

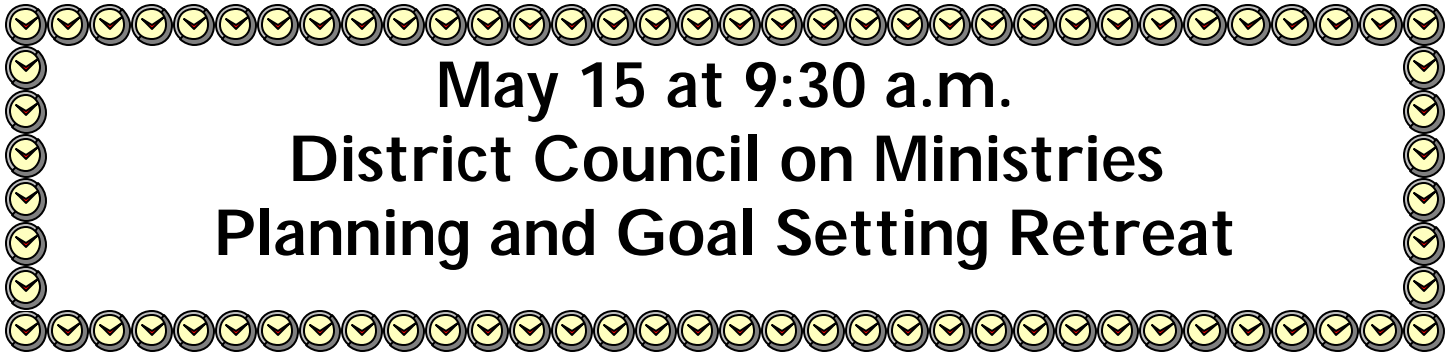


The Staunton District Voice

**"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)**

Volume 1, Issue 4

May 2004



**May 15 at 9:30 a.m.
District Council on Ministries
Planning and Goal Setting Retreat**



**May 21-22
United
Methodist Men
Tri-District
Spiritual
Retreat
Camp Overlook**



**May 23
Annual Conference
Orientation
3:00 p.m.
Mint Spring UMC**



***June 13-16
Virginia Annual Conference
Hampton***

From Our District Superintendent:

Dear Friends,

I remember, back in the day before there was much emphasis on children's participation in worship, coming to a special service, perhaps in the evening, and bringing a stuffed animal with me and coming to the front of the church with the other children and being blessed by the missionary who had invited us to come with our toys. I don't remember the missionary's name, but I do remember he was a missionary (not an evangelist or guest preacher) who was serving in some distant locale. And I remember how wonderful it felt to be "connected" to this missionary and his work.



In the years, since, though, I've been "connected" to many missionaries whose names I've come to know. In 1987-88, Independence Church on the Greensville Charge (Petersburg District) entered into a covenant relationship with Hunter and Esther Mabry who were serving then in India. In the early nineties, Forest Grove Church (Ashland District) entered into a covenant relationship with Steve and Diantha Hodges at the Jubilee Project in Sneedville, TN. They welcomed David and Nancy Forest, just returned from Sierra Leone to speak about their work with the Kissee Eye Clinic; they became a Global Mission Partner church by covenanting to support a person in mission (a doctor) in the North Katanga Annual Conference, they welcomed U-2 missionaries who served at the Bethlehem Center and an urban ministry in Philadelphia. In 1992 that small membership church sponsored a 4 day mission bus trip that included folks from three other districts. During the trip they visited the Henry Fork Center, Ferrum College, the Jubilee Project and Red Bird Mission including Henderson Settlement and worship at Evarts

*What missionaries are you
"connected" with?*

UMC led by Bob Blinn, Virginia Conference missionary. In the late nineties, McGaheysville Church (Harrisonburg District) covenanted with Judy Matheny in McDowell, WV, and then in 2000 also with Kelly and Dale Clem in Lithuania. Stuffed animals were a part of that support, too; one year they collected several boxes full of animals to send to children in Lithuania. They enclosed pictures of the children in McGaheysville who had sent the toys, and a disposable camera, so they received pictures back of the children who received them. In addition to the ongoing missionary support they also welcomed Esther and Hunter Mabry to speak about their ministry, Denise Honeycutt to tell about her Nigeria experience, and newly trained missionaries Elma Jocson, a surgeon heading to Nepal, and Bob May, computer technician, who was heading to Palestine. And they offered support when someone from the congregation served as an individual volunteer in mission for 3 months in Bosnia. Arriving in Staunton I was glad to find out that the newsletter that Mike and Marable Southall-Vess (whom Harold and I have known for many years) send out about their work in Japan is financed by Doe Hill Church.

