

# 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*

**May 2002**

## Dates To Remember



**May 17-18**  
**UMM Retreat**  
**Camp Overlook**

**May 27**

**District and Conference Offices Closed**  
**Memorial Day**

**June 7 at 6:30 p.m.**  
**Annual District Laity Banquet**  
**St. Paul's UMC, Staunton**

**June 16-19**  
**Virginia Annual Conference**  
**Roanoke, Virginia**

**June 17**  
**Annual Conference Ministers' Spouses**  
**Luncheon**  
**Thrasher Memorial UMC**

**June 17 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.**  
**Annual Conference Laity Banquet**  
**Hotel Roanoke**

**June 26**  
**Clergy Moving Day**

pressures, the stresses, the strains and the responsibilities placed upon us by society. It is the place where love abides and where family members understand, accept, appreciate, and forgive each other. I speak here, of course of the ideal home situation. Unfortunately, many home situations are not ideal. All too often we hear of child abuse, domestic violence, broken relationships and other negative activities taking place within the home. When people experience such maladjustments in the home, it impacts our society. It is true, as it is often stated, that home and family are the basic foundations of life. The ancient African proverb that "...as goes the family, so goes the world" has great validity.

Please permit me to become personal. One of the greatest blessings that I still cherish from my childhood is the fact that I grew up in a Christian home. Our parents taught us the rudiments of the Christian faith and practiced the spiritual disciplines of prayer, Scripture reading, meditation and family devotions. They never sent us to Sunday school and church, but carried us, and participated in church programs and missions. Our home was not a perfect home because it was, nevertheless, a human institution. All of us brought our individual differences to the family circle. We often disagreed on many subjects. But praises be to God, caring parents, and the influence of the church, we were able to appreciate each other through love.

It is the church's responsibility to do all it possibly can to nurture and encourage young families, whether they are single parent or traditional, as they struggle to develop Christian values within the home.

I recall with great fondness a portion of the prayer of the wedding ritual which petitions God to bless the wedding couple in a special way: "Look graciously upon them, that they may love, honor, and cherish each other, and so live together in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and a place of peace."

This is the blessing that I hope all of you will experience as you celebrate The Festival Of The Christian Home.

In Christ,  
Alton M. Washington



**Our Deepest Sympathy Is Extended**  
**To: Rev. & Mrs. LeRoy Young and**  
**their family** on the death of his mother.

The Youngs are serving Granbery

Memorial Church in Covington.

### **From The District Superintendent:**

During the month of May we celebrate The Festival Of The Christian Home. I recall reading some years ago that the home is "the shock absorber of society." Home, in other words, is the place where family members can return to find refuge from the





## \*\*CHANGE OF DATES\*\*

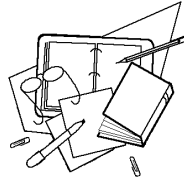
### District Laity Banquet

The Staunton District Laity Banquet will be held on Friday, June 7, 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. Cost for the buffet will be \$12.00. Make checks payable to the Staunton District UMC. Tickets are available at the District Office. Come join us for an evening of fun and fellowship.

### Position Available Announcement

EDITOR, The Virginia United Methodist Advocate - Half-time position (80 hours a month). Primary responsibility includes contributing to and giving general oversight to the production of the conference news magazine, The Virginia United Methodist Advocate. Writing, page design, computer skills, and knowledge of the United Methodist Church required. Detailed job description available on request. The deadline for applications is May 24, 2002. Inquiries to CCOM Director, P.O. Box 11367, Richmond, VA 23230 or e-mail:



[WasenaWright@vaumc.org](mailto:WasenaWright@vaumc.org)



**Sexual Ethics Training:** A reminder to all clergy, diaconal ministers, and certified lay professionals who have not participated in the Sexual Ethics Seminar or been granted an exemption: register

NOW for the make-up session on Saturday, May 11, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Reveille UMC in Richmond. Registration forms were mailed to all who did not attend last fall, but you may request another form from the Office of Ministerial Services, 800-768-6040, ext. 311. All clergy, diaconal ministers, and certified lay professionals in local church and beyond the local church appointments are required to attend or receive an exemption from the Board of Ordained Ministry.

### Why do you believe?

A Sunday school teacher suddenly stopped reading a passage in the Bible and asked her kindergarten pupils, "Why do you believe in God?"

She got a variety of answers, but none so interesting as the one from her pastor's son: "I guess it just runs in our family." --Leonard Sweet

in *Sweet's Soul Café*, Aug./Sept. 1996



## DISTRICT YOUTH NEWS

District Youth Retreat – About 70 attendees had a great time at the Staunton District Youth Retreat held at Camp Overlook on April 5-7, 2002. The number of attendees was up this year but perhaps even more importantly the number of churches represented was way up. Thirteen churches from the Staunton District were represented at the Retreat! I take this as an indication that we are improving our communication to our churches and that the word is getting out to the youth about the exciting District events. Worship leader, Ryan Harry, connected quickly with the Staunton District Youth and did a wonderful job sharing messages and leading us in praise and worship. Our theme "Be Bold, Be Real, Be Honest" was intertwined into his messages and songs throughout the weekend. A great big Hug and Thank you to all the youth and adults who helped facilitate the Workshops and Family Group times. Special thanks goes to "DJ Micah." \$283 was collected for YSF (Youth Service Fund) during fundraising times during the retreat. Thanks, praise, glory and honor to our strong and mighty God.

Middle School Mission – A weekend mission experience for 6<sup>th</sup> thru 9<sup>th</sup> graders that features local mission projects as well as worship, devotion, singing, and more! May 17<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup>, 2002. Location: Westview on the James. For registration contact: Youth Ministries at 800-768-6040 #308.

