

THE STAUNTON DISTRICT VOICE

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

January 2002

Dates To Remember



**No January Meeting
District Clergy and Spouses
Meeting**

**January 20 3:00-5:00 p.m.
Pastor/Staff-Parish**

**Relations Committee Training
Trinity UMC
(All chairpersons and members are
encouraged to attend.)**

**January 21 at 1:00 p.m.
District Council on Ministries
District Office**

**February 12 at 9:30 a.m.
District Clergy and Spouses Meeting
Christ UMC, Staunton**

reminded the early disciples as he likewise reminds us that all authority in heaven and earth has been given to him. We therefore can pursue the essential tasks of discipleship without fear of the future. We are assured of his presence and guidance even in today's troubled world because of his eternal promise: ". . . and lo, I am with you always even to the end of the age." EMMANUEL! Praise the Lord!

Kathleen joins me in expressing our deepest appreciation to everyone who shared gifts and greetings with us during Christmas. We are grateful to the pastors and spouses for their thoughtful gift. So many lay people sent special greetings. We sincerely feel your love through these acts of kindness. May God's blessings be with you and your families throughout the New Year.

In Christ,
Alton M. Washington



District Conference Offering: The offering from the Staunton District Conference was \$510.01. This will go towards the Second Mile Club, which helps churches with emergency needs. Thank you.

District Council on Ministries

Below are listed the members of the Staunton District Council on Ministries. Please contact them with any needs or suggestions.

Chairperson – David Leatherwood; Adult Ministries – Pauline Carr; At-Large – Mary H. McCoy; Camp Overlook Director – Ron Robey; Camping – Rev. Steven Propst; Campus Ministries – David Herr; Children's Ministries – Patricia Pleasant; Church and Society – Helen Hodges; Communications – Rev. James Harris; Discipleship and Evangelism – Rev. Elizabeth Ecklund; District Superintendent – Dr. Alton M. Washington; Education Co-Chairperson – Rev. Ralph Grow, Jr.; Education Co-Chairperson – Patricia Hepler; Family Ministries – Rev. Mark Reuter; Finance Committee Chairperson – Charles Phibbs; Global Ministries/VIM – Rev. John Carrier; Health and Welfare – Patricia Benson; Hermitage Guild Representative – Patricia Carter; Hispanic Ministries – Rev. Elizabeth Ecklund; Lay Leader – Robin Powell; Director, Lay Speaking – Lemuel Irvin; Assistant Director, Lay Speaking – Robert McCallister; Ministers' President – Rev. Elizabeth Taylor; Ministers' Spouses President – Walter Taylor; Religion and Race – Rev. John Fisher; Resource Center Director – Jennifer Tripppeer; Scouting – William Jenkins; Singles Ministries – Lena



***Our Deepest Sympathy Is Extended To:*
Mrs. Richard (Loretta) Miller and their
family in the death of Rev. Richard Miller.
The Millers served Granbery Memorial**

United Methodist Church.



From The District Superintendent:

We have just lived through a very challenging year, marked by many tragedies and triumphs. For many persons, hopes and dreams were fulfilled; others experienced disappointment and perhaps even some failures. The tragedies of September 11, 2001 touched all of our lives, some more significantly than others. But regardless of the experiences of 2001, there is a common thread of truth that remains true for all of us. We all have hope for a bright future. The beginning of the New Year brightens that hope; it is a new beginning for all of us. It is based upon the gift of faith as we place our trust in God.

Jesus' message to his disciples in the Great Commission (Matthew 28:16-20) comes alive here. It was a tragic time for the disciples who had witnessed the death and resurrection of Christ. Even as they worshipped the risen Lord, some doubted his real presence (vs. 17). But Jesus

Mahone; Status and Role of Women – Frances Thornton; Stewardship – Rev. Walter Failes, Jr.; Town and Country Ministries – Rev. Loretta Benninghove; Trustees Chairperson – Douglas Bosserman; UMM President – Earl Cash; UMW President – Doris Hedrick; UMY Co-President – Micah Bowers; UMY Co-President – Holly Iberg; VUMAC Representative – Catherine Sayers; Worship – Rev. Edward Rigg; Youth Ministries – Steve Joplin.