What missionaries are you "connected" with? Do you support them with prayers and notes? Is your congregation in a covenant relationship so that missions have a face – our missionary? Will your children remember well into their adult years the time "the missionary" spoke at church and opened up a whole new world of mission and ministry?

Master, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you, thirsty and give you a drink? And when did we ever see you sick or in prison and come to you? Then the King will say, "I'm telling the solemn truth: Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me—you did it to me." (Matthew 25:37-40, The Message)

Together with you in Missions,

Kathleen

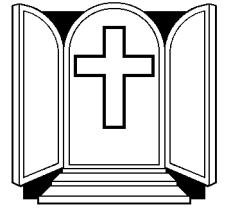


Our Deepest Sympathy Is Extended To:

The Rev. & Mrs. John Carrier on the death of their brother-in-law, Billy Ray Johnson. The Carriers serve Central UMC in Clifton Forge.

From Our District Program Director:

By the time the newsletter is delivered to your homes, the Staunton District will have celebrated two important ministries events not only to the district but to the church as a whole. April 25th we had a celebration and commitment service for our Lay Speakers. Lay Speaking Ministries is more than a speaking ministry it is a ministry of the laity in our churches who through training and the gifts God has given them do all kinds of ministries within the church. Some of those ministries are visiting the homebound, the sick, teaching Sunday school, leading small group Bible study, being liturgist, being mentors to new members and children and many other ministries. In the days of the Circuit Rider the lay preachers and the exhorters (precursors to our lay speakers) were the ones who kept the fires of the Holy Spirit glowing in their communities. The lay preachers and exhorters “tended the flock” in the absence of the Circuit Rider. Today the lay speaker works with the pastor to provide the total care of the church community and to reach out to the community as a whole.



Our other celebration was the meeting of the Full Board of Missions on May 2nd. Here we were told about the many district ministries that are helped by the Board of Missions from Casa de Amistad to doing emergency repairs to some of our churches, to Volunteer in Mission trips to providing scholarship money for our children and youth to go to events that will help them in their faith journey and many other projects. We also learned how as a district we can finance these projects. We help finance these projects through our apportionments and through individuals who want to give more for mission work through the Second Mile Club and the Palmer Scholarship fund. On the district we have many people who want and are willing to go out and be Christ ambassadors to the world (whether it be in their own community or truly in the world), but they need our help with funding. As United Methodist we are a connectional people, we individually can give a little extra and putting it together we are able to have much.

As we look toward Pentecost and the growth of the early church, let us remember to be in fellowship as a community of believers and the gifts the Holy Spirit has given each of us, so together we can be the body of Christ in the world.

They committed themselves to the teaching of the apostles, the life together, the common meal, and the prayers.⁴³ Everyone around was in awe--all those wonders and signs done through the apostles!

⁴⁴And all the believers lived in a wonderful harmony, holding everything in common. ⁴⁵They sold whatever they owned and pooled their resources so that each person's need was met.

