



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

July 2003

Issue 7

Dates To Remember

July 4

Independence Day!

District/Conference Offices closed

July 7-11

Cabinet Meeting – Lake Junaluska

July 10-12

VUMDYLA – Blackstone

July 13

**Welcoming Service for Rev. Kathleen Webster
Granbery Memorial UMC, Covington**

July 17 and August 14

UMMen's Day Camp Rainbow – VUMAC

July 21

District Council on Ministries – Fishersville UMC

July 25 at 7:30 p.m.

Voices of Youth – Calvary UMC, Stuarts Draft

July 25-31

School of Christian Mission - VUMAC

July 26 at 9:30 a.m. (Coffee) 10:00 a.m. (Meeting)

**UMMen Board Meeting
Asbury UMC, Brownsburg**

August 7 at 5:00 p.m.

**Ministers and Spouses Welcoming Picnic
Fishersville UMC**

August 15-17

UMW Young Women's Retreat - VUMAC

September 13 6:00-10:00 p.m.

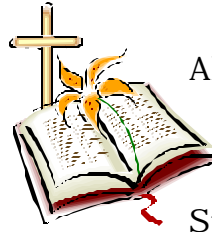
**Back To School Bash
Parrish Court UMC, Covington**

September 20 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

**Sunday School Extravaganza
Parrish Court UMC, Covington**

September 25 at 6:30 p.m.

UMMen's Fall Rally – Fishersville UMC



AN INVITATION!

All are invited to attend the service in which Rev Kathleen Webster begins her ministry as Staunton District

Superintendent. The service will take place on Sunday, July 13th, at Granbery Memorial United Methodist Church at 425 West Main Street in Covington. The service will start at 3:00 P.M.

Please mark your calendars for this important event.

From The District Superintendent:

Greetings,

It is a joy to begin serving with you on the Staunton District!

You have so warmly welcomed us, that even though boxes are still everywhere, we feel at home already. Harold and Joel join me in thanking you for your thoughtfulness.

I also want to thank you for the wonderful way you held my family in prayer during my mother's illness and death. Even before we knew each other, we found much comfort in being connected to the company of believers.

I am looking forward to getting to know you, laity and clergy, and finding out the many ways you are making disciples for Jesus Christ. I am looking forward to seeing historic churches with deep roots and new ministries with only the future. I know the Staunton District is a place of great natural beauty (mountains, valleys, lakes and rivers) and I look forward to seeing the great spiritual beauty of the people and churches.

In the days ahead we'll come to know each other and we'll work together so that all the churches of the district are places where "all God's people are welcomed at table, nurtured and transformed to be Christ to others in the world."

Grace upon grace,
Kathleen





Our Deepest Sympathy Is Extended To Rev. & Mrs. John Carrier and their family on the death of his brother-in-law,

Charles Peters. The Carriers serve Central UMC in Clifton Forge.

To Our Staunton District Family:

The Staunton District celebrates with class!! Sunday, June 8, 2003, will stand out in Kathleen's and my memory for years to come. How proud we felt, and at the very same time, we felt very humble to see so much preparation and participation to celebrate our retirement. Our family and friends remarked on the outstanding talent and diversity reflected in the program.

Thank you Superintendency Committee; Fishersville United Methodist Church members, staff and pastor, Jim Harris for all the time and effort you offered to make our farewell program a memorable one. Appreciation goes to Tom Coffman and all who participated in the massed choir, the precious children who sang and gave us flowers and to the wonderful dancers from Pleasant View United Methodist Church. Special tribute goes to the various United Methodist Women units for providing sumptuous refreshments for the reception. We will be forever grateful to all the churches for the financial gift which will enable us to purchase new furniture pieces for our new home, and for so many other gifts which will adorn our home and our lives, as they will remind us of our friends in the Valley. I will first wear the beautiful stole at Annual Conference.

The clergy and spouses made us happy and proud when they funded scholarships for children to attend the Camp For All God's Children at Camp Overlook. These scholarships were made in our names. Thank you.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow us all the days of our lives, and we know the same will be true for all of you. We are indebted to you for allowing us to serve with you in ministry these past six years. May God richly bless you.

In Christian Love,
Alton and Kathleen Washington



Welcome To Our District

We welcome our new District Superintendent, Rev. Kathleen Webster, her husband Harold and their son Joel. We also welcome to our churches:

*Rev. Julie Larch serving Beth Horon UMC.

*Rev. William Bearden and his wife Ettie Jo serving Ebenezer UMC in Rockbridge Baths.

*Rev. Bill E. Hinton and his wife Jenne serving Glossbrenner UMC in Churchville.

*Rev. Alice Lee Price serving Lyndhurst UMC.

*Rev. Gary Milstead and his wife Janna serving Main Street UMC in Waynesboro.

*Rev. Robert Maas serving Marvin UMC

*Rev. Jason Micheli and his wife Allison serving St. John's UMC in Buena Vista.

A warm welcome to all our new clergy and their families.

From Our District Program Coordinator:



I have now completed my first month as your District Program Coordinator. During the first month I read everyone's charge conference reports. Reading the reports gave me a sense of what you are doing and your size. Now I am anxious to get out to meet you and get to know you. I attended Annual Conference and was able to meet a few people there. I want to congratulate Rebekah Rigg, Sam Harris, Jan Failes, and Dot Ravenhorst for being elected to Jurisdictional Conference and also to Robin Powell for being elected as an alternate to Jurisdictional Conference. Out of 16 lay delegates and 10 alternates the Staunton District had 5 people elected. Congratulations also go to Dr. Paul Bailey who was elected to General and Jurisdictional Conference.

On July 10th I will be attending the Virginia United Methodist Church District Youth Leaders Assembly (VUMCDYLA) with Steve Joplin and some of our youth leaders and youth councilors. I am looking forward to this opportunity to get to know some of our youth.

Grace and Peace,
Martha Reynolds



We're So Honored

This year at Annual Conference included electing delegates for General Conference, which will be held in Pittsburgh, PA April 27-May 7, 2004. Rev. Paul Bailey was elected to serve.

Jurisdictional Conference will be held at Lake Junaluska, NC on July 14-17, 2004. Elected to serve are Sam Harris, Rebekah Rigg, Jan Failes and Dorothy Ravenhorst. Robin Powell was elected as an alternate. The Staunton District will be well represented. Please begin praying for these and all who attend and for the work that will be before them.

Link To The Laity:

A heart-felt "Thank You" to everyone who participated in the celebration service for Dr. & Mrs. Alton Washington. The Spirit was there in the music, the presentations and the moments of reflection.

Thanks to all those who participated in our massed choir, dancing and solos. Additional thanks goes to the churches that helped with the lovely reception with a special thank you to Mary Altizer and her crew for hosting.

I want to remind everyone that our next celebration service with our new District Superintendent, Rev. Kathleen O. Webster will be held Sunday, July 13, at 3:00 p.m. at Granbery Memorial in Covington.



District Youth News

(web site: stauntondistrict.tripod.com)

VUMDYLA – Virginia United Methodist District Youth Leaders Assembly at Blackstone, July 10-12.

We would like to have 2-3 Youth along with an adult from each church attend this event. This is where we plan our district youth events for the upcoming year. Register now by contacting Steve Joplin.

Project Transformation – Looking for a summer mission project for Youth? UVA's Wesley Foundation's "Project Transformation" is operating at Basic UMC, Waynesboro, until August 7. They need Youth to come help with the elementary children from 1:00-3:00 PM, Monday-Thursday each week. You could come take them on a field trip or play sports, special guests, scouts, SPCA, drama, share your youth's special talents, trip to park, etc. Contact: Deborah Lewis at 434-977-6500 or email: deborah-lewis@mindspring.com or Steve Joplin at 886-9367 or email steve.joplin@hollister.com.

Thank You Sam – Thank you Sam Harris, Fishersville UMC, for serving as President of the Staunton District Youth for the past year. Staunton District Youth have been blessed to have you share your time and talents to further God's kingdom in serving the district youth. Thank you and may God bless you.

