

# 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 2**

**February 2005**

## Vacation Bible School Workshop

**Sunday, February 13, 2005**

**2:00-4:00 p.m.**

**Calvary UMC, Stuarts Draft**

## **2005 STAUNTON DISTRICT**

### **YOUTH RETREAT**

**Camp Overlook**

**March 4-6, 2005**

**Joe Torrence and Andrew Forrest,**

**Keynote & Praise Worship**

Contact Martha Reynolds for information or registrations  
phone: 932-1055, email: [StauntonDistrictPD@vaumc.org](mailto:StauntonDistrictPD@vaumc.org)

## From Our District Superintendent

Follow Me ~ Jesus said to those first disciples by the sea. It was an easy thing we like to think, for them to leave their boats and nets, ledger sheets and regular routine, family and home, comfortable chair and anticipated future. Individually they said ~Yes! ~ and ventured on the road with him, miracles abounded, yes, and teaching of the word, but then there was broken bread and poured out cup, raised cross and stone-closed grave, open tomb and blessing, fiery, wind-blown spirit! Then, lo...they were a church, brand new, filled with missionary zeal, offering hope and life in Jesus' name.

Follow Me ~ Jesus says today to us in city, village, valley, hill. It's not so, easy, we confess, "to go with him, with him, all the way," to leave our past and venture forth into his new future.

Tom Bandy in *NETResults* (January/February 2005, *The Key Question Revisited*) focuses it like this: *Where will Jesus be fifteen years down the road in our zip code. . . And what price is our congregation willing to pay to join him there?*

He notes that Jesus, in his resurrected body, moved toward Emmaus, gentile territory and beyond "until all the enemies of grace, and all those indifferent to grace, experience the invitation of the gospel." So the questions to us all now are: ***Who will Jesus be with? What issues will Jesus address? What injustices will Jesus heal? What hopes will Jesus redeem? Where, and with whom, will Jesus be found?***

He relates that as one church grappled with this question, one veteran trustee summed up the corporate angst of the people. "You know," he said, "when I joined this 'wagon train' I thought the road we were following was a *church* road that was already paved by our ancestors. There were potholes to fill that required my professional expertise as we moved the wagons to eternal life, but the map was pretty well defined before we ever set out." At this point he took a deep breath. "Suddenly," he continued, "I have learned that this road is a *missionary* road that my ancestors never faced or even foresaw and I'm suppose to blaze a train."

*Are we willing to pay any price for the surpassing worth of keeping company with the Lord?*

Follow Me ~ Jesus says...

Together with you on this journey with Jesus,  
Kathleen

### **Born Again in Every Place...Churches on FIRE**

For too long town and country churches have been viewed as a problem rather than providing an opportunity for faithful and effective ministry to communities in every possible place. Conversations around churches with small memberships have too often centered on maintenance rather than the vital ministry that can happen in every community where a church is located.

General Conference 2004 adopted an Action Plan for implementing ***Born Again In Every Place*** the National Comprehensive Plan for Town and Country Ministry of the United Methodist Church. The plan challenges congregations, districts, annual conferences and the UMC as a whole to catch **Fire:**

- **Focus on self-sacrificing Servanthood rather than survival.**

- Taking **I**nitiatives for Christ's ministry in their own community by no longer waiting to be "rescued," but by activating themselves for service and witness,
  - Recognizing and using the **R**esources available, replacing ideas of scarcity and inadequacy, and embracing the abundance of God's gifts given to them.
  - Releasing the **E**nergy sometimes used to maintain a timid vision of God's call to ministry, letting it loose for empowerment and promise.
- (Quadrennial Report)

*(Taken from Appalachian Link - The United Methodist Appalachian Ministry Network [Winter 2005])*

## **From Our District Program Director**

I have just returned from the School for Leadership Training at Eastern Mennonite Seminary. My head is so full of information, I need to sit quietly and sort through all I have learned. The theme for the three days was *Dwelling in God's Space and Time: Core Practices for Transforming Leaders*.