⁴⁶They followed a daily discipline of worship in the Temple followed by meals at home, every meal a celebration, exuberant and joyful, ⁴⁷as they praised God. People in general liked what they saw. Every day their number grew as God added those who were saved. (Acts 2: 42-47 The Message)

Grace and peace,

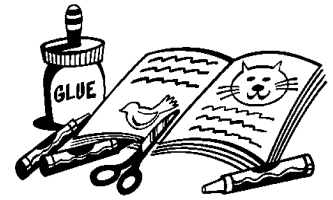
Martha

Prayer Breakfast at Annual Conference

Tickets are available for the annual prayer breakfast/forum to be held at Annual Conference in Hampton, VA, on Monday, June 14, at 6:45 a.m. Guest speaker will be Rev. Cynthia Abrams. This year the prayer breakfast is a cooperative event between the Board of Church and Society, the Commission on Religion and Race and Native American Ministries and combines the annual Committee on Religion and Race Prayer Breakfast and the Peace with Justice Forum breakfast. There will be limited seating. Tickets are \$10.00 each. Contact Reverend Herb Seemann, Glovier Memorial UMC between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, at (540) 943-3071.

What Are We Doing This Summer? Project Transformation!

Come and be transformed! Join with other congregations in the district and college students from around the country to serve some of our area's neediest children. Project Transformation is an exciting new outreach and internship program sponsored by the Wesley Foundation at UVA in cooperation with partner churches like Calvary, Greenville, Trinity, and Basic.



College interns from across the country lead Monday-Thursday day camps for children in the downtown neighborhoods of Waynesboro and Charlottesville. Children (rising 1st through 5th graders) participate in crafts, recreation, interactive Bible stories, and a full hour of reading each day of camp, including a half hour of one-on-one reading with church and community volunteers. Part vacation Bible school and part academic enrichment, Project Transformation focuses on reading skills and community involvement, giving children exposure to a variety of experiences and people within a Christian context.

This summer, 15 college-aged interns will live and worship together in an ecumenical Christian community. They will live in dormitory housing in Charlottesville and will work in staffs of 5 at each of three day camps, hosted at Hinton Avenue UMC in Charlottesville, Mt. Moriah UMC in White Hall, and Basic UMC in Waynesboro. On Fridays, interns take time for reflection and vocational exploration, visiting various ministry settings and speaking with lay and ordained ministers about their vocational paths.

Project Transformation needs you! Through the support of partner churches and friends, we are able to provide a wonderful camp experience for low-income children in vulnerable neighborhoods. There are many ways to become involved – consider taking part with your church this summer by:

- **Supporting the interns spiritually through prayer.** This is a tough and rewarding summer job for young people who feel called to explore ministry. They need and appreciate your prayers!
- **Being a part of the summer experience by providing 10 reading volunteers per day for a week at one of the sites.** Each child spends a half an hour Monday-Thursday in one-on-one assisted reading time with a volunteer. Volunteers can be middle school aged through retirement and are given an orientation when they arrive at camp to volunteer – the only qualification is being able to read.
- **Soliciting volunteers from the congregation for afternoon enrichment time.** Come out for any amount of time between 1-3pm during camp to share your profession or passion with the children. Last summer brought a potter, firefighters, police officers, a hula dancer, storytellers, Voices of Youth, an orthopedist, a scientist, a field trip to a local farm, and an afternoon spent making and eating homemade ice cream.
- **Donating books for the reading program.** Books may be used or new and may be dropped off at the district office by June 1. Because most children are at or below grade level, we need more lower-level books (primer through 3rd grade).
- **Providing program supplies and snacks.** Lists are available by contacting Martha Reynolds in the district office. Donations may be dropped off at the district office by June 1.
- **Supporting Project Transformation financially.** Interns come from schools all around Virginia and ask their home churches for financial contributions to cover a portion of their stipend. Project Transformation partner churches in the Staunton and Charlottesville districts provide the remaining stipend support. This is a wonderful gift enabling a young person to explore ministry for the summer, while also earning money for the school year. All amounts are appreciated and helpful.
- **Participating in the Family Fun Nights at Basic UMC.** On July 8th and August 5th we'll gather for a potluck and presentations by the children. These are informal times of fellowship when children's families, partner congregations, community volunteers, host congregations, and interns gather to share a meal and get to know one another. These are wonderful opportunities for those unable to volunteer during the day.

Consider how you can be involved in this exciting ministry and contact Martha Reynolds in the district office or the Project's director, Deborah Lewis, for more information or to volunteer – come and be transformed!

