



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 3, Issue 5

October - November 2006



**Lay Speaking
Training
Saturday,
October 21**

**8:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Sherando UMC**

**Basic Course Instructor:
Jane Bayne, CLS**

**Advanced Courses
Instructors:**

**Martha Reynolds, CLS
Rev. David Brown and
Carl Mann, CLS**

**Cost: Basic - \$15.00;
Advance - \$20.00**

**Staunton/Charlottesville
Bi-District
Leadership Training**



Saturday, Nov. 18,

St. Paul's UMC, Staunton

**9:30-10:00 - Registration and
Fellowship**

10:00-10:30 - Worship

Guest Speaker:

Shirley Cauffman,

Virginia Conference Lay Leader

10:45-12:15 - Workshops

Leadership Training Classes will

include: Staff/Pastor-Parish Relations; Lay Leadership; Integrating Mission and Outreach into the full Life of Your Congregation; Help I am a Church Treasurer; Being a Local Church Trustee; Way to Live: Youth Ministry That Teaches Faith in Action; Communications as a Ministry; Multigenerational Ministries in the Local Church; Local Church Planning - Moving into the Future; Stewardship

The Staunton District Conference

Saturday, November 18

12:30 p.m.-1:30 p.m.

St. Paul's UMC, Staunton

FROM OUR DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT:

“I see what you’ve done. Now see what I’ve done. I’ve opened a door before you that no one can slam shut” (Revelation 3:8a, [The Message](#)).

It wasn’t a door but a window...two windows really, in August, windows on the world it seemed... first on an airplane during a flight from DC to Chicago... and then, a window in my room on the 31st floor!

Fascinated! That described my reaction to the view from both windows:

From the air, the view was unobstructed by clouds...from takeoff at Reagan National to landing at Chicago O’Hare, I could see monuments, roads, rivers, neighborhoods, mountains, valleys, it was awesome!

The view from the hotel was mesmerizing: Lake Michigan, with sail boats some days, busy highways filled with slow moving cars at rush hour and streams of headlights and red brake lights at night, new construction, and long-established neighborhoods!

From both windows patterns, connections, and relatedness that are hard to fathom become crystal clear.

I was afforded these wonderful views because I attended the Clergywomen’s Consultation in Chicago. It was a time filled with wonderful worship, celebration of the 50 years of full clergy rights for women, connecting with women from across the globe, engaging in challenging, thoughtful and thought-provoking programs, visiting with friends from seminary, eating dinner with 50 sisters from the Virginia Conference, and so much more.

These views came as a gift, it seems to me, during a time when hurts and brokenness were clearly evident in several families and congregations across the district. These views reminded me that though caught-up in the immediate difficulties, it was necessary, though not easy, to get the larger view and to see the connections and relationships that were not yet clearly in plain view.

That personal experience of grace through the window has led me to ask some questions of us as congregations and disciples of Jesus:

Would the boundaries we see everyday disappear if we took a longer view?

Would new patterns that are indiscernible in the midst, be clearly evident?

It is another way of asking: Where is God opening a door for you? If you were able to see your community, your neighborhoods, from afar, with a bird’s eye (or even God’s eye) view would you more clearly see the path and direction for your ministry and discipleship?

Paul wrote to the church in Corinth: “When I arrived in Troas to proclaim the Message of the Messiah, I found the place wide open: God had opened the door; all I had to do was walk through it” (2 Corinthians 2:12, [The Message](#)).

From the window (and the doorway),

In Christ,

Kathleen

P.S.

As we gather round the Table on World Communion Sunday, I hear clearly the refrain from the “theme” song of the Clergywomen’s Consultation:

“Its only a table, but only Christ’s table can gather and feed us, inspire us and send us, and make us a promise fulfilled.”—Susan Heafield



Our Deepest Sympathy is Extended To:

Rev. Charles and Mrs. Theresa Johnson on the death of his mother, Nancy Lynn Johnson. Rev. Johnson serves Iron Gate Charge.

Rev. Gary and Mrs. Janna Milstead on the death of her brother, Errol Gann. Rev. Milstead is on Incapacity Leave.

Rev. Joseph and Mrs. Oneida Hagenlocker on the death of her mother, Gertie Woods. Rev. Hagenlocker serves Mount Zion UMC in Mount Solon.

Donna and Sam Desper and their family on the death of her father, Carroll Cline. Donna is the District Office Administrative Assistant.



