



September 2008

DISTRICT DISPATCH

A Newsletter of The Richmond District • Virginia Conference • The United Methodist Church

We envision churches where all God's people are welcomed at table, nurtured and transformed to be Christ to others in the world.

You Are Invited!

The Richmond District Committee on the Superintendency
Invites all Clergy and Laypersons to

**A Service Celebrating the Appointment of the
Reverend Steven R. Jones**
as Superintendent of the Richmond District
Sunday, September 14, 3:00 p.m.

Beulah United Methodist Church
6930 Hopkins Road

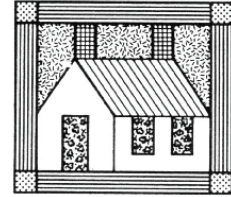
Dear Richmond District Congregations,

The Richmond District Committee on the Superintendency is planning a service on September 14 at Beulah UMC in celebration of my appointment. There will also be a reception immediately following the service. Jan and I have asked the Committee to only provide minimal refreshments at the reception; instead, we are requesting that there be an emphasis on those who are not able to eat as well as we do. Everyone will be encouraged to bring a gift of non-perishable food. It would honor us if this afternoon might be a time when those who are truly hungry are remembered and fed.

I want to ask for your help. First, I would ask for you to publicize this request, and ask people to bring food to the service at Beulah. Perhaps some churches might even collect food that morning at worship, and ask some volunteers to bring it to the service. Second, if your church has a food pantry or ministry that serves the hungry, and would like to receive some of the food that is donated, please let our office know. I am dreaming "big" and hope that there will be a great deal of food. If you want to receive food for your ministry, you will need to have someone who is willing to be at Beulah on the 14th (we can't ask Beulah to store the food) and to take the food with them.

Please let our office, 521-1124, know by if you would like to receive non-perishable food for your church's ministry. I am excited be a part of the Richmond District, and I look forward to this shared beginning of worship and service.

In Christ's Service,
Steven R. Jones
Richmond District Superintendent



As for me and my house, we will
serve the Lord.--Joshua 24:15

Mini School of Mission: "Living the Sacred"

The Richmond District will hold a Mini School of Christian Mission on Friday, September 12, 5:15-8:30 p.m. at Trinity UMC, 903 Forest Avenue.

Men, women and youth are invited to participate. The District School, a mini version of the Virginia Conference School of Christian Mission, will provide participants with an overview of the mission studies for the current year. With the over-all theme, "Living the Sacred," the following studies will be offered:

- ◆Spiritual Growth Study: "I Believe in Jesus"--Faith in Jesus Christ in a postmodern world
Study Leader: Rev. Al Horton, pastor, Mt. Pisgah UMC
- ◆Issue Study: "Giving our Hearts Away, Native American Survival"--Issues affecting Native Americans in the U.S.
Study Leader: Rev. Karen Sandoval, chair, Virginia Conference Native American Ministries Committee
- ◆Geographic Study: "Israel & Palestine"--History and complex relationships between Israel and Palestine
Study Leader: Becky Breeding, Virginia Conference United Methodist Women Social Action coordinator
Email <RichmondDistrict@vaumc.org> for a registration form. ◆

Historical Society to meet at Trinity

The Richmond District Historical Society of the United Methodist Church will meet on September 16 at Trinity UMC, 903 Forest Avenue. A talk and slide presentation will begin at 6 p.m. with dinner to follow. This is a special church with about 220 years of history beginning with First Methodist Church on Church Hill. Mrs. Carol Gill, who has been a lifetime member since the church moved to the West End location in 1945 will present the program and there will be many artifacts to see. Meet the new Society president, Bill Perkins, who is a walking encyclopedia of church history. Please reserve your place for \$9 each by calling 272-7055. ◆

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Richmond District

The Virginia Conference • United Methodist Church
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September 2008

Dear Friends in Christ,

Five years ago, my wife and I were in London, and we went to worship at Wesley Chapel, the church John Wesley built for his Methodists. We wanted to attend the early service that is held in the very tiny chapel there. We were told that the early service always includes the Lord's Supper, and that the chapel still uses benches from Wesley's first church, and an organ that Charles Wesley played.

