

JANUARY

Saturday, January 8: UMW Executive Meeting
Monday-Thursday, January 10-13: Ministers' Convocation
Saturday, January 15: DCOM meeting, Fairfield UMC
Saturday, January 15: Youth "R&R", St. John's UMC (BV)
Saturday, January 22: UMM District Cabinet Meeting
Tuesday, January 25: Bishop Kammerer Teaching Day for Clergy - Fishersville UMC

FEBRUARY

Tuesday, February 1: Clergy & Spouses Meeting
Wednesday, February 9: Ash Wednesday
Saturday February 19: Death Penalty Workshop
Friday-Sunday, February 25-27: Conference Lay Speaking Ministries Training – VUMAC

MARCH

Tuesday, March 1: Clergy & Spouses Meeting
Friday-Sunday, March 4-6 District Youth Retreat - Camp Overlook
Monday, March 14: DCOM Meeting at 1:00 p.m.
Thursday, March 17: Annual Hermitage Guild Meeting
March 20-26: Holy Week
Sunday, March 20: Passion/Palm Sunday
Thursday, March 24: Maundy Thursday
Friday, March 25: Good Friday
Sunday, March 27: Easter Sunday

APRIL

Friday, April 1: Laity Banquet, St. Paul's
April 1 & 2: Awakening – Virginia Wesleyan College
Saturday, April 2: UMM Leadership/ Development Day Bon-Air UMC
Tuesday, April 5: Clergy /Spouse meeting
April 16-17: Laity Retreat
April 23: UMM District Cabinet meeting
April 30: District Lay Speaking Training

MAY

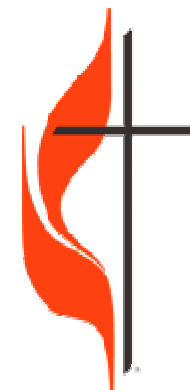
May 6-8: UMW Spiritual Life Retreat
May 14: Stewardship Workshop, Fishersville UMC
May 20-21: UMM Retreat
Tuesday, May 24: Clergy/Spouses Dinner

JUNE

June 12-15: Annual Conference

JULY

Thursday, July 14: UMM Day at Camp Rainbow Blackstone
July 15-17: National UMM Gathering at Purdue
Saturday, July 24: UMM District Cabinet Meeting



The Staunton District Voice

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

(Virginia Conference Vision Statement)

Volume 2, Issue 1

January 2005

Bishop Kammerer's Teaching Day

Four Districts' Event

Tuesday, January 25th

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Fishersville UMC

The agenda for the day:

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. | Gathering in the Fellowship Hall |
| 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon | Teaching Time in Sanctuary |
| 12:00 noon - 1:30 p.m. | Lunch and Departure |

Fishersville's Preschool Committee will be providing coffee, donuts and other snacks as Clergy arrive at 9:00 a.m. and will be serving lunch after the meeting for the cost of \$10. Checks should be made out to: Fishersville UMC. They are doing this as a Fundraiser for their new preschool, which they are gearing up to start in the Fall of 2005.

THE STAUNTON DISTRICT VOICE



The Staunton District Office
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P. O. Box 1048
Fishersville, VA 22939
Phone: 932-1055

Email: stauntondistrict@vaumc.org
Web Site:
<http://www.gbgm-umc.org/stauntondistrict/>

Charlene Payne Kammerer.....Area Bishop
Kathleen Overby Webster....District Superintendent
Martha Reynolds.....District Program Coordinator
Robin Powell.....District Lay Leader
David Mawyer.....District Treasurer
Donna Desper.....District Administrative Assistant

The DEADLINE for the Next Issue is the 20th of the month.

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Return Service Requested

From Our District Superintendent:

Each year in January a new calendar year begins. Individually we often mark it by setting resolutions, beginning diets, exercising with fervor, packing away the Christmas things and enjoying a clear, undecorated space.

