

# THE STAUNTON DISTRICT VOICE

“Called To Love and Serve”

*The Staunton District is part of The Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church  
P. O. Box 1048, Fishersville, VA 22939; Phone: 932-1055*

**October 2001**

## Dates To Remember



**OCTOBER**

**October 9 at 9:30 a.m.  
Sexual Ethics Training  
for Clergy**

**Thrasher Memorial UMC, Vinton**

**October 10 at 9:30 a.m.  
Sexual Ethics Training for Clergy  
Asbury UMC, Harrisonburg**

**October 11 at 9:30 a.m.  
Ministers and Spouses Meeting  
Monterey UMC**

**October 14 3:00-5:00 p.m.  
Fall Focus on Mission  
Mint Spring UMC**

**October 21  
Lait Sunday**

**November 18 at 3:00 p.m.  
Staunton District Conference  
Calvary UMC**

during his invocation. We also offered prayers during the worship service that followed the meeting; we ended our gathering with Holy Communion and a fellowship lunch.

Upon returning to my office, I was moved by the announcements on the clergy-net, and later on television concerning the number of prayer vigils our churches were sponsoring. Throughout the remainder of the week I heard reports of large attendances at the vigils, and also during worship services the following Sunday.

All of us are deeply touched by the horrors of the attacks leveled against us by evil-hearted persons. Many innocent lives have been taken; hopes and dreams have been destroyed. Yet, in the midst of it all, people all over the world have been brought to a God-consciousness. Churches are full of worshippers; people are searching for faith and new meaning in life. We, the Church, must respond with messages of hope, truth and grace. Our task is to let people know that while fear has brought us to this renewed sense of our need for God, it is going to take an abiding faith to keep it alive. Let us not miss this opportunity to share our faith and witness concerning the power of God in our lives.

Through the mighty working power of the Holy Spirit, we can conquer this great evil that has been brought upon us, and claim victory and hope for life to come.

In Christ,

Alton M. Washington

In response to the tragedies of September 11<sup>th</sup>, the Executive Committee of the Conference Council on Ministries has issued the following statement: “God’s children are being brought to our doorsteps and God wants the church to be attentive to all who come. We are called to welcome all of God’s children, nurture them, and transform them through the grace of Christ. Let us focus our energies and be prepared to offer Christ to many who may not yet know him.”

God is sending us the people with the expectation that we will be the church to them. Pray that we do it well!

**A Letter From Bishop Pennel** concerning this tragedy is enclosed in this newsletter.

## UMCOR Gifts

### Are A Means For Mission

The following article shows your UMCOR gifts at work:

UMCOR continues to respond to the tragedies that began with the attacks on September 11. UMCOR disaster response workers have been supporting churches in New



**Our Deepest Sympathy Is Extended To:  
Rev. & Mrs. Wilfred Mayton, Jr.** and their family on the death of his mother, Mrs. Zada

Lovelace on September 25<sup>th</sup>. The Maytons serve Main Street UMC in Waynesboro.

## From The District Superintendent:

The Staunton District clergy and spouses were gathering at St. Paul’s UMC in Craigsville for a time of fellowship before the meeting on Tuesday, September 11, 2001, when news of the terrorist activities began creeping in. Moments of joyful greetings and warm expressions of seeing each other again began turning into moments of shock, concern, fear, sorrow, anger, and questioning as news of the attacks upon the World Trade Center Towers and the Pentagon continued to pour in. However, it was also a time for prayer, and Reverend Harley Bender, the host pastor called us to prayer



York that are providing trauma and grief counseling, and they will be meeting with churches in Washington, D.C. and Virginia to develop ways of providing similar support in those areas. UMCOR will also provide assistance for individuals who will suffer economically from these events. Other response plans include joining with national Arab-American organizations to encourage peace and cooperation throughout the United States, and offering workshops on caring for children in the wake of trauma in communities across the country. Gifts may be made to UMCOR Advance #901125-3 "Love in the Midst of Tragedy." These gifts will be used for recovery from these tragedies and for other critical situations that may develop in the U.S. and other countries as a result of these attacks.

