

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*

September 2002

Dates To Remember



September

September 2
**Labor Day - District and
Conference Offices Closed**

September 8
“Remembering 9/11 Sunday”

September 10 at 9:30 a.m.
**Ministers and Spouses Meeting
Parrish Court UMC, Covington**

September 14
**UMW Annual Meeting
Granbery Memorial UMC, Covington**

September 16 at 1:00 p.m.
District Council on Ministries - Fishersville UMC

September 21 5:00-11:00 p.m.
**District Youth – Back To School Bash
Central UMC, Staunton**

October 5-6
**Lay Speaker Basic Course of Study
Parrish Court UMC, Covington**

October 18-20
“Discover God’s Call” Event - VUMAC

October 20 at 4:00 p.m.
**Consecration of the new Conference Center
10330 Staples Mill Road, Richmond**

October 29-30
**Church Staff Retreat - Holiday Inn, Koger South
Conference Center, Richmond**

November 16 1:00 – 4:30 p.m.
**Staunton District Conference
District Laity Training - Central UMC, Staunton**



From the District Superintendent:

I will admit up front that I am not much of a shopper, and when I do go shopping for something I need, I am a bargain hunter. Seldom, if ever, will I purchase a shirt or other clothing unless it is on sale. I have disciplined myself to be patient enough to wait for a good sale. I suspect that most of us like the “more for less” syndrome when it comes to purchasing material items. We feel good when we feel that we received more than we paid for.

While bargain hunting is a good practice in the material world, it is not a good concept in matters of our faith and Christian commitment. There are no bargains when it comes to offering our prayers, our presence, our gifts and our service in an effort to uphold and support the church and its ministries. We cannot afford to shop around to see what is available, easy or less costly when we commit ourselves to Jesus Christ. It is always wise, nevertheless, to count the cost of discipleship and Christian service. How much of my property am I willing to devote to it? How much time am I willing to commit to a position I am asked to serve? How much will I give during the next year for the church budget as it seeks to fund ministry and maintain property? As we seek to make our decision, it might appear to call for more personal faith than we had in mind. Some people want a small comfortable faith, so long as it does not cost too much to commit to it. Jesus counted the cost of our very souls when he committed himself to the cross of Calvary. We are still precious in his sight. When he prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane, “Nevertheless, not my will but your will be done . . .” He totally committed himself to God on our behalf. Can we do any less as we commit ourselves to serve Christ and his church?

In a few weeks you will be asked to make some kind of commitment to your church; some will be asked to serve on boards and committees; everyone will be asked to make a financial commitment to the ministries of your church. How much of yourself will you give? Giving, or surrendering ourselves and our gifts is an essential spiritual discipline. It is difficult to give up something that is most dear to us, including our time. Yet by relinquishing what we “own,” we become free to accept more of what God offers us. Remember that whatever we surrender to God, God returns to us a hundredfold!!! That is not a bargain, that’s just the very nature of the God we serve. Let us serve and give faithfully to our God. Amen.

In Christ,
Alton M. Washington



Covington area.

**Our Deepest Sympathy Is Extended
To: Rev. James Mays and his family
on the death of his wife Gladys. Rev.
Mays is a retired minister from the**

Congregational Call To Remember 9-11

I am asking every congregation in the Virginia Conference to remember 9-11 on Sunday, September 8, 2002. This can be a time for us, as believers, to reflect on the cause and power of evil in all of its destructive forms. It is also a time for us to proclaim what the resurrection has to say about the power of love over death. Furthermore, we would be profoundly remiss if we did not pray earnestly for all who have lost loved ones, for all national and international leaders who are using every effort to bring about peace with justice, and for every man, woman and child who is now in harm's way.

Please go on line at umns.umc.org/dailynews.html and refer to #338 – "United Methodists will mark September 11 in variety of ways." This article is dated August 1, 2002. These resources will be helpful to your thinking and planning.

Services of healing and wholeness need to be offered by the people called Methodist. –Bishop Joe Pennel, Jr.