As congregations we pray John Wesley's Covenant Prayer:

Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will, put me to doing, put me to suffering, let me be employed for you or laid aside for you, exalted for you or brought low for you. Let me be full, let me be empty. Let me have all things, let me have nothing.

As congregations we dedicate and install new leaders. We begin to live into the mission and ministry goals we set in the fall.

And this is the time the Pastor-Parish Relations Committee and the pastor make recommendations to the Bishop and Cabinet regarding clergy leadership for the next conference year. The Evaluation of the Appointment that is used first highlights questions that every church does well to thoughtfully consider:

What are the priorities for mission and ministry of our church?

What are our church/charge's three greatest strengths?

In what area does our church/charge need to develop strength?

How would your church answer these questions as you look to 2005.

Another book I am reading now *Partnersteps: Developing Cooperative Ministries for Today* by Edward Kail and Julia Kuhn Wallace also offers wonderful "January" signals for pondering:

Synergy Signals:

- We focus on our mission and ministry—it is priority #1
- We talk openly about possibilities and opportunities
- We are willing to do whatever needs to be done to fulfill our ministry.
- There has been an increased involvement in the work of the church over the past year.
- Our partnerships extend beyond a single congregation.
- We share an excitement for ministry.
- Our staff (appointed, employed, and volunteer) is appropriate for our setting and committed to our mission.

Stress Signals

- We do what we've always done
- There has been a decrease in attendance in church and meetings over the last year.
- We do not seem to work well together—there are cliques and other roadblocks.
- Discussions at meetings reflect nostalgic remembrances rather than future goals.
- There is little or no follow-through on decisions.
- Members and/or churches have withdrawn their support, or threaten to do so.
- There are frequent staff changes (appointed, employed, or volunteer).

Let God take our old fears, controversies, weaknesses, and mistakes and transform them into new desires, decisions, dreams, and possibilities for the future.

Behold, our God is making all things new!

Kathleen

Would you share the following opportunity with the people you work with, especially college students home for the Christmas break?

Project Transformation, a new summer outreach program in Central Virginia, is accepting applications for college students who would like a 9-week experience in hands-on missions and vocational exploration working with children in Charlottesville and Waynesboro. Interns receive a \$2000 stipend with housing and most meals provided. This program, in its third year, is sponsored by the Wesley Foundation at the University of Virginia with partnerships from many area local churches. For more information visit our website at www.wesleyuva.org/pt or call 434-977-6500. Come help transform lives and communities and be transformed yourself!

Attention Dads! Honor Your Wife on Mother's Day Weekend

May 6-7, 2005, Camp Overlook can help you give one of two very special gifts to your wife! Mothers who work in the home often miss out on much needed time to themselves. They love their families, but occasionally enjoy a day to focus on their own needs. On the other hand, mothers who work outside of the home often feel that they do not get to spend enough time with their children.

"Kamp for Kids" is an opportunity for you to honor the mom in your home. If she could use of day of personal pampering, pack up your son or daughter (grades 1-3) and spend a weekend at this camp for children and a parent. Or, if your wife would enjoy a little extra time with her children, arrange for her to accompany your youngsters.

This camp is specifically designed for young, first-time campers who would feel a bit more comfortable getting their feet wet with Mom or Dad by their side.

Contact us to arrange a special weekend for your wife, and also give a unique gift to your child!

Early Bird News for the Summer!

Can't wait to register for a week of summer camp? Don't want your camp to fill up before you get the chance?

Registration forms are available online at www.campoverlook.org

Prioritizing Your New Year's Resolutions

How is your list of New Years resolutions coming together? You've probably included things like giving more, eating less, keeping your energy up, and trimming down. Maybe you've promised yourself to spend more time with your loved ones—but have you thought about spending more time with God?

Camp Overlook offers a number of retreat events especially designed to give you a break from the hustle and bustle of everyday life and help you focus on your relationship with the Lord. Our facilities are beautifully set in God's creation. It is easy to find Him when surrounded by His miraculous works.