FROM OUR DISTRICT PROGRAM COORDINATOR:

I have been traveling with Kathleen again this year to the charge conferences. This year the District Lay Leader and Associate Lay Leaders have been attending as well. It is great having the Lay Leaders come and emphasize to the congregation members the importance of their role in the life of the church. The Scripture Kathleen chose for this year has really struck a cord with me. The scripture is Revelation 3:8 "I see what you have done, now see what I have done. I open a door before you that no one can slam shut." It is scary to think what might be on the other side of that open door. I have found time and time again that when God opens the door there are new and wonderful opportunities for me. There are challenges too, when we walk through the door. God is forever faithful and walks through the doors with us. God wants us to grow in our faith, so that we will be able to share our faith with others. God calls all of us to be a part of the ministry in our churches. He calls some to be liturgist and some to teach, some to be treasurers and financial people, some to be trustees, some to visit the sick and homebound and there are many other places God calls us to be a part. The old saying is true, "God does not call the equipped, he equips the called." Step out in faith and walk through the door God is calling you through. Take time to go and become better equipped so you will feel more comfortable doing the work of the church. The district offers many opportunities for you through the year. Coming up soon on October 21 at Sherando UMC we will be having Lay Speaking Training and then on November 18 at St. Paul's UMC in Staunton we will be having Leadership Training. Leadership Training is not just for the leaders, it is also for anyone in the congregations to come and learn more so it might be easier for them to walk through the door God is calling them through.



Blessings,

Martha



YOU ARE INVITED TO A FAITH-BASED WORKSHOP ON THE DEATH PENALTY!

What punishment should Christians support for persons who commit violent crimes – such as domestic violence, and terrorist attacks, that result in the loss of human life? Some call for the death penalty. Others are not so sure, pointing out that innocent persons have been sent to death row. Others wonder if killing persons, even criminals, is compatible with Christian faith.

Come and join with others in discussion of the issues at stake at this Faith-Based Workshop on the Death Penalty, to be held on Saturday, November 11th, 9:30 am - 3:30 pm at the Fairfield UMC. Well equipped leaders will help us look at how the legal system works, what the Bible and official church statements say, and practical actions Christians can take: Mr. John Hill, an attorney with experience in handling death penalty cases; Dr. Hunter Mabry, author, *Capital Punishment: A Faith-Based Study*; Mr. Edward Morrison, member, Murder Victims Families For Reconciliation, and Mr. Jack Payden-Travers, Director, Virginians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty. Continuing education units of 0.5 will be available.

The \$15.00 registration fee covers refreshments, lunch, a copy of the study book, and related expenses. Although the official deadline is November 4th, interested persons are urged to register early so a copy of the study book can be sent for thoughtful preparatory reading prior to the workshop. Register now by sending your check, payable "Staunton United Methodist District", and your contact information, to: Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministries Coordinator (or: CJAMM Coordinator), 2315 Davis Road, Waynesboro, VA 22980-2011.

Hunter Mabry, District Coordinator

CASA DE AMISTAD has started planning for Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets for many of the Hispanic families they serve throughout the year. Last year they provided food at Thanksgiving for over a 100 families. They need our help with monetary donations and food donations. Checks may be made out to Casa de Amistad and mailed to Basic UMC, P.O.



Box 2447 Waynesboro, VA 22980, please mark for Thanksgiving and/or Christmas on your check. If you would like to donate food for the basket please contact Rev. Don Gibson at 949-8947 for a list of the foods they are asking for. Donations will be accepted for Thanksgiving up until November 11th and for Christmas until December 9th. Thank you

FROM THE LAY LEADER:

There were two men, best friends, one of which had lent money to the other. When the time came to pay back the money the friend who had borrowed the money found that he could not repay the money. He then, for an extended period of time, avoided the friend to whom he owed the money. The friend who had lent the money could not figure out why his best friend would not speak to him and confronted him on the street. Why, he asked, do you not talk to me anymore? The friend who owed the money told him; I was sure you were angry with me and I did not know what to do. The friend who was owed the money looked directly into his best friends eyes and said; the money makes no difference, we are still best friends and I know you will repay me when you can.



How often do we feel we must avoid our God, lock him out of our lives, when we feel He has grounds to be angry with us. On the other hand how often do we remember our God when things are going well for us; when our world is bright, our problems small!

