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**Mert's Heart and Soul And First United Presbyterian Church  
To Host Low Country Gospel Fish Fry**

*Held the weekend of the CIAA tournament, the event will feature delicious Low Country and southern favorites and performances by local Gospel choirs.*

**Charlotte, NC** – James Bazzelle, owner and executive chef of Uptown Charlotte's Mert's Heart and Soul, today announced that the restaurant will partner with First United Presbyterian Church to host a **Low Country Gospel Fish Fry** on Saturday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008. The event will be held from 11:00am – 4:00pm at the Fellowship Hall at First United Presbyterian Church, 406 N. College Street (corner of College and 7<sup>th</sup> St.).

Fried fish and chicken, Charleston red rice, slaw, and dessert (with drink) will be the featured dishes. Guests also will enjoy live performances from several local Gospel choirs, including First United Presbyterian Church's Imani Choir, the Statesville Avenue Presbyterian Church choir and liturgical dancers, the Seigle Avenue Presbyterian Church choir, and others. The cost is \$8.00 per person.

"We partnered with First United Presbyterian Church for this event so that CIAA fans can enjoy some of the best food and music Charlotte has to offer," says Bazzelle. "Locals and visitors will be Uptown enjoying the festivities and we invite them to stop by for a good time."

Bazzelle also announced that Mert's Heart and Soul will extend its hours to 3:00am from Thursday, February 28<sup>th</sup> – Saturday, March 1<sup>st</sup> to accommodate CIAA fans. Mert's will open at 9:00am for brunch on Saturday, March 1<sup>st</sup> and Sunday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

For more information on the **Low Country Gospel Fish Fry** or the Mert's Heart and Soul hours during CIAA visit [www.mertscharlotte.com](http://www.mertscharlotte.com) or call 704.342.4222.

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*Mert's Heart and Soul is one of the premier dining destinations in the Carolinas. The restaurant specializes in low country and Gullah favorites, including shrimp and grits, southern fried chicken and award-winning macaroni and cheese. Mert's is located in the heart of Uptown Charlotte at 214 North College Street. Mert's is open for lunch and dinner seven days a week. Brunch is served every Saturday and Sunday from 9AM – 3PM. For more information call 704.342.4222 or visit [www.mertscharlotte.com](http://www.mertscharlotte.com).*