At-Large Members to Annual Conference

Listed below are the people who will represent the Staunton District at the Virginia Annual Conference June 16-19 in Roanoke, Virginia.

Mr. Benham Black, Mrs. Marilyn Blagg, Mrs. Pauline Carr, Mr. Frank Clinedinst, Mr. Larry Creamer, Ms. Heather Gordon, Mr. William Hepler, Mr. Raymond Holloway, Mr. Lemuel Irvin, Mr. David Irvine, Mrs. Faye Kirkland, Mr. David Leatherwood, Ms. Lena Mahone, Mrs. Jewell Marshall, Ms. Elizabeth McCoy, Mrs. Susan Obaugh, Ms. Patricia Pleasant, Mrs. Dorothy Ravenhorst, Mr. Howard Taylor, and Ms. Susan Wilk.

Alternates: Mr. John Sayers, Mrs. Janet Weller, Mr. Bob Price, Mrs. Alice Roane, Mrs. Eileen Miller, Mr. Robert Wirt, and Mr. Lloyd Stanley.

Ex-Officio: Mrs. Robin Powell, Lay Leader; Mr. Earl Cash, President UMM; Mrs. Doris Hedrick, President UMW; Mr. Micah Bowers, Co-President of Youth; and Miss Holly Iberg, Co-President of Youth.

(Other District Committees will be listed in the next District Newsletter.)



Link With The Laity

If you are like me, it's not Christmas without the movie, "It's a Wonderful Life." I think I watched it three times this past year. My favorite part is where the little girl says, "Look Daddy the bell is ringing. That means another angel got their wings." Then there was the effort begun by the nephew of a WTC victim to have everyone ring bells at 6:00 p.m. on New Year's Eve to honor those who lost their lives.

Then added to that are the bells, whistles, and horns that signal the end of one year for a new one. And all of this sets me to pondering.

What if? What if we as Christians were as thrilled as the little girl about new persons joining the church? Or, about inviting persons to activities or functions? Or, even better, finding a place where our time and resources are needed and go 'ring the bell' outside the church?

For most of us, even in the midst of the tragedy that befell our nation, the holiday season was good. For some, though, it was a time of pain, sorrow, just another day—one with no meaning or little purpose.

We who know hope, who have seen the light, we must be the "bell ringers" of hope, peace, and love. As the New Year begins, we know not what lies ahead. We do know, however, who holds the future, the eternal future and that should make all the difference in how we live and love.

What better way to honor Christ than to live a Christ-like life, one that will compel others to want the same.

I hope you will covenant with me to seek opportunities for personal spiritual growth. But don't stop there. Brainstorm within your Christian community about ways of reaching beyond the church walls to minister to the hurts and needs of those living around you. You may have to stretch a little or a lot, but the rewards will be eternal. So let's go. Ring those bells!

Shalom,

Robin Powell, District Lay Leader

UMC Professional Certification Information Seminars



For lay persons currently employed or seeking employment in the local church

The United Methodist Church grants professional certification in the areas of Christian Education, Youth Ministry, Older Adult Ministry, Music, Evangelism, Spiritual Formation, and Camp/Retreat Ministry to persons who meet specific standards and requirements. The Virginia Conference Board of Ordained Ministry is providing information seminars on this process. There will be five regional seminars:

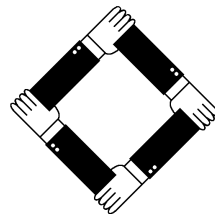
*Saturday, February 16, 2002, 10:00 a.m. to noon
Larchmont UMC, 1106 Larchmont Crescent, Norfolk, VA 23608

*Saturday, February 23, 2002, 10:00 a.m. to noon
Shady Grove UMC, 295 By-Pass, Mechanicsville, VA 23111 or Galilee UMC, 20600 Broad Run Drive, Sterling, VA 20165

*Saturday, March 16, 2002, 10:00 a.m. to noon
Verona UMC, Route 11 & I-81, Verona, VA 24482

*Sunday, April 21, 2002, 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.
South View UMC, 3439 Peter's Creek Road, Roanoke, VA 24019

To register, please contact Annette Pomeroy, 757-595-0383; email: sapom2@aol.com or Beth Downs, Office of Ministerial Services, 800-768-6040; email: bethdowns@vaumc.org.