Recently, while talking to my son about world problems, Mike said to me; dad I wish I had a direct line to God. My answer without thinking was; son you do! When I was very small my dad told me that everyone needed someone to talk to, to confide in, to tell all their secrets to, bad or good; and that someone must be someone who would never breach your trust or tell others your most private thoughts. At first, I was not sure who that someone was and my pets took on that role. As I got older, went to church, and learned about Jesus, I realized that my dad was training me to pray. I soon came to know that Jesus was my confident, and that my personal relationship with Jesus was just that, only between us! Even more important, I learned that Jesus had the power to help me solve my problems, forgive me for my bad deeds and reward me for the good things I have done.



God Hears and Answers Prayers

While those of us who are lucky enough to be brought up as Christians know that we do have a direct line to our God, how often do we forget? Then, when things turn down for us, we call to God for help! God is heard to say; I am here. I have always been here. We, who for a time were blind to our God, see again, and there is our God: His brilliance more stunning than ever; His understanding beyond our belief; His forgiveness unqualified, and His love unbounded! This is God's Grace! Is it not comforting, reassuring, and wondrous that we have a living God that is always with us regardless of whether we accept his gift of Grace; or chose to put him out of our lives. Is it not even more important to know; that when we accept His gift of undeserved Grace, by accepting Jesus as our personal Lord and Savior; Salvation and Eternal life are made possible for each of us?

How then do we accept God's Grace? Thru prayer! In Matthew, Jesus tells us: "But you when you pray go into your room and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly."

This scripture reveals to us there is no need for a middleman when we pray to our God. It is your personal relationship between you and your God and Savior, and only that relationship, which will result in salvation for each of us. It is up to each of us to establish their direct line to God. Once established we must use this direct line. We cannot depend on the Pastor, the Church, or any other person or organization to intercede for us with our God! Our personal direct relationship with our Lord and Savior is the most important force in our lives.

The man who owed money to his friend, when confronted by that friend, learned that his best friend valued their relationship more than the money he was owed. From a human prospective the value this friend placed on his relationship with his best friend, over the money he was owed, gives us some small understanding of the vastness of the value our Lord and Savior places on His relationship with each of His children thru His Grace. If God leaves our lives it is not because He leaves us; but always, because we leave Him!

Carl



Reminder: Deadline for nominations for Lay District At Large Members to Annual Conference and General and Jurisdictional Conference are due by Wednesday, November 1, 2006. Forms are available from Lay Leaders, Pastors and the District Office.

FROM THE DISTRICT LAY SPEAKING MINISTRIES COORDINATOR:

Lay Speaking Ministries is a vital ministry of our United Methodist Mission. I would like to thank all the Pastors that utilize our Lay Speakers in your worship services and other activities. Your District Lay Speaking Ministry (LSM) Committee suggests that Laity Sunday and the fifth Sunday's services be filled with Lay Speakers. You can use your Local or Certified Lay Speakers or invite another CLS to speak for you. We have a wonderful group of CLS that love to speak and often do not get an invitation. Again, I thank you for your consideration in using our Lay Speakers.

I would like to thank St. John's UMC and Sherando UMC for hosting our training this year. We had a good turnout in April and are expecting the same at Sherando on October 21. Brochures have been mailed. During the season of Charge Conferences, I would like to remind you to completely fill out your Lay Speaking Annual Report to the Charge Conference (Form 21). Mark either LCLS or CLS and sign your name, also needed is the Pastor's signature and Charge Conference Recommendation and District Superintendent's signature. Page two when filled out is very helpful to our Committee and the District Nomination Committee since it gives us insight on your gifts and graces and your feedback. When we receive Form 21 from your Charge Conference, our Committee reviews each to assure that the Lay Speaker has attended the necessary training that is required every three years and for recommendations from Pastors, Charge Conference and the District Superintendent. Please help us to complete our District Approved Lay Speakers list. Thank you for your service and God Bless.