Youth Leadership 2003-2004 – Welcome to our new Co-Presidents of Staunton District Youth for 2003-2004! They are Erin Betlej, Calvary; Ashleigh Huggard, Fishersville and Rebekah Rigg, Parrish Court. Each of these young leaders brings their very own unique gifts to this office of President. Thank you for saying yes, here I am, to serve the Staunton District Youth. We thank you for your commitment and look



forward to your creativity to reach out to others in new ways to share the love of Jesus in the upcoming year.

Middle School Mission – A weekend mission experience for 6th thru 9th graders which features local mission projects as well as worship, devotion, singing and more! August 22-24. Location: Westview on the James. For registration contact: Youth Ministries at 800-768-6040 #315.

Youth Service Fund – For those coming to VUMDYLA, please remember to collect and bring your collection 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 1st in YSF giving out of 65 conferences nationwide in 2002.)

Back To School Bash – 6-10 PM, Saturday, September 13 at Parrish Court UMC, Covington – Fun, Fellowship, Games, Praise and Worship, Music and Dance. Cost is \$5. We will have PIZZA for dinner. Bring a friend.

2002-2003 STAUNTON DISTRICT YOUTH 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."

Dear Lord please melt us, mold us and use us to serve you. --Steve Joplin

Voices of Youth Concert

The *Voices of Youth 2003: Awakening the Church to Mission* will share their witness and present a concert on the Staunton District on Friday, July 25, at 7:30 p.m. at Calvary UMC in Stuarts Draft. As their mission work, the youth will be working at Sager-Brown, a United Methodist Committee on Relief depot in Baldwin, Louisiana. They will help process kits, do community work with the poor, and basic maintenance at Sager-Brown. Two of our district youth, Rebekah Rigg from Parrish Court UMC and Erin Betlej from Calvary UMC, are taking part in Voices of Youth this year. They will gather in Yorktown on July 2 and finish their tour on July 27. In addition to our district, the choir will be performing other concerts around the conference. Everyone, especially youth, is invited to come hear the *Voices of Youth*.



United Methodist Men's News

Several men from the District attended the UMMen Breakfast at Thrasher UMC on Tuesday morning of

Annual Conference. Brooke Willson, District Superintendent from the Ashland District, was speaker. **July 17 and August 14** – UMMen Day Camp Rainbow in Blackstone. On these two camp days UMMen prepare hamburgers and hot dogs on the grill for the Camp participants. It is a wonderful way to rub elbows and communicate with the campers. Heart Havens residents from the Bonnie House in Stuarts Draft will be attending the second week of Camp Rainbow.

July 26 – Staunton District Board Meeting at Asbury UMC in Brownsburg. This quarterly meeting is open to all men across the District. 9:30 a.m. Coffee, 10:00 a.m. Meeting

September 25 – Staunton District Fall Rally at Fishersville UMC. Gospel Singer Dan Tatum will be our guest. Dan formally sang and entertained with Vaughan Monroe, Judy Garland, Patti Page, Johnny Mathis and for 13 years with Teresa Brewer. Make plans to come hear his singing and testimony.

November 7 – 8 – Virginia Conference Spiritual Retreat at Blackstone. Dr. George E. Morris Sr., Professor of World Methodist Evangelism, will be the featured speaker.

Earl Cash, District President

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

Return Service Requested



Sunday School Extravaganza

Saturday, September 20

9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

(8:30 a.m. Registration)

Parrish Court UMC, Covington

Rev. Kathleen Webster will do
our closing service.



The United Methodist Women's News

In July, The School of Christian Missions will begin on the **25th** for the weekend session and the week session will start on Monday, **July 28th**, through **July 31st** at Blackstone.

August 8 and 9 the Executive committee will have their annual planning retreat at Camp Overlook.

August 15-17 is The Young Women's Retreat at Blackstone.

If you need information about any of these events please contact your local UMW president. Enjoy your summer and I will see you at these exciting events throughout the summer.

Serving together,

Doris Hedrick, President UMW

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OUR
FATHER
WHO ART
IN HEAVEN,
HALLOWED
BE THY
NAME.

MATTHEW 6:9