I would like to share with you some of what I have processed. Before we look to grow as a Church, we must first look at our church's health. Here are some questions that we might want to be in conversation about in our church, to help determine the health of the church. Are we has a congregation working together in ministry? Are we in prayer for everyone and all our ministries? Are we encouraging those who have new ministry ideas and are we supportive of our current ministries? Are we being positive? Is our church public or private? Do we welcome everyone and help them to become integrated into our church life?

As you think about the health of your church read this story my daughter shared with me. There were two churches in the same town, who were involved in prison ministry. Both said they would help those released from the prison. The first church picks up the released prisoner that was assigned to them. They drop him off at a small apartment and gave him the church number and told him the times of worship and said call if you need us, you are always welcome. The second church picks up the prisoner that they had been assigned took him to a small apartment, took him grocery shopping and said we will check on you during the week. Someone in the congregation helped to secure him a job. The Jones called late in the week and said we will be by at 9:30 a.m. Sunday morning to take him to Sunday School and church and out to lunch. The members of the congregation made sure he had rides to church events and helped him adjust to being back in the community. The first prisoner is back in prison, the second prisoner is doing well in his new life of freedom.

Other questions that come to mind are: Is Christ in the center of all we are and do? What are our core values? Are we as leaders discerning the gifts and talents within our churches? Are the ministries that we are currently doing helping to make disciples? What are the needs of the community? Do we dare to imagine and vision to where and how the Holy Spirit is working in our congregation?

This fall as Kathleen and I went from charge conference to charge conference, we talked about transformation and we asked you to do the transformation survey. Now we need to look and see how we can use that material. We need to listen to God, to discern our gifts, to reach out and welcome everyone in the name of Jesus Christ. Each of our churches should have their own character, their own mission, and be aligned with

God's purposes. We each are unique with our own gifts and talents. We should not want to copy the church down the road. As we continue to pray, listen and discern how God is working in and through us, Great Things will happen.

*"For we are what He has made us, Created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life". Ephesians 2:10 (NRSV)*

*Martha Reynolds*

### **Staunton District Habitat for Humanity House**

The fundraising for the first Habitat for Humanity House to be built by the Staunton District churches is going very well. We are almost to our goal of \$40,000 pledged for this project. In fact, we have \$36,789 pledged and of that amount, we have collected \$32,460. That's a fantastic start and gives us the seed money to break ground this spring in partnership with the Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro Habitat for Humanity affiliate.

We just have a little more than \$3,200 left to pledge. Let's strive to have that additional pledge in before we start building in the April or May. You can make a pledge (or increase your existing pledge) by contacting Janice Gentry (janiceg@ntelos.net or 540-932-2076). If you would like to send in your money, designate it for the UMC Build and please send it to: SAW Habitat for Humanity, 1517 W. Beverley Street, Staunton, VA 24401

### **STAUNTON DISTRICT PROGRAM CALENDAR- 2005**

#### **FEBRUARY**

Tuesday, February 1: Clergy & Spouses Meeting, Greenville UMC  
Wednesday, February 2: Board of Ordained Ministry, District Office  
Thursday, February 3: Restorative Justice Task Force, 10:00 a.m. District Office  
Monday, February 7: Casa de Amistad, Basic UMC  
Tuesday, February 8: Nominations Committee, 10:00 a.m. District Office  
Wednesday, February 9: Ash Wednesday  
Thursday, February 10: Finance Committee 7:00 p.m.  
Friday, February 18: Mentor Training, Lynchburg  
Saturday February 19: Death Penalty Workshop  
Friday-Sunday, February 25-27: Conference Lay Speaking Ministries Training  
- VUMAC

#### **MARCH**

Tuesday, March 1: Clergy & Spouses Meeting, Central UMC (Clifton Forge)  
Friday-Sunday, March 4-6 District Youth Retreat - Camp Overlook  
Monday, March 14: DCOM Meeting at 1:00 p.m., Mint Spring UMC  
Thursday, March 17: Annual Hermitage Guild Meeting  
March 20-26: Holy Week  
Sunday, March 27: Easter Sunday

## **APRIL**

Friday, April 1: Laity Banquet, St. Paul's  
April 1 & 2: Awakening – Virginia Wesleyan College  
Saturday, April 2: UMW Meeting at Ashwood (Hot Springs) 9:30 a.m.  
Saturday, April 2: UMM Leadership/Development Day, Bon-Air UMC  
Tuesday, April 5: Clergy /Spouse meeting, Lyndhurst UMC  
Saturday, April 16: Religion & Race Conference  
Saturday-Sunday, April 16-17: Laity Retreat  
Saturday, April 23: UMM District Cabinet meeting  
Saturday, April 30: District Lay Speaking Training