150th Homecoming Celebration

"You are invited to the Fletcher Chapel 150th Homecoming Celebration which will be held on Sunday, September 8th. Bishop Joe E. Pennel, Bishop of the Virginia Conference, will be the guest preacher. After the service at

11:00 a.m., there will be a Fellowship Meal in the Fellowship Hall and yard. Also that afternoon "The Announcers," a gospel group, will be presenting a concert from 3:00-4:30 p.m. at the church. This is a day you won't want to miss! Directions to Fletcher Chapel (Callaghan Charge): Going west on I-64 passed Covington, take Exit 10; turn left at the stop sign onto 159 South. Go approximately 1 mile and turn right on Fletcher's Chapel Road. Church is about 300 yards on the left. Fellowship Hall across the road. For more information contact Rev. Jeane Dunkum, Pastor by calling 540-962-4092 or email Revmomj@aol.com."

Shampoo Needed

The Kingsway Prison Ministries have requested from the Staunton District UMW 300-500 bottles of shampoo. Due to prison security the bottles must be a certain brand and size. They are asking for 15 oz. Suave Clarifying Shampoo. It must be this kind.

It was felt that some Sunday School Classes would like to participate. We will collect the shampoo at the Staunton District UMW Annual Meeting on September 14th at Granbery Memorial UMC in Covington. If this is not convenient there will be a box at the District Office in Fishersville. We would like to deliver this no later than October 1st.

Thank you,
Staunton District UMW



***Keep the Faith – but not to yourself!**

Casa de Amistad

Please pray for the Virginia Conference Hispanic Ministries Task Force. We will be meeting September 27-28 for a visioning session. Pray that God will guide us in the process and use us as instruments to bless His people. Our task is difficult as we are dealing with issues such as immigration status, lack of education, and low incomes. Dios les bendiga (God bless you),

Becky Lewis



NBC's "Today" Show To Air UMC Commercials

NBC-TV will air a special United Methodist Church commercial twice on September 11 during the "Today" show coverage of the first anniversary of the national tragedy of September 11, 2001. The name of the spot is "Amen." In addition to the NBC-TV time purchased, additional commercials from Igniting Ministry's "Diversity," "Daughter Sleeping," "Rain" and "Love Letters" expressions will air Wednesday-Saturday, September 4-30 on 17 national cable networks and NBC broadcast. A full schedule of the national TV spots can be viewed online: www.ignitingministry.org.

Looking for an Idea for an Adult Study Class or Special Program?



One approach for a special program, or a short series for an adult study, is to look at what our faith says in relation to a current subject of much debate in our society.

One example, which is being much discussed in the secular press in Virginia and nationally, and which our Annual Conference has recommended that every congregation study, is the death penalty: As people of faith, should we support or oppose the death penalty? What implications does our answer to that question have for our witness in society?

To help local church groups examine this issue, a study guide designed for Virginia United Methodists is now available: "The Death Penalty and United Methodists in Virginia." This resource provides an in-depth look at the Virginia context, with biblical, historical, theological and ethical reflections, and real life stories, plus official statements from various denominations on the death penalty and a bibliography of print and visual resources. It also provides brief lesson plans, and is available from the Cokesbury Bookstores in Richmond, Blackstone and Alexandria (not Nashville) for \$8.00 plus postage and handling. A slightly revised and updated version, "Capital Punishment: A Faith-Based Study," with a slightly shorter text but with a separate leader's guide, is being published by Abingdon Press for wider use and will be available from any Cokesbury Bookstore by mid-September.

Also, two persons in the Staunton District are available to speak at an event on the death penalty, or lead a study group using the above resource: Anita Billingsley and Hunter Mabry. Anita is well known on our District, having served

in many capacities in both the District and the Virginia Conference and also as a delegate to General Conference. Hunter was originally from our District. After his B.D. studies, Hunter served as a missionary in the Philippines for five years, took his Ph.D. in Christian Social Ethics at Boston University School of Theology, and then taught for 25 years at the United Theological Seminary in Bangalore, India. Both Anita and Hunter have a deep concern about the relationship between our Christian faith and justice issues such as the death penalty. If you would like to invite either of them, they may be contacted as follows: Anita Billingsley, Box 160, Monterey, VA 24465-0160; 540/468-2425; <garanith@intelos.net>; Hunter Mabry, 2315 Davis Road, Waynesboro, VA 22980-2011; 540/943-5682; <mabry@cfw.com>. It is hoped that an inviting church would be able to cover travel, but if that is a problem they will try to find resources from elsewhere.



