



# 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***

**November 2003**

**Issue 11**



## Dates To Remember

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

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

**November 17 at 1:00 p.m.**  
**District Council on Ministries**  
**District Office**

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

**November 26-28**  
**Thanksgiving**  
**Conference and District Offices Closed**

### **From The District Superintendent:**

Dear Co-workers in ministry,

The leaves are changing color on the trees and drifting down to the ground in crunchy piles. We are about a third of the way through the annual work of Charge Conferences, reflecting on what we have been and done and looking forward to where God calls us in mission and witness in the coming year. This is the time of year when we remember with thanksgiving the lives of the saints who have been among us and gone before us into the new eternal life. As a nation we pause to offer thanks for the veterans who have been willing to serve in defense of freedoms we take so lightly. It is, I think, a reflective time of year, as the daylight hours shorten and as a church we move somewhat pensively to the festival of The Reign of Christ and then on to the anticipation-filled season of advent and the break-forth-in-song joy of Christmas. This is a time of year when we spend many meeting hours in adjusting budgets to be both realistic and faithful. Long work hours go into bazaars and apple butter and dumplings and gift-wrap fundraisers. It is the time of year when it is so easy to equate busyness in church with faithful discipleship. So then it is crucial that at the same time we are busy we are also intentionally focusing our congregations, our work, and ourselves so that God is glorified and we are co-workers with Christ in service to a



hurting world. One of the ways we do that intentional work is in prayerful attention to the goals of the congregation. One of the ways we order our goals and then our work is to look at ministry within our congregation, membership and attendance, and mission and outreach. I have found this same ordering helpful as I shape my work on the Staunton District.

As I have come to know the district I am convinced that we need to become covenant communities that abide in the means of grace. Each local church needs to know its primary identity sacramentally, as people of the table; those who gather in Jesus' name to be fed and strengthened then depart to serve. Each clergy gathering needs primarily to be a time of renewing our connection with each other and as ministers together breaking bread, so that though we are many we are one. Each council and committee and board would first gather in prayer and worship remembering that through our baptisms God has claimed us and the work we are now about is rooted in that claim. All of this, of course, is under girded with renewed attention to public and private prayer and scripture study.

As congregations, individual disciples, and a district we need to remember those who do not yet know God made manifest in Jesus Christ. We are timid in sharing the ways that we experience God and the love and grace of God at many points in our lives. We fail to constantly invite those who are outside the church to come in, to offer many entrance points so that they may see what the Body of Christ looks like, to be honest about how sometimes faith is a struggle and burden, as well as a gift. We need to be bold in reaching those who are not now being reached with the good news of Jesus Christ and we need to do that in ways which celebrate our distinctly United Methodist understanding of grace and sacraments and connection.

Our mission and outreach can be centered in ongoing community missions, volunteer in mission teams, and faithful stewardship of our apportioned ministries. We need to see our work not as charity, but participation with God in the ongoing work of a new creation where God's children do not lack for food and water and shelter. We offer tangible expressions of thanksgiving for our abundance by sharing our lives and resources with those who do not know abundance of resources but who may offer us gifts from the abundance of their faithful dependence on God in times and places of suffering.

Covenant communities of the means of grace at all times and places across the district, is this a vision that can shape our life together?

Kathleen



**Our Deepest Sympathy Is Extended To: Rev. & Mrs. Robert Ford and their family** on the death of his father, John Lloyd Ford. The Fords serve South

Covington UMC.