## **MAY**

Sunday, May 1: Full Board of Mission, Christ UMC (Covington) 3:00 p.m.  
Wednesday, May 4: Board of Ordained Ministry, District Office  
Saturday, May 7: DCOM Retreat 9:30-2:00, Fairfield UMC  
Friday-Sunday, May 13-15: UMW Spiritual Life Retreat  
Saturday, May 14: Stewardship Workshop, Fishersville UMC  
Friday-Saturday, May 20-21: UMM Retreat  
Tuesday, May 24: Clergy/Spouses Dinner, Glovier Memorial UMC

## **Casa de Amistad**

I know it seems a little late to be talking about Christmas, but what an incredible Christmas season we had. at Casa de Amistad! And it was because of you!!!! A special thanks to Andrea Riegel who coordinated the gift giving!! We have truly grown in to a District ministry. Over 15 UM churches from across the District as well as the District UMW and many individuals participated in our Christmas gift giving program to help Hispanic families. We served 170 children this year. In addition to the gifts, several churches helped individual families, bought winter coats, sent hats and gloves. or sent new baby things to share with the expectant moms. God is so amazing! As fast as we found new needs, He sent new folks that wanted to help fill those needs.

When the gifts were delivered to Basic UMC, they were sorted in alphabetical order, and then bagged by family in bright BIG bags. All the gifts were prayed over before distributing. On December 19, the Amigo de Cristo Sunday School class went caroling, then the Hispanic families gathered at Basic UMC for a worship service in Spanish by Rev. Don Gibson. We had over 150 people at the service! Afterwards the gifts were distributed. All but 10 families attended, and those gifts were delivered to the families' homes within three days.

It is incredible how churches from all over the District as well as a neighboring district answered the call to do God's work. Not only was it a blessing for us to coordinate your giving but also to be a part of the families' thankfulness when they received the gifts. God was able to work through all of us this Christmas season. May he continue to bless you the through out the whole year and to God be the glory.

*Becky Lewis, Chairperson*

## **Project Transformation Partner and Interns Needed**

Project Transformation is looking for volunteers and congregations who can:

- Read with children
- Offer talents like storytelling or music
- Contribute craft supplies and snacks
- Share about your profession and encourage children to dream big
- Mentor and pray for a college intern over the course of the summer
- Join in community meals and times of fellowship
- Host a field trip to your home, farm, or business
- Assist with field trip transportation
- Donate financially to this exciting program

Project Transformation is a program of the Wesley Foundation at UVA in partnership with local churches. We offer a 9-week internship and outreach program, staffed by college interns who operate day camps for at-risk children. The camps are hosted by Basic UMC in Waynesboro and Hinton Avenue UMC in Charlottesville.

Won't you partner with us this summer? Please visit our updated website ([www.wesleyuva.org/pt](http://www.wesleyuva.org/pt)) for partner church information about the program. Camps will be running June 13- August 4, 2005, and we hope to serve in ministry with **you** this year.

We are also accepting intern 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. If you know of someone who might make a good intern, please have them visit the website for intern information and an application. Interns receive a \$2000 stipend for the summer and must have completed at least one year of college. The application deadline is March 15, 2005.

Come help transform lives and communities and be transformed yourself!

### **Cherryvale Youth Group**

**Is holding a**

**Soup and Sandwich Dinner**

**February 11 5:00-8:00 p.m.**

**\$5.00 per person 13 and up - \$3.00 for children 12 and under**

**Cherryvale UMC—709 Cherry Hill Drive off Spring Hill Road**

Call 885-0098 for directions

All proceeds will be used to send Cherryvale Youth  
on a mission trip to Guatemala in July

## **One Great Hour of Sharing: Sunday March 6, Essential to UMCOR**

Within days of the Indian Ocean disaster, UMCOR was providing food, clothing, shelter, and medical help to survivors. We will stay in the region for years-- rebuilding, returning people home, giving comfort, helping to create replacements for lost livelihoods. For UMCOR, the first few weeks are only the beginning. Such works of recovery and life-changing ministry don't happen without the broad support of congregations and individuals.

