

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*

June 2002

Dates To Remember



June 2 at 3:00 p.m.
**Annual Conference
Orientation Meeting**
Trinity UMC, Lexington

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

July 18
Clergy and Spouses' Welcoming Picnic
Robertson Lake State Park

he challenges us to minister unto the marginalized (the least) of our brothers and sisters who are in need of our gifts. Everyone is not able to sojourn to mission fields around the world, but we can support mission projects through our gifts.

This year's annual conference offering offers great opportunities for all of us to become involved in missions:

- The building of an elementary school in Mozambique;
- Building a Church in Stovropol, Russia;
- Establishing another camp for "All God's Children" and underwriting seven projects around Virginia for at risk children.

All churches are encouraged to give generously and faithfully to the conference offering. Remember, you cannot "beat God giving."

In Christ,
Alton M. Washington



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 have received your *Book of Reports*. If not, please contact the District Office immediately.

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

From The District Superintendent:

In my first pastoral appointment I was introduced to a congregational hymn with the title, "You Can't Beat God Giving." The refrain of the hymn still remains with me: "You can't beat God giving, no matter how hard you try." I do not recall the hymn's writer, but the words are profoundly true. God has always been, and shall continue to be the world's greatest benefactor to humanity. Anyone who practices good stewardship and has a positive faith in God knows about the depth of God's providence. Such persons also have great knowledge about the joy of giving, and are grateful to God for the opportunity to give.

Our gifts to missions through the church are an extension of God's love to the world. It is a response to Jesus' words in Chapter twenty-five of the gospel of St. Matthew where



***Sometimes the blessing of God is not the thing we want most, but the thing God knows will bring the most fulfillment.**

****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.



Let Us Pray For World Peace

The following churches on the Staunton District are open at noon for anyone wishing to come in to pray for world peace:

- Fishersville UMC, Rt. 250, Fishersville;
- Central UMC (Staunton), Lewis Street at Beverley, Staunton;
- Granbery Memorial UMC, 425 West Main Street, Covington.

Other churches willing to open their doors for prayer, please call the District Office.

Growing New Churches

Focus for Annual Conference Dinner

"Growing New Churches" will be the focus for the Evangelical Fellowship Dinner at Annual Conference. The dinner is set for 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 18, at Holiday Inn Airport. The Rev. Bruce Tuttle, Conference Director for Church Development and Evangelism, will chair a panel of new church pastors who will speak about the challenges of starting a church.

Panel Members include the Revs. Keith Boyette, Wilderness Community UMC, Ashland District; David Ford, New Town UMC, Peninsula District; and Lynne Alley-Grant, Fieldstone UMC, Roanoke District.

If you have a question you would like the panel to answer, send it to Keith Almond, Community UMC, 1072 Old Kempsville Road, Virginia Beach, VA 23464 or email it to <kpalmond@arilion.com>.

Cost for the dinner is \$13/person in advance; \$15 at the door. Make checks payable to Evangelical Fellowship and mail to the Rev. Tricia Riggs, Lovettsville UMC, 41799 Stumptown Road, Leesburg, VA 20176. For more information, contact Rev. Riggs at 703-779-7745 or <triciariggs@aol.com>.



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.

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.

Serving Together,
Doris Hedrick, District UMW President



United Methodist Men's News

UMMen fellowships from the city of Staunton held their annual gathering April 18, 2002. Central UMMen hosted the event this year.

Kenny Fields, Jr. from Bishop was guest speaker. Kenny talked about the impact of the flood in the Bishop area last year. It was a great evening of fellowship. Thanks to the Men of Central UMC.

Earl Cash, District UMMen President, attended District President training provided by the General Commission on United Methodist Men. The training event was held in Nashville, Tennessee April 5 - 7, 2002.

Several men from the District attended the Tri-District Retreat. The theme for this year was "I Love to Tell the Story" led by Gary Heaton, pastor of Front Royal UMC. Everyone seemed to enjoy the fellowship and left spiritually renewed. During the last session of the retreat, everyone had a chance to tell their story. We were all blessed by the testimonies we heard.

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:

June 18, 2002 – UMMen Annual Conference Breakfast. Rev. Kenneth Jackson will be guest speaker. For tickets contact Earl Cash or another UMMen District Officer.

July 18, 2002 – UMMen Day at Camp Rainbow Connection. VUMAC (Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center)

July 20, 2002 – Staunton District UMMen Board Meeting. The meeting will be held at Ashwood UMC in Bath County. Coffee will be served beginning at 9:30 a.m. The meeting will be at 10:00 a.m. Following the meeting we will eat lunch at The Homestead. After lunch we will have a guided tour of The Homestead facility. Activities for spouses are being arranged for the morning. They are invited to join us for lunch and the tour of The Homestead. Please put this on your calendar and plan to join us.

August 15, 2002 – UMMen Day at Camp Rainbow Connection. VUMAC

September 2002 – UMMen District Fall Rally.

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

***Worry is a substitute for prayer. Don't worry. Pray things through.**

--Nancy Corbett Cole in *Tapestry of Life*, Book 2

DISTRICT YOUTH NEWS

Awakening 2002 – About 100 youth from Staunton District Youth attended Awakening 2002 at William & Mary on April 26 - 27. They traveled by bus and vans and some stayed overnight at Camp Makemie Woods on Friday night. Several youth from the Staunton District were on the design and planning committees for this event (Holly Iberg, Sam Harris, Rebekah Rigg).