In Christ,

Bob McCallister, District Director

LORD'S ACRE DAY EVENT

Mint Spring UMC will be holding their annual Lord's Acre Day event on October 14. The event will be held at the Mint Spring Ruritian building located on Lee Jackson Highway (Route 11) just 4 miles South of Staunton. Doors will be opening at 11:00 a.m. A bazaar will kick off the day's activities. At the bazaar there will be crafts, baked goods, relishes, jellies, ham sandwiches and lots more. At 12:00 noon the Youth fellowship will be sealing Hot Dogs, chips along with a drink. From 4:00-7:00 p.m. a supper will be served with all proceeds going to support missions. Supper is a country style buffet meal which includes country ham, Bar-B-Q chicken, Bar-B-Q beef, vegetables, salads, bread and delicious desserts which include homemade pies and cakes. The cost for Supper is \$10.00 per person with children 12 and under eating for \$4.00 per child. Following the Supper at 7:30 p.m. our Annual auction will begin. Items sold during the auction will include crafts, art, quilts (including several quilts handcrafted by our very own Sewing Bee), and much, much more. You will not want to miss this day. Hope to see you there!

SPIRITUAL RENEWAL FOR YOUTH & ADULTS



The Witness Committee at Mint Spring UMC will be holding a one day Spiritual Renewal on October 22 starting at 7:00 p.m. The Theme for this year's Spiritual Renewal will be "Love Always Wins!" Joe Torrence, Youth Minister at St. Mark's UMC in Midlothian, will be our key note speaker. The renewal will also include contemporary singing and music provided by a Christian band. The Spiritual renewal is geared toward youth; however, we are sure that adults will benefit from the experience as well. A free will offering will be received to go to the Conference Youth Service Fund. For further information please contact the Church at 337-0569. Again the event will be October 22 at 7:00 p.m. at Mint Spring UMC located at 59 Mint Springs Circle (4 miles South of Staunton on Lee-Jackson Highway --Rt. 11). We are the church on the hill. Hope you can come!

"Res-Net" (for Resolutions Net), an unmoderated conference electronic discussion group (e-group), has been established by the Common Table to allow discussion of the 12 resolutions not addressed at the 2006 Annual Conference in Hampton. This forum will allow for views to be expressed by Annual Conference members (lay and clergy) and members of Virginia Conference United Methodist churches who wish to participate in this ongoing discussion. The 12 resolutions are posted in their entirety on the conference website, along with relevant Disciplinary paragraphs, at <http://www.vaumc.org/index.cfm/fa/content.view/menuID/3238.htm>



UMVIM TEAM LEADER TRAINING EVENT

A Virginia Conference United Methodist Volunteers In Mission (UMVIM) Team Leader Training Event will be held on Saturday, November 18, 2006 at Lakeside United Methodist Church, 2333 Hilliard Road, Richmond, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. with registration beginning at 8:45 a.m. Team Leader Training is required for all first time team leaders leading UMVIM teams locally, nationally or globally, but all interested persons are welcome to attend whether leading a team or not. Participants must pre-register by 12:00 noon, Monday, November 13, 2006. This event is limited to the first 80 registrants. A registration form and information about how to obtain the required text, the *Team Leader Handbook*, are available on the Conference UMVIM website at www.vaumc.org and clicking on "Ministries" and then "UMVIM." A registration form is also available through the Conference Office of Mission at 1-800-768-6040, ext. 144. For questions, contact the Conference UMVIM coordinator, Kip Robinson at Krobin7856@aol.com or 804-264-7856.

AUGUSTA REGIONAL FREE CLINIC

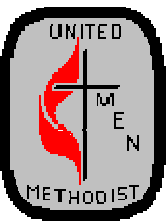
The mission of the Augusta Regional Free Clinic is to provide medical, pharmacy, dental and health related services to those adult residents of Staunton, Waynesboro, and Augusta County who are making a sincere effort to support themselves (working or registered with VEC), but who do not have the means to pay for such services. The Clinic is located at 342 Mule Academy Road, Fishersville, VA.



Some of the services offered are: non - emergency medical care, primary and chronic care, Pharmacy, Referrals to Specialists, Lab work, X-rays, MRI (through AMC), health care education programs, Flu Shots, women's and men's health care programs and non-emergency dental services.

The Free Clinic uses several criterion to determine eligibility for services. Some of the guidelines are: patrons must not have health insurance, must have proof of residence, meet income guidelines, and must be employed.

We are lifting this organization up in our newsletter this month so you might know this service is available for those living in the Augusta County, Staunton, and Waynesboro area. You may have people in your congregation and/or community who can benefit from the services provided by the Free Clinic. The Free Clinic is always looking for support so they may continue to offer the very best service to those in need in the community. If you are not in the Free Clinic service area we urge you to look in your community and see if there is a service such as the Free Clinic. For more information about the Free Clinic you may write them or call 540-334-5606 or 540-932-5606.