Overlook can also provide the setting for you to create a retreat of your own. Invite your Sunday school class, youth group, Bible study group, or any members of your church family to spend time apart from work and other responsibilities. Invite them to refocus their lives on our truly loving Heavenly Father. Invite them to open their hearts and meet God in prayer.

We encourage you to make spending more time with God a priority this year. In the coming months the newsletter will feature information on several retreats that will be held at the camp. Join us for one or more of these events or call Kim in the office to schedule your own retreat.

Confirmation Camp 2005

Churches from Leesburg to Covington will have youth studying what church membership is all about as they prepare to make or renew their commitment to Christ and their Church.

On March 18-19 2005, many of these young people will come to a special camp at Overlook for those confirming their faith. They will explore ways we experience God and meet youth joining churches across the districts.

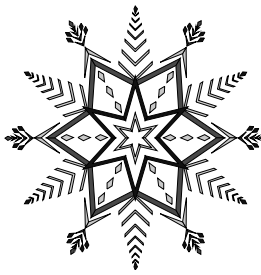
If you are interested in making a commitment like many others in your church, speak to you pastor. Many pastors are organizing classes and will bring them to Overlook for this special weekend!

Thank You

There are a host of things that would never happen at Camp Overlook were it not for generous, supporting individuals and groups. We extend our heartiest thank you to the following for their recent support!

Maynard Armentrout
Michael and Deborah Berrington
William and Allene Blessing
Michael and Melanie Blosser
Terry and Patricia Bowman
Polly Brumfield
Richard and Jane Carson
Andrew Collier
William Corbin
Millard and June DeNeale
Thomas and Doreen Devore
Scott and Jenny Dillard
Jennifer Dixon
Lavearn Everett
James and Martha Fields
Zane and Patsy Foltz
Jarman and Martha Fretwell
Russell and Louise Glover
Russell and Rebecca Grabich
Margaret Hamilton
Robert Hammer
Harrisonburg Refrigeration
Helen Jones
Gail Keith
Chuck and Dawn Kern
Charles S. Kiracofe
M.D. and Diana Larson
Vera Layman
David and Mary Lutton
Roxy MacKenzie
David Matheny
Darwin and Edna McAfee
Shirley and Fred McCray
Ann Mercer
Verona UMC Open Door Class
Mary and Warren Pace
Panera Bread
James and Nancy Peterson
Betty Phillips
Fred and Colleen Rathel
Jenny Robey
Ron and Brenda Robey
Richard and Kathy Sharpe
Charles Shiflet
Paul and Wanda Showalter
J.P. and Janice Stollings
J.B. and Janet Swartz
Garnett and Lena Turner
Jeremy Turner
Lee and Bettie Tusing
Calvary UMC
Parnassus UMC
Columbia Furnace UMW
Dayton UMW
Fields UMW
Grottoes UMW
Mt. Tabor UMW
Wesley Chapel UMW
Grace UMW—Manassas
Joan Wasserott
McGaheysville UMC—Willing Workers
Larry and Faye Wills
Grayson and Patsy Ann Wood
Raymond Wrenn
Billy and Louise Wright
Nancy Zirk





January 2005

OVERLOOK OVERVIEW



Happy New Year!
CAMP OVERLOOK, United Methodist Church, 3014 Camp Overlook Lane, Keezletown, VA 22832. Ronald K. Robey, Director, E-mail OverlookUM@aol.com, Phone 540/269-2267
www.CampOverlook.org

Overlook's First Christian Band Festival Needs a Name!



Round up your youth group for a weekend of great music, heart-felt worship, and joyous praise. Camp Overlook will host it's first Christian Band Festival, **August 5-6, 2005**. This event will include four incredible concert sessions, two meals on Saturday, lodging, and an opportunity for small group devotion and worship.

So, **how can you get involved?** First, we need your help to name this exciting new event! Call the camp at 540-2MY-CAMP or email us at OverlookUM@aol.com to give us your idea. Just provide your name, phone number, address, and suggested event name before January 19th, 2005. We will publish the chosen event title in our February newsletter and offer the youth who suggested the name a **FREE** ticket for the concerts, meals and lodging.

