

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*

November 2001

Dates To Remember



November 13 at 9:30 a.m.
**District Clergy and Spouses
Meeting**
Central UMC, Staunton

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

November 19 at 1:00 p.m.
District Council On Ministries Meeting
District Office

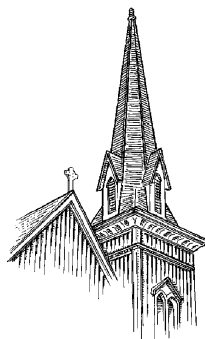
November 22-23
Happy Thanksgiving Day!
Conference and District Offices Closed

seems to offer glorious praise to the Creator who allowed them to be a part of the Creator's purpose in life.

Blue jays appear to be the busiest of the visitors to my birdfeeder; not only do they consume food for the moment, sunflower seeds being their favorite, but they hoard seeds in a secret place in preparation for a cold winter.

God's presence, in other words, is uncompromisingly evident in the activities of everything that God has created. That includes our lives, but only if we *allow* God's presence to be evident within us. How do we reveal it? Through acts of kindness, mercy, grace, forgiveness and love toward all of God's people. Such comes from human hearts; let us open ours to the people of God.

In Christ,
Alton M. Washington



The Staunton District Conference

The Staunton District Conference is scheduled for 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 18, 2001, at Calvary United Methodist Church, 2179 Stuarts Draft Highway, Stuarts Draft, Virginia.

Attendance: While everyone is invited to attend, the following persons from each church/charge are expected to be present: Clergy; Retired Clergy; Lay Leaders; Chairpersons of the Administrative Board or Administrative Council, Council on Ministries, UMW, UMM, UMYF and Finance Committee; Lay Members to Annual Conference; District Lay Members to Annual Conference; Treasurers and Church School Superintendents. Additionally, District Trustees and District Stewards should also be in attendance.

Offering: The offering received at the Conference will be for the Staunton District Second Mile Club. This is a vital ministry of the district for churches that need temporary emergency financial aid. Please encourage your church to be prepared to give significantly toward this ministry.

Nursery: A nursery will be provided at Calvary for those who need it.



Our Deepest Sympathy Is Extended To:

Rev. & Mrs. Karl Crowe and their family on the death of their nephew,

Larry Crowe. The Crowes are retired.

Rev. and Mrs. Herbert Seeman and their family on the death of her brother, Van Kellam. The Seemans serve Glover Memorial UMC.

From The District Superintendent:

It is an unseasonably warm October morning as I sit in my office; the window is slightly ajar to allow the gentle breeze to flow inside. All morning I have been serenaded with the constant clinging of the fasteners on the rope beating against the flagpole in response to the wind—it is a single solitary sound. I cannot see the wind, but its presence is very evident. As I gaze at the landscape surrounding the building, I see a symphony of colorful leaves participating in the annual fall ritual of descending to the ground, after fulfilling their responsibilities of providing shade and beauty during the warmth of summer. The brightness of their hue



Conference Theme: The theme of the Conference will be "OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS, OPEN DOORS." Emphasis will be upon inviting the people of God into our churches, nurturing them and equipping them for ministry. We will be lifting up the Virginia Conference Vision statement: "We envision churches where all God's people are welcomed at table, nurtured and transformed to be Christ to others in the world."

Following the brief business session there will be a service of worship, including the celebration of Holy Communion. The Calvary Choir and the District Youth will sing; Alton M. Washington will be the preacher and celebrant. There will be a time for food and fellowship following the benediction. Please do all you possibly can to encourage everyone in your church to attend.

I invite you to be in prayer for God's will to be done as we prepare for this wonderful occasion. In the meantime, may God continue to bless you and your church.

Directions: From Lexington: Traveling north on I-81 take Exit 213, and turn onto Rt. 340 North. The church is about 4 miles on your right. From I-64 take Exit 91; go south on Rt. 608 to Rt. 340. Turn right, the church is on your left. From Staunton: Take Rt. 11 South to Mint Spring, turn left onto White Hill Road, and go to the stoplight. Turn right on Rt. 340; the church is on the left. From Waynesboro: The church is on Rt. 340, Stuarts Draft Highway, on the left just after the road becomes two lanes. (Calvary UMC – 540-337-2980)

**A District Conference Special
COME AND BRING THE
CHILDREN – SOMETHING
SPECIAL WILL BE OFFERED
FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES – IT WILL
BE??? ...** well if I told you it would ruin the wonderful surprise we have planned. PLEASE bring the children from your churches.



