

# 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*

**January 2003**

**Issue 1**

## Dates To Remember



January

**January 6-9**  
**Ministers' Convocation**  
**VUMAC**

**January 11 6:00-10:00 p.m.**  
**District Youth "R & R"**  
**Solid Rock Café, Waynesboro**

**January 20 at 1:00 p.m.**  
**District Council on Ministries**  
**District Office**

**January 25 at 9:30 a.m.**  
**District UMM Board Meeting**  
**Glovier Memorial UMC, Waynesboro**

**February 4 at 9:30 a.m.**  
**Ministers and Spouses Meeting**

**February 27-March 1, 2003**  
**Ministers' Spouses Retreat**  
**VUMAC**

**March 14-16, 2003**  
**District Youth Retreat**  
**Camp Overlook**

and other forms of media? Are we consumed with fear with such negative, life-threatening reporting?

Many people in our communities are looking to the church for answers and we must meet the challenge with faith and vision. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the late civil rights leader whose birthday we will celebrate this month, had a keen vision of the power and role of the church in world events. Thus, he chose the church as the foundation for his work. For Dr. King, the church was in those people who placed faith over fear in the face of difficulties and dangers as they moved toward righteousness and truth. The church was represented by people who knew the abilities and power of Christian love to defy evil; people who saw non-violent resistance not as a symbol of weakness, but as a means of turning weakness into strength which breeds courage and faith. But as much as Dr. King loved the church, he was not afraid to point out its weakness as depicted in his own words: "So often the contemporary church is a weak, ineffectual voice with an uncertain sound. So often it is an arch defender of the status quo. But the judgment of God is upon the church like never before. If today's church does not recapture the sacrificial spirit of the early church, it will lose its authenticity, forfeit the loyalty of millions, and be dismissed as an irrelevant social club with no meaning for the twentieth century."

God forbids such for God's Church!! Dr. King is no longer with us in person today, but we still feel the urgency of his voice challenging Christian believers to be the church that God intends and empowers us to be as our nation and the world face an uncertain future. Many people in local churches throughout the district have accepted the challenge to be officers and leaders. I encourage you to lead congregations and communities with faith and courage, knowing that God is on your side. Followers must seek to do the same. The goodwill that Jesus brought to the world must take place through people of faith; we are the church in the world. As we carry the torch of faith, even in our troubled world, let us always remember Emanuel.

In Christ,

Alton M. Washington

**\*Forgiveness is not an occasional act; it is a permanent attitude. —Martin Luther King, Jr.**



Our Deepest Sympathy Is Extended To:  
Rev. and Mrs. Bill Hinton and their family  
on the death of Jenne's sister. The  
Hintons are a retired clergy couple.



## From The District Superintendent: *A Challenge To The Church*

As our nation prepares for an almost certain war, struggles with diplomatic issues around the world, and faces an uncertain economy, the New Year, on the surface, appears to be off to a frightening start. The fireworks and celebrations, which ushered in 2003, have fizzled out, and we are forced to deal with reality on a daily basis. How shall we, the church, respond to the nagging fears highlighted nightly on television news



## STAUNTON DISTRICT COMMITTEES

Below is the listing of the District Committees as promised in the last newsletter.

**District Council on Ministries:** Chairperson - David Leatherwood; Adult Ministries - Pauline Carr; Camp Overlook Director - Ron Robey; Camping - Rev. Steven Propst; Children's Ministries - Martha Reynolds; Church and Society - Dorothy Ravenhorst; Communications - Rev. James Harris; Discipleship and Evangelism - Richard Benninghove; District Superintendent - Dr. Alton M. Washington; Education Chairperson - Patricia Hepler; Family Ministries - Eunice Messler; Finance Committee Chairperson - Charles Phibbs; Global Ministries/VIM - Claudette Freeman; Health and Welfare - Patricia Benson; Hermitage Guild Representative - Geraldine Cash; Hispanic Ministries - Becky Lewis; Lay Leader - Robin Powell; Director, Lay Speaking - Dale Rankin; Ministers President - Rev. Edward Rigg; Ministers' Spouses President - Donna Nelson; Religion and Race - Rev. John Fisher; Resource Center Director - Jennifer Trippeer; Scouting - William Jenkins; Singles Ministries - Lena Mahone; Status and Role of Women - Rev. Deborah Koontz; Stewardship - Rev. Walter Failes, Jr.; Town and Country Ministries - Rev. Loretta Benninghove; Trustees Chairperson - Douglas Bosserman; United Methodist Men President - Earl Cash; United Methodist Women President - Doris Hedrick; United Methodist Youth President - Sam Harris; VUMAC Representative - Catherine Sayers; Worship - Rev. Edward Rigg; Youth Ministries - Steve Joplin

**District Board of Laity:** Robin A. Powell, District Lay Leader; John Hensley, District Treasurer; Douglas Bosserman, Chairman, District Trustees; Doris Hedrick, President of United Methodist Women; Earl D. Cash, President of United Methodist Men; David Leatherwood, Chairperson, Council on Ministries; Dale Rankin, Chairperson, Lay Speaking; Claudette Freeman, District Secretary Global Ministries/VIM; Theresa Hunt, At Large; Charles Phibbs, District Finance Chairperson

**Ordained Ministry:** Paul Bailey, Chairperson; Alton M. Washington, District Superintendent; Thomas L. Coffman; David W. Lord; Roy O. Creech, Jr.; Donald Drake; Wilfred M. Mayton, Jr.; Walter B. Failes, Jr.; Howard Taylor; Steven L. Propst; John A. Fisher, Jr.; Elinor Willis; Elizabeth W. Taylor; Ralph H. Grow, Jr.; Local Pastor; District Representative: Donald L. Long; District Chaplain: Paul C. Bailey

### **Church Location and Building:** Alton M.

Washington, Chairperson; Suzanne Peeler – 2003; Irvin Rosen – 2003; John Sayers – 2003; Walter B. Failes, Sr. – 2004; Rev. David Reed – 2004; Minnie Stevenson – 2004; Phyllis Hutchens – 2005; Henry E. Ravenhorst – 2005; Jack True – 2005

**Committee on District Superintendency:** Anita Jackson, Chairperson – 2004; Hattie Casey – 2003; Rev. Elizabeth Taylor – 2003; Mae Brown – 2004; Rev. Thomas Coffman – 2004; Teresa Fisk – 2005; Rev. S. Wayne Rickman – 2005; Rev. Edward Rigg – 2005; Patsy Shickel – 2005; At Large: Robin Powell, District Lay Leader

**Finance:** Charles Phibbs, Chairperson; Pauline Carr; Theresa Hunt; Purcell Daughtry; Michael Irvine; Steve Huffer; District Treasurer, John Hensley; Chairperson, District Superintendency Committee: Anita Jackson; Chairperson, District Council on Ministries: David Leatherwood; District Lay Leader: Robin Powell

**Ethnic Minority Task Force:** Rev. John Miller, Co-Chairperson; Calvin Hughes, Co-Chairperson; Ministers of the Ethnic Minority Churches; Three Lay Members from Each Ethnic Minority Church; District Superintendent; District Lay Leader

**Trustees:** Douglas Bosserman, Chairperson; John Hensley, Treasurer; Earl D. Cash – 2003; Daniel Franklin – 2003; Susan Obaugh – 2003; James Curd – 2004; H. C. Hensley, Jr. – 2004; Dianne Taylor – 2004; Henry Carr – 2005; Christine Pettyjohn – 2005; Brian Schneider – 2005

### **District Board of Missions, Inc.:** Alton M.

Washington, President; Robin Powell, Vice President; John Hensley, Treasurer; Claudette Freeman, District Secretary of Global Ministries/VIM; Rev. Roy O. Creech, Jr.; Lester B. Hershey; One Lay Person Elected From Every Church

**Parsonage Committee:** Catherine Sayers, Chairperson; Ann Buel; Lester B. Hershey, Sr.; Katherine Irvine; John Sayers; Rev. James Simmons

**Nominating Committee:** Pauline Carr, Earl Cash, Rev. William Freeman, Jewell Marshall, Robin Powell, Irma Thompson, Alton Washington



### **DISTRICT YOUTH NEWS**

(web site: [stauntondistrict.tripod.com](http://stauntondistrict.tripod.com))

#### **Staunton District Youth Retreat** –

It's time to register for the upcoming Staunton District Youth Retreat at Camp Overlook, March 14–16.

Theme "The World is Thirsty, The

Water is Good." Join youth from throughout the Staunton District for an awesome weekend with Praise Band "Refuge." Flyer and Registration form is

enclosed. Contact: Steve Joplin at 886-9367 or [steve.joplin@hollister.com](mailto:steve.joplin@hollister.com).

**Staunton District Youth R & R** – Saturday, January 11, 6:00–10:00 PM, at Solid Rock Café, Waynesboro. “Recreation & Renewal” for all Middle School and High School Youth. Come join us for fellowship, fun, food, worship, dance and games. Cost: \$5. Last name A-H bring Salty Snack. Last name I-Z bring Sweet Snack. Adults bring a Soda. Contact: Steve Joplin at 886-9367 or [steve.joplin@hollister.com](mailto:steve.joplin@hollister.com). Directions to the Rock: Take 1-64 exit 94 – head north on Hwy 340 to Waynesboro. Travel north on 340 a couple of miles until a large intersection with Burger King and Arby's. Continue straight, but the road changes to Rt 250/Broad Street. Go about 3 blocks after that intersection. The Solid Rock Café will be on your left at 1117 Broad Street (phone 540-949-rock). Park at the back and enter at the back through the basketball court.

**A Challenge From CCYM: Get Involved!** – How involved is your church? I have found out that a lot of youth do not know much beyond their local church. But I've got GREAT news! Here is all the information you need to get clued in on all the basics: In the Virginia Conference there are 18 districts. Most of the districts have a District Youth Council (DYC) that consists of some adult leaders and youth that are active in district events. The Dyc's plan all the events for the churches in their districts. I represent the Staunton District and we have three events that we do annually. We have a retreat, a mission R & R (Recreation & Renewal), and a Back-to-School-Bash. Most districts have a retreat every year plus other events of their own. Be sure to find out what your district is doing and get involved! Beyond the district level is the conference level. This is known as the Conference Council of Youth Ministries (CCYM). Once you are involved in districts events, you are eligible to be on the CCYM. Usually the leaders of the council decide who they think should be a representative on CCYM. There are four positions from each district to be on CCYM. If you would like to be involved with your district or with CCYM, contact your youth leader or the conference youth office at 800-768-6040 #135 or email [waverlysmith@vaumc.org](mailto:waverlysmith@vaumc.org). Please get involved!  
--By Ashley Rohr, Marquis Memorial, Staunton District Representative to CCYM.

**D C Y M Meeting** – Our next Staunton District Council Youth Ministries planning meeting will be held from 2:00–4:00 PM, Sunday, February 16, at Trinity UMC, Lexington. All Youth and Youth Leaders, please come, we need your fresh ideas and your input at this meeting. Your opportunity to “*Get*

*Involved.*” Agenda: Planning for upcoming District Youth Retreat @ Camp Overlook on March 14-16.

**Spontaneous District Youth Mission Project** – On Thursday, December 19, About twenty five Staunton District Youth gathered and sang Christmas Carols in the lobby of Augusta Medical Center, Fishersville, from 7:00 until 8:00 PM. Thank you all for coming and singing for the patients in the hospital. You are a blessing!

**Report on High School Retreat** – Staunton District Youth along with 800 other UM Youth from throughout the Conference had a great weekend at the High School Retreat held December 6-8 at Eagle Eyrie, Lynchburg. Staunton District youth from Calvary, Fishersville, Greenville and Main Street were in attendance. The praise band, “Seven Sons,” was great and the speaker, Duffy Robbins, really connected with and inspired the youth. Youth from throughout the conference gave over \$4,000 offering to YSF, which was made through outrageous fundraising activities. In addition, \$1,300 was raised for a family in need. What an awesome display of generosity from the youth.

**Awakening 2003** – “Awakening 2003,” Norfolk/Virginia Beach, VA, April 4-5. Contact: Conference Youth Ministries at 800-768-6040 #135 or [waverlysmith@vaumc.org](mailto:waverlysmith@vaumc.org)

**“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.”**  
**2002-2003 Statement of Staunton District Youth.**

--Steve Joplin

**United Methodist Men's News Charters** – The pastor or UMMen President at each church should have received the 2003 UMMen charter kit in December. Charter renewal is due at this time. If you did not receive a Charter package, need information or assistance with the Charter, please contact one of the following District Officers for help: Earl Cash (540-464-1496), Larry Creamer (540-464-6316), Mike Doyle (540-886-5450), Calvin Hughes (540-464-1038), John Sayers (540-885-0401).

***TQuest for Men*** – Having faith is often a war between the head and the heart. As men, we too often want our heads in charge. We work to have a rational, logical basis for every action. But God's way leads to places where we are asked to loosen our grip on logic and reason. Men who limit their journeys to the physical and mental will miss the best God has intended for them to have and to be. TQuest is the journey that teaches men the ways of their own hearts and the heart



of God. The guide for your Quest is none other than the Holy Spirit---Who better to lead you home? Sample TQuest packages are available for your review and use. Contact one of the above District Officers to obtain a packet for your men's group.

**January 25** – Staunton District UMMen Board Meeting at Glover Memorial UMC in Waynesboro. Coffee at 9:30, meeting begins at 10:00 a.m. Linda Mohler, Regional Director for Heart Havens will present information about local Heart Havens facilities. The meeting is open to all men across the District. Please have a representative from your church attend.

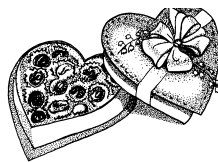
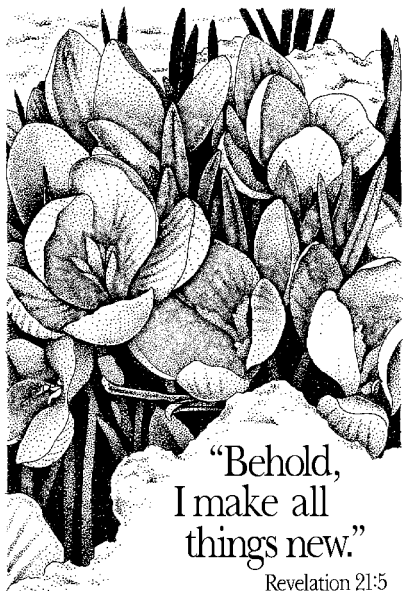
**March 29** – UMMen Leadership Development and Business meeting at Bon Air UMC, Richmond. We will be car-pooling from the Park and Ride lot at 340/I-64 interchange near Waynesboro. This is a great opportunity to take advantage of men's training and learn what is happening with Conference UMMen.

**May 2-4** – Southeast Jurisdiction United Methodist Men Regional Conference, Epworth By the Sea, St. Simons Island, Georgia. Featured Speakers: Rev. Jimmy Buskirk and Rev. Chris Buskirk. Topic: "Sons of the Father."

**May 30-31** – Tri-District Retreat at Camp Overlook.  
--Earl Cash,  
UMM President

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

*Return Service Requested*



### **Ministers' Spouses Retreat**

When: February 27 - March 1

Where: VUMAC, Blackstone

Who: All Clergy Spouses  
(male and female)

Theme: "Blessed...Less Stress"

Our resource leader this year is Dr. Vic Maloy. He is the administrator at the VIP Center in Richmond. We will be sending more information to all spouses at the beginning of the year but want everyone to put it on his/her calendar.

### **Dear God**

Dear God: In Sunday School they told us what you do. Who does it when you are on vacation? --Jane

Dear God: Please put another holiday between Christmas and Easter. There is nothing good in there now. --Ginny

Dear God: I think about you sometimes even when I am not praying. --Elliott

Dear God: Is it true that my father won't get into heaven if he uses his bowling words in the house? --Anita

Dear God: Maybe Cain and Abel would not kill each other so much if they had their own rooms. It works with my brother. --Larry

Dear God: I don't ever feel alone since I found out about you. --Nora

--Children's Letters to God



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