

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*

February 2002

Dates To Remember



February 8 6:00-11:00 p.m.
District Youth R & R
Solid Rock Café,
Waynesboro

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

February 13
Ash Wednesday

February 28 – March 2
Conference Ministers' Spouse Retreat
VUMAC

March 8-9
Making Disciples: Serving on the Edge
Koger South Conference Center, Richmond

March 15 – 17
Lay Ministries Training
VUMAC

March 18 at 1:00 p.m.
District Council on Ministries
Fishersville UMC

March 30
Conference UMM Leadership Development
Meeting – Bon Air UMC, Richmond

From the District Superintendent:

The persons who attended charge conferences last fall will remember that I encouraged pastors and worship leaders to provide a special time for intercessory prayer each Sunday during worship for the unchurched people living in our communities. Specific time was to be given to this grave concern; church members were to be invited to pray each day for someone in their community who needs to be saved by God's grace in Jesus Christ, and become an integral part of God's Church.

The practice of intercessory prayer (prayer for others) is a very powerful spiritual discipline. Jesus consistently engaged in such prayer. Chapter seventeen of the gospel of John is a classic example wherein he petitions God to bless all the people of the world. We feel Jesus' love and concern for all of us through this prayer.

Herein is the greatest strength of intercessory prayer; we cannot really pray for someone without developing a sense of care and concern for the person. As we engage in this discipline we will be asking God to bless our neighbors, our friends and our relatives. I strongly believe that God hears our prayers for others who are needful of God's grace. We cannot so much as even imagine the impact it will have upon our churches, our communities and our personal lives if we seriously pray for all of God's people; I join you in this great endeavor.

Suggestion: Read and meditate on Jesus' prayer in John chapter seventeen.

In Christ,
Alton M. Washington



LOOK
at THIS!

Making Disciples: Serving on the Edge

This event will be held March 8-9 at the Koger South Conference Center in Richmond. The Keynote speaker will be Dr. Lovett Weems, Jr., President, Saint Paul School of Theology and Author of *Leadership in the Wesleyan Spirit*. Bishop Kenneth Carder and Bishop Joe E. Pennel, Jr. will be preaching. The Virginia United Methodist Conference Council on Ministries sponsors this event. The event will run from 11:00 a.m. on Friday, March 8, until Saturday, March 9, at 4:30 p.m.

What is the purpose of *Making Disciples: Serving on the Edge*?

A Focus: *How can we gather congregations to explore the meaning of authentic discipleship that moves us in ministry from the center to "the edge"? *How can we reconnect to our biblical heritage and Wesleyan roots in order to live into



Our Deepest Sympathy Is Extended To:
Mrs. D. DeLeon (Lorraine) Felder and
their family on the death of Dr. D. DeLeon
Felder. They were retired from Augusta

Street, Mt. Moriah and Mt. Tabor Churches and living in
South Carolina.

*Faith is like radar that sees through the fog—the reality of
things at a distance that the human eye cannot see.

--Corrie Ten Boom

a faithful future? *How can we reach out together in solidarity with God's hurting world?

This event will: *Be a shared learning experience designed for teams of two to four leaders from each congregation (one of whom is the pastor), *Gather together the community of faith to -worship, -assess its Christian identity, -understand discipleship as serving on "the edge" so that we can move faithfully into the future together, -share with and support each other in ministry, *Enable teams to return to their local church equipped to make disciples, *Engage the insights of 28 outstanding preachers and presenters in workshop, plenary, and worship experiences.

Cost: The registration cost is \$100 per person, which includes workshop materials and training plus three meals. Housing is additional.

For further information contact the District Office or Carole Vaughn in the conference office at 1-800-768-6040.

YOU ARE INVITED – THE PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION OF UNITED METHODIST CHURCH SECRETARIES (PAUMCS) MEETING, Monday, March 11, 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

The Virginia Conference PAUMCS Chapter will hold its Spring Retreat at the Radisson Fort Magruder Hotel, 6945 Pocahontas Trail, Williamsburg. Continuing with the theme "Partners in Ministry...One Step at a Time," The Rev. Betsy Basehore will lead attendees in "Searching for Balance" in home, work, church and community life. Brochures have been mailed to all pastors and secretaries. For more information, contact Dale Childrey at 1-800-768-6040 or (804) 359-9451, or Bonnie Butler at (757) 393-0701.



***DISTRICT YOUTH NEWS ***

Staunton District Youth Retreat – Staunton District Youth Retreat at Camp Overlook is April 5 – 7. Our goal is to have 130 in attendance this

year. Please help get the word out to all churches and youth in the district. Flyer enclosed.

