Ray Materson: *Healing Through Art*
January 9 - March 1, 2006

Opening reception: Wednesday, January 11, from 5:00-7:00 p.m., Guilford College Art Gallery, Hege Library

Artist's Presentation: Monday, February 20, 8:00 p.m., Dana Auditorium, on the Guilford College campus. A book-signing in the lobby will follow the performance. All events are free, and the public is cordially invited to attend.

The work of needlepoint artist Raymond Materson, an innovator who began weaving worn socks into art while in prison more than a decade ago, will kick off 2006 at Guilford College Art Gallery. His exhibit, *Healing Through Art*, runs from Jan. 9-March 1 in the gallery, which is located in Hege Library on campus.

An opening reception for the Materson exhibit and two other exhibitions, *Divine Visions of Outsider Artists and Creativity in Confinement* (which will run concurrently in the gallery), is scheduled for Jan. 11 from 5-7 p.m. All three exhibits are part of the college's Year of Spirit and Spirituality.

Materson's work provides compelling portrayals of life, addiction, incarceration and scenes from sports and theater, chronicling stories from his life with passion, humor and hope. His autobiography, *Sins and Needles: A Story of Spiritual Mending*, was co-written with his wife, Melanie, in 2002. He will present a stage production based on the book, entitled *Ray Materson: A Dramatic Monologue*, Feb. 20 at 8 p.m. in the Dana Auditorium.

Materson was the first artist to receive The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Innovators Combating Substance Abuse award in 2003. He will be in residence at the college Feb. 20-22. During his visit, Materson will visit the Guilford Correctional Center in McLeansville, N.C., to discuss his book with Guilford students and inmates involved in the McLeansville Prison Literacy Project.