VHS Available: The Council on Ministries report to Annual Conference was well received, and many requests were made asking for copies of that report. After considering all possibilities, it was decided that videos of the presentation would be made and distributed to each district for use by local churches. This video is now available for your use.

United Methodist Women News

The United Methodist Women have been busy planning the activities for 2003. We held our planning retreat at Camp Overlook once again this year. The calendar will be published in the "The Informer."



Please remember that our Annual Meeting this year is to be at Granbery United Methodist Church in Covington on September 14. Registration will begin at 9:30 a.m. and lunch will be served at a cost of \$5.00. Carol Gaston, our Conference President, will be our speaker. Please plan now to attend, and do not forget to send in your reports!!

The Fall Focus on Missions will be held at St. John's UMC in Buena Vista on October 6. This will begin at 3:00 p.m. This is for all people, not just the women.

The Conference Annual Meeting will be at VUMAC on October 25-27.

May Christ be with each of you as we end a very busy summer and prepare to serve Him in new ways during the coming months.

Serving together,
Doris Hedrick, District President



United Methodist Men's News

September 26 – UMMen District Fall Rally 2002. The annual Rally will be held at Fishersville UMC. The Rally will begin with Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Guest speaker will be John Reeves, Virginia Conference President of UMM. Matthew Stephens will entertain us on the piano. Matthew is an exceptionally talented young member of Fishersville UMC. Doug Stevenson from Asbury UMC

will sing. Cost is \$11.00 for individuals or \$20.00 for couples. Come; join men from across the District in an evening of fellowship. See your UMMen President or Pastor for tickets. Ticket deadline is September 16. For additional information or tickets call 540-464-1496.

October 26 – Staunton District Board meeting, location to be announced.

November 1-3 – UMMen Spiritual Retreat. There has been much enthusiasm and demand for a return engagement of the Rev. Chris Buskirk to the annual UMMen's Spiritual Retreat in Blackstone. Those present in 1999 to hear Rev. Buskirk will recall his illuminating evangelistic style, and were filled with a renewed spiritual energy that helped carry them through the demands of daily living. For those not present, they missed a great preacher at work ... Blackstone is the place for all men to be the first weekend in November! Calling all Fathers! The 2002 Spiritual Retreat is the place for you and your son, or sons, to hear Rev. Buskirk speak, and to be together to receive the joy and blessing of Christian living. Men should make plans now to attend this year's Spiritual Retreat, November 1-3, at the Assembly Center in Blackstone to hear Rev. Buskirk's five interrelated and highly motivational messages built around the theme, *Spiritual Conditioning for Meeting the Challenges of Life*. For more information and registration form, contact your local President or Pastor or contact Earl Cash, President, Staunton District UMMen at 540-464-1496 or by email: earlc@cfw.com. Attention church leaders and planners: Please do not schedule a major church event during the November 1-3 weekend; instead, encourage the men of your church to attend the UMMen Spiritual Retreat in Blackstone.



DISTRICT YOUTH NEWS

(web site: stauntondistrict.tripod.com)

Back To School Bash – Saturday, September 21, 5:00-11:00 p.m. at Central UMC, Staunton. Bring a friend for fun, games, food, fellowship, worship, DJ and dance! Bring \$5.00 and a snack. We'll have pizza for dinner. Looking forward to seeing you all there!!! Contact: Beth Blackmer 885-7762 or Terry Rohr 885-6104.