Attention All Adult District Youth Workers – The Staunton District Youth Council is made up of student representatives from different churches throughout our district. We can provide a team of district staff youth and adults who will come to your church to help and encourage your youth group. With the team, comes a presentation about the SDYC and how we can be of service to your youth group throughout the year. Also, we offer leadership training for youth and/or adults and are willing to create training to meet specific needs. We can share resources, ideas and suggestions for development and growth. Please give us a call and let us show you just how much the Staunton District Youth Council has to offer you. We are willing to meet during an evening or a weekend with you and your youth. If you don't have an organized youth group but want to start one, maybe we can help you with ideas.

We are SDYC.

We are Your District Youth.

We want to help you! CALL US!

Call or email Steve Joplin at 540-886-9367 or steve.joplin@hollister.com

Adult Youth Leader Training – Youth Specialties is offering adult youth ministry training in our area focusing on: skills in relationships and conversations; how to connect with your kids on a deeper, more intimate level; how to turn small groups and discussions into transforming experiences that will help your kids express themselves, discover community and grow spiritually. In addition YS will also lead you through a 40 minute experiential worship time that will help you discover new ways to get your kids worshipping God. This one day Seminar is offered in Richmond, VA on March 2 and in Roanoke, VA on March 22. Cost is less than \$60. See Youth Specialties web site at <http://www.YouthSpecialties.com/the-core> or call 888-346-4179 ext. R.

EXPLORATION 2002 – April 12 – 14, a weekend event designed for High School/Young Adults to explore their call to full-time Christian service. Location: University of Virginia. Call 800-768-6040 Ext# 308 Youth Ministries for registration form. Cost: \$75 per person. There may be sponsorship money available from the District for this event. Contact: Steve Joplin at 886-9367 or email: steve.joplin@hollister.com

AWAKENING 2002 – "Awakening 2002", William & Mary Hall, Williamsburg, VA, April 26-27, A two day event for all youth, adult workers, pastors and young adults featuring two contemporary Christian bands: "Solomon's Wish", "Salvador", Comedy by "Lighthearted Improv", Keynotes by "Sam Glenn" and much more. Don't miss this AWESOME EVENT! Join thousands of youth from throughout the Virginia Conference in praise, worship, fun and camaraderie. The Staunton District Youth is chartering bus(es). Contact: Terry Rohr at 885-6104 or email: rohrloch@aol.com. The Staunton District Youth has reserved Camp Makemie Woods for overnight stays (only 30 minutes away from W & M Hall) at \$20/night. Meals at \$5 for breakfast, \$5 - \$7 for Lunch or Dinner. Contact: Steve Joplin at 886-9367 or email: steve.joplin@hollister.com.

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

Mission Report

At Our District Council On Ministries meeting on January 21, we set the dates of March 28, 29, & 30, 2003 for District Mission Saturation. This means a Missionary will visit each Church/Charge on Saturday or Sunday to speak. There will be a District wide gathering on Friday evening with a kickoff speaker. I will keep you up to date as we move along on the plans.



The clothing delivery for Scott and Wise counties is coming soon. Please bring your clean clothing that is in good condition to Central UMC in Clifton Forge or the District Office before February 15. You always make such a wonderful difference for those in need. Thank you in advance for your services and prayers.

In Christ,
John Carrier, District Mission Secretary



District Committees

District Board of Laity

Robin Powell, District Lay Leader; Henry Ravenhorst, Former District Lay Leader; John Hensley, District Treasurer; Douglas Bosserman, Chairman, District Trustees;

Doris Hedrick, President of UMW; Earl D. Cash, President of UMM; David Leatherwood, Chairperson, COM; Lemuel Irvin, Chairperson, Lay Speaking; Rev. John Carrier, District Secretary Global Ministries/VIM

Ordained Ministry

Mark Reuter, Chairperson; Alton Washington, District Superintendent; Paul Bailey, District Chaplain; Thomas Coffman; Richard Ecklund; Walter B. Failes, Jr.; John Fisher, Jr.; Ralph Grow, Jr.; David Lord; Wilfred Mayton, Jr.; Elizabeth Taylor; Donald Drake, Lay Member; Howard Taylor, Lay Member; Elinor Willis, Lay Member; Donald L. Long, Local Pastor District Representative

Church Location and Building

Dr. Alton M. Washington, Chairperson; L. B. Hershey – 2002; Henry Ravenhorst – 2002; Suzanne Peeler – 2003; Irvin Rosen – 2003; John Sayers – 2003; Walter B. Failes, Sr. – 2004; Rev. David Reed – 2004; Minnie Stevenson – 2004;

Committee on District Superintendency

Anita Jackson, Chairperson – 2004; W. R. Deacon – 2002; Rev. Richard Ecklund – 2002; Hattie Casey – 2003; Rev. Elizabeth Taylor – 2003; Mae Brown – 2004; Henry Ravenhorst – 2004; Robin A. Powell – District Lay Leader, At Large