Deborah Lewis
 Project Transformation –
 Wesley Foundation at UVA
 1908 Lewis Mountain Rd.
 Charlottesville, VA 22903
 434-977-6500
 wesleyuvadl@earthlink.net

Project Transformation

Project transformation needs our help to help keep their cost down and the cost down to the sponsoring churches. Listed below are snack and craft supply needs– if you or churches can donate any amount of any of the list supplies or snack list. The quantities on the supply are very large because that is the amount needed for all three sites. Please drop the supplies off at the church office or call Martha Reynolds 540-932-1055. Thank you.

Snack Request List 2004

- lemonade/drink mix or juice
- small paper cups
- packaged snack items like granola bars/Little Debbie's/cookies/etc.
- raisins or other dried fruit
- microwave popcorn
- graham crackers/ goldfish or Cheezits/ pretzels



Supply List 2004

- | | | | |
|------|--|-----|------------------------------------|
| 2500 | sheets of newsprint paper - 12 x 18 | 400 | colored markers |
| 2400 | round balloons (medium sized, for water balloons) | 120 | ounces of glitter (various colors) |
| 1600 | sheets of construction paper – 8 1/2 x 11 (various colors) | 70 | packs of water color paints |
| 400 | sheets of construction paper – 12 x 18 (various colors) | 60 | rolls of scotch tape |
| 60 | men's old dress shirts (any style or color) | 50 | pair of children's scissors |
| 60 | spools of embroidery floss (various colors) | 50 | small watercolor paint brushes |
| 40 | boxes of colored pencils (12 each) | 30 | rolls of packing tape |
| 30 | bottles of fabric paint (various colors) | 30 | cardboard magazine file boxes |
| 18 | cans of blue hair gel (40 oz. each) | 12 | packs of popsicle sticks |
| 12 | packs notebook paper (150 sheets each) | 4 | packs of erasers |
| 10 | packs (large) of pipe cleaners (assorted colors) | 4 | Frisbees |
| 5 | jump ropes (individual and group sized) | 4 | packs of food coloring |
| 3 | inflatable pools or slides | 3 | packs of sidewalk chalk |
| 2 | boxes of ziplock plastic bag (gallon sized) | 2 | soccer balls |
| 2 | portable volleyball nets and balls | | |

The Faithful Men will be in concert at **Oak Hill UMC**, 1862 Lyndhurst Road, Waynesboro, on Sunday, May 2, at 10:00 a.m. for the special morning worship service. A love offering will be taken. All are invited.

Monterey UMC has **70 metal chairs**, in good condition, for sale cheap. \$4.00 per chair. Or make us an offer on the lot.



Thank you!

It is so hard for me to know how to say "Thank You!" adequately and express how much your love and generosity have meant to Sam and me. Your care and concern during this difficult time with my family have taught me so much about the true love that Christ intended us to show and share with each other. If I started today to tell you how much you, your love and concern, your thoughtfulness and kindness have meant to me and my family, this note would never be finished. When Rev. Freeman handed me your gift and told me what had been done, it actually took a few minutes for me to realize exactly what you had done and it touched me so deeply. Words cannot begin to express my thanks. May God bless you and yours with his most wonderful and richest blessings ever!!

With love and gratitude,
 Donna (and Sam)

Laity Banquet

The 2004 Annual Conference Laity Banquet will be held on Monday, June 14, at the Holiday Inn-Coliseum. Our speaker will be our very own Bishop Pennel. Cost is \$20 and checks must be made payable to the Virginia Annual Conference. Please note that tickets will only be sold in advance of conference and that NO tickets may be purchased at the door. If you wish a ticket, please send a check to Robin Powell, 1016 Ladd Road, Waynesboro, VA 22980. All tickets must be purchased on or before June 3, 2004. If you are purchasing multiple tickets, I need the names of each holder of the tickets for my list—just in case there is a loss. See you at Conference,

Robin Powell



REVIVAL

Bethlehem, Glossbrenner, McKinley, and Mt. Zion United Methodist Churches will come together for a revival May 23-26, with services beginning at 7:00 P.M. nightly. Services will be held at Glossbrenner on Sunday, May 23rd, with the Rev. Chad Herndon preaching. On Monday, May 24th, services will be at McKinley with Rev. Janet Knott preaching. Rev. Bill Hinton will preach on Tuesday, May 25th at Mt. Zion Church, and the Rev. Donald Long will preach on Wednesday, May 26th at Bethlehem Church. An offering will be taken each night with the money going to the Staunton District Habitat for Humanities House.