Young Adult Retreat – An Unforgettable Weekend! Young adults join us June 21-23, 2002, for the experience of a lifetime. Are you often struggling to find Christ in work, play, family, friends, free time? Come together with other young adults from across the state to share in finding balance in ever changing times. Enjoy a weekend away from stress and find out how to center your life with Christ. Keynote speaker: Rev. David Harris, Praise and Worship led by Chad Miller from Ohio, special concert by "Refuge," small groups and social time. Location: Blackstone, VA. Cost is \$101. For registration contact 800-768-6040 #308.

VUMDYLA – Virginia United Methodist District Youth Leaders Assembly at Blackstone, VA, July 11-13, 2002 – An AWESOME EVENT. This is a great opportunity to glean new ideas from other districts, to plan our upcoming year, and experience inspiring worship and music. Come also to learn more about CCYM opportunities for youth in leadership. The district pays for 15 to go. If we have more, then the cost is divided so that all will pay a little. For



registration contact Kathy Bowers at 540-965-5164 or email: sunshn52@aol.com.

Staunton District Youth Web Site – Lots of great info on the Staunton District Youth web site (stauntondistrict.tripod.com). Thank you Jerry Morgan, Granbery UMC, for creating and maintaining our web site. Check it often for District Youth happenings. Email Jerry at mobjack68@aol.com with anything you would like to add to the site such as youth group pictures, activities, calendar, etc.

*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



**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.

**Upcoming Men's Events:**

**May 17 & 18** - Tri - District UMMen's Spiritual Retreat. Registration deadline is May 6, 2002. See your Pastor or UMMen President for registration form. 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."

**July 20, 2002** - Staunton District UMMen Board meeting. Location is to be announced.

In Christ Service,  
Earl D. Cash  
President Staunton UMM

***The United Methodist Women***

I have the tickets for the Conference Prayer Breakfast. The cost of these tickets is \$12.00. If you plan to attend this event please either purchase your ticket at the prayer breakfast or call me at 291-2146 to reserve your ticket because there is a limited number of tickets available.

The Augusta-Highlands Zone breakfast will be at Cherryvale UMC on May 18<sup>th</sup>. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. and the cost of this meal is \$5.00. There will be an Executive Board Meeting following this event.



Conference Events to remember are Spiritual Life Retreat at VUMAC on May 4 and 5. The School of Christian Missions will be July 26-28 for the weekend session and July 29-August 1 for the week session. Your local unit president should have the information for these events.

Serving Together,  
Doris Hedrick  
District President



**Wesley Foundation  
Fundraiser**

The Churches of the Staunton District have been wonderful in their participation of the Food Lion fundraiser for the Wesley Foundation during the past 12 years. They have helped us raise between \$1,230 and \$1,500 each year for our program ministry. Food Lion has now changed the name of the fundraising program to LionShop & Share and there is a new procedure to follow. It is now paperless - no more vouchers to be given out. You only use your MVP card, but first you must register it at their website. Log on: [www.foodlion.com](http://www.foodlion.com). At Lion Shop & Share 2002 click "here" and then click "Register MVP Card." Step 1 - Select Charity: VA, Harrisonburg, Wesley Foundation. Step 2 - Register MVP card: Complete personal information then click "sign up." Once your MVP card is registered, every time you use it you will be benefiting the Wesley Foundation.

If you would like to participate in this fundraiser but do not have email you may ask a friend to register it for you, or call Wesley Foundation, 434-3490. Thanks so much for your continued support.

**The Virginia Annual Conference Laity  
Banquet** will be held Monday, June 17,

2002, at the Hotel Roanoke – the Ballroom, 5:00–7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$20 per person – checks payable to Virginia Annual Conference and available through Robin Powell at 942-9355. There will be no tickets available at Conference, so get the tickets early.



**\*Mother's Day is less a blessed day for mothers and far more a blessed day for children to remember them, think about them, thank them and thank God for them.**



**Annual Conference Orientation**

The Annual Conference Orientation is scheduled for Sunday, June 2, 2002, at 3:00 p.m. at Trinity UMC, Lexington. It is most essential that District At-Large Members and Alternates, Pastors and local church

Lay Members to the Annual Conference be in attendance because vital information will be presented to help us prepare for the Annual Conference.

The Annual Conference is scheduled for June 16-19, 2002 at the Civic Center in Roanoke, Virginia. If District At-Large Members are unable to attend for any reason, please notify the District Office immediately so that an Alternate can be found. Any local church Lay Members who are unable to attend, please notify the District Office of the name of your Alternate so that the records in the District and Conference Offices can be updated.

You should receive your *Book of Reports* at least one month before the date of Annual Conference. Please familiarize yourself with it as much as possible.

I wish to thank each of the At-Large members, whether District or local church, for your willingness as well as your gifts and time as you serve the great Staunton District in this capacity. May we join in continuous prayer for God's work to be done. I pray God's blessings upon you, also.

--Alton M. Washington

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

*Return Service Requested*



**It's a Special Anniversary Party  
...to celebrate 50 years of marriage for  
Roy and Mary Creech!**

May 26<sup>th</sup> 3:00-5:00 p.m.  
Calvary UMC, Stuarts Draft, VA

(No gifts are necessary,  
however cards are welcome)

Given by their children  
Please R.S.V.P. by May 6<sup>th</sup>  
540-337-9691 (and leave a message)

**Five steps to forgiving others**

1. Accept the accountability principle that every person is accountable to God.
2. Own your own sin in the relationship.
3. Try to understand the other person's perspective and look for good in the person.
4. Choose to accept what you cannot change.
5. Choose to relate to the person as if the sin had never occurred.



--Dorothy Sample

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**Memorial Day**  
*Remember Those Who  
Gave Their Lives*