UNITED METHODIST MEN

The UMM 29th Annual Spiritual Retreat will be held at VUMAC on November 3-5, 2006. Dr. Winston Worrell, Director of the World Methodist Evangelism Institute, will be the featured speaker and the Rev. Clarence R. Brown, Jr., the guest preacher and special music by the Heavenly Express. The Spiritual Retreat will begin with dinner on Friday evening, November 3, and conclude with worship service and communion, followed by lunch on Sunday, November 5. The theme, *That The World May Know Jesus Christ*, will be the focus of these five stirring and uplifting messages by Dr. Worrell: *Like a Fire Within Our Bones, *No Guile On Earth As It Is In Heaven, *You Come Down Now, *Adopted As Children Of God, *To The Known God. The Spiritual Retreat offers UMM a much-needed balance to busy life styles. Make plans NOW to attend!

Cost: Full Registration (Includes registration Fee, Two night's lodging and meals):

Adult \$133 Youth (13-18) \$99 Child (12-under) \$69.

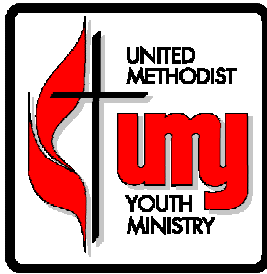
Commuter (Registration and meals only): Adult \$55 Youth \$39 Child \$3

Registrations forms may be gotten on line at:

<http://www.vaumc.org/repository/UMMen/2006SpiritualRetreatRegistrationForm.pdf>

District UMMen next Cabinet meeting TBA.

Calvin Hughes, President.



*** DISTRICT YOUTH NEWS ***
(web site: www.stauntondistrict.org)

REPORT ON STAUNTON DISTRICT YOUTH BACK TO SCHOOL BASH - We had about 60 in attendance held on Saturday, September 16th, at Calvary UMC. Working with "Rebuilding Together," many youth helped with two service projects earlier in the day. One project included roof repair, replacing gutters and building a deck and wheel chair ramp. The other project was a major clean up in and around a nearby home. A great big thank you to all of the youth and adults who helped with these projects. Know that you have made a difference in the lives of our neighbors. At the Bash in the evening we enjoyed games, pizza, and worship time with Michael Snow from Harrisonburg. Thank you to Calvary UMC for being a wonderful host to the District Youth.

REPORT ON VUMDYLA 2006 - Eleven youth and adults from six Churches attended VUMDYLA August 4-6th at Blackstone. During this time the youth developed their Scripture, Theme and Statement for the upcoming year, see below. Lots of ideas were shared in an effort to continually improve our district youth events. Colby Pegg-Joplin volunteered to be the CCYM Rep from the Staunton District. Throughout the weekend we also enjoyed workshops, praise and worship times led by the David Glenn Band along with challenging messages by speakers, Tim Dayton, Jeff Williams, and Angie Williams.

- 2006-2007 THEME: *"Don't Worry, Be Happy"*
- 2006-2007 STATEMENT: *"Don't worry, pray about everything then God will give you peace and a happy heart."*
- 2006-2007 SCRIPTURE: *Philippians 4:6-7 "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."*

MIDDLE SCHOOL RETREAT - Nov. 10-12, 2006 at Eagle Eyrie, Lynchburg. Praise & worship & a weekend full of fun, fellowship, family groups & spiritual growth for 6th through 8th graders. Band "Our Hearts Hero!" Keynote: Keith Lowery, Young Life Area Director. Worship with over 500 6th thru 8th graders from all around the Virginia Conference. Cost: \$96. Call Youth Ministries at 800-768-6040 ext# 135 for registration.

DISTRICT YOUTH CHRISTMAS CAROLING AT A.M.C. - 7:00-8:00 PM Thursday, December 7, 2006. All District Youth are invited to gather and sing Christmas Carols in the lobby of Augusta Medical Center Hospital, Fishersville. I'll bring the song sheets. Your singing will surely be a blessing to those in the hospital. Hope to see you there!

HIGH SCHOOL RETREAT - Dec. 1-3, 2006 at Eagle Eyrie, Lynchburg. Spiritual Retreat for 9th through 12th graders. Band "Our Hearts Hero!" Keynote: Keith Lowery, Young Life Area Director. Worship with over 500 9th thru 12th graders from all around the Virginia Conference. Senior Semi-Formal Recognition Banquet Saturday night. Cost: \$96. Call Youth Ministries at 800-768-6040 ext# 135 for registration.