All are invited to join in this wonderful time of celebrating our connectedness. If you need additional information or directions, please feel free to call 885-6479 or 350-2707.

UMCOR Video: Multiplying Hope

Experience firsthand examples of works of recovery and life-changing ministry supported by your donations. "Multiplying Hope" is a new 7-minute video (also available in DVD format) that illustrates the ways United Methodists are in the lead to ease the pain when catastrophes strike. The production was created to support the One Great Hour of Sharing offering-- but it's appropriate at any time of the year for a mission minute or sermon starter. Order this wonderful resource by calling toll free 1-888-862-3242 today.

Peace,

Denise Honeycutt

Conference Secretary of Global Ministries / Director of Mission, Virginia Conference

United Methodist Men

Leadership Development Day at Bon Air UMC, Richmond, Saturday, April 3, 2004. Those who attended had a great time. New Conference Officers were elected. Brian Manwiller was elected as UMMen President. He will begin in the position July 1, 2004. Larry Jent., Editor of the Advocate, was guest speaker and worship leader.



It is time to register for the **Tri District Spiritual Retreat** at Camp Overlook May 21 & 22, 2004. We are excited about having three District Superintendents (Staunton, Harrisonburg, and Winchester) as our speakers. The theme for the retreat is "Living as Christians in a Non-Christian World." Stanton District UMMen are the sponsor and planners for this year's Retreat. We are very happy to have our District Superintendent, Kathleen Overby Webster, as one of the leaders. It is incumbent on each of us to encourage men from our churches to attend. See your local president or pastor for a flyer with information and registration form.

Annual Conference UMMen Breakfast The UMMen Breakfast will be on Tuesday, June 15, 2004, at Bethany UMC at 6:30 a.m. Clarence Brown (Charlottesville District Superintendent) will be the speaker. Tickets are \$8.00.

Earl Cash, President



***** DISTRICT YOUTH NEWS *****
(web site: stauntondistrict.tripod.com)

AWAKENING 2004 – What a great time we had at “Awakening 2004,” Norfolk/Virginia Beach, VA, April 2-3. About 64 from Staunton District headed for Awakening by several van loads. Youth from Calvary, Cherryvale, Christ-Staunton, Greenville, Monterey, St. Mark’s and St. Paul’s attended. Debbie Harris, Fishersville, served on CCYM Youth Staff for the event as well. We danced and sang LOUD praises to Jesus our Lord and King with David Crowder, Refuge and Celia Whitler. We laughed and cried with Sam Glenn and CPR. We went to the beach during the break on Saturday. The David Crowder band will be back next year...DON’T MISS IT.

STAUNTON DISTRICT YOUTH SUMMER RALLY - Sunday, June 6, 2-6 PM at Shenandoah Acres. Staunton District Youth “Summer Rally.” All Staunton District Youth are invited to come, bring a friend, and enjoy swimming, games, worship with “Church of Rock,” and burgers & hot dogs on the grill. Please bring pictures and memories of our recent retreat at Camp Overlook as well as other District youth events from the past year to share with others. Cost: \$10.00 each (includes Lake entry fee, burgers & hot dogs). RSVP before May 26 to Martha Reynolds at 932-1055 or email: staudistpd@ntelos.net

YOUTH SERVICE FUND SUNDAY - “Youth Service Fund Sunday” - All churches in the Staunton District are requested to choose any Sunday of your choice, in May to celebrate YSF. Encourage Youth to lead the worship service and to collect an offering for YSF on that Sunday. Please make checks out to YSF and mail to Smitty at the Conference office. Please mark “Staunton District” on your check so that our district will receive proper credit. Questions? Contact Steve Joplin.