Once a year, during One Great Hour of Sharing, you and your congregation can join other United Methodists worldwide by making a special offering to support UMCOR. You can help assure that, when catastrophes cause suffering, your church, impelled by Jesus' love and compassion will be in the lead to ease the pain.

Gifts to this offering underwrite UMCOR's "costs of doing business," so that 100 percent of every other dollar you donate to a specific UMCOR project can be spent on that project, and not on administrative costs.

UMCOR receives no World Service funds or any other apportionments.

Offering gifts over and above those used to cover administrative costs are channeled where they're most needed-- to assist the most vulnerable people whose need is greatest.

Don't delay! Order your free One Great Hour of Sharing materials today. Call toll free, 1-888-346-3862 and then receive the offering on March 6. Your generosity means UMCOR will be your open hearts and hands in current and future catastrophes.

UMCOR offers additional online resources at <http://gbgm-umc.org/umcor/oghs.stm> .

UMCOR provides emergency relief in many areas of the world. To find out more about UMCOR's ministries, please visit <http://gbgm-umc.org/umcor/> . You can donate to any project by placing a contribution in the offering plate at a local United Methodist church; by sending a check to UMCOR, 475 Riverside Dr., Room 330, New York, NY 10115; or by calling 1-800-554-8583, where credit card donations are accepted. UMCOR is exempt from tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of the United States and qualifies for the maximum charitable contribution deduction by donors.

And, please pray for those who are hungry, displaced, sick or in poverty because of these and other natural and human-made disasters, and for the workers who minister to them.

### **United Methodist Men January 25, 2005**

Leadership/Development Day April 2, 2005 at Bon Air UMC, Richmond. This is a must for new UMMen Officers and others. We will gather at the park and ride lot at the intersection of route 340 and I-64 and car pool to Bon Air. Watch for further information about this.

Golf Tournament April 16, 2005. The District UMMen are sponsoring a Golf Tournament to help fund the District Youth Team on a UMMVIM 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. Woody's Chevrolet will give away a NEW CAR to a golfer who makes a hole in one on one of the par 3 holes. Registration forms are being distributed now and can be printed out from our website: [www.gbgm-umc.org/stauntondistrict/umm/umm.html](http://www.gbgm-umc.org/stauntondistrict/umm/umm.html)

Hole sponsors are needed. The Hole Sponsorship forms can also be printed from the website. Start getting your team together and securing hole sponsors. Support our youth on this mission trip.

Tri-District Spiritual Retreat May 20 & 21, 2005 at Camp Overlook. Tony Perry from the General Commission of UMMen will be there to give us the latest information from the GCUMM and present a program on "Heart Quest". Mark your calendar and make plans to attend.

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

*Earl Cash*, President

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

(web site: [stauntondistrict.tripod.com](http://stauntondistrict.tripod.com))

**DISTRICT YOUTH RETREAT** - Registration deadline is February 17<sup>th</sup> for the 2005 District Youth Retreat at Camp Overlook, March 4–6 (for Middle & High school youth). Join with over 100 youth from throughout the District for an awesome faith growing weekend. Theme "Do You Know? Have You Heard?" Praise and worship led by Joe Torrence and Andrew Forrest. Cost: \$55. Contact Martha Reynolds at 932-1055 or [staudistpd@ntelos.net](mailto:staudistpd@ntelos.net).

**TEE SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST** - We are seeking Tee Shirt designs from youth (6 – 12 grade) for the District Youth Retreat. Below is the Theme, Statement and Scriptures for 2004-2005 that may be incorporated in your design. 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!