Although it is difficult to focus on other events at this time, please remember in your prayers and your giving people in other parts of our world who continue to struggle. UMCOR has sent a grant to provide food for people in Honduras suffering from drought and famine. This is in addition to previous support sent for people in Nicaragua and El Salvador. Your gifts are urgently needed for "Central America Emergency," Advance #501300-0.

Areas of Florida experienced flooding from tropical storm Gabrielle, and conference disaster response workers are assessing the damage. Thousands of people in Houston are still struggling to recover from the flooding caused by tropical storm Alison. Your gifts to "Hurricanes 2001," Advance #982350-4 will help people clean up, repair, and rebuild their homes.

Gifts may be made through local United Methodist Churches, or by calling (800) 554-8583. Credit card donations are accepted.

F. Thomas Hazelwood,  
UMCOR Emergency Services Office  
100 Maryland Ave., NE, Suite 330,  
Washington, DC 20002

**Note to PPR Chairpersons:** October is "Pastor Appreciation" Month. Take time to celebrate the ministry and work of your pastor, and say, "Thanks."

**Reference Books Available in the District Office:**

"Let's Talk About It" – Mental Illnesses Awareness Guide for Clergy and Other Spiritual Leaders  
"A Guide to Mental Health Care in Virginia" – A Resource Book with information about mental illness, mental health services and supports in Virginia.

**Mission Secretary's Note:**

The District Fall Focus on Mission will be held on October 14<sup>th</sup> at Mint Spring UMC from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. We will offer all three courses:

•Jesus and Courageous Women of the Bible: Leader – Jane Bayne; Assistant – Geraldine Cash



- Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos: Leader – Pauline Carr; Assistant – Elizabeth McCoy
- Global Health and Christian Response/Ability: Leader – Doris Hedrick; Assistant – Mary Hille McCoy

The Fall Focus on Mission is for everyone on the Staunton District. You can help your congregation be more knowledgeable and experience a wonderful learning afternoon by encouraging them to attend the Fall Focus on Mission.

There are two ways for you to help the least of God's children when you come to the Fall Focus on Mission: 1.) You are invited to bring paper products, clothes, and snack foods for Henry Fork Center. 2.) You also have an invitation to give to the offering that will be taken for Global Health.

UMCOR is already on the scene in New York and Washington. You can help with your prayers and a special offering. Checks should be made out to the Virginia Annual Conference.

May the Joy of our Lord Jesus Christ fill your life each day.

Rev. John H. Carrier, District Mission Secretary

**LOOK at THIS!**

**GOD SIGHTINGS: DISCOVERING GOD IN YOUR EVERYDAY LIFE,** by

Bass Mitchell, Pastor of the Hot Springs Charge on the Staunton District, is hot off the press. It's his second book. His first book was, IN EVERY BLADE OF RUSTLING GRASS. Both are published by Abingdon-Cokesbury. The purpose of both books is to help us become more sensitive to the presence of God in our daily lives. You might find it helpful for your daily devotions and for sermon/teaching illustrations. It's now available from Cokesbury (toll free 1-800-672-1789), Barnes & Noble (toll free 1-800-THE-BOOK), BooksaMillion (toll free 1-800-201-3550), Amazon.com, or through your local bookstores.

Bass is also the writer of the Winter 2001-2002 teacher edition of Adult Bible Study (starting in December of this year). He writes frequently for the United Methodist Publishing House, The Upper Room, Upper Room Disciplines, Abingdon Preaching Annual, Circuit Rider and other publications. He can be contacted at 1-540-839-2276 or email [bassm@va.tds.net](mailto:bassm@va.tds.net).

**The United Methodist Women of St. John's UMC** (1716 North Augusta St., Staunton) cordially invite everyone to their semi-annual White Elephant, Plant and Bake Sale. The sale will be Friday, October 5, from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. and Saturday, October 6, from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. The sale will be held in our Youth Social Hall and there is an entrance off of the rear parking lot of the church.



**Ron Hardman, Conference Lay Leader**, underwent surgery on September 24<sup>th</sup>. Please remember him in your prayers as he recovers.

### Firefighter Adopts Two Boys



At United Methodist Family Services, we always have children waiting for adoption. Many of you have seen the "A Child Waiting" specials that WRIC-TV has been showing for UMFS in the Richmond viewing area. We have adopted 116 children since we began

this emphasis through television. Many of the children ready for adoption are siblings or children who have special physical, medical, or mental needs.

One such story was particularly moving. Several weeks ago, one fireman felt it was important for him to adopt children. He heard the story of two brothers who had been waiting for some time for adoption. This firefighter was moved when he heard that there were two brothers who wanted to stay together. At UMFS, we often take the difficult cases. We have had good success in finding stable families for siblings of 2-3 children.

This fireman was no different. After all the papers were signed and the adoption was legal, this man had another special surprise. He came to pick up his two new "sons" in the fire truck that he used at work. The boys were thrilled, not only with their new Dad, but with the joy of going home in a fire truck; a treat for any child!

Please ask your church to pray for the children we serve at UMFS. If you know of families who wish to adopt a child, please contact your nearest UMFS office in Richmond, Harrisonburg, Fredericksburg, Northern VA, Tidewater or South Hill.

REMINDER TO PASTORS: Please return the green December Offering information post card as soon as possible to UMFS. Thanks!



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

Staunton District Youth "Back to School Bash" was held from 5:00–11:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, at Trinity UMC,

Lexington. Youth enjoyed good fellowship with games, food, praise and worship and a time of sharing feelings about the recent terrorists attacks. Thanks to Charron Hodges and Trinity UMC for hosting the event again this year. Thanks to the strong youth servant/leaders for your help...Holly Iberg, Rebekah Rigg, Micah Bowers (the finest DJ in the land) and all other youth that pitched in to help at registration, games, decorations and other activities. Also, a big thank you for the helping adults--Kathy Bowers, Jerry and Connie Morgan, Jan Failes, Terry and Terry Rohr and Milton Marks.

*"We are the youth so be proud of what we stand for. Although we are young, we should strive to spread our love for Christ, in witness, life, faith, outreach and mission. We*

*will never deny our gifts, but be committed to sharing and discovering Jesus."*

District Youth Council Planning Meeting - October 7, 2:00–4:00 p.m., Trinity UMC, Lexington. Bring a Snack.

District Youth Lock-In and Mission Project - November 9-10. Lock-in Friday at Fishersville UMC, Mission Project on Saturday. Contact: Steve Joplin at 886-9367 or email Steve.Joplin@hollister.com. More details in next SDV.

Voices of Youth - Anne Gilbert of Granbery UMC, Covington and Rev. B. and Jan Failes of Calvary UMC, Stuarts Draft traveled to Mexico this summer with Voices of Youth. Voices is a conference youth mission project where senior highs experience mission, then come back to Virginia and sing about mission to challenge local churches to get more involved. In Mexico we visited mission churches in the mountains and by the Gulf of Mexico, just north of Mexico City. We stayed with host families and sang concerts in churches, a movie theater, town squares, a prison and at their Annual Conference. When we returned to Virginia, with two girls from Mexico with us, we visited Camp Overlook, Westview on the James, Camp Alta Mons, and Camp Occahonock, worked with gleaners at the Harvest of Hope, sang concerts in Spanish and English and stayed with host families from Winchester to the Eastern Shore. Next summer Voices will be exploring Native American missions in Mississippi, North Carolina and Virginia. If you are interested, email bfooster@su.edu for more information or to get an application. Call 540-962-3911 to get Anne Gilbert to speak, or 540-339-2980 for Jan or B. Failes.

YAC - The Virginia Conference held its third annual training event for local church youth groups from August 14th to the 17th. Youth Advocates for Christ took place at the Ramada Inn in Williamsburg. Approximately 100 youth from across the conference gathered at the event in order to learn how to effectively minister to their peers. Nationally known speaker/musician Matt Nealy provided inspirational keynote sessions throughout the conference. Matt began his first session by comparing the Christian life to a roller coaster--sometimes its up, sometimes its down, but we're all committed to following the right track. I also had the opportunity to speak to the group during the opening session about what happens when life goes through the loops, twists and turns of the roller coaster ride. I discussed the death of my father when I was a senior in high school and its effect on my faith journey. I look forward to seeing the bright future of YAC over the years and hope that each church on the Staunton District will consider sending a team of youth. Love in Christ, Charron Hodges, Trinity UMC, Lexington.

Staunton District Youth in Covington Start Softball Team - South Covington UMC Softball team is completely made up of youth and is the youngest team to ever make it to the semi-finals of the play-offs in the church league district of Covington, Bath county, Clifton Forge, Sharon, and Lexington areas. Staunton District Youth Co-President



### United Methodist Men's News

Several people from around the District have participated in flood relief work at Bishop, a small community near Tazewell, Virginia. Another group of volunteers is being formed to once again go to Bishop. The project will take place October 22 thru 30. If you can give any amount to this effort, please contact Earl Cash at 540-464-1496 or email earlc@cfw.com

#### Upcoming Men's Events:

*October 20* - District UMMen Board Meeting at Wayne Hills UM Church in Waynesboro. Coffee at 9:30 a.m., meeting begins at 10:00 a.m. The board consists of the District officers and all Presidents of local UMMen units. Every church should be represented. If the President cannot be there, please have the Vice President or another member of the fellowship attend.

*November 2-4* - Virginia Annual Conference 2001 Men's Spiritual Retreat held at VUMAC Blackstone. Come, Listen, Learn and join hundreds of other men as Dr. William H. Hinson brings God's word to life on the theme "BEING AN AMBASSADOR FOR CHRIST."

*March 30, 2002* - Leadership Development Day at Bon Air UM Church, Richmond.

*May 2002* - District UMMen Spiritual Retreat.

In Christ Service,

Earl D. Cash, President Staunton UMM

**\*As it is the business of tailors to make clothes, and of cobblers to mend shoes, so it is the business of Christians to pray.**

-- Martin Luther

Micah Bowers as their Manager/Coach led the team. The team consisted of Adam Crawford, Jerome Johnson, Dustin Trainer, Matthew "Fugi" Keaton, John Stone, Neil Horn, Steven Harris, Barry Holestein, Chris Phillips, Jonathon Dolan, Jeremy Stout, Jon Rose, Terry Gunter, Joey Withrow, Eddie Entsminger, Pj Knabenshue, and Robbie Critzer. Before every game the ones that wanted to got together and prayed for a good game. S.C.U.M. team finished in 4th place in the tournament behind Immanuel Baptist Church, Mt. Carmel United Methodist, and Central Advent Church. --Micah Bowers.

Staunton District Conference - November 18, 3:00 p.m., Calvary UMC, Stuarts Draft "Future Must Attend Youth Events" Mark your calendar now for: "Staunton District Youth Retreat," Camp Overlook - April 12-14, 2002. (Goal 130 youth); "Awakening 2000 - Williamsburg, VA, April 26-27, 2002.

*1 Timothy 4:12 "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example to all believers in what you teach, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity."*

Be Bold, Be Real, Be Honest!

Steve Joplin

**The Waynesboro Union Male Chorus** will be in concert on Sunday, October 7, at 7:00 p.m. at Calvary UMC in Stuarts Draft. This dynamic musical group has been singing for Jesus for more than 50 years! Calvary is located at 2179 Stuarts Draft Hwy. (Rt. 340), just south of Stuarts Draft. For more information call 337-2980.

**The Staunton District United Methodist Church**  
P. O. Box 1048  
Fishersville, Virginia 22939

**NONPROFIT ORG.**

**U.S. POSTAGE**

**PAID**

**PERMIT NO. 178**