Next, rally your youth group to attend. Don't miss out on this opportunity to hear some of Christian music's hottest rising stars at a local venue. You'll truly enjoy praising the Lord alongside other area youth!



Husbands and Wives Start the New Year Right!

How do you keep your marriage healthy? Of course there are a hundred ways, but one especially good one is ready for you this Valentine weekend. Spending quality time together, celebrating what makes your marriage good, looking how to improve communications and being more centered on God is the best kind of "health tonic."

The weekend begins with a welcome reception at 6:30 on Friday evening, **February 11th** and concludes after lunch on Sunday, **February 13th**. You will enjoy a meaningful, comfortable stay in your own private, motel-like room. The \$190.00 per couple registration includes program, ten meals, snacks, and two nights lodging. Please call the Camp Overlook office for more information.

Calendar of Faith Experiences

Celebrate Your Marriage	February
Men's and Women's 4th Day	February
Confirmation Camp	April
Men's and Women's Emmaus	April
Kamp for Kids	May
Men's and Women's Chrysalis	May
Engaged Encounter	May

The Camp Overlook family would like to wish your family the very best this New Year!

God Bless You!

Matching Fund Drive

As this newsletter goes to press in mid December we have already begun to receive gifts to be matched. The first donors made gifts totaling \$6640.00 with the instant effect of having given \$13,280.00. For those looking for tax breaks at the end of the year, this is a great way to reduce your tax and double your gift at the same time!

These gifts will keep giving for years and years to come as only the interest from the endowment fund will be used to support the Overlook facilities and programs for Christian life experiences.

Mail your gift to be matched to Camp Overlook, 3014 Camp Overlook Lane, Keezletown, VA 22832. A tax receipt and letter of appreciation will be forwarded to you immediately.



Wish List

- Funds to purchase material for new curtains in cabins
- DVD Player
- Small or medium size pickup truck
- Funds to replace worn bedding in the Blessing Lodge

From Our District Program Director:

During this Christmas season, I hope you felt the Love of God surrounding you. May this year of 2005 be filled with many blessings.

The Council on Ministries has planned and is planning many opportunities to help equip you in the ministries that you are involved in at church. We have planned Lay Speaking training, Death Penalty workshop, Laity Banquet, leadership training, and many youth activities.

We have planned one big event that will take place throughout the district. We are planning a **Mission Celebration Weekend** for the weekend of September 23-25. We will kick-off the weekend with a Banquet to be held in Lexington. On Saturday, we will plan events for geographic areas of the district and then on Sunday morning we will have a missionary or an UMVIM volunteer in every pulpit. It will be a great weekend to learn more about our missionaries and how we can support them.

I was overwhelmed and very pleased with the response to the Youth Mission trip to Guatemala. We have 45 people going ranging from the ages of 13-63. Please keep the team in your prayers as they raise the monetary support and prepare themselves to go and be God's hands and feet in the country of Guatemala. I hope that mission trips both in and out of the country will become at least a yearly district event if not more often.

Through the Word we are put together and shaped up for the tasks God has for us. 2 Timothy 3: 17 (The Message)
Grace and peace,
Martha

UMVIM Team Leader Training Event Coming in February

A United Methodist Volunteer In Mission Team Leader Training Event will be held on Saturday, February 26, 2005, at Southview UMC in Roanoke. The event will be held from 9:00 a.m. -2:30 p.m. Team Leader Training is required for all first time UMVIM team leaders, but all interested persons are welcome to attend whether leading a team or not. Registration is required for this event and a registration form can be found on the Conference website at www.vaumc.org>>Ministries>>UMVIM where more information is available. In case of bad weather, the event will be postponed until the next Saturday, March 5, 2005. Contact the Conference UMVIM Coordinator, Kip Robinson, at Krobin7856@aol.com or (804) 264-7856 if further information is needed.