UMVIM TEAM LEADER TRAINING

The annual United Methodist Volunteers In Mission Team Leader Training Event will be held on Saturday, November 17, 2001, at Lakeside Church in Richmond. Team leader training is required for all new team leaders. Registration forms are available through the Conference Missions Office at 1-800-768-6040, extension 301. Each participant is required to have a Team Leader Handbook, available through the Southeastern

Jurisdiction UMVIM Office at (404) 377-7424 for \$23.95 each, including shipping. For more information contact the Conference UMVIM Coordinator, Kip Robinson, (804) 264-7856.

Thanksgiving Thought

We pray for the big things and forget to give thanks for the ordinary, small (and yet really not small) gifts. How can God entrust great things to one who will not thankfully receive from him the little things?



If we do not give thanks daily for the Christian fellowship in which we have been placed, even where there is no great experience, no discoverable riches, but much weakness, small faith and difficulty; if on the contrary, we only keep complaining to God that everything is too paltry and petty, so far from what we expected, then we hinder God from letting our fellowship grow according to the measure and riches which are there for us all is Jesus Christ.

--Dietrich Bonhoeffer



United Methodist Men's News

The UMMen Rally 2001 was held at Fishersville UMC on September 27, 2001. The event was well attended.

Everyone had a great meal. We heard from our Conference President John Reeves, listened to great music from Rev. Jim and Carolyn Simmons and interacted with special guest speaker Joe Jacoby. Joe related his faith in God and entertained questions from the audience.

During the business part of the meeting the following individuals were elected District Officers for the coming year: President – Earl Cash, 1st Vice President – Calvin Hughes, 2nd Vice President – John Sayers, Secretary – Mike Doyle, Treasurer – Larry Creamer.

Thanks to Fishersville UMC for hosting the event and to all of those who helped make it a success.

Upcoming Men's Events:

November 2-4 – Virginia Annual Conference 2001 Men's Spiritual Retreat held at VUMAC in Blackstone. Come, Listen, and 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." It is not too late to register for the retreat. Last year we had eight people in attendance from the Staunton District. To date we have five registered for this year.

March 30, 2002 – Leadership Development Day at Bon Air UMC, Richmond.

May 2002 – District UMMen Spiritual Retreat
In Christ Service,
Earl D. Cash, President UMM

****DISTRICT YOUTH NEWS****

“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 Lock-In and Mission Project –
November 9-10 - Lock-in Friday at Fishersville UMC.
Mission Project on Saturday. Lock-in begins at 7:00 p.m. Friday, November 9, at Fishersville UMC. We recognize that some will not be able to arrive until later which is fine. Activities are set for Fun, Food, Fellowship, Mission and Worship during the lock-in Friday night. We will depart Fishersville at 8:00 a.m. Saturday morning, traveling to Charlottesville to do mission project work for Abundant Life Ministries (bring work clothes). We expect to finish mission project in Charlottesville at 3:00 p.m. and be back home approximately 4:00 p.m. Youth bring a snack, Adults bring a soda. Cost: \$5.00. Contact: Kathy Bowers at 540-965-5164 or email sunshn52@aol.com.

Staunton District Conference – November 18 at 3:00 p.m., Calvary UMC, Stuarts Draft. Youth to perform. Please plan to attend.

Conference Middle School Retreat – November 16 - 18. Praise and worship and a weekend full of fun, fellowship, and spiritual nurture. “Fish Force with Jaime Hudgins” - Location: VUMAC-Blackstone, Cost: \$90 Contact: Youth Ministries at 800-768-6040 Ext. 308

Conference High School Retreat – November 30 – December 2 - Spiritual renewal retreat featuring praise and worship by “Peavey Humm” - Location: Eagle Eyrie-Lynchburg, VA Cost: \$90. Contact: Youth Ministries at 800-768-6040 Ext. 308

“**Future Must Attend Youth Events**” Mark your calendar now for: “*Staunton District Youth Retreat*,” Camp Overlook, April 12-14, 2002. (Goal 130 youth) “*Awakening 2002*,” Williamsburg, 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 Wesley Foundation at JMU is having its semiannual Food Lion fundraiser. Those members of your church who buy groceries at any Food Lion on December 3, 4 and 5 can make a great contribution to the program fund of our campus ministry. Participants should pick up a voucher at their local church and give this to the cashier before checkout. A letter with further details is being sent to Pastors, Higher Education and Campus Ministry Work Area Chairpersons, and Presidents of UMW and UMM units. Churches wishing to participate in this fundraiser must call the Wesley Foundation to request shopping vouchers.



