



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 5

June 2004



Virginia Annual Conference

June 13-16

Hampton, Virginia

Staunton District Youth Summer Rally

Sunday, June 6 1:00-6:00 p.m.

**Shenandoah Acres
Stuarts Draft**

Cost: \$10.00



From the District Superintendent:

Dear Friends,

There I was, reading the Scriptures in Acts 1 and 2 that recount the Ascension of Jesus in the days after resurrection and of the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, and I was struck at how much conferencing goes on in those chapters. Oh, I know the word conferencing isn't used but its conferencing all the same:



* *In face-to-face meetings, he (Jesus) talked to them about things concerning the kingdom of God. As they met and ate meals together (Act 1:3-4, [The Message](#))*

* *They went to the upper room they had been using as a meeting place... They agreed they were in this for good, completely together in prayer (Acts 1:12-14, [The Message](#))*

* *When the Feast of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place (Acts 2:1, [The Message](#))*

Perhaps because I have spent so much time reflecting on General Conference and in anticipation of Annual and Jurisdictional Conferences, but it seems the epitome of conferencing, meeting together in one place, face-to-face, eating together and praying together, talking about things concerning the kingdom of God and agreeing that we are "in this for good." Whether the place of conferencing is Jerusalem or Pittsburg, Hampton or Lake Junaluska, there is great grace in the very act of Christ's people conferencing.

We are still digesting the work of the recent General Conference and will be living into that work over the next years. That work was upheld and strengthened by the prayers of many who were in the midst of the conference and of many who watched and listened to it from great distances.

At the Virginia Annual Conference we will celebrate with missionaries from Mozambique and confer about a Common Table of Church Vitality. We will greet friends, welcome clergy who are newly licensed, commissioned, and ordained, sing mightily, and honor those who are retiring. This will be Bishop Pennel's last conference with us. He has given us much in his time here: a renewed emphasis on our Wesleyan heritage, increased missional emphasis, and commitment to excellence in ministry of all kinds. He has led our conference to three consecutive years of increased membership and we have increased our apportioned and second mile giving. Under his leadership we adopted a Conference Vision statement and relocated to a much needed Conference Center. We pray that he and Janene will enjoy a most blessed retirement.

As we look toward Jurisdictional Conference in July, we are in prayer for those who are delegates and for the critical task they face of electing new episcopal leaders. We are in prayer for those who are candidates for the episcopacy (including Clarence Brown, Charlottesville Superintendent) and for the committee which will assign the bishops to the conferences they will serve. And even now we pray for the new bishop (whose name we do not yet know) we will receive on September 1.

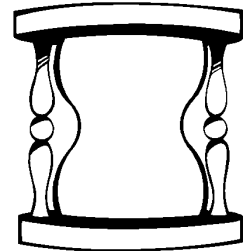
I look forward to conferencing with you.

Grace upon grace,

Kathleen

From Our District Program Director

Wow! Time truly flies by when you are having fun. It is hard to believe that on June 1 it will be one year since I started as your Program Director. Coming into this brand new position has been exciting, overwhelming, inspiring, scary, wonderful, terrifying, tremendous, and extremely fulfilling. I have visited churches and talked about programming with them. I have talked to entire congregations about Christian Education. I have even had the privilege to fill pulpits on occasion. I have been working closely with the Council on Ministries and other district committees to provide educational and fun events for the district. I have been working closely with our district youth. The Staunton District youth are the most Awesome kids. They are caring individuals who have a great love for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I look forward to working with them in the future.



I have learned much in this past year and I am sure I will be learning more with each day. The Lord has stretched me and moved me out of my comfort zone in this past year and has provided me with many people who have helped me along the way. We are very fortunate on the Staunton District to have people who are willing to help and to be encouragers. These folks have made my job such a pleasant one. I look forward to serving the Staunton District for another year. I love to travel throughout the district so give me a call, I will be glad to come visit you.

The District Council on Ministries met on Saturday, May 15, to plan for the calendar year 2005. We had a great day and we accomplished a lot. As soon as we have finalized the Calendar for 2005 it will be put into the *District Voice*.

Don't forget to mark your Calendars for the Staunton District Camp Meeting on July 10th at Glen Maury Park in Buena Vista, VA from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. There will be lots of great music and terrific preaching. Come for a wonderful day of fellowship and spiritual feeding.

Grace and peace,

Martha



The Staunton District of the United Methodist Church		
Camp Meeting		
<p>Saturday, July 10, 2004</p> <p>11:00 a.m.— 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>Glenn Maury Park Buena Vista, VA</p>	<p>Music Groups</p> <p>Good News Foursquare Edenaires Voices of Praise People's Youth Choir Pleasant view Mass Choir and Praise Dance Team</p>	<p>Guest Preachers</p> <p>Rev. Lee Dotson Mountain Valley UMC Alleghany County</p> <p>Rev. Deborah Koontz Stonewall/ West View UMC Augusta County</p> <p>Rev. John Miller Pleasant view UMC Waynesboro</p>



Our Deepest Sympathy Is Extended To:

Mr. and Mrs. David (Robin) Powell and their family on the death of her grandfather.
Rev. and Mrs. Lester (Susie) Kennedy and their family on the death of her grandmother.

Rev. and Mrs. James (Sandy) Burns and their family on the death of her uncle.

May 20, 2004

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am happy to report that financial stewardship in the Virginia Conference as of April 30 is up 11.48 percent in total giving. For apportioned funds we are at 29.15 percent as compared to 28.31 percent for the same time period in 2003.

There is also good news in general church giving. Sandra Lackore, General Secretary and Treasurer of the General Council on Finance and Administration, shared the following good news. "With April receipts up almost \$2 million and the percentage of apportionments paid up 1.2 percent we might conclude that the economic projections shared by GCFA member Don House at General Conference are beginning to happen. It appears that the turnaround in the economy may be starting to be reflected in our local churches' giving!"



Thank you for every effort that is being made to serve God's people both in Virginia and around the world.

In Christ,

Joe E. Pennel, Jr.

Casa de Amistiad

The District Hispanic/Latino out reach ministry needs your help.

We need good used furniture and household goods for families who come with nothing. The storage bins are low. We especially need living room furniture, bedding, towels, silverware, pots and pans. Please contact Frank and Gloria Deckert at 540-885-9663 or exsoop@aol.com if you can help. We have several families who are in desperate need. One lost most of their things in a fire.



Project Transformation—a summer program for at-risk youth is looking for volunteer readers who can read for about an hour in the mornings during the summer. The program is housed at Basic UMC and is attended predominately by Latino children. Please contact Deborah Lewis with the Wesley Foundation at UVA to see how you can help. Her number is 434-977-6500 or wesleyuvadl@earthlink.net.

Missions

We live in an exciting time for those who love missions. The Virginia Annual Conference is involved in Russia and Africa, helping people build new schools and churches. We have many ways in which to work on God's mission right here in Virginia too and every year we have an opportunity to come together at Blackstone and discover for ourselves how exciting mission can be. This opportunity is our conference School of Christian Mission.

This year the dates for our school are July 23-25 for the weekend session, and July 26-29 for the week session. We have three areas of study for you to choose from. The Spiritual Growth Study is Concerning Prayer. The Geographic Study is on Cuba. And the General Issues Study is Public Education. There is also a Youth Study Group and an Intergenerational Study. During the plenary session, the Rev. Al Horton is leading a general study on prayer, policy, and politics.

If you love missions and want the opportunity to gain a greater insight into them, contact your District Mission Secretary or the District UMