

THE STAUNTON DISTRICT VOICE

*"We envision churches where all God's people are welcomed at table,
nurtured and transformed to be Christ to others in the world."*

(Virginia Conference Vision Statement)

P. O. Box 1048, Fishersville, VA 22939; Phone: 932-1055

October 2002

Dates To Remember



**October 1 at 9:30 a.m.
Ministers and Spouses
Meeting
Randolph Street UMC**

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

**October 6
World Communion Sunday**

**October 6 at 2:00 p.m.
District Board of Missions Meeting
St. John's UMC, Buena Vista**

**October 6 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.
Fall Focus on Missions
St. John's UMC, Buena Vista**

**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 4 at 1:00 p.m.
District Council on Ministries
Fishersville UMC**

**November 16 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.
Staunton District Conference
District Laity Training
Central UMC, Staunton**



**Our Deepest Sympathy Is Extended
To: Rev. & Mrs. Douglas Hollenbeck**
on the death of her father, Gordon
Purchell. The Hollenbecks serve Mt.

Carmel UMC.

Rev. & Mrs. Bill Hinton on the death of her sister,
Sue McCarty. The Hintons serve Marvin UMC.

From The District Superintendent:



Having grown up in a rural area, I was afforded the wonderful opportunity to observe, first hand, the changing of the seasons each year. Without failure, spring and summer always emerged with newness of life, hope, growth and production. We see these metaphors of God's creation in the vast variety of the vines, plants and trees which yield in great abundance the foods, medicines and other resources we need for existence. In the fall, following seasons of growth and production, many of the plants and vines quietly and humbly submit to the emergence of fall, having reproduced their own kind for prosperity. On the other hand many of the trees celebrate the oncoming of fall in colorful splendor, as if to give praise to God for allowing them to be productive for another year. During the dormant winter they stand in majestic hope that spring will come again, and it does.

Through the years I have come to appreciate the fall season as a personal time of praise and adoration. It is the time of harvest, a time of realizing the persistent providence of God year after year. The realization of this energizes the deep need within me to give back to God. I give, not because the church needs my gifts; rather, I give out of my need to keep my faith in God alive; to keep my faith productive and yielding.

In fact, we all have that need. We need to yield not only our monetary gifts, but also our time, our presence and our prayers for the glory of God. It is through our giving that the images of God's presence in us emerges and becomes useful witness through our service to humankind in the name of God during all seasons of life.

As your church calls upon you to give your gifts, your service, your presence, your talents and your prayers, consider each asking as an opportunity to keep

your faith in God alive and productive. Even during momentary times of dormancy, God will offer you hope for newness of life. As in the changing of the seasons, spring always comes.

In Christ,
Alton



UMVIM Team Leader Training Event

Once each year, a United Methodist Volunteer In Mission (UMVIM) Team Leader Training Event is held for all those interested in possibly leading a future mission team. It is a one-day event, held this year on Saturday, November 16, at Lakeside UMC in Richmond, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Lunch will be provided, but registration is required. A registration form is available on the Conference UMVIM website at www.vaumc.org/umvim/ or through the Conference missions office at 1-800-768-6040, extension 144.

There is no charge for this event, but a Team Leader Manual is required and is available through information contained on the Conference UMVIM website or by contacting the Southeastern Jurisdiction UMVIM office at (404) 377-7424. The cost of the manual is \$23.95, including shipping.

There is no obligation to be a team leader after taking the course. Former team leaders are also invited to get new information about UMVIM and for a refresher course. Former team leaders often share their experiences with new team leaders at this training event.

Conference rules stipulate that all new team leaders must have served on a mission team, and they must have also attended Team Leader Training. This is the only such event until 2003.

If there are any questions, contact the Conference Coordinator for United Methodist Volunteers In Mission, Kip Robinson, at Krobin7856@aol.com or (804) 264-7856.

National Donor Sabbath

Organ and Tissue Donor Sunday, a new United Methodist special Sunday observed as part of the **National Donor Sabbath**, will be on November 17. The United Methodist Church says:

We believe that organ transplantation and organ donation are acts of charity, agape love, and self-sacrifice. We recognize the life-giving benefits of organ and other tissue donation and encourage all people of faith to become organ and tissue donors as a part of their love and ministry to others in need. We



urge that it be done in an environment of respect for deceased and living donors and for the benefit of the recipients, and following protocols that carefully prevent abuse to donors and their families.

Give the gift of Life - As of August 1, 2002, more than 80,000 men, women and children were on the organ transplant waiting list. Donation and transplantation saves lives, yet the need for organs far exceeds the supply. In 2001, an average of 66 people each day received a transplant--totaling more than 24,000 organ transplants. Yet, thousands more critically ill individuals could have been helped if more organs were available. Each day 17 people die, on average, because a healthy organ that could have replaced a failing heart, kidney, liver, lung, or pancreas is not available. Please consider being a donor.



Tour England - Land of Wesley Sponsored by Virginia Wesleyan College In Celebration of the 300th Anniversary of John Wesley's Birth

8 days/7 nights - April 23-30, 2003

Travel to places that influenced John Wesley's life and ministry, as well as significant sites of his time. Selected sites include: Epworth Rectory, birthplace of John and Charles Wesley; St. Andrews Parish; Lincoln and Christ Colleges; New Room - Wesley's first chapel; Wesley's Chapel, house and burial place and the site of his Aldersgate conversion in London; Kingswood and Charterhouse Schools; Francis Asbury and Charles Wesley's homes...AND MUCH MORE ...including visits to Stonehenge and Bath; a performance by the Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford-on-Avon, sightseeing in London, and a London theatrical performance.