District Death Penalty Workshop – February 19th

Virginia, second only to Texas in the number of executions, is now scheduled to begin the new year with yet another execution on January 7th.

Is the death penalty justified? Is it administered fairly? Are there no alternatives to the state killing its own citizens? These are some of the important questions to be addressed at the District Death Penalty Workshop to be conducted on Saturday, February 19, 2005, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm, at St. James United Methodist Church, Churchville. The workshop will aim toward helping clergy and laity participants clarify the relationship between their faith and their thinking on the death penalty, and equipping participants to help others in their churches in dealing with this issue.

The workshop will be led by Atty. John Hill, who has experience in working with death penalty cases, and Dr. Hunter Mabry, who has undertaken considerable study and writing on the issue. The main printed resource will be *Capital Punishment: A Faith-Based Study*, published in 2002 by the United Methodist Publishing House. Participants are encouraged to read this resource as background for the workshop. A registration fee of \$15.00 will cover the cost of this resource, lunch, snacks and other workshop expenses. Early registration is encouraged so that a copy of the above resource can be sent for reading prior to the workshop. Persons interested in the workshop are urged to register as soon as possible by sending a check for \$15.00, payable "Staunton United Methodist District", to Hunter Mabry, 2315 Davis Road, Waynesboro, VA - 22980 with "workshop" on the memo line. For more information, contact Hunter at 943-5682 or mabry@cfw.com.

[This workshop is designed especially for United Methodists living in the eastern part of our District. A similar workshop will be conducted in the Covington/Clifton Forge area on November 12, 2005. Plan now to attend the workshop most convenient for you!]

From the Lay Leader:


Laity Banquet
April 1, 2005 (Change of Date!)
6:00 p.m. at St. Paul's UMC, Staunton
Speaker: Dr. Jennifer Braaten, President of Ferrum College
Wanted: Music - Contact Robin Powell or the District Office
Robin Powell, Lay Leader

Phone: 943-5502

Email: basicesl@ntelos.net

Stewardship Workshop

The Conference Board of Laity will be sponsoring a stewardship workshop to be held on **May 14, 2005**. The workshop, "**A Call to Financial Discipleship: Encouraging the Joy of Generous Giving**," will be conducted by David Bell, Director of the Center for Christian Stewardship at The United Methodist General Board of Discipleship. The workshop will provide an overview of Christian stewardship, Jesus' teachings about money, current economic trends and the impact of consumerism on church giving, the connection between faith and money, and "best practices" for local churches to cultivate financial discipleship. The Workshop will be at Fishersville UMC.

For more information, including contact information, workshop locations and times, visit the Conference web site at: <http://www.vaumc.org>.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

HAPPY NEW YEAR! 2005 – Wow, a new year and a chance for a new beginning. II Corinthians 5:17 tells us: "What this means is that those who become Christians become new persons. They are not the same anymore, for the old life is gone. A new life has begun!"

During the coming year, as United Methodist Women, we hope to continue our commitment to world missions with renewed enthusiasm, new energy, and improved strength. We will pray for guidance and wisdom, that we may grow in spirit. With God's help, we hope to be open to new opportunities which will allow us to develop and share our talents. Let us also renew our commitment to the PURPOSE of the UMW: **The organized unit of the United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.**

The Staunton District UMW will continue to support local, state, national, and world-wide mission projects, with an emphasis on those projects concerned with women and children. Casa de Amistad, The Henry Fork Community Center, and Camp Overlook are three missions that will receive support from the UMW.

Ruth F. Fuhrman

rfuhrman@yahoo.com

540-962-3739

United Methodist Men
December 20, 2004

District Cabinet Meeting *January 22, 2005*, at Fairfield UMC. Breakfast will be served at 8:00 a.m. with meeting following breakfast. The Cabinet consist of the District Executive Officers and Local Presidents. This is the place to find out what is happening with Conference and District UMMen programs.