Finance

Charles Phibbs, Chairperson; Pauline Carr; Rev. John Carrier; Purcell Daughtry; Michael Irvine; Henry Ravenhorst; Steve Huffer; John Hensley, District Treasurer; Anita Jackson, Chairperson, District Superintendency Committee; David Leatherwood, Chairperson, DCOM; Robin A. Powell, District Lay Leader

Ethnic Minority Task Force

Rev. Ralph Harris, Co-Chairperson; Calvin Hughes, Co-Chairperson; Ministers of the Ethnic Minority Churches; Three Lay Members from Each Ethnic Minority Church; District Superintendent; District Lay Leader

Trustees

Douglas Bosserman, Chairperson; John Hensley, Treasurer; Henry Carr – 2002; Christine Pettyjohn – 2002; Henry Ravenhorst – 2002; Earl D. Cash – 2003; Daniel Franklin – 2003; Susan Obaugh – 2003; James Curd – 2004; H. C. Hensley, Jr. – 2004; Dianne Taylor – 2004

Directors, District Board of Missions, Inc.

Dr. Alton Washington, President; Robin Powell, Vice President; Henry Ravenhorst, Secretary; John Hensley, Treasurer; Rev. John Carrier, District Secretary of Global Ministries/VIM; Rev. Roy O. Creech, Jr.; Lester B. Hershey; One Lay Person from Every Church

Parsonage Committee

Catherine Sayers, Chairperson; Ann Buel; Lester Hershey, Sr.; Katherine Irvine; John Sayers; Rev. James Simmons

Nominating Committee

Pauline Carr; Earl D. Cash; Jewell Marshall; Robin Powell; Henry Ravenhorst; Irma Thompson; Alton Washington

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, 10:00 a.m. to noon at Larchmont UMC, 1106 Larchmont Crescent, Norfolk, VA 23608 *Saturday, February 23, 10:00 a.m. to noon at Shady Grove UMC, 295 By-Pass, Mechanicsville, VA 23111 or Galilee UMC, 20600 Broad Run Drive, Sterling, VA 20165 *Saturday, March 16, 10:00 a.m. to noon at Verona UMC, Route 11 & I-81, Verona, VA 24482 *Sunday, April 21, 3:00-5:00 p.m. at 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



Only God is able

There is so much frustration in the world because we have relied on gods rather than God. We have genuflected before the god of science only to find that it has given us the atomic bomb... We have worshipped the god of pleasure only to discover that thrills play out and sensations are short-lived. We have bowed before the god of money only to learn that there are such things as love and friendship that money cannot buy and that, in a world of possible depressions, stock market crashes and bad business investments, money is a rather uncertain deity. These transitory gods are not able to save or bring happiness to the human heart. Only God is able. It is faith we much rediscover.

--Martin Luther King, Jr.

*There is only one language that a confused world understands: a love that is not only vocal, but active. It is not only what we say, but what we do that counts.



**United Methodist Men's News
Speaker's Bureau** – If your fellowship needs a speaker for one of your meetings, a list of speakers is available. Contact any one of the District officers to obtain a copy.

\$1,000.00 Club Award – Has your fellowship or church helped any of the UMMen support programs with a gift of \$1,000.00 or more this past year? If so, you are qualified to receive this award. Please let Earl Cash know.

Upcoming Men's Events:

March 30 – Annual Leadership Development Day at Bon Air UMC, Richmond. **Who should attend:** District officers, Local Fellowship officers, and all committed United Methodist Men. **What is the cost:** This is a free event! Meet at the "Park and Ride" lot at the entrance to the Waynesboro Village Outlet at the intersection of Interstate 64 and Rt. 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.

April 27 – District Board Meeting, Cherryvale UMC
May 17 & 18 – Tri-District UMMen's Spiritual Retreat. Retreat Leader will be Reverend Gary Heaton. Gary has served United Methodist Churches across the Virginia Conference and is currently the pastor of Front Royal United Methodist Church in Front Royal, Virginia. Gary has been involved with retreat ministries since his days as a camp counselor. **Theme: "I LOVE TO TELL THE STORY"**

In Christ Service,
Earl D. Cash, President Staunton UMM

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

Return Service Requested

Please Note and Place on Your Calendar: The Conference Laity Spiritual Retreat will be held April 20-21 at VUMAC in Blackstone. Evelyn Laycock will be the key speaker. Brochures for this retreat are in the District Office.

The First Valentine

St. Valentine's Day
A time for love
And no more lonely hearts,
We're sending cards
That say, "Be mine,"
For some, a place to start.
But we forget
The story of
The world's first Valentine –

But not by mail
Did this one come.
By way of sacrifice
It wasn't words
But deeds of love
Of one who gave his life –

The one who died
With arms outstretched
And simply said, "Be mine."

--Brian Roush
Excelsior Springs, MO

*Love is a fabric which never fades, no matter how often it is washed in the water of adversity and grief.



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