

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*

July 2002

Dates To Remember



July 4
Independence Day
District Office Closed

July 15 at 1:00 p.m.
District Council on Ministries
Fishersville UMC

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

August 20 at 7:00 p.m.
District Stewards Meeting

however, reminds us of the God of our faith and refuge. I join you in seeking to build a strong foundation of faith that will sustain all of God's people.

In Christ,
Alton M. Washington



PLEASE NOTE: The Conference Offices are moving to their new location on August 14th. Please note the following changes:

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1719
Glen Allen, VA 23060

Physical Address: 10330 Staples Mill Road
Glen Allen, VA 23060

Main Phone Number: (804) 521-1100

800 Number: (800) 768-6040 (This number will remain the same.)



From The District Superintendent:

Will it happen again? How will it happen? How safe are we? Can we protect ourselves? These questions of uncertainty and many others like them have formed the basis of an uncomfortable reality since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. The news media energize our concerns with

threatening reports of what might possibly happen, and our unreadiness to cope with it.

What defenses or assurances do people of faith have to rebut such uncertainties in life, and enable us to live victoriously in spite of them? Before we answer this question we need to be reminded that terrorism is not the only threat to our livelihood. Illness, untimely death, divorce, broken friendships, disappointments from children and loss of employment are only a few other possible life traumas. How well we survive them depends greatly upon the foundation of our faith. Consistent faith-building techniques are an essential part of our spiritual discipline. These include: a faithful prayer life and intentional daily devotions which keep us in touch with God; regular worship where we can share in faith-building with others; reading of Scriptures; the development of a positive lifestyle in recognition of the needs of others rather than just our own gratification. The practice of such disciplines enables us to develop trust in the God of life rather than to fear the storms of life. Genesis 6:11 reminds us that corruption, violence and fear are nothing new in human history. Psalm 46,

Welcome

New Appointments

It is with great joy that we announce the new pastoral appointments on the Staunton District. May our prayers be with all of them and their families and the churches as they begin a new adventure in faith together. The new appointments are: Mr. Lester Kennedy, III – Augusta Springs UMC; Rev. Calvin Griffin – Collierstown-Mt. Horeb; Rev. Michael Copeland – Granbery Memorial UMC; Rev. Bill E. Hinton – Marvin UMC; Rev. Michael O. Sullivan – Monterey Charge; Rev. Douglas Hollenbeck – Mt. Carmel UMC; Rev. David Brown – Potts Valley Charge; Rev. Tommy Long – Randolph Street UMC; Rev. Steven Greer – St. John's UMC (Staunton); Rev. David Taylor – St. Mark's UMC; Rev. Stanley Pigue – Trinity UMC; and Rev. Russell Gresham, who will remain on the District but serve another appointment – Epworth UMC.



Link With The Laity

As I sit writing this, the temperature seems to be rising faster than I can think. My mind drifts back to childhood, to a farmhouse whose windows are opened wide hoping to draw in even the slightest whisper of a breeze. Hot summer days – days of pea-pickin', sheets blowing on the line, making jams and jellies, and churning ice cream on Sundays -

sounds kind of like Norman Rockwell, yes? Well, it was my childhood on the farm.

And with that childhood comes one other special memory; supptime. Every evening mom would set a lavish spread for us of meat, potatoes, fresh tomatoes, corn, cucumbers-in-onions, hot rolls and some type of fruit or dessert. I'd say it was enough to feed a small army!

Invariably, there was always someone who was helping on the farm that would be invited to stay. Then there were those who would 'pop in' unannounced and were welcomed to eat with us. Sometimes they were family, friends, neighbors or even strangers. All were welcome.

Yes, my mother read the Bible to us but her best 'reading' came through the daily living and demonstrations. Jesus did the same as he told stories or parables. Particularly intriguing is the one on preparing a banquet. One by one as they were invited, family, friends, neighbors begged off with excuse after excuse. How often do we do the same in our churches? Do you ever hear: 'It's not my responsibility,' 'I've already done my part,' 'We've never...(you fill in the spaces),' 'We can hardly afford what we have to pay now.'

Just think! Those who had the means, had the understanding, and were in the position to accept shrugged it off as merely another obligation or chore to be sidestepped if at all possible.

Then the master sends his servants to "compel" those on the fringes—the outcast, the poor, and the forgotten – to come as they were. It doesn't say how many came, but I expect the banquet hall was overflowing and not one excuse!

Friends, our world, our communities, our neighborhoods are full of spiritually empty and hungry people. God is asking us to prepare the banquet, that is our physical structures, our Sunday Schools, our outreach programs, etc. so we're ready to meet the needs. And...THEN... we are to go out, not sit and wait, and 'compel' the least, the lost and the lonely to come.

As you prepare for fall programming or setting your budget for 2003, stop and reflect on your goals. Are your plans/budget set on maintenance mode – taking care of the building – or are they mission-minded – setting the table, filling it, and seeking those who might partake.

Growing up I used to lament to my mom and anyone who would listen that I was "simply a poor daughter." Then by example my mother taught me how rich I was, how blessed I was, and most importantly how to share those riches and blessings so all felt welcomed, nourished and full.

Thank you God for such a special mom!

Shalom,
Robin Powell,
District Lay Leader

***Do you wish to be free? Then above things, love God, love your neighbor, love one another, love the commonwealth; then you will have true liberty.**

--Savonarola

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

My retirement from the United Methodist Church became effective June 26, 2002. I served as a full-time local pastor for seven years, all in the Staunton District. The first four years were at Potts Valley Charge in Covington, VA (four-point charge) and the last three years were at Epworth UMC, Selma, VA.