United Methodist Men's News

Charter renewal kits should have been received in the past month. If you have not already done so, please complete and mail the renewal form.

The charter has been the tie that binds

United Methodist Men units for over 50 years. The charter and annual certification, as stated in *The Book of Discipline*, is the key that links men's units around the world. Financial contributions provide the support for the General Commission on United Methodist Men's administrative mission and resource budgets. These annual contributions are vital to strengthen and enhance the unique connection of your men's unit with other men's units around the world. If your group has not been a chartered unit or you did not receive a charter form, please contact Earl Cash.

Upcoming Men's events:

January 26 - District UMMen Board meeting at Fairfield UM Church, Fairfield, Virginia. Coffee at 9:30 a.m.,

meeting begins at 10 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.

March 30 - Leadership Development Day at Bon Air UM Church, Richmond. Meet at the "Park and Ride" lot at the entrance to the Waynesboro Village Outlet at the intersection of Interstate 64 and Rte. 340 near Waynesboro. We will car pool from the "Park and Ride" lot to Richmond. We will depart the lot at 7:00 a.m.

May 17 & 18 2002. District UMMen Spiritual Retreat at Camp Overlook.

In Christ Service
Earl D. Cash
President Staunton UMM

A Note from the District Mission Secretary

I want to relay the thanks of the people of Scott/Wise Counties for the money that was sent from the District. We have sent over \$3,000 and it truly made a wonderful difference for the families there who lost all last August in the floods.

I will be taking a load of clothing in late February to them. They can use any size good clean used clothing. They are lowest in large sizes. If you could do a good clean clothing drive in your congregation and leave it at the District Office or at Central UMC in Clifton Forge it would be so helpful in getting the load ready. Please have your gift at the District Office or at Central in Clifton Forge before February 15, 2002. Please only send clothing that is in excellent repair and clean. The last thing we want to do is to take soiled or unusable clothing to an already suffering people. Again I want to thank you from the people of Scott/Wise counties and from myself. You are a great people to serve our Lord with. May God Bless you in this New Year.

--Rev. John H. Carrier, District Mission Secretary



District Youth News

Staunton District Youth R & R – Friday, February 8, 6:00-11:00 p.m., at Solid Rock Café, Waynesboro. "Recreation & Renewal" for all Middle School and High

School Youth. Come join us for fellowship, fun, food, worship, dance and games. Cost: \$5. Last name A-M bring Salty Snack. Last name N-Z bring Sweet Snack. Adults bring a Soda. Contact: Steve Joplin at 886-9367 or steve.joplin@hollister.com. Directions to the Rock: Take 1-64 exit 94 -- head north on Hwy 340 to Waynesboro. Travel north on 340 a couple of miles until a large intersection with Burger King and Arby's. Continue straight, but the road changes to Rt. 250/Broad Street. Go about 3 blocks after that intersection. The Solid Rock Cafe will be on your left at 1117 Broad Street (phone 540-949-rock). Park at the back and enter at the back through the basketball court.

DCYM Meeting – Our next District Council Youth Ministry planning meeting will be held 2:00-4:00 p.m., Sunday, January 20, at Solid Rock Café, Waynesboro. Agenda: Planning for R & R @ Solid Rock on February 8; planning for District Youth Retreat @ Camp Overlook on April 5-7. Youth Leaders Get Involved! Come to the planning meeting to serve Jesus and have fun doing it!

Middle School Retreat – The largest gathering ever held at Blackstone included 439 youth from throughout the Conference took place at the Middle School Retreat held November 16-18, 2001. Staunton District was well represented with youth from Calvary, Greenville, Jollivue and Main Street, Waynesboro). This was a wonderful weekend of worship and fun for everyone. Calvary Youth were the big contest winners of the "Fish" in the Fight for the Fish contest as a fundraiser for YSF. Middle School Retreat report in their own words????? *"At the retreat there were a lot of cool things going on. Even though we were shy, there were a lot of fun people to meet who came up and talked to us. A lot of great things went on, like the sessions and the workshops. Fish Force, the band there, was really awesome and said some really cool things. We learned a lot about Christ, and had a great time! The theme "Get out of the Boat" was really neat, and made us think about what it really means to follow God. We really felt God there, and felt as though we could follow him in whatever we do. We learned how to worship God in anything we're doing, including going to the bathroom. This retreat meant a lot to us and helped us along with our faith." Kaitlin Kitchen and Madeline Peck, Trinity, Lexington *Hey~The weekend was wicked. We had a lot of fun with Fish Force, and hope to attend another program of theirs in the future. The Family Groups was a GREAT idea to have people get to know each other. You want leaders though that are in a way like a teenager, so that they can relate better. So, 15 & up or people in college, I've found those type of people can be the most desirable. The dance left a lot to be desired. We needed more modern music (we needed Micah there), the guys AND girls to dance. And we needed a lot more guys. I really liked being there, the people were so welcoming and open. I made a lot of new friends and I'm looking forward to the next one. Lot's of Love, Julia Baldini, Greenville *We had 7 youth and 2 adults at the Middle School retreat. Debra Allen, one of our youth counselors said it was awesome! Martha Reynolds, Main Street.

High School Retreat – Youth from Calvary, Christ-Staunton, Fishersville, Main Street-Waynesboro, Marquis Memorial and St. James attended the Conference High School Retreat held November 30-December 2, 2001 at Eagle Eyrie-Lynchburg. Over 800 youth from throughout the Conference attended this High School Retreat. Highlights included awesome times of worship and praise led by Peavey Humm; an incredible "Pie in the Face" fundraiser for YSF; the African Music workshop got rave reviews from the youth and they also had great Family Group devotional times.



Staunton District Conference – Well Praise God! Thank you and a great big HUG to all the district Youth for coming to the Staunton District Conference Sunday, November 18, at Calvary. The Youth received lots of compliments on their offering of the "Breaking Down the Wall" skit and signing of "Open the Eyes of My Heart". They were both moving and powerful expressions of Jesus' love and you glorified God through your service. I pray that you were blessed as well. We had about thirty youth from nine different churches represented in the skit and song (Fishersville, Granbery, South Covington, Trinity-Lexington, Cherryvale, Collierstown/Mt Horeb, Greenville, Calvary, Marquis Memorial. Special thanks to Holly Iberg for leading the skit and to Rebekah Rigg for leading in the signing. The YOUTH of the Staunton District are the greatest!

YSF – From an UMCOM press release in November 2001. The United Methodist Youth Organization has announced that 15 youth ministry projects throughout the United States, Africa, Estonia, Lithuania, and Haiti will receive \$96,000 in special funding, including \$9,600 to the United Methodist Committee on Relief to alleviate world hunger among young people in 2002. The funds, made available through the national portion of the denomination's Youth Service Fund, will enable ministries of discipleship, evangelism, peace, justice and outreach. Of the money raised, 70 percent remains in the annual conferences for distribution, and 30 percent goes to the United Methodist Youth Organization for allocation. More than half a million dollars was contributed in 2000.

Staunton District Youth Retreat – New Date for Staunton District Retreat at Camp Overlook is April 5-7 (Goal 130).

The Staunton District Office
P. O. Box 1048
Fishersville, VA 22939

Contact: Steve Joplin at 886-9367 or steve.joplin@hollister.com

AWAKENING 2002 – Williamsburg, VA, April 26-27.

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

Don't be afraid to fail

You've failed many times, although you may not remember. You fell down the first time you tried to walk. You almost drowned the first time you tried to swim, didn't you? Did you hit the ball the first time you swung the bat? Heavy hitters, the ones who hit the most home runs, also strike out a lot. R. H. Macy failed seven times before his store in New York caught on. English novelist John Creasey got 753 rejection slips before he published 564 books. Babe Ruth struck out 1,330 times, but he also hit 714 home runs. Don't worry about failure. Worry about the chances you miss when you don't even try.

--Fairplain Presbyterian Church,
Benton Harbor, MI

Rev. Wayne Warren who performed the clown ministry at the Staunton District Conference is willing to perform this ministry at other churches. Please call him with your requests at 540-839-2013. Rev. Warren and his family serve Bath Charge.

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*There is one body
and one Spirit...one
Lord, one faith,
one baptism.*

Ephesians 4:4-5