Try and Keep Up with Staunton District Youth on Mission – Mint Spring Youth had a busy summer of service. Senior High Youth traveled to Altamont, TN from June 22-29 to participate in "Mountain T.O.P. (Tennessee Outreach Project)," a mission experience serving needy folks in rural Appalachia. Junior High Youth returned to Winchester, VA July 21-27 to participate in the "Jeremiah Project," an awesome mission experience specifically for Junior High Youth. Mint Spring's JP team from last year had a great time sharing God's love through hard work and getting to know God better through awesome times of worship and fellowship. We also are planning a local missions project for our entire youth group in early September. --Renee Ross. Marquis Memorial Youth delivered meals on wheels the first Fridays of July and August. We delivered about 12 -15 meals in the Staunton area. --Terry Rohr. The

Cherryvale Youth Group, along with other area children and youth, held a concert entitled "Kids Helping Kids" on August 17 to benefit a local 4 year old child with Met achromatic Leukodystrophy, a disease that is usually fatal. Medical costs and cost of positioning equipment can be staggering, and the family really could use some help from their community. Children and youth are giving of their time and talent toward this great cause. We raised \$798.02.....and it was a FANTASTIC concert! --Brenda Hamilton. The Senior High Youth from Calvary, Stuarts Draft became the "Freedom Trail" mission team July 6-13 as they traveled to Boston. Working at a variety of UM mission projects, exploring Boston and the roots of American freedom and our UM heritage. Middle School Youth went to Westview on the James in August and served the needy by painting and cleaning homes of the needy in Goochland County. --Jan Failes. Fishersville Youth served in local mission projects in the Staunton District. --Marie Weiss. Greenville Youth served a needy residence of Goochland County in August at the Middle School Missions at Westview on the James. We replaced siding, painted part of a house, stained a porch swing, installed a brand new rain gutter on the house, mowed lawn and had a good visit with the owner. --Steve Joplin. Once again this year, Christ, Staunton sent a mission team to Project Crossroads in Marion, Virginia. A team of fourteen youth and adults camped out in the fellowship hall of Davis Memorial UMC in Adkins. We spent the week with one family, a mother, father, and three young children. We replaced their roof, scrubbed their deck and front porch with a solution of half bleach, half creek water, and then sealed the porches. We fixed some minor plumbing leaks and replaced plasterboard that had fallen from the living room ceiling. We found a lawnmower and cleaned their yard and mowed (three times). We went to the local Wal-Mart and filled three backpacks with school supplies individualized

for each child, and we gave the parents a gift certificate to use for what they needed. We enjoyed a busy full week, and we gave a lot. But, I can't explain what we brought back. It must be like visiting heaven, or at least being completely at home on the mountaintop. If heaven is in Marion, I can't wait until next year! --Kim Burns

Youth Workers Workshop – Youth Workers Workshop entitled “Transforming Your Youth Ministry,” Sunday, September 29, 3:00–5:00 p.m., Speaker: Barry St. Clair, Location: Cornerstone of Augusta Church, Fishersville. An event for all youth workers and pastors. No cost.

Transformation 2002 Youth Gathering – 7:00 p.m., Sunday, September 29, Speaker: Barry St. Clair, ReachOut Ministries, Location: Expo, Fishersville, Praise & Worship led by “Ninth Hour”, Jerusalem Chapel Youth. No cost.

Youth Groups Working to Provide Free Concert – Twenty youth groups are needed to raise \$335 each to bring SONICFLOOD to EXPO on September 30, 2002 to make this a free concert for the purpose of winning other youth to Christ! 16 groups have already enthusiastically committed to do this! What a wonderful way to realize the power of unity in the Body of Christ and reach out to others! If your youth group or organization would like to be part of this team, call Brian Shirley at 943-2001.

Transformation 2002 Youth Gathering – 7:00 p.m., Monday, September 30, Concert: SONICFLOOD, Praise and Worship: “Ninth Hour,” Jerusalem Chapel Youth. Location: Expo, Fishersville. No cost. You can download the Transformation 2002 Poster at www.solidrockcafe.org *Jeremiah 18:4-6* ⁴ *But the pot he was shaping from the clay was marred in his hands; so the potter formed it into another pot, shaping it as seemed best to him.* ⁵ *Then the word of the Lord came to me: ⁶ "O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter does?" declares the Lord. "Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel.* --Steve Joplin

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

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We continually remember
before our God
and Father
your work
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by faith...

1 Thessalonians 1:3