Everyone on the Staunton District was very supportive and affirming. My yearly interviews with the Ordained Ministry Board were refreshing experiences. The board members encouraged me, affirmed me, and prayed for my ministry and me. District Superintendents Jim Holloman and Alton Washington were always there when I needed their assistance and guidance. My seven years in the Staunton District will always be a positive influence on the remainder of my life.

The people in the congregations I was privileged to serve treated Reva and me with respect, dignity, and showered us with love beyond our expectations. We respected the people and worked hard at letting them know we cared about them and their families. Our relationship with these congregations will also be a positive influence on the remainder of our lives.

Reva and I are retired from being a pastor family, but not from being ministers for God. We are visiting different UMCs seeking God's guidance as to where He can best use us. I pray I will have an opportunity to preach frequently and have the opportunity to work as a teacher's aid in the public school system. Our new address is: 260 I James Church Road, Mocksville, NC 27028 (this is between Winston-Salem and Statesville on I-40). Our new phone number is (366) 492-5838. E-Mail address is JKERMITM@aol.com. Would love to have company from our Staunton District friends.

Your Brother and Sister in Christ,
Kermit and Reva Meadows



Lay Speaking Ministries Basic Course of Study To Be Presented

The District Council on Ministries Committee on Worship will be presenting the Basic Course of Study October 5-6, 2002 for all Youth and Adults, men and women, who desire to be a part of the Lay Speaking Ministries program.

The Study will be presented at the Parrish Court United Methodist Church, Covington, on Saturday, October 5, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and on Sunday, October 6, from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.

A minimum of a 10-hour course is required to receive a Basic Study Certificate.

The cost will be \$20.00, which will cover the cost of the Basic Course of Study book (required reading); lunch (and snacks) and child care for ages 2-5 years old.

Hopefully local churches and/or United Methodist Men will sponsor someone in their church that feels

called to this lay ministry. Remember, this is NOT just about speaking – it is about Leading His Church—Caring for His People—Communicating Our Faith. Our mission is...To equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. Ephesians 4:12

Registration forms will be at the local church soon. Contact the District Office, Richard Benninghove (942-1401) or Dan T. Jones 862-1138 for further information. The August newsletter will have more details.

Be in prayer for those whom God is calling that they will respond, "Here am I send me..."

DISTRICT YOUTH NEWS

(see web site: stauntondistrict.tripod.com)

Youth Service Fund Sunday – If your Church held a Youth Service Fund Sunday in May or had a special YSF offering, please contact me with the details. We want to report all Staunton District churches' contributions to YSF in next month's newsletter. Please contact Steve Joplin at 886-9367 or steve.Joplin@hollister.com.

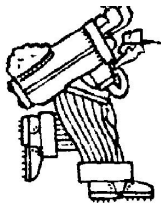
VUMDYLA – Several District Youth and adults will be attending Virginia United Methodist District Youth Leaders Assembly at Blackstone, VA, from 1:00 PM Thursday, July 11, thru Noon, Saturday, July 14 – an AWESOME EVENT. This is a great opportunity to glean new ideas from other districts, to plan our upcoming year, and experience inspiring worship. Come also to learn more about CCYM opportunities for youth in leadership. The district pays for the first 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.

YSF – For those coming to VUMDYLA please remember to collect and bring your collection (in coins) for Youth Service Fund district offering. The YSF is a unique ministry of the United Methodist Youth where the funds are raised by youth, administered by youth, spent by youth, to benefit youth. Through the YSF, youth are able to be the disciples God calls us all to be, regardless of age. YSF is helping our brothers and sisters who are in need all over this state, country and world. The money we raise for YSF is sent to our Conference Council on Youth Ministry and is added together with monies raised from other churches in the Virginia Conference. (Virginia Conference placed 2nd in YSF giving, out of 65 conferences nationwide in 2001.)

Jr. High Mission – A weekend mission experience for 6th thru 9th graders, which features local mission projects as well as worship, devotion, singing, and more! August 17th - 19th, Location: Westview on the James, Cost: \$55, For registration contact: Youth Ministries at 800-768-6040 #308

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



GOLF TOURNAMENT to benefit the Wesley Foundation, Friday, August 9, at 9:00 a.m., at Heritage Oaks Golf Course, Harrisonburg. Cost is \$75 per person, which includes greens fee, cart, lunch and favors. The format is captain's choice. You can sign up as an individual or a four-person team. Please call the Wesley Foundation for more details and registration, 434-3490 or email: burksbd@jmu.edu.

United Methodist Men's News

Rev. Arthur L. Wolz, Jr. was presented with the G. Ross Freeman Leadership Award during the Virginia Annual Conference. The award is a way to recognize leadership among UMMen in the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference. At the UMMen breakfast meeting during the Annual Conference **Rev. John Jones, Jr.**, Pastor of Christ UMC in Covington, was recognized as one of two other Conference nominees for the award. Our congratulations and thanks go out to Rev. Jones for his leadership and support of UMMen.

July 20 – Staunton District UMMen Board Meeting. This meeting will be open to all UMMen in the District. The meeting will be held at Ashwood UMC in Bath County. Coffee will be served beginning at 9:30 a.m. The meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. During the meeting spouses will be given a mini-tour of Bath County. Following the meeting we will eat lunch (Dutch Treat) at the Homestead. After lunch we will have a guided tour of The Homestead facility. Spouses will join us for lunch and the Homestead tour. More information is being forwarded to your local President or Pastor. Reservations are required. Please plan to join us for this day of fellowship and fun.

July 18 and August 15 – UMMen Day at Camp Rainbow Connection at Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center.
September 2002 – UMMen District Fall Rally.



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

***Freedom is baffling: [People] having it often know not they have it till it is gone and they no longer have it.**

--Carl Sandburg



--Our Daily Bread

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Let us draw
near to God with
a sincere heart in
full assurance
of faith...



Hebrews 10:22