**Rev. Alice Lee Price and her family** on the death of her grandmother, Lois Tatum. Rev. Price serves Lyndhurst UMC.



**From The District Program**

**Director:** The devotion

(Ephesians 4: 1-16 taken from the Message Bible) Kathleen and I have been reading for charge conference calls us to run to where God is calling us. We are not to be idle. It charges us to all go in the same direction down the same path, to stay together and encouraging each other along the way. We are reminded that we are permeated in oneness. We each have different personalities, looks and gifts. The passage calls us to use our gifts and graces for the body of Christ, the church; "until we are all moving rhythmically and easily with each other in response to God's Son." Think about that for a moment. What does it mean to move rhythmically together? What if one day we got up in the morning and our right foot decided to move to the left and our left foot wanted to move forward and our right hand wanted to cover our face and our left hand wanted to push us backward? We would not get very far would we? We as the body of Christ must work with each other so we all are going down the same path. This takes a lot of teamwork and compromise. We can accomplish this by setting a church vision or if we already have a vision taking a look at how our church programs are serving the vision. After we have looked at our vision and programs, then we need to set goals on how we are going to accomplish our vision. The vision, programs and goals need to be supported by the whole. God wants us all to support one another in the ministries of our churches. We all are a part of the body of Christ. Whether we are the little toe or the heart we are an important part of the workings of the body. We must always encourage, support and work whenever and wherever we can. Ministry does not happen with the pastor or a few members alone, it takes the whole congregation. We all must use our gifts and talents to minister to each other and our communities.

**Don't Forget District Conference and Leadership Workshops on November 22, 2003 from 1:00 – 5:15 p.m. at St. Paul's UMC in Staunton.**

**Have a happy and blessed Thanksgiving.**

Grace and peace,  
Martha

**The District Welcomes** Rev. Debra Copeland, who began serving Wayne Hills-Oak Hill Charge on October 1, 2003. Her address is: 932 Fir Street, Waynesboro, VA 22980, Office: 949-8778, Home: 540-943-0086.

**\*God sees us as we can be, but loves us as we are.**



**Casa de Amistad:**

**Hispanic/Latino Outreach Ministry**

The children at Casa de Amistad need your help. Some of these children have just arrived in the US and have minimal English skills. Others speak a lot of English but do

not have parents who speak English who can help them practice their reading or read them their spelling list. To help them we have set up a tutorial at Basic United Methodist Church on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. On Wednesdays the tutorial goes to a trailer court on Poplar Ave.

We do not have enough tutors to work one-on-one with the kids. We would love to have you join us one day a week for an hour. If you are looking for a ministry you can do with your family or with a youth group this is it. We have a family who comes once a week- mom and kids help children with English and homework and Dad comes after work to help clean up.

You will be blessed by these children if you join us. Come join us and touch children's lives in a way that tells them we love them. Please contact Mary Kirby- tutorial leader at 280-0354 if you can help even once in awhile. Mary has everything prepared and will train you.

--Becky Lewis



**Casa de Amistad needs your help to**

bring Christmas to our Hispanic/Latino community. We need folks to help us organize and buy gifts for a Christmas store. Last year Santa delivered gifts to over 100 children. We did not feel we could do individual Santa visits this year, so we decided to try a Christmas store where parents would be invited to come, shop, and wrap, paying with a donation. We need organizers; we need presents (variety of ages between \$10 and \$25), and we need folks to help run the "store."

In addition we will host a party with Santa at Basic UMC on December 7 at 5:00 p.m. We need help purchasing and preparing small gift bags (something from the dollar store and some candy) for Santa to hand out.

Dios les bendiga.

Becky Lewis (540-943-4534)



**The Reverend Bass Mitchell, Pastor of the**

**Hot Springs Charge** in Bath County, led a two-day seminar on Spirituality and Preaching for the United Methodist Dodge

City Preaching Academy (Kansas) on October 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. Bass also writes curriculum materials for the United Methodist Publishing House (Adult Bible Study Teacher, Faith Link, and others) and has written two books published by Cokesbury, In "Every Blade of Rustling Grass" and "God Sightings." He has two other books coming out next year – a children's book, "Is There Anything Special About Me?" and "Bit Players in the Big Play" (a collection of dramas about little known biblical characters).

**Attention: Clergy and Laity**  
**Importance: Extremely High**  
**Re: Disaster Relief Offering**



If you have not already taken an offering for disaster relief in Virginia, may I encourage you to do so as soon as possible.

The need is great. FEMA now tells us that 78,000 homes have either been damaged or destroyed, with the heaviest concentration of destruction being in the Rappahannock and Peninsula Districts. Five thousand dollars is the maximum amount that FEMA will give for home rebuilding.

Many of these people did not have flood insurance and, unfortunately, the tidal surge caused great damage. It is estimated that between \$2 and \$3 million needs to be raised in order to aid with a full recovery. We are now in the process of working with the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) and a committee that will be concerned about long-term recovery.

Your offering should be sent as soon as possible to our conference treasurer designated for Disaster Relief in Virginia, #917.

Shirley and Bobby Snead will be coordinating volunteer workers. They can be reached at 1-866-264-8488.

Thank you for the attention that you will give to this important concern.

In Christ,  
Bishop Joe E. Pennel, Jr.

**From the Wesley Foundation:**

We offer an opportunity to the local churches to respond within kind gifts for our Silent Auction, which will be held Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, noon to 3:00 p.m. This effort is to raise funds for our spring break mission trip to South Africa. We will work in the township of Rifilwe with a grammar school. Our goal is to help bring the school up to code. The project will support 18 families and 40 students. Please call us at (434-3490) or email (sanderm1@jmu.edu) for further details.

Grace and peace,  
Derrick Parson, JMU Campus Minister



**Lyndhurst UMC Annual Bazaar**

The women of Lyndhurst UMC will hold their Annual Bazaar on Saturday, November 8, from 6:30 a.m. until ? at the church located at 2835 Lyndhurst Road.

There will be a Christmas Shoppe—Craft Shoppe—Country Kitchen—White Elephant and Rummage—and Bake Sale. Breakfast of Sausage Gravy and Biscuits, Hash Browns, Apples, Juice and Coffee will be served. Lunch will be Hot Dogs, Chips and Soft drinks. For more information call 943-2907 or 943-6385. --Ellen Nicely

**Please Note:** The District Office will be closed Wednesday, November 26, through Friday, November 28, for Thanksgiving. We will also be closed Monday, December 22, through Friday, January 2, for Christmas.

**Leading the Rural Church**

A Resourcing Event for Pastors New to Ministry in Rural, Smaller-Membership Churches on November 17-18 at the Blessing Lodge, Camp Overlook, Keezletown, Virginia. Leadership: Hinton Rural Life Center Staff of Hayesville, NC - A Ministry of the Southeastern Jurisdiction, The United Methodist Church. Sponsored by the Leadership Development Institute, The Virginia Annual Conference, The United Methodist Church. CEU 1.0 available. Registration, including lodging, meals and resource materials: \$75.00 (if registered before November 1; \$85.00 if after) Blessings Lodge offers double rooms. For a single room, please add \$5.00. Blessings Lodge provides a wonderful ministry of delicious meals and gracious hospitality. Please indicate any special dietary needs with your registration. To register: Send check payable to "L.D.I. Virginia" to: Rev. Robert C. Blinn, Registrar, P. O. Box 1081, Collinsville, VA 24078.

Please include your telephone number, mailing address and e-mail address. Please indicate your rooming and dietary preferences, if any. Confirmation, including driving directions, will be mailed upon registration.

**The Staunton District Board of Missions** will be meeting the first week of December. If you would like to apply for a grant from the Board of Missions, please send in your application to the District Office by November 24<sup>th</sup>. Applications can be obtained from the District Office.



***The United Methodist Women's News***

By the time you read this, all of the 'Annual Meetings' will be behind us. I wish to thank all of you for your contribution to the success of these meetings. God has given each of us special and individual gifts for our use as we serve Him and together we become the Body of Christ. The organization of United Methodist Women serve as the Mission arm of the Body of Christ in the United Methodist Church and all of our gifts are required to accomplish our goals.

The officer training for the local units will be held on November 8th. We are trying something new this year, hopefully to help you. We will have two sessions of training, the first one will be at Greenville UMC beginning at 9:30 a.m., the second session will be at Epworth UMC in Selma beginning at 2:00 p.m.. You may choose which one is the closest or most convenient to you. All officers are encouraged to attend.

The Advent Breakfast will be held at Sherando UMC on December 6<sup>th</sup>. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. and breakfast will be served at 9:00 a.m.

I hope that each of you will have a very Happy Thanksgiving.

Serving together,  
Doris Hedrick, President



**District Youth News**

(web site: stauntondistrict.tripod.com)

**District Youth Planning Meeting** – The next District Youth Planning meeting will take place at 5:30 p.m., Saturday,

November 8, at Solid Rock Cafe. Afterwards you can stay and enjoy an evening at the “Rock.” Agenda: Plan and rehearse youth worship offering (skit, devotion, songs) for upcoming District Conference; Plan District Youth R & R; Plan District Youth Retreat. Bring your good ideas. We need you. See ya there!

