



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 2003

Issue 10



Dates To Remember

October 4 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
**District Council on Ministries
Retreat - Fairfield UMC**

October 7 at 9:30 a.m.
**Ministers and Spouses' Meeting
Christ UMC, Covington**

October 11 at 10:00 a.m.
**Consecration Service for the United Methodist
Conference Center
10330 Staples Mill Road, Glen Allen**

October 12 3:00-5:00 p.m.
**Fall Focus On Mission
Doe Hill UMC**

October 25-26
**UMW Conference Annual Meeting
VUMAC**

October 27-28
**Order of Elder Retreat
VUMAC**

November 4 at 9:30 a.m.
**Ministers and Spouses' Meeting
Sherando UMC**

November 7-8
**UMM Spiritual Retreat
VUMAC**

November 22 1:00-5:15 p.m.
**Staunton District Conference and Leadership Training
St. Paul's UMC, Staunton**

(bringing full dishes to the table and carrying the empty ones away). The folks in the aprons were bishops and superintendents and agency heads and staff, clergy and laity, male and female, multi-hued from a number of different cultures. Those of us others around the table were newly appointed superintendents and conference directors of connectional ministries. It was clear that night and in the days that followed that even as we learned about new tasks and responsibilities, there was something core about knowing ourselves to be servant leaders in the church of Jesus Christ.

That core identify is crucial in all aspects of the church's life. I don't know that it has ever been clearer to me than this fall as I've begun to be with the churches of this district during the annual charge conferences. As goals for the coming year are made it is evident that they have been built on the prayers and hopes and dreams of disciples who seek to know Christ and serve him in this particular congregation and community. As budgets have been readied, it is clear that the needs of a hurting world are being heard and responded to as missionaries and food banks and vacation bible schools are supported. And as leadership teams have been chosen, people are being called to live out their discipleship in lives of service to and through the community of believers.

Over the last year our conference has developed some tools to help us as we work to live out the ministry of our baptisms and fulfill the call of Christ. Last year *Standards for Clergy Leadership* were developed and shared across the conference to give shape to the vision of what is needed in terms of clergy leadership for effective ministry. This year *Standards for Lay Leadership* have just been published in *The Advocate* for the first time. Though not exhaustive both documents help us all as we seek to live faithfully on this journey of discipleship and as we provide leadership in and through our churches.

Grace upon grace to you, disciples of Jesus Christ,
Kathleen

(A copy of both *Standards for Clergy Leadership* and *Standards for Lay Leadership* are enclosed as an insert in this newsletter.)

From The District Superintendent:

Servant Leadership was boldly printed in white on black aprons worn by the leadership team at a training event last month. At the dinner that night they were table hosts (leading us in recalling meaningful verses of scripture and presiding over the love feast) and servers



Order of Elder Retreat

The Order of Elder Retreat will be Monday, October 27 – Tuesday, October 28. Dr. Steve Harper and Bishop Joe Pennel, Jr. will be our speakers. The registration forms can be downloaded from the Conference Website (under Events). All the details are there as well.



Fall Focus On Mission

The Staunton District Fall Focus on Mission will be held Sunday, October 12th, at Doe Hill UMC from 3:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. Claudette Freeman, Missions Secretary of the Staunton District, has announced that all three-mission studies will be presented. Dorothy Ravenhorst will teach the study on Mexico; Carolyn Smith assisted by Jane Bayne, Geraldine Cash and Esther Mabry will teach the Interfaith Study; and Susan Rigg and Doris Hedrick will lead the Exodus Study.

Refreshments will be served by the UMW of Doe Hill UMC and Childcare will be available. The Virginia Conference Mission Projects will have displays.

Pauline Carr and Claudette Freeman
Publicity Committee



From The District Program

Director: Growing up in central Virginia, I never thought of hurricanes causing flooding and

wind damage in the mountains. Hurricanes were something that just affected the shore, until Hurricane Camille came through in 1969. Since then we have seen several floods caused by this type of storm. It never fails to boggle my mind how the South River can go from a friendly shallow river that my children played in to this raging mass of water that runs through our neighborhoods, uproots families, and devastates homes. I hope that those of you who have damage are able to get help to fix and to clean up. The Sunday School Extravaganza went on as scheduled on Saturday, September 20. We had about 30 people who braved the fog in the morning and the high waters all round. The training was extremely good and the fellowship time was great! A big "thank you" to our presenters who did an excellent job. They were Jerry Morgan, Pauline Carr, Ed Rigg, Jan Failes, Becky Lewis, Richard Benninghove, and Jim Harris. Thank you to Parrish Court for being such a great host and the UMW for lunch.

Our next district event will be on October 4, when the District Council on Ministry will gather to plan the district events for 2004 and do some goal setting. If you would like to have input on this, call me (Martha Reynolds at 932-1055) or contact someone who is serving on the council

At District Conference, Saturday, November 22, we will be having Leadership Training. Watch for more information coming soon.