The all-inclusive per person price for a minimum group of 20 is \$2,099, based on double occupancy. For more information and a brochure, contact Ann Shappell, director of church relations, Virginia Wesleyan College, (757) 455-3287; apshappell@vwc.edu.

Country Ham and Turkey Buffet

Saturday, October 26th

Starting at 4:00 p.m.

Adults - \$8.00

Children 6-12 - \$4.00

Under 6 - Free

St. Paul's UMC, Craigsville



***Attempt something so great for God that it is doomed to failure unless God be in it. -Randy Pope**

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."



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

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 United Methodist Men's Spiritual Retreat at Blackstone, November 1-3. 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 e-mail earlc@cfw.com.

Will it really matter five years down the road?

That's a good question to ask when you're bothered by a traffic jam or an argument. Don't allow minor setbacks or concerns to get in the way of your concentrating on what's important. Set your hearts (and minds) on things above! —Church of St. Anne

DISTRICT YOUTH NEWS

(web site:

stauntondistrict.tripod.com)

Back To School Bash - Thank each and every youth and adult



that helped make this year's event the biggest and best yet. Special thanks to Beth Blackmer and the youth hosts at Central UMC! We had over 100 attendees at the "Back to School Bash" held Saturday, September 21, at Central UMC, Staunton. This was a significant event for the Staunton District Youth and for Jesus! God is moving and working through the Youth of the Staunton District. Somebody must be praying!!!

Churches: We had 29 different churches represented, 18 of these churches were United Methodist, and 11 were from other denominations. These numbers tell me that the Staunton District Youth are reaching out and inviting others. Also, that the word is getting out to other Staunton District UMC churches about District Youth events. Thank you and Praise God! **Attendees:** 100 plus total attendees, 16 attendees were from non-UMC churches – Youth reaching out to Youth, 4 attendees were in-between churches or claimed no current church – perhaps the most important number. Youth reaching out to the unchurched, unsaved Youth, providing a welcome, fun, open door to see Jesus. 31 attendees were from the Lexington/Covington area - WOW!! Great support from these folks!!!

Keep praying for the Youth of the Staunton District.

Staunton District Youth are truly living up to their 2002-2003 STATEMENT: "We are the youth and choose to follow the Lord in our faith, actions and devotions by always being willing to change in order to grow closer to Jesus."

United Nations Seminar – Staunton District Youth, Rebekah Rigg, Parrish Court and Brian Sarbin, Calvary are planning to attend the United Nations Seminar October 15–20 – A learning experience for 11th and 12th graders. This trip focuses on a specific topic with daily seminars. The trip also includes: the Broadway play "Lion King" and touring of New York City. Cost: \$401. Call Youth Ministries at 800-768-6040 for registration.

Middle School Retreat – November 8-10 at Blackstone – Praise, worship and a weekend full of fun, fellowship, and spiritual growth for 6th through 9th graders. Featuring the contemporary Christian band "Waterproof Feat". Cost: \$96. Call Youth Ministries at 800-768-6040 for registration.

High School Retreat - December 6-8 at Eagle Eyrie, Lynchburg – Spiritual Retreat for 9th through 12th graders. Duffy Robins will be our featured speaker

with 7 Sons praise band. Cost: \$96. Call Youth Ministries at 800-768-6040 for registration.

Voices of Youth – Attention High School Students! Sign up now for Voices of Youth 2003 “Mission to New Orleans, Louisiana,” from July 2–27, 2003. For applications contact: Barry Foster, Voices of Youth, Office of the Chaplain, Shenandoah University, 1460 University Drive, Winchester, VA, 22601, 540-545-7237, email: bfoster@su.edu

Together lets seek to be the Potters Clay (Melt Me, Mold Me, Use Me)

Steve Joplin



Speaking Spanish Not Necessary To Start Hispanic Ministry

By Becky Lewis

All around the Virginia Conference, Anglo churches are serving Hispanic communities effectively and blessing the lives of many immigrants.

Two years ago, for example, Lucy Messler’s vision to start a Hispanic ministry at Fishersville United Methodist Church became reality, although maybe not in the way she expected. It all began when “Another Path” Sunday school class “adopted” a Hispanic family for Christmas and found a community of people who needed winter coats. With the cooperation of friends and other church members, the

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

Return Service Requested

group collected and gave away well over 100 coats. This coat drive was the beginning of a successful Hispanic ministry in the Staunton District.

We started with no budget, but through the grace of God, a generous anonymous donation from a church member, and a DuPont community grant, we became Casa de la Amistad [Friendship House]. The heart of our program is tutoring and mentoring school-age children and helping to better integrate their families into the school system.

Through the help of the local school system and word of mouth, the ministry now serves 15 families. Tutors are asked to give at least one hour per week to help the kids with homework and reinforce their English language. (Some families speak only a little English, while others are conversational in English, especially the children.)

From these tutoring efforts, Casa de la Amistad volunteers have identified other needs and are responding by distributing used English-language books, making the food closet Hispanic-friendly, helping parents understand bills, and helping with medical and dental needs. They also have started an adult Sunday school class in Spanish.

The need is far greater than one church can meet, so we are working to grow this ministry to be a Staunton District effort. For more information, call the author at (540) 949-2614.

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*For if you forgive
others their trespasses,
your heavenly Father will
also forgive you...*

Matthew 6:14

