

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*

March 2002

Dates To Remember



March 8-9

Making Disciples: Serving on the Edge – Koger South Conference Center, Richmond

March 9 at 10:00 a.m.

**VBS Workshop
Mt. Carmel UMC, Covington**

March 11 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

**PAUMCS Meeting
Radisson Fort Magruder Hotel, Williamsburg**

March 15 at 6:00 p.m.

**Ministers and Spouses Meeting
Main Street UMC, Waynesboro**

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

April 5-7

District Youth Retreat – Camp Overlook

April 14 at 2:00 p.m.

**VBS Workshop
Calvary UMC**

April 20-21

Conference Laity Spiritual Retreat - VUMAC

April 26-27

**“Awakening 2002”
Williamsburg, VA**

April 27 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

**Reclaiming the Great Commission Event
Fishersville UMC**



Our Deepest Sympathy Is Extended To:

Mrs. Henry (Dorothy) Ravenhorst and her family in the death of Mr. Henry Ravenhorst. Henry was the Staunton District Lay Leader for 15 years and

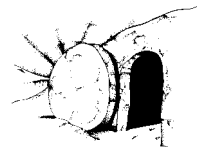
continued to serve on various District Committees.

Mr. & Mrs. David (Robin) Powell and their family on the death of David's mother. Robin is the District Lay Leader.

From The District Superintendent:

**Resurrection: Present Reality,
Future Hope**

Scripture: John 11:1-44



The story of Jesus' raising Lazarus from death is, undoubtedly, one of the most incredible stories ever told. Picture the scene: Lazarus has been dead for four days; his sisters are grieving heavily over their loss; Jesus is blamed for not arriving earlier upon their request when their brother was ill. In the course of the story both Mary and Martha proclaimed to Jesus that "If you had been here our brother would not have died." They had great confidence in Jesus.

Jesus assured the sisters that their brother would live again. But there was some miss-communication as Martha thought Jesus was referring to the Jewish belief in the life to come. But Jesus revealed something very startling that brought a new vividness; a new meaning to that belief and added clarity to what he was saying. "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me will live, even if one has died. And whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

Then Jesus performed the astonishing task of raising Lazarus from the dead, a once and for all demonstration of God's power over death through God's Son. Do you believe this? It is a universal question that begs for an answer in every generation of humankind. In a physical sense it is more vague now than it was for Mary and Martha and the early disciples because we live in a very secular world. Yet one must believe that the very God who caused the virgin birth of his Son could surely give him the special power for such a miracle. It is beyond human realm, but is there anything that God has done that is not beyond human ability and thought? I am continually appalled at the growing amount of research and literature seeking to prove or disprove physically what took place. But who can probe the depth of God's omnipotence? Surely not the finite minds of humanity.

The story of the resurrection of Lazarus stands equal to those of the virgin birth and the resurrection of Jesus,

reminding us that there is a present reality that transcends that which is visible and physical. Ours is a God who performs miracles. God's grace of forgiveness through Jesus Christ is a miraculous happening for all who believe in such grace. We all need the present reality of the resurrection of Jesus Christ's Spirit when something deadly and sinful invades our lives, taking away its joy, or making us less than what God intends us to be. For example, we can become so selfish that we become dead to the needs and cries of others; we can become so insensitive as to be numb to the dignity of others, using slurs and words that are damaging; we can become so involved in petty dishonesties and disloyalties of life that we become dead to anything that is honorable; finally, we can become so hopeless that we are filled with an inertia of despair, defeat and failure that leads to spiritual death. The good news, however is that the same Jesus who offered hope and assurance to Mary and Martha provides resurrection and life for all who believe in him **now**. Jesus can rescue everyone from any negative habits that take away the joys of life. This is the present reality of God's saving grace in Jesus Christ. Down through the ages he has resurrected millions just like us, and his touch has not lost its ancient and present power. Do you believe this? May you experience resurrection's true power during the holy seasons of Lent and Easter. It offers Future Hope for life.

In Christ,
Alton M. Washington



Link With The Laity

My daughter engaged me in one of those rare "nerve-racking" moments recently. She stood on a dinning room chair and reached across the table to spin our chandelier so she could watch the light "dance" on the walls.

There was no sense of danger in her mind until she spun the chandelier too fast and in grabbing it to make it stop, pulled the light out of the ceiling, glass globes spinning and shaking.

The shrill scream sent me running and jumping down a set of five steps, I reached the dining room to find glass globes spinning out of control, the chandelier dangling from a frayed electrical cord and a trembling Sarah clinging to the light on a partially-tipped chair.

Later, while trying to mend my pulled muscles caused by this little escapade, I had some sobering reflections. Just like a parent rushes to the aid of a distressed child, so does God meet me in my hurts, pains and fears. When life is spinning out of control, He is there to calm, sooth, and create new paths of opportunity. The difference is, as a parent, I had to come running, but with God, He is already there. I wonder how many times I have been in need and just simply did not "cry out?"

Admittedly, I have done some dumb things myself from time to time. Yet, God never stops loving me. In fact, as I try to rid myself of this pain with ice, heat and medication rubs, I am reminded of the horrible pain, unnecessary pain Christ endured just so that my "dangling, out of control,"

and sometimes "frayed" life could be made whole and one day free from all pain.

With so much to do: job, family, school, volunteer activities, I have been focused on "making, doing, completing," rather than "being." So now as I find some more ice, fluff up the pillows and try to find a more comfortable position, I can rest knowing God's love sustains me and embraces me just as I embraced Sarah to say everything is all right. There is one nudging thought I still have though: just how many angels did it take to keep her safe that night?

Shalom,
Robin Powell,
Lay Leader



Laity Opportunities

Lay Speaking Ministries will be held on March 15-17 at Blackstone. The keynote speaker for the event is Ray Buckley, a Native American writer with the United Methodist Communications in Nashville. Brochures with registration and agenda are available at the District Office. **Conference Spring Laity Retreat** will feature Dr. Evelyn Laycock, Director of the Lay Ministry Center at Lake Junaluska, NC, on April 20-21. This is a marvelous time for a short get-a-way to relax, make some new friends and be fed spiritually. Let's make a grand showing from the Staunton District again this year.

Reclaiming the Great Commission event will be held at Fishersville UMC on Saturday, April 27, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. with one of the authors, Dr. Hamilton Beasley, on hand to lead us. Cost is \$10.00 per person. We encourage each church to send two persons. The Charlottesville, Harrisonburg, Roanoke, Staunton and Winchester Districts sponsor this event. Registration is limited to 300, so register early. Forms are available through the District Office.

Great Day of Singing – We will gather to proclaim the word of God in Song and fellowship together on Sunday, April 28, at 5:00 p.m. at St. Paul's UMC, Staunton. All are invited to participate. For more information, call Eloise Kornicke at 540-942-8745.

Our **Annual District Laity Banquet** will be held on Friday, May 3, at 6:30 p.m. at St. Paul's UMC, Staunton. The guest speaker will be Rev. Clarence Brown, District Superintendent of the Charlottesville District. Watch the April newsletter for more details. Also, if you have or know of a musical group or individual who would like to be considered, please call Robin Powell at 942-9355.



Staunton District VBS Workshop 2002 Sunday, April 14 - 2:00 p.m. - Calvary

There will be a 10 percent discount on all material purchased at the workshop – Cokesbury, Standard, Group, Augsburg Fortress, Condordia. Free shipping on Cokesbury material only. **This offer cannot be extended past this workshop date.** Light snacks provided and

childcare available upon request – Call Jan Failes at 540-337-2980. Directions: 2179 Stuarts Draft Highway, Rt. 340. From I-81 North, 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.



News from Ebenezer UMC

Ebenezer United Methodist Church is located in Rockbridge Baths, Virginia, and usually a quiet country community. You won't find a spotlight in town. Occasionally someone will ask where Nascar driver Rick Mast lives. Most times though, people are just passing through.

Quiet that is until the day "ACTION" was yelled at the Ebenezer United Methodist Church, and "Christmas in Cricket County" came to life. For one short hour the United Methodist Men, donned in dresses, makeup, and wigs caused so much laughter and commotion while bringing the real message of Christmas. Wealth and greed does not bring happiness. Sometimes the poorest are really the richest in heart and soul.

Rev. Ray Tucker, Pastor



Christian Education Minister

Active congregation of 1,100 members has a full-time opening for an energetic, dedicated person with vision and calling to work with groups and individuals in Christ-centered programs, especially in Christian education of children, youth and adults. Need not be seminary trained. Our church is in the suburbs of Washington, DC, in Northern Virginia. For more details, send resume to: Senior Pastor, St. Stephen's United Methodist Church, 9203 Braddock Road, Burke, VA 22015. You may also send it by email to pastor@ststephens-umc.org or fax to 703-978-1900.

Virginia Annual Conference Ministers'

Spouses Luncheon

Place: Thrasher Memorial, Vinton, VA

Date: Monday, June 17

Time: 12:00 Noon

Cost: \$10.00 Per Person

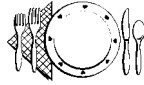
Make check payable to: Virginia Conference Ministers' Spouses

Mail check to: Jan Jones, 4204 Wynnwood Drive, Annandale, VA 22003, Phone: (703) 256-8130.

Please include your name as you wish it to appear on your nametag and your district.

Reservations must be made by June 8th. No reservations will be made at the door. Tickets/nametags will not be mailed to you. Your cancelled check will be your receipt.

Thrasher Memorial will provide Child Care at no cost with each child's lunch provided by the parent. These numbers need to be in June 8th. Include this information with your check for your ticket.



The Golden Cord

The Golden Cord newsletter, which highlights the mission work of the Virginia Conference, is entering a new age. Beginning in April 2002, *The Golden Cord* will no longer be mailed. Instead it will be placed on the conference web site and e-mailed to laity and clergy. Going this route will save approximately \$6,000 annually, allow greater flexibility in article content and for the first time make it possible to include color photos and graphics. We realize that some people still wish to receive *The Golden Cord* by mail. If you wish a hard copy, call the Conference Mission Office, 1-800-768-6040 to register.

Thank you.

Gary Milstead, MEC Chair

Mission News

Indonesia has experienced the worst flooding in 30 years following a week of heavy rain at the end of January. Much of the capital, Jakarta, was under water and roads in and out of the city were impassable. UMCOR has sent an emergency response grant to the Methodist Church in Indonesia to provide food, water, and medicine. Once the waters have receded, people will need assistance repairing their homes and replacing household furnishings. To join in this response, please give to UMCOR's International Disaster Response, Advance #982450-8, and designate "Indonesia Floods."



Methodist Church Stewardship And Mission Outreach Opportunity

United Methodists respond wonderfully to emergency needs within the Virginia Conference, volunteer teams working ravished areas assisting people who lost their homes or needed help making their homes livable again. It demonstrates our Christian outreach attitude. Could we share some of that superb effort with our local community?

I have worked six years with the Staunton-Waynesboro-Augusta Habitat for Humanity (SAW-HFH) affiliate, sharing ecumenical Christian worksites, constructing homes for persons that do not want handouts, just a little "hand up" to reach for the dream of owning their own home and contributing to our/their community. They work side by side with us, taking pride in the work done, and work with us in the building of other homes. They buy their homes and join in responsible home ownership and community citizenship.

During those six years, I have worked on homes sponsored by local Presbyterian, Lutheran, Episcopalian, Catholic, Brethren and Baptist churches. What about the Methodist? Marquis Memorial UMC provides Habitat use of their Social Hall for meetings, and Annex UMC provided construction leadership and work crews and some funding to assist in construction of one house. However we, as a



District, have not sponsored a house. Verona UMC sponsored an entire house themselves in 1996. We have the support of the District Superintendent, Dr. Washington.

This is how it works. If every UMC member of the Staunton District would donate \$1 (one) dollar a month for one year, we can fund construction of a house. You can be assured that a Habitat mission is a worthy steward of funds. Families are carefully selected based on need and willingness to "partner." The partnership commitment includes that adult members of the Habitat Partner Family must work at least 250 hours of Sweat Equity towards the construction of their home. Also, they pay back the cost of construction through a 20-year, no interest mortgage, thus, the money raised recycles to help other local families in need to be housed in a safe, decent home; thus, the gift keeps giving! 100% of all the dollars donated stay in our community.

Can active UMC members of the Staunton District cooperatively donate one Saturday's labor to construct a home? With each church agreeing to provide a six to eight person work party just one Saturday during the year, and by rotating through our district churches, over 14-16 weeks, we can rehab a house and provide the opportunity to purchase a home to a low income family that will be working with us.

Can we do it? Absolutely! SAW-HFH will obtain needed building materials, have the materials on site and provide continuing construction supervision so each work party will be following a building plan. We can do it without placing a heavy burden on any single church.

The benefits of this highly visible local project are numerous and rich in blessings to all that are involved. Some of the benefits are: *Serving Christ through a local hometown mission project, *Church members getting to know each other better, *Church members having an opportunity for active project participation, *It is a great way to get to know other congregations, *Great exposure to the local community, *Development of local community trust and loyalty.

We need to step up and start. If a lay member of your church is willing to be a point of contact to coordinate schedules and talent for your church, let's get started. Call Bonnie at SAW-HFH office (886-1944), or Dewey Feuerhelm (337-7591) and let us jointly expand our Christian stewardship and outreach into our hometown communities.

Dewey Feuerhelm, Vice President,
SAW-HFH Board of Directors



United Methodist Men's News

Speaker's Bureau – If your fellowship needs a speaker for one of its meetings, a list of speakers is available. Contact any one of the District officers for information.

\$1,000.00 Club Award – Has your fellowship

or church helped any of the UMMen supported 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 – *Who said there is no such thing as a free lunch?* Annual Leadership Development Day at Bon Air UMC in Richmond. **Who should attend:** District officers, Local Fellowship officers, and all committed United Methodist Men. An honest-to-goodness **FREE LUNCH** will be served, but there is a catch! And that is, you must register by March 15. Look for registration forms in your Sunday bulletin. 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 20 – District Board meeting, Cherryvale UMC (Please note change of date.)

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 UMC 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

United Methodist Women's News

Congratulations ladies, we met our pledge to Missions for the year 2001. We have increased this pledge to \$41,000.00 for 2002 so we will need to dig just a little deeper this year.



We will celebrate "Day Apart" on March 2nd at Calvary UMC in Stuarts Draft. Our speaker will be Susan Obaugh. Susan has served on several UMVIM teams and will share some of her experiences with us. Registration will begin at 9:30 a.m. and lunch will be served at a cost of \$5.00. Please let your zone leader know how many will be attending from your unit. There will be an Executive Board Meeting after lunch and all of the Local Unit Presidents are invited to attend.

On April 6th the Homie Clark Zone will have a prayer breakfast at Collierstown UMC. The Rev. Lee Price will be the speaker for this event. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. and the cost of this meal is also \$5.00. Once again your zone leader needs to know how many are coming.

Women's Division Assembly is the weekend of April 25-28 in Philadelphia, PA. We now have 14 women going from the Staunton District. This only takes place once every four years and we are getting excited about it.

The United Methodist Women of the Staunton District have a busy schedule for the next year and we are looking forward to celebrating God's Love Together.

Serving Together,
Doris Hedrick,
UMW President

DISTRICT YOUTH NEWS

Staunton District Youth Retreat –It’s time to register for the Staunton District Youth Retreat at Camp Overlook April 5 – 7. Our biggest and best district event of the year!

Ryan Harry of “Salt N Light” will lead praise and worship times. Come join us at the best youth camp in Virginia for Fun, Workshops, Family Groups, Worship, Games, Friends and Dance. Our goal is to have 130 in attendance this year, so help us get the word out to other churches and youth and invite a friend to come with you. If you need information or registration forms contact Steve Joplin at 540-886-9367 or email: steve.joplin@hollister.com.



Staunton District Youth R & R – WOW!! Did you see that awesome turnout for the recent R & R (Recreation & Renewal) held February 8th at the Solid Rock Café? 120 people from the Staunton District packed the house. Praise God! All I’ve heard since then is, “when are we going back to the “Rock”?” All had a great time. Thank you Brian Shirley for hosting us. Thanks to the incredible DJ “Mac” McChesney. Not only was the evening filled with fun but also with times of very moving Youth led devotions. Thank you Ashleigh Huggard, Holly Iberg and Sam Harris, Fishersville UMC. Also the “Calvary Connections” youth drama team, from Calvary UMC, performed a skit reminding us that Jesus is willing and able to forgive us and to wash all our sins away. Thanks also to all the adults who were there to help. Praise God for this Christian Youth Community Center.

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 – 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 and fun. Need a registration form? Contact: Steve Joplin. Staunton District Youth have chartered a bus to Awakening 2002. Departing early Saturday morning and returning Saturday evening. Cost: \$13. Only 25 seats left on the Bus. First Come, First Serve! Contact: Terry Rohr at 885-6104 or email: rohrslloch@aol.com. Staunton District Youth have reserved Camp Makemie Woods for overnight stays for Awakening 2002 (only 30 minutes away from W & M Hall). Cost: \$20/night. Meals at \$5 for breakfast, \$5 - \$7 for Lunch or Dinner. Registration deadline is March 15 for Makemie Woods. Only 33 beds left. First Come, First

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

District Council of Youth Ministries Planning Meeting – Our next planning meeting will be held 2:00-4:00 p.m., March 17, at Greenville UMC. Agenda: 1. Finalize plans for District Youth Retreat, Camp Overlook on April 5-7; 2. Awakening 2002; 3. VUMDYLA 2002. Hope to see you there.

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

A Request

I am working with Judy Connelly of the Winchester District to compile a list of Children’s and Youth Choir directors on the Staunton, Harrisonburg, and Winchester Districts. During the Summer Choir Camp for Children and Youth at Camp Overlook (June 23-28), there will be a one-day workshop for directors of those choir ages. It would help us get the word out if you could assist us in obtaining the names and addresses (phone/email for those willing to share that information) of children and youth choir directors on the district. Responses can be sent to me at lbdouglas@rica.net or sent to me at Asbury UMC, 205 South Main Street, Harrisonburg, VA 22801.



Hopefully, the format below will facilitate the gathering of this information.

Church: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Director’s Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Choir 1: _____

Ages in Choir: _____

Choir 2: _____

Ages in Choir: _____

Choir 3: _____

Ages in Choir: _____

Areas of interest if you were to attend a workshop:

Many thanks for your help! Please feel free to call me at 540-434-2836 with any questions or suggestions.

Laura B. Douglas, Minister of Music



Architecture, Building, and Faith Church Design and Building Seminar

This seminar will be held on Saturday, May 4th, from 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. at Bruce R. Wardell, Architect, P.C., 112 Fourth Street NE, Charlottesville, VA 22902. This

seminar will deal with everything that is required in building new churches. For further information call Mr. Wardell at 434-917-7160 or email: rfrazier@brucewardell.com.

Jesus in a “distressing disguise”



Mother Teresa says this is how we co-create with God to bring good out of evil:

“Loving as he loves, helping as he helps, giving as he gives, serving as he serves, rescuing as he rescues, being with him for 24 hours, touching him in his distressing disguise.”

When Mother Teresa meets someone who is particularly obnoxious or hateful or mean or disturbed, she says only that he or she is Jesus in a “distressing disguise,” and on that basis, she reaches out to touch that person.

--Davis Street United Methodist Church
Burlington, NC

***It is only by forgetting ourselves that we can draw near to God.**

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

Return Service Requested



You are looking
for Jesus the
Nazarene,
who was
crucified.

He has risen!

Mark 16:6



Why “Good” Friday?

When we understand that the New Testament meaning of “good” was “holy,” we can understand how it is appropriate to describe our Lord’s crucifixion day as “good.” The word “holy” is entirely consistent with the suffering of our Lord on the Cross-when we take into full account the reason for it.

Good Friday, Passion Friday or Holy Friday—whichever—all bear the same significance—a day for us to meditate on the hours Jesus spent on the cross.

Christ Opened A Door

The Easter events convince me that Christ did emerge from the grave. I cannot account for the church without the Resurrection.

When I was thirteen, I was riding home from school one night and had to cross a stream which the rain had raised.

Darkness had fallen, and my horse refused to enter the rushing water. Suddenly a farmer opened the door of a farmhouse on the other side of the stream. From the open door came a path of lamplight. In that path of light my horse and I took courage and crossed the flooded creek.

So Christ opened the door on the other side of death’s stream and “brought life and immortality to light.”

--Ralph W. Sockman



Easter

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