I am attending most of the Charge Conferences. I am enjoying going out to the Charge Conferences, seeing the churches, and meeting the members. How fortunate we are to live in the Shenandoah Valley. We have some of the most beautiful church settings that can be found anywhere.

So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life--your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life--and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Romans 12:1

The LOGOS Program at Fishersville

UMC (one Wednesday a month) is looking for transportation to and from the after-school program for 12 students from VSDB. If your church can help please call Steve Deavers at Fishersville UMC (540-942-9355). We possibly have the use of a church van, but no drivers. The dates a van and driver are needed are October 22, November 12, and December 3. The LOGOS program is for hearing and deaf students, grades K-8, but only the VSDB students need transportation. Thank you.



Fall Crafts Festival

What's Happening At:

Granbery Memorial UMC – Red Bird Mission Craft Program

– On Saturday, October 11, from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Granbery Memorial UMC in Covington is hosting Red Bird Mission Crafts to give you an opportunity to enjoy

quality Appalachian crafts.

The Red Bird Mission, located in the southeastern Kentucky Mountains, is an Agency of Red Bird Missionary Conference related to the General Board of Global Ministries of the UMC. Red Bird Mission has a school, medical center, community outreach and economic opportunities. By providing a market for local artisans, the craft program is a vital part of economic development. This source of income is important in an area of 50% unemployment.

There will be beautiful baskets, some made of honeysuckle vines or creek willow that are family traditions developed in an age when self-sufficiency was necessary in the isolated mountains. Another native art represented is the woven rug using scrap materials and even upholstery material. The mountain dulcimers are always of interest for their beauty to both ear and eye. Doll collectors will have fun seeing a variety of handmade dolls. They have an assortment of the corn-shuck items. Other items include molded figurines created with a special blend of Kentucky coal dust and resin, unscented beeswax candles, jewelry, jams, jellies, and relishes. There are note cards, history books of the area, books with special recipes, hand painted gourds, woven place mats, and hand made brooms for use or decoration. The wooden crafts consist of toys, games, utensils, cutting boards, racks, furniture and some furniture with hickory bark. Adorable wood and cloth Christmas ornaments and an assortment of nativity sets adds to the colorful display.

You can purchase items to give as gifts or to use for yourself. No matter what you do you will be glad that you are a part of our mission.

The UMW will have a Bake Sale and the Outreach Committee will serve a Luncheon of Vegetable Soup and homemade ice cream.

Mission Team Leadership Training Coming Soon



Once each year a special session is held to provide training to anyone wishing to become a United Methodist Volunteer In Mission team leader. The Virginia Conference requires that all new UMVIM team leaders must meet two criteria: they must have been a member of a past mission team, and they must have attended the Conference Team Leader Training Event.

This year's Team Leader Training Event will be held at Lakeside UMC in Richmond, 2333 Hilliard Road (804-266-7016) on Saturday, November 15 from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. There is no charge, but prior registration is required with the registration form available on the Conference UMVIM website at <www.vaumc.org/umvim/> or through the Conference Missions Office at 1-800-768-6040, or 804-521-1100, extension 144. The registration form contains information on how to obtain a Team Leader Handbook, a required text for this training event. No handbooks will be available at the training event.

Team Leader Training is required for all first time team leaders, but all interested persons are welcome to attend, whether leading a team or not. This is also an excellent refresher course for experienced team leaders. For more information, contact the Conference UMVIM Coordinator, Kip Robinson at <Krobin7856@aol.com> or 804-264-7856.



District Youth News

(web site: stauntondistrict.tripod.com)

Back To School Bash – The Staunton District Youth “Back to School Bash” was held Saturday, September 13 at Parrish Court UMC, Covington. Over 80 youth

from throughout the Staunton District had a great evening. A great big Thank You to Parrish Court UMC and Covington churches for hosting this youth event. A \$223.00 YSF offering will be made with proceeds from the event.

Middle School Retreat – Nov. 14-16 at Eagle Eyrie, Lynchburg. Praise & worship and a weekend full of fun, fellowship, family groups and spiritual growth for 6th through 9th graders. Featuring the contemporary Christian band "Waterproof Feat" & Keynote: Joe Torrence. Cost: \$96. Call Youth Ministries at 800-768-6040 for registration.

Christian Music Night at Skatetown – First Monday of each month, beginning Monday, October 6. Admission \$3, includes regular skates. 6:30 – 8:30 PM.

District Youth Planning Meeting – The next District Youth Planning meeting will take place at 5:30 pm, Saturday November 8, at Solid Rock Cafe. Afterwards you can stay and enjoy an evening at the “Rock.” See ya there!