However, that Sunday morning, we were late due to our temporary confusion on the London subway. The chapel was crowded and the service already started. We entered – no doubt – looking confused and uncertain. Immediately, several of the worshippers rose, smiled a welcome, and gave us their places to sit. Someone handed us a hymnal and a prayer book, both carefully opened to the right page. With those simple gestures, Jan and I no longer felt lost; we were at home and at worship.

Weeks later someone asked me if it was memorable to be able to worship on benches that the early Methodists used, and to sing hymns to the organ that Charles Wesley played, I said, "yes." But, then I added, "it was more memorable to be a stranger, and to be welcomed so warmly, and to feel that people were glad we were there."

In Christ,

Steve Jones

Around the Richmond District in July and August, Steve Jones...

- ◆ Welcomed the new clergy who began serving their new appointments on July 1.
- ◆ Attended worship at Ginter Park UMC, Providence UMC, Reveille UMC, and Calvary UMC.
- ◆ Participated in leading worship at Good Shepherd UMC.
- ◆ Observed worship leadership by three of the District's candidates for ordination.
- ◆ Attended District committee meetings and consulted with district and local church leaders.
- ◆ Attended DS Orientation at Lake Junaluska. ◆

Ultimate Frisbee

All Richmond District Youth Fellowships are invited to participate October 5 in The Ultimate Frisbee Tournament sponsored by Welborne UMYF. This year there will be two sites: Collegiate School in the West End and New Hanover Presbyterian Church. This is the ultimate effort by youth to support youth whose ultimate fight is against cancer! All proceeds will benefit ASK, which helps kids with cancer undergoing treatment at VCU-MCV. Games will begin at 1 p.m. and the play off will last through the early evening. Youth Teams of 10-14 members are needed. Entry fee consists of securing two corporate sponsors. To register go to <www.askweb.org>. For information call 740-7128. ◆

Igniting Ministry Training

The United Methodist Church advertises that "Our hearts, our minds and our doors are always open." To help your congregation find more ways to welcome everyone, the Virginia Conference Communications office and United Methodist Communications are offering "Living Our Promise" Igniting Ministry training on Saturday, September 20, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Shady Grove UMC, 8209 Shady Grove Road in Mechanicsville.

"Pastors, church leaders, laypersons— anyone interested in reaching out to the unchurched in your community— should attend this training," said Linda Rhodes, Conference director of Communications.

Cost is \$40 per congregation, regardless of how many attend from a single church, plus \$10 per participant to cover lunch and snacks. To register go to <www.vaumc.org>, click on "events" and then the date or download the registration form and mail it to the Communications Office, Virginia United Methodist Conference, P.O. Box 1718, Glen Allen, VA 23060 or call 521-1110 for more information. ◆

PAUMCS Fall Event

The Virginia Chapter Professional Association of United Methodist Church Secretaries (PAUMCS) will hold their Fall Event on Wednesday, October 22 at the Virginia United Methodist Conference Center in Glen Allen. Linda S. Rhodes, the Virginia Conference's director of Communications, will lead sessions on Igniting Ministry and Effective Communications for church secretaries.

The event is open to all church administrative staff, full-time, part-time, paid and volunteer, including but not limited to administrative assistants, financial secretaries, office managers and newsletter editors. Event registration begins at 9:30 a.m. Lunch is included in the registration fee of \$20 for Virginia Chapter PAUMCS members and \$30 for non-members. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity for knowledge and networking. A registration brochure is available at <www.vaumc.org> or call 521-1124 for more information. ◆

UMW News

The 36th Annual Meeting of the Richmond District United Methodist Women will be held on Sunday, September 28, at Ginter Park UMC, 1010 W. Laburnum Avenue. Registration begins at 2:30 p.m. and the annual meeting will be held from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. The theme for the meeting is "Publish Glad Tidings: In Mission Together." Virginia Conference UMW president, Addie Haynes, will be the main speaker for the meeting. The Mission Emphasis will be Summer Day Camp of Asbury UMC on Church Hill. Rev. Marilyn Heckstall, pastor of Asbury UMC, will provide an overview of the program. For more information call 323-9134.