**Staunton District Conference** – Saturday, November 22, at St. Paul’s UMC, Staunton. All Middle School and High School youth are invited. Please plan to arrive at noon. We will rehearse the youth-led worship offering.

**Middle School Retreat** – November 14-16 at Eagle Eyrie, Lynchburg. Praise and 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" and Keynote: Joe Torrence. Cost: \$96. Call Youth Ministries at 800-768-6040 for registration.

**Christian Music Night at Skatetown** – (First Monday of each month). Monday, November 3, Admission \$3, includes regular skates. 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

**Try and Keep Up with Staunton District Youth on Missions** -

Marquis Memorial UMC youth prepared meals for residents of the Valley Mission, helped with Special Olympics team and delivered Meals on Wheels in the Staunton area. We're in the process of finding out what elderly in our church could use some help around their homes. --Terry Rohr  
Greenville UMC Youth had a full summer of missions. They helped Special Olympics each Sunday afternoon at Wilson H.S. during August, September and October to help them prepare for their upcoming soccer competition. Youth from Marquis Memorial and Mint Spring also joined in to help out. Greenville youth also went to Middle School Mission at West View on the James in August. There, they built decks and made other home repairs for those in need. In addition they served for a week at Project Transformation in Waynesboro where they read to and mentored elementary school children. --Steve Joplin.

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

*Return Service Requested*



**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** – December 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.

*1 Timothy 6:12 Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life, to which you are called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses*  
--Steve Joplin.

**United Methodist Men’s News**

The Staunton District Fall Rally at Fishersville UMC was well attended—almost a full house. Charlene Beach and her circle served up a great sit-down meal. Thanks, Charlene and company! Thanks also to Fishersville UMC for their hospitality.



The following men were elected Officers for the coming year: President – Earl Cash, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Calvin Hughes, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – John Sayers, Secretary – Mike Doyle, Treasurer – Larry Creamer, Chaplain – Jim Bright

Gospel Singer, Dan Tatum, had everyone laughing and singing. It was a great evening of Christian fellowship.  
**November 7-8** – Virginia Conference Spiritual Retreat at Blackstone. It’s still not too late to make this Retreat. Dr. George E. Morris, Sr., Professor of World Methodist Evangelism, will be speaking on “What the World Needs Now.”

**January 25, 2004** – Staunton District Board Meeting at Marquis Memorial UMC in Staunton. A must-make-it meeting for new unit officers.

Earl Cash  
District President

**Have a happy and blessed Thanksgiving!**

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## 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  
1:00 – 2:00 pm.

**Leadership  
Training**

2:30 p.m. –  
5:15 p.m.

#### *Who should attend the District Conference*

All interested persons! And the following voting members: **All Clergy** (Deacons, Diaconal, Elders, Local Pastors, and those who are retired, on leave and in extension ministries. **Local Church Leaders:** Lay Leader, Chairperson of Church Council (or equivalent body), Church School Superintendent, President UMW, President UMM, Lay Member to Annual Conference, Three At-Large Delegates elected by the Charge Conference (one shall be a youth). **District Leaders:** Treasurer, Trustees, Chairperson Council on Ministries, President UMW, President UMM, Lay Leader and Associates, Ministries Coordinators (Youth, Family, Mission, etc.), Lay Members to Annual Conference, Up to 2 youth members elected by the District Youth Council, Up to 2 young adult members elected by the DCOM.

#### **Workshops:**

Pastor Parish Relations:	Kathleen
Overby Webster	
Parsonage Support:	Kay Mayton
Lay Ministries:	Robin Powell
Caring, Listening Ministries:	Tom Murphy,
Industrial Commercial Ministries	Martha
Reynolds, Stephen Ministry	
Partnership in Missions:	Claudette
Freeman,	Being
Covenant with Missionaries	Becky Lewis,
Casa de Amistad	
Worship:	Louise Miller
Trustees:	Jim Bergdoll,
United Methodist Foundation	
Evangelism:	Richard
Benninghove	
In and Out of the Box	James Harris
	Calvin Hughes

#### **Directions:**

**81 North to Exit 225, go west on Rt. 275 (Woodrow Wilson Parkway), at the intersection of Rt. 275 and Shutterlee Mill Road turn right on Shutterlee Mill Road. The church is on the left.**