YOUTH TO ANNUAL CONFERENCE - Any Youth (Middle or High Schooler) that would like to be considered as a delegate to Annual Conference in June of 2007, please contact Martha Reynolds or Steve Joplin as soon as possible.

Upcoming Youth Events:

October 9-14	United Nations Seminar, New York City
October 27-29	Middle School Mission, Hunting Ridge Retreat, Winchester
Nov. 10-12	Middle School Retreat, Eagle Eyrie, Lynchburg
Dec. 1-3	High School Retreat, Eagle Eyrie, Lynchburg
Dec. 7	District Youth Christmas Caroling at AMC
Jan. 20	District Youth R & R, at St. Paul's UMC, Staunton
Mar. 16-18	District Youth Retreat, Camp Overlook
Mar. 24-25	Awakening 2007, at Randolph Macon College, Ashland
June 24	District Youth "Summer Splash", Douthat State Park
July 11-16	"Youth 07", Greensboro, NC
Aug. 3-5	VUMDYLA

Philippians 4:6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

Steve Joplin



PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH SECRETARIES (PAUMCS) FALL EVENT

Experience Your Conference Connection 2006: October 25, Va. UM Center, Glen Allen.

Administrative professionals within the United Methodist Church are frequently the “front line” contact with church members and with those beyond the local church who seek information. When a crisis strikes the local church administrative staff may be the first person(es) to receive the news and accompanying barrage of questions. **Carole Vaughn**, Director of Communications for the Virginia Conference and a Certified Christian Educator, will lead a session on how to prepare for effective communications response and to initiate a crisis response plan with the local church staff.

Following a disaster, it is the pastor and staff of the church who must relay valuable information to their congregation about federal, state and conference relief efforts. If the disaster is a local one, the church may be called upon to share information about local community services, serve as a shelter, coordinate food or other supply collections, provide pastoral care and counseling, and communicate vital information which will be supplied to the local church administrative staff by the Conference Office. **Martha Stokes**, Director of the Conference Office of Lay Life and Work, Disabilities, and Older Adult Ministries and the staff member working with the Health and Relief Team of the Conference Board of Global Ministries, will train attendees in this vital communication effort.

Registration brochure can be found at www.vaumc.org and click “Ministries” then “PAUMCS,” or call Susan Petrey, 1-800-768-6040 or (804)521-1124, ext. 124. Registration deadline is October 6.



THE VIRGINIA UNITED METHODIST CREDIT UNION wants to help all Virginia United Methodist to “...earn all they can, to save all they can, so they can give all they can.” To help your church members with their financial needs and concerns, we are offering financial seminars to individual churches and church groups. Current seminars include:

- Steps to Financial Freedom
- Reading Your Credit Report
- Identity Theft
- Kids & Money (NEW!)
- College Bound (NEW!)

DOLLAR\$&CENTS

To schedule your free workshop, contact Trisha Bryant at tbryant@vumcu.org; or, 866-657-0004 toll free.

GOOD NEWS TO THE POOR: A CONFERENCE ON ECONOMIC JUSTICE NOVEMBER 12-14



On November 12-14, 2006, Virginia United Methodists will have an opportunity to learn how they can make a difference for impoverished people in Virginia and beyond. “Good News to the Poor,” a conference on economic justice, is being organized by The General Board of Church and Society and the Virginia Conference Board of Church and Society and will be held at the United Methodist Building on Capitol Hill, Washington, DC. It will begin with registration at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 12, and continue through lunch on Tuesday, November 14.

The first step to making a difference is being informed. Conference leaders will guide participants through a critical and strategic look at the church’s role in addressing the poverty crisis. Throughout the conference, there will be opportunities to shape a network of United Methodists dedicated to educating and leading congregations to support public policy and social action that is, indeed, “Good news to the poor.”

Online registration: www.umc-gbcs.org/goodnews

Cost: \$140.00 (includes lodging at the William Penn House and all meals except Monday supper. This offer is limited to the first 30 registrants).

Cost without lodging: \$20 for Sunday includes Supper; \$40 for Monday includes lunch; \$20 for Tuesday includes lunch; or \$80.00 for whole event.

CEU credit: 1