The Virginia Conference UMW will hold its 36th Annual Meeting on October 25-26 at VUMAC. Bishop Charlene Kammerer will be the guest speaker. The meeting will include worship, business, and district officer training. The following focus groups will be offered: "The First Americans," "Using Art as Meditation," "Star Events for Local Units," "Ubuntu Travels," and more. For registration information go to <www.vaumw.org>.

Also, mark your calendar for September 27 as the District UMW goes to the Chickahominy Pow Wow and October 11 to the Rappahannock Tribe Pow Wow. The "On the Road Again in Mission Express" weekend trip, October 31-November 2, will go to Brooks Howell Home in Ashville, Lake Junaluska Retreat Center and the Cherokee Reservation. Please contact your local UMW president or call 747-7493 for more information. ♦

Multi-Staff Retreat 2008

Make plans now to attend the 2008 Multi-Staff Retreat: Becoming the Church Dream Team, September 28-30, at Shrine Mont, Orkney Springs, Virginia. This is a Conference wide event to be led by Hugh Ballou, facilitator, executive coach and motivational speaker. Topics for focus are foundations for team building, building relationships and support within the team, understanding systems, and creating balance within the "multi-staff." Cost is \$190/person (double occupancy), \$215/person (single), which includes registration, two nights lodging and six meals. See <www.vaumc.org> or call 521-1104 for more information. ♦

Children's Sabbath

This year marks the 35th year for the observance of Children's Sabbath, an annual observance sponsored by the Children's Defense Fund and endorsed by numerous faith communities, including the United Methodist Church. It is an occasion to celebrate children as sacred gifts of the Divine and to recognize and respond to the urgent needs of children. It provides the opportunity for communities of faith to renew and live out their moral responsibility to care for, protect, and advocate for all children. A workbook is provided with numerous resources for planning a local or multi-faith event. United Methodist Family Services provides workbooks to each district free of charge for distribution and use in local faith communities. For more information or to share Children's Sabbath event stories, please contact Linda Ray <lray@umfs.org>. To reserve your workbook call 521-1124. ♦

UMFS Auction

United Methodist 4th Annual Auction is scheduled for Saturday, October 4, 7 to 10 p.m. at the Jepson Alumni Center on the University of Richmond campus. This annual event offers the opportunity to partner with UMFS in touching lives and creating futures. Interesting prize packages from around the Commonwealth will be available in the silent and live auction. For more information, please visit our website at <www.umnfs.org> or contact Bethanie Constant at 353-4461 ext. 1735. ♦

Prayers for...

- ♦ Rev. James D. White, retired, who is undergoing cancer treatment and is recovering from August eye surgery.
- ♦ Darlene Amon, former Conference Lay Leader, on the death of her husband on August 14.
- ♦ Neill Caldwell, Virginia United Methodist *Advocate* editor, who is recovering from knee replacement surgery on July 28.
- ♦ Bryan Compton, Conference IT director and his father, Olin, who is recovering from August 14 colon cancer surgery.
- ♦ Rev. Jim Noland and wife Mary Ann on the death of her mother on August 2.
- ♦ Rev. Joseph A. Carter, Jr. who was hospitalized in August. ♦

Mark Your Calendar!
Richmond District
Leadership Training Event



Creating Christian Community
Saturday, October 11
8:30-12:30
Ramsey Memorial UMC
5900 Hull Street Road

Keynote Speaker:
Virginia Conference Director of
Connectional Ministries Marc Brown

Breakout Sessions and Workshops:

- ♦ Training for Church Leaders
- ♦ Forming Small Groups in the Wesleyan Tradition
- ♦ Discipling Families
- ♦ Building Bridges of Accessibility
- ♦ Making All Things New
- ♦ Moving Beyond Church Walls

Ask your pastor or email
<RichmondDistrict@vaumc.org> for
registration information. ♦

Oberammergau 2010

The "once every decade" performance of the Passion Play in Oberammergau, Germany is just 22 months away! We want to invite you to join Bishop Kammerer and us, and lots of other United Methodists from the Virginia Conference for this inspiring experience as we witness faith in action by a community, demonstrated through music and drama for more than 370 years. Departure date is June 22, 2010, and the costs start at \$2998. We look forward to serving as the Richmond District Coordinators for this Education Opportunities Tours (EO) trip, as well as to meeting you and sharing more about this trip. Questions? Call us at 359-1044 (Brookland UMC), or email <neillcaldwell@vaumc.org> or <lynnecaldwell@mindspring.com>.