VIRGINIA CONFERENCE #1 IN YSF GIVING IN 2003 – The Virginia Conference was number one in Youth Service Fund giving in all of United Methodism in 2003. With over \$52,000 in contributions, the Conference Council on Youth Ministry approved 1/3 of this money to the United Methodist Church nationwide; 1/3 to out-of-state projects; and 1/3 to in-state projects. 100 grant requests were received from nonprofit organizations and local congregations for these funds.

SOLID ROCK CAFE’ RECEIVES YSF GRANT – A grant request to Youth Service Fund, submitted on behalf of the Staunton District Youth, has resulted in a grant of \$644 to the Solid Rock Café. The funds will help provide furniture and equipment for the new ministry room at the “Rock.”

VOICES OF YOUTH HEALTH KIT CHALLENGE – The Voices of Youth have challenged the Staunton District to assemble and donate 9,000 Health Kits for UMCOR to help the needy throughout the country and the world. Challenge your church to help by setting a goal of some number of Kits to provide. (Suggested goal is 1 Kit per church member). Bring the Kits to the Staunton District office before June 11, 2004.

VUMDYLA - Virginia United Methodist District Youth Leaders Assembly at Randolph-Macon Women’s College, Lynchburg, August 5-7, 2004. This is where we plan our district youth events for the upcoming year. We would like to have 2–3 Youth (leaders or potential leaders) from each church in the district attend this event. It is also a great opportunity to glean new ideas from other districts and to experience inspiring worship & music. Come also to learn more about CCYM opportunities for youth in leadership. The district pays for 17 to go. If more than 17 attend, then the cost is divided so that all will pay a little. Cost in the past = prox. \$25 each. Contact Steve Joplin at 886-9367 or email: steve.joplin@hollister.com

2003-2004 SCRIPTURE: Matthew 28: 18-20 *And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”*

Steve Joplin

Upcoming Events



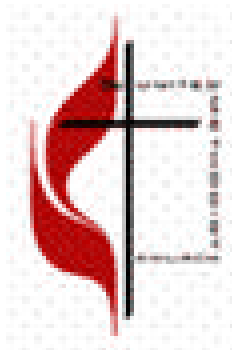
May 2 - Full Board of Missions Meeting - St. John's UMC (Buena Vista) - 3:00-5:00 p.m.
May 5 - Directors, Board of Missions - 10:00 a.m. - District Office
May 6 - Clergy Officers Meeting - 10:00 a.m. - District Office
May 6 - District Superintendency Committee - 11:30 a.m. - District Office
May 7 - Kamp for Kids - Camp Overlook
May 10-11 - Cabinet
May 15 - District Council on Ministries Planning and Goal Setting Retreat - Fairfield UMC - 9:30 a.m.
May 19 - District Parsonage Committee - 4:00 p.m. - District Parsonage

May 20-28 - Licensing School
May 21-22 - United Methodist Men Tri-District Spiritual Retreat - Camp Overlook
May 23 - Annual Conference Orientation - 3:00 p.m. - Mint Spring UMC
May 25 - Clergy and Spouses Meeting - St. John's UMC (Buena Vista) - 6:00 p.m.
June 6 - District Youth - Shenandoah Acres - 2:00-6:00 p.m.
June 13-16 - Annual Conference - Hampton
June 23 - Clergy Moving Day
June 25-July - Voices of Youth in England
July 10 - Camp Meeting - 11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. - Glenn Maury Park, Buena Vista
July 15-18 - South Eastern Jurisdictional Conference
July 19 - District Council on Ministries - 6:30 p.m.
July 24 - UMW Executive Meeting
July 23-25 - School of Christian Mission - VUMAC
July 26-28 - Cabinet
July 26-29 - School of Christian Mission - VUMAC
July 28-30 - Conference Mission Meeting - VUMAC
August 3 - Clergy Welcoming Picnic - Douthat State Park

The Staunton District Office
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*Open Hearts,
Open Minds, Open Doors,
The United Methodist Church*