Try and Keep Up With Staunton District Youth in Missions – On Sunday, July 27, 16 youth and adults from *Christ UMC, Staunton*, traveled to Marion, Virginia, headquarters of the Project Crossroads ministry. This marked our 3rd consecutive trip to Project Crossroads, and our 4th roof project! All week, we worked in a place called Allison Gap on Lick Skillet Road. We replaced a tin roof with shingles,

demolished a nonworking chimney, completely painted and trimmed the outside of the house, replaced a bathroom floor, and fought the good fight with the bees and ants! We also played together, prayed together, and worshipped together. No matter how hard the work, this is a week I recommend to everyone. --Kim Burns.

Twenty *Fishersville UMC* Youth participated in a local Missions Week. We visited Christian Aide Mission in Charlottesville, Mercy House in Harrisonburg and did some work for the Solid Rock Cafe. We spent the week eating, sleeping, working and playing together. The most memorable moment of the week was when we were at Mercy House. Mercy House is a recovery home for homeless families. After a day of working we cooked the community meal that is served each Tuesday. While the parents of small children ate, some of our youth helped the younger children with their meals. One of our youth, Gennie Bowles, was helping a little 4 year old girl with her spaghetti when the little girl got up from the table, went to the buffet line, got a plate and began to put food on it. She then took the plate and set it in the place where Gennie was sitting. By watching our youth in service this 4 year old learned a very valuable lesson without anyone preaching a sermon. It is a blessing to serve others and show God's love. And the next time you go to the Solid Rock Cafe, take a look at the volleyball court! --Marie Weiss.

The Staunton District Youth are an inspiration to us all. They are certainly living out their 2003-2004 Statement: “Ignite the faith. We are the youth sent here by God to make disciples.”

Voices of Youth – Attention High School Students! Sign up now for Voices of Youth 2004 Mission tour to John and Charles Wesley's home in England. From June 18 – July 11, 2004. 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 or Gail Brill at gbrill@su.edu.
High School Retreat – Dec. 5-7 at Eagle Eyrie, Lynchburg. Spiritual Retreat for 9th through 12th graders. Band "Waterproof Feat." Keynote: Saleem Ghubril, Director of Pittsburg Project. Cost: \$96. Call Youth Ministries at 800-768-6040 for registration.

Dear Lord, help us to go therefore and make disciples
Steve Joplin

Consecration Service for the United Methodist Center

The Virginia Conference United Methodist Center will hold a Service of Consecration at its 10330 Staples Mill Road location in Glen Allen on Saturday, October 11, at 10:00 a.m. The 30-minute worship service will be preceded by a hand bell concert at 9:45 a.m. and followed by a time for refreshments and open house tour of offices. Virginia Conference clergy and laity are invited to attend this important event. Directions to the center are available on the conference website at vaumc.org.





The United Methodist Women's News

The Conference Annual Meeting will be held on October 25th at VUMAC. Please put this date on your calendar.

The Fall Focus on Mission takes place on October 12th, beginning at 3:00 p.m. and ending at 5:00 p.m. There will be classes for all three of the studies that were taught this year at the School of Christian Missions. If you have never been, you will be pleasantly surprised by the things you will learn. The Biblical Study is 'Exodus,' the general issues study is 'Creating Interfaith Community' and the geographic study is 'Mexico.' Doe Hill UMC is the place. Hope to see you there.

Serving together,
Doris Hedrick, District UMW President

United Methodist Men's News

October 25 – Staunton District Board Meeting at Parrish Court UMC. Coffee is at 9:30 a.m. Meeting begins at 10:00 a.m. This is an important meeting since we will be making plans for the May Tri-District Retreat. Representatives from each local fellowship are encouraged to attend.



November 7 – 8 – Virginia Conference Spiritual Retreat at Blackstone. "What The World Needs Now" will be the theme of this year's Retreat. Dr. George E. Morris Sr., Professor of World Methodist Evangelism will be the featured speaker. Early registration ends October 20th.

Earl Cash
District President

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

Return Service Requested



As each has received a gift, employ it for one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.

1 Peter 4:10

**Staunton District Conference
And**

Leadership Training

St. Paul's UMC, Staunton

November 22, 2003

1:00 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.

Staunton District Conference and Worship

1:00 – 2:00 pm.

Leadership Training

2:30 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.

Workshops:

Pastor Parish Relations: Kathleen Overby Webster

Parsonage Support: Kay Mayton

Lay Leaders: Robin Powell

Outreach: Tom Murphy, Industrial

Commercial Ministries

Claudette Freeman, Being

Covenant with Missionaries

Martha Reynolds, Stephen Ministry

Casa de Amistad: Becky Lewis

Worship: Louise Miller

Trustees: Jim Bergdoll, United Methodist

Foundation

Evangelism TBA



The Deadline for articles for the next newsletter is **Monday, November 17.**

NONPROFIT ORG.
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 178