and dairy products to our clients. Our thanks go out to Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina for their support of our food ministry.

### Pantry Needs List

- Saltine crackers
- Canned fruits
- Beans
- Pasta noodles & Sauces
- Peanut butter
- Sugar
- Flour
- Cooking oil
- Cereal
- Cooking sprays
- Creamer
- Cleaning products

## Annual Message from the Chairman



### "God is Already Present Where We are Going"

Dear Friends of Burke United Christian Ministries;

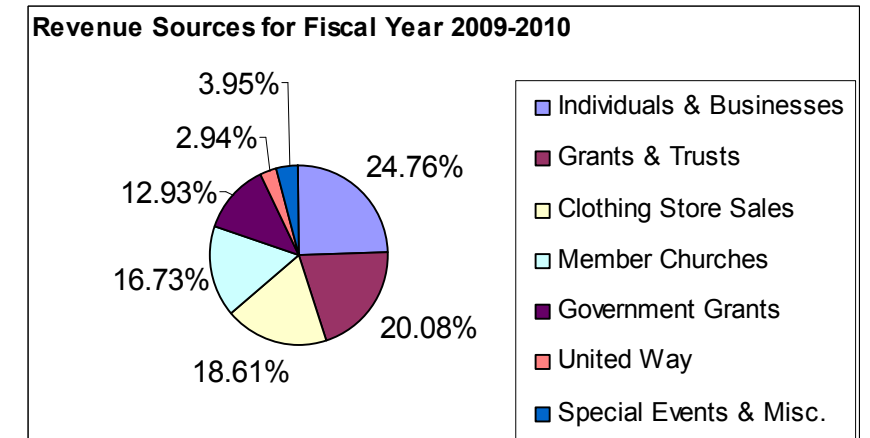
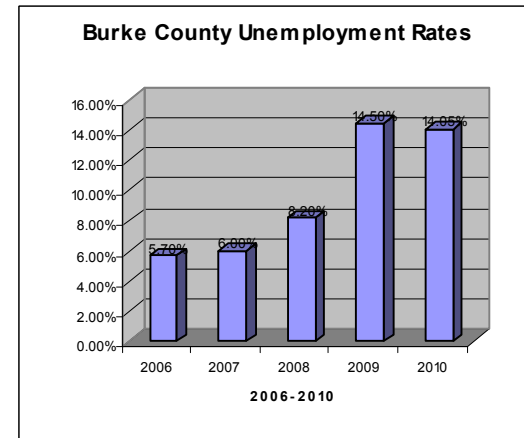
As I write this message to you, I am aware that in the night sky, the moon is not quite full. It has, however, passed the half moon phase and is well on the way to becoming a full moon. It is in-between. It is in transition. This describes fully where Burke United Christian Ministries is right now. "We are in-between". We are in transition. For the Christian, a transitional period is crucial because it gives us time to both reflect and anticipate. We welcome Nancy Taylor to our ministry to guide us as we move from transition to transformation.

Transitional periods are vital for transformation. Without intention, transition can be a great period of vulnerability. Transition, then, must be fully embraced

companions that pave the way to transformation. Transition is not without risk. There is always a degree of vulnerability that travels the road with us. When Alice in Wonderland came to a fork in the road she asked the Cheshire cat for directions. He asked her where she was going. When she said she didn't know, the cat replied that it didn't matter which road she took.

Here at Burke United Christian Ministries we know where we are going. We will be moving deeper into the heart of God. That is a place of profound love and understanding. Jesus knew this place, named it mercy, and demonstrated his compassion by healing and feeding. This will be our road map. We will continue to serve the needy at a high level, and then pray to do more. God is already present where we are going. We must move our feet and join him there.

Thank you for donating to Burke United Christian ministries,  
Vera Salter, Chairman



## Youth Group From Raleigh Arrives !



White Memorial Presbyterian Church, from Raleigh, North Carolina, sponsored a ninth grade mission trip this summer. Burke United Christian Ministries was pleased to welcome them on June 23, 2010. From June 20-26, this group of young people traveled from the western part of North Carolina to the eastern part of our state with the purpose of serving others in the name of Christ.

They started their adventure with a rafting trip on the French Broad River and then visited communities from west to east to focus on mission projects. When they arrived at Burke United Christian Ministries, 20 wonderful young people immediately began work assisting in the Soup Kitchen, with clean-up, stocking the warehouse and helping with our volunteer mailings. Their enthusiasm and energy was heart-warming and we would welcome them back with open arms!