Golf Tournament April 16, 2005. The District UMMen are sponsoring a Golf Tournament to help fund the District Youth Team on a UVMIM trip to GUATEMALA. The tournament will be held at Vista Links, the new golf course at Buena Vista. Starting time is 12:30 p.m. Registration forms will be distributed soon. Hole sponsors are needed. Start getting your team together and securing hole sponsors. Support our youth on this mission trip.

9th National Gathering of UMMen July 15 -17, 2005. Check out website www.gcumm.org for information. Several men in the District plan to attend, please join them. Transportation by bus is in the making.

Earl D. Cash, President

***** DISTRICT YOUTH NEWS *****

 (web site: stauntondistrict.tripod.com)

STAUNTON DISTRICT YOUTH R & R - January 15, 2005, 6–10 PM, Saturday. District Youth R & R (Recreation & Renewal) at St. John's UMC, Buena Vista. You're invited to join with Middle & High school youth for Fun, Fellowship, Games, Praise & Worship and Music! Cost: \$5. We will have PIZZA for dinner. Bring a friend and a snack. **REPORT ON WINTER COMBINED CONFERENCE RETREAT** - Youth from Fishersville and Greenville joined with over 750 youth and had a great time at the Conference Winter Combined Retreat on December 3-5 at Eagle Eyrie, Lynchburg. We praised the Lord. very loud.. with the Refuge band. Larry Gent reminded us to count on God during the storms of life, that His light gives us hope and challenged each one of us to pour out our lives for Jesus just as He poured out His blood for us on the cross. We also gleaned some great ideas during the workshops to bring back to our own church youth groups. **REPORT ON DISTRICT YOUTH CHRISTMAS CAROLING AT AMC** - We had a strong turnout of about 30 carolers from several different churches on December 9 at AMC. Julia Baldini, Greenville, on piano, accompanied by Adam Austin, Calvary, Colby and April Pegg-Joplin, Greenville, on guitars led us in a variety of Christmas carols. We pray that the folks in the Hospital were blessed as we were. **STAUNTON DISTRICT YOUTH MISSION TO GUATEMALA** - Wow! We have 47 total team members from 13 churches, consisting of 27 youth and 20 adults. Our team includes three pastors and one nurse. Two of our team members speak fluent Spanish. Praise the Lord! Please be in prayer for all aspects of this mission project. If you would like to contribute financially to help the mission team, please make check out to Staunton District UMC-Guatemala mission and mail to Martha Reynolds, P. O. Box 1048, Fishersville, VA 22939. **ACQUIRE THE FIRE** - January 28-29, 2005, Keynote speakers: Ron Luce, L. G. Wise and Mike Guzzardo. Bands: "Thousand Foot Krutch", "KJ-52" and "Jason Morant". Richmond Coliseum, Richmond, VA. (We may have a church to stay in if you want to go. Contact Steve Joplin). See more details at web site: www.acquirethefire.com **YOUTH GROUP PROGRAM TIP** - "Combos", from Cokesbury. This highly recommended resource provides 6 months programming for your youth group meetings with lots of great ideas. Cost only \$25! **STAUNTON DISTRICT YOUTH RETREAT** - It's time to register for the upcoming Staunton District Youth Retreat at Camp Overlook, March 4–6, 2005 (for Middle & High school youth). Theme "Do You Know? Have You Heard?" Join with over 100 youth from throughout the Staunton District for an awesome faith growing weekend. Praise and worship led by Joe Torrence and Andrew Forrest. Cost: \$55. Registration Forms have been mailed. Contact Martha Reynolds at 932-1055 or staudistpd@ntelos.net. **TEE SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST** - We are seeking Tee Shirt designs from youth (6 – 12 grade) for the Staunton District Youth Retreat. Please mail your T-Shirt design to Steve Joplin, 488 Cherry Grove Road, Middlebrook, VA 24459 no later than February 11, 2005. Winner will receive free admissions to the 2005 Staunton District Youth Retreat, Awakening 2005 and VUMDYLA 2005. Get your entry in early. Good Luck!

Steve Joplin