Rev. Lynne Caldwell
Pastor, Brookland UMC and
Neill Caldwell,
Editor, Virginia *Advocate*

September Lay Speaking Schedule

Dr. Russell M. Busch, Director, Lay Speaking Ministries, 262-1904.

Date	Place	Speaker
9/7	Guardian Place	Edith Carney
9/7	Beth Shalom	Dann Ladd
9/14	Elmcroft	Barry Iglehart
9/14	University Park	Martha Stokes
9/21	Chippendale	Larry Brayton
9/21	Guardian Place	Bob Stephens
9/28	Elmcroft	J Clatterbaugh

Family Festival

Woodlake UMC presents their 2008 Fall Family Festival on Sunday, September 7, 4-7:00 p.m. on their Hampton Park Campus, 15640 Hampton Park Drive. Bring the entire family for an afternoon of great food, fun, games for all ages, music, a moon bounce and much more! Tickets for food and games will be sold at the door. For information see <Woodlakeumc.org> or call 739-4535. ♦

District Opportunities

- ♦ September 7–Fall Family Festival, Woodlake UMC, 739-4535.
- ♦ September 12–Mini School of Christian Mission, Trinity UMC, 560-4757.
- ♦ September 13–Disaster Ministry Early Response Team Training, Harmony UMC, Loudoun Co., (571)246-1675.
- ♦ September 14–Steve Jones Welcome Service, Beulah UMC, 521-1124.
- ♦ September 16–Historical Society, Trinity UMC, 272-7055.
- ♦ September 19-21–Kid’s Work Camp, Westview on the James, 457-4210.
- ♦ September 20–Igniting Ministry Training, Shady Grove UMC, Mechanicsville, 521-1110.
- ♦ September 25–Day Apart in Christian Education, VUMCC, 521-1138.
- ♦ September 27–District UMW Chickahomeny Trip, 747-7493.
- ♦ September 28–District UMW Annual Meeting, Ginter Park UMC, 747-7493.
- ♦ September 28-30–Multi-Staff Retreat 2008, Shrine Mont, 521-1104.
- ♦ October 4–UMFS Auction, Jepson Center, 353-4461 ext. 1735.
- ♦ October 5–Ultimate Frisbee, Welborne UMC, 740-7128.
- ♦ October 11–Creating Christian Community, District Leadership Training, Ramsey Memorial, 521-1124.
- ♦ October 11–District UMW Rappahannock Trip, 747-7493.
- ♦ October 26-27–Dillard Forum, Trinity UMC, 278-4383.
- ♦ October 22–PAUMCS Fall Event, VUMCC, 521-1124.
- ♦ October 25-26–Conference UMW Annual Meeting, VUMAC, 323-9134.
- ♦ October 31-November 2–District UMW On the Road Again in Mission, 747-7493.
- ♦ February 20-22, 2009–Richmond District Youth Retreat, Eagle Eyrie, 521-1124. ♦



DISTRICT DISPATCH

**Richmond District
Virginia Conference**

The United Methodist Church

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 Pat Compton *District Lay Leader*
 TBA *Chair, Parish Development*
 Linda Porter *District President, UMW*
 Roth Sykes *District President, UMM*
 Bill Chaffin *District Ministry of Scouting Coord.*
 Russell Busch *Director, Lay Speaking Ministries*

We're on the web at:

[http://gbgmchurches.gbgm-umc.org/
RichmondDistVA](http://gbgmchurches.gbgm-umc.org/RichmondDistVA)

**The DEADLINE for the NEXT
ISSUE is the 15th of the month.**

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