Resource Available for Study and Action on the Death Penalty

In view of many serious concerns about the death penalty, our 2001 Annual Conference overwhelmingly endorsed a resolution recommending, “that during the next 12 months a study of the death penalty and Christian responsibility be undertaken in every local church through one or more groups such as an adult class, United Methodist Women, United Methodist Men, the Methodist Youth Fellowship, Bible Study groups, pastor’s classes and prayer groups.”

To help such groups, a study guide with a foreword by Bishop Pennel is now available. Entitled “The Death Penalty and United Methodists in Virginia,” this resource provides an in-depth look at the Virginia context, with biblical, historical, theological and ethical reflections plus real life stories, lesson plans, action guides and an annotated listing of other resources.

We hope that at least one group in every church on our District will engage in a serious study on the death penalty and make use of this resource. Copies are available for \$8.00 + shipping from Cokesbury, Richmond (840-270-1070 or toll free 877-260-0572).

Many of our churches are well equipped to undertake such study and action on their own. For those churches that would like to have the help of some outside leadership, the District Office has a listing of volunteers from the Virginia Chapter of the Methodist Federation for Social Action who have expressed their willingness to help. It is hoped that an inviting church would be able to cover travel, but if that is a problem the MFSA will try to find resources from elsewhere.

***God sees us as we can be, but loves us as we are.**



Country Ham and Turkey Buffet

Craigsville UMC will be having a Country Ham and Turkey Buffet on Saturday, November 3, beginning at 4:30 p.m. The cost is \$8.00 per adult, \$4.00 per child (5-12), children under 5 are free. There will be plenty of good food, so come and enjoy a wonderful dinner.

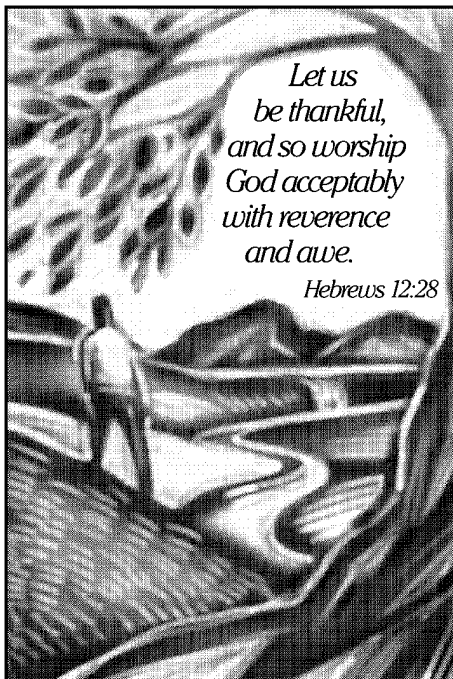
Thankfulness Comes From The Heart

A young girl sat at the counter of an ice cream store. "How much is an ice cream sundae?" she asked. "Fifty cents," the waitress said with hardly a glance at the child. The girl opened her fist and looked at her coins. She asked, "How much is a dish of just plain ice cream?" Annoyed, the waitress snapped, "Thirty-five cents!" The girl counted out 35 cents and handed it to the waitress. "I'll take the plain ice cream."



The waitress took the money without a word and brought the ice cream. After the small customer had eaten and left, the waitress, cleaning up, suddenly flushed with shame. There, placed neatly beside the dish were two nickels and five pennies—her tip.

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



*Let us
be thankful,
and so worship
God acceptably
with reverence
and awe.*

Hebrews 12:28



Pancake Breakfast

St. John's UMM, Staunton, will have a Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, November 3, from 7:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. There will be eggs, sausage, beverage and all-you-can-eat pancakes. Tickets are \$4.00 for adults; children's tickets are available at the door. St. John's UMC is located at 1716 North Augusta Street, Staunton. For more information call 540-886-1500.

A Perspective On Thankfulness

Matthew Henry, author of a famous commentary on the Bible, was once assaulted and robbed by thieves. Later, he wrote in his diary: "Let me be thankful first, because I was never robbed before; second, because although they took my purse, they did not take my life; third, because though they took my all, it was not much; and fourth, because it was I who was robbed, not I who robbed."



Giving Thanks

--Wanda Wilson

May your Thanksgiving be blessed with God's richest blessings!
--The Staunton District Office

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