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**MERT'S HEART AND SOUL AND FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ANNOUNCE LOW COUNTRY FISH FRY EVENTS**

The fish fry's will be held February 27th and 28th during the CIAA tournament.

Charlotte, NC – Award-winning restaurant Mert's Heart and Soul and First United Presbyterian Church today announced that they will bring good food, good friends, and good music to Uptown Charlotte during their "Low Country Fish Fry" events on February 27th and 28th during the CIAA tournament. The events will showcase Charlotte-area jazz artists and Gospel choirs and feature southern favorites fried fish and chicken, baked beans, slaw, and more. The events will be held in the Fellowship Hall at First United Presbyterian Church, 406 N. College Street (Corner of College and 7th St.), from 11am – 5pm. The cost is \$8.00 per person.

First up is the "Low Country Jazz Fish Fry" on Friday, February 27th. Several local jazz artists are scheduled to perform. The second annual "Low Country Gospel Fish Fry" will take place Saturday, February 28th. Choirs from Johnson C. Smith University, First United Presbyterian Church, McClintock Presbyterian Church, and Caldwell Memorial Presbyterian Church are among the groups scheduled to perform.

James Bazzelle, owner and executive chef of Mert's Heart and Soul, said that the inaugural fish fry during last year's CIAA tournament was so well received that they decided to bring it back.

"The CIAA tournament is all about family and friends getting together for a good time and last year's fish fry was the perfect environment for this to happen," said Bazzelle. "More than 200 people attended our 'Low Country Gospel Fish Fry' and the feedback from guests and the choirs that performed was great. This time, we also added a jazz-themed fish fry for jazz fans. We're looking forward to seeing everyone at First United Presbyterian Church again this year."

In addition to the fish fry events, Bazzelle also announced that Mert's Heart and Soul, located at 214 N. College Street, will extend its hours during the CIAA tournament. For more information about the fish fry events or other details call 704.342.4222 or visit www.mertscharlotte.com.

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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.