- **2004-2005 THEME:** "Do you know? Have you heard?"
  - **2004-2005 STATEMENT:** "As the youth of the Staunton District, we will not only put our faith in the everlasting God, but we will also share the hope and strength of the Lord with all God's children. With this we will all mount up and soar on eagles wings."
- 2004-2005 SCRIPTURES:** *Isaiah 40:28-31 Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.*

**REPORT ON DISTRICT YOUTH R & R** - It was a great night at St. John's UMC, Buena Vista, for the District Youth. Forty-five attendees from eight UM churches gathered on January 15 for the District Youth "R & R" (Recreation & Renewal). A wonderful night highlighted by a service project to make cards and book markers to send to elderly in nursing homes and shut-ins from St. John's church. The evening included games, fun, fellowship, inspiring devotions presented by youth. An offering of \$130 will be sent to YSF with event proceeds. A great big Thank You to Rev. Jason Micheli and St. John's for hosting the district youth R & R.

**DISTRICT YOUTH MISSION TO GUATEMALA** - The first team meeting for youth and adults going on the Guatemala mission will be held at St. John's UMC, Buena Vista, from 10:00 AM til 3:00 PM on Saturday, February 5. Ben Blevins will lead the meeting.

He will provide important information covering safety, health, what to bring, cross cultural dynamics, orientation towards mission and fund-raising ideas.

YOUTH GROUP PROGRAM TIP - "Single-Digit Youth Groups", by Marcey Balcomb.

This resource provides suggested activities and experiences that work effectively with as few as one or two youth and that easily engage nine. Available from Cokesbury. Cost \$8.00.

AWAKENING 2005 - "Awakening 2005", April 1-2 at Virginia Wesleyan College, Norfolk, VA. Keynote: Clarence Brown, Bands: David Crowder Band, Waterproof Feat, Agape and comedy with Rich Praytor and much more. Cost: \$35 before March 1. Contact: Angie Williams, Conference Youth Ministries at 800-768-6040 #139 or [angiewilliams@vaumc.org](mailto:angiewilliams@vaumc.org)

YOUTH SERVICE FUND SUNDAY - "Youth Service Fund Sunday". All churches in the Staunton District are requested to choose any Sunday of your choice, in April/May to celebrate YSF. Encourage Youth to lead the worship service and to collect an offering for YSF on that Sunday. In 2004, Youth in the Virginia Conference were number one in the world in YSF giving. Lets make it two in a row. Please make check out to YSF and mail to the Conference office. Please mark "Staunton District" on your check so that our district will receive proper credit. Questions? Contact Steve Joplin.

*He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom.*

*Steve Joplin*

***Faith-Based Workshop on Capital Punishment — Registration Deadline:  
February 12th!***

Some questions for which every United Methodist should have an answer:

- \*Why do we kill people to show that killing people is wrong?
- \*Does Virginia need to strengthen its death penalty laws?
- \*Should the juvenile death penalty be abolished?

If you are not sure of your answer, or would like to have greater clarity about the relationship between Christian faith and capital punishment, register now for our District Faith-Based Death Penalty Workshop, February 19th, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm, at St. James UMC, Churchville, to be led by Atty. John Hill and Dr. Hunter Mabry, author "Capital Punishment: A Faith-Based Study."

To register, send your check for \$15.00 (covers all expenses) payable, "Staunton United Methodist District," to Hunter Mabry, Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministries, 2315 Davis Road, Waynesboro, VA 22980. Write "D.P. Workshop" in memo line. DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION: FEBRUARY 12.

**Attention: Stewards of the Library or Resource Center**

If you have duplicates of any materials (cds, videos, or books) that are not being used, please consider donating them to the District Resource Center. No outdated materials, please.

## **Natural Church Development Seminar**

If you want your church to grow, be committed from the start to do some hard work. Your most involved laity will be surveyed regarding eight key quality characteristics of your church. After having the survey analyzed, your church will be assigned a coach and together you will make a plan of action to improve one of these key characteristics. After a year, the church can see how it's done. Characteristics of a growing church include: empowering leadership; gift-oriented ministry; passionate spirituality; functional structures; inspiring worship service; holistic small groups; need-oriented evangelism; and loving relationships.

**Date:** 2/19/2005 a.m.-4 p.m.

**Phone:** 1-800-768-6040, ext. 155, (804) 521-1155

**Email:** AnnaWorkman@vaumc.org

**Location/Directions:** Virginia United Methodist Center, Glen Allen

**Event Cost:** For a team of up to 5 persons is \$175 (includes lunch and scoring survey)

**Brochure:** /repository/Events/NaturalChurch.pdf

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