Youth Leadership 2002-2003 – Sam Harris, Fishersville UMC, has agreed to serve as President of our Staunton District Youth for 2002-2003. Sam has been very active in the Staunton District Youth and brings creativity, commitment and his heart to reach out to others to share the love of Jesus. Sam will be attending Annual Conference this year. Thank you Sam for committing to serve as our President. Several youth from throughout the district have volunteered to serve on the District Youth Council for the upcoming year. Those youth will be announced in the next newsletter.

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, District Youth Director



Conference Relationship Change

For those seeking a change in conference relationship for 2003, application packets are available after July 15. Request in writing by email or mail to the Office of Ministerial Services the packet for any of the following:

- Ordination and Full Membership (as deacon or elder)
- Probationary Membership
- Associate Membership
- Professional Certification.

Include in your request the specific packet you are requesting and your preferred mailing address.

Office of Ministerial Services, P. O. Box 11367,
Richmond, VA 23230 or BethDowns@vaumc.org.

WANTED

A Director of Youth and College Ministry for Trinity United Methodist Church, Lexington, Virginia is needed. The position is available immediately. Send resumes with references or direct inquires to:

Trinity United Methodist Church
147 South Main Street
Lexington, VA 24450
(540) 463-4063
E-Mail: stanleyt@vt.edu



***Two marks of a Christian: giving and forgiving.**

Looking For Organist Position

If you are looking for an Organist, Jeanean Dearman Lewis will be moving to this area from Henderson, NV the first part of June. She has had a great deal of experience. If you would like to have a copy of her resume, please contact the District Office. If you would like to contact her directly, you may call her son, Mike Keaton, at 540-248-2331.



What Will I Do Now?

A Journey of the Heart

This step on the journey is an opportunity to examine God's call in our lives as individuals and churches. What will we do with what we have and who we are? Come and join in the journey with other followers of Christ and leaders in the church as we wrestle with God's call and seek God's blessing. The issue is stewardship—management of the resources God has entrusted to us.

The Board of Laity of the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church sponsors this Stewardship Workshop. Rev. Herb Mather will be the Workshop Leader. He is the director of Stewardship for the General Board of Discipleship of the UMC in Nashville. The Workshop will be held on July 12 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Heritage UMC in Lynchburg; on July 13 from 9:30-11:30 a.m. at Front Royal UMC and at Culmore UMC in Arlington from 3:00-5:00 p.m.; and on July 14 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. at Main Street UMC in Suffolk and at Epworth UMC in Exmore from 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Who should attend? All disciples of Christ who want to gain a deeper, more comprehensive understanding of what Lifestyle Giving is all about. Are you willing to be challenged, a challenge that focuses on discipleship, change and commitment? Are you ready to take God seriously? The Board of Laity encourages local church Chairs of Stewardship, Finance, Trustees, Discipleship, Council/Board and Lay Leaders to attend.

The workshop is free. However, you are encouraged to purchase and read Herb Mather's book, *Don't Shoot the Horse ('Til You Know How To Drive The Tractor)*, available through Discipleship Resources (800) 685-4370.

If you have questions or need information, call Robin Powell at 540-942-9355.

This is a man you can trust

You can't trust a man who has no music in his soul. A banker will ask how much security a man can give before he will trust him. But here's a new test of a man's character that is very good: He may have on a greasy hat, or the seat of his trousers may be shiny, but if his children have their noses flattened against the windowpane a half hour before he is due home for supper, he can be trusted.



--Herbert V. Prochnow in

A Treasurer Chest of Quotations

CONGRATULATION!!

We celebrate with Kathy Washington, our District Superintendent's wife, who will retire from 32 years of teaching. She has taught in Virginia for 22 years, the last 5 in Augusta County at Riverheads Elementary.



Our Congratulations Goes To:

Rev. Stephanie Wilson – She will be ordained an Elder at Annual Conference.

Rev. William Freeman – He will be ordained a Probationary Member at Annual Conference.

Rev. Charles Gregory – He received his Full Time Local Pastor's License.

A SONG IN MY MINISTRY

As the clock winds down and retirement looms many rambling thoughts come to mind.



When I first considered the ministry in my mid-teens I was sure that I was not worthy. Sure I could tell the story but ... live the life? Get real! That's the argument that went on for nearly 40 years. Then I heard a minister say that if you consider yourself worthy, God cannot use you, you would feel that you did everything. What a revelation!

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

Return Service Requested

I started rereading the Bible about the saints, women and men. You know what... they weren't worthy either. They were liars, cheats, murderers, adulterers and the charges go on. I then heard the song: "You Are Worthy."

What a blessing. I could tell the story and have a much better life. I could help people and found that I was blessed more as I tried to bless others.

I cannot sing but my ministry is blessed and led by the lyrics of the songs of the church: the old, the new, the borrowed and the blue.

The people of the church have taught me more than I could ever teach them.

My life hasn't been a rose garden, but it has bloomed into a wonderful life. I am learning to love, to live and to make myself available. I am especially blessed by each of the churches I have served. Each has had a different lesson for me. Some I learned rather easily, some I am still trying to fathom.

If you remain humble and obedient, God will find a way to take you from where you are to where he wants you to be. That's God's "Amazing Grace" in action.

In retirement I remain open to "The Lord of The Dance" and when I hear the question, "Whom Shall I Send?" my hand will immediately go up.

In retirement as I go out to pastor and the phone rings with a superintendent or pastor in need of a helping hand, I plan to continue to "hold your (God's) people in my heart." Call.

Robert E. Maas

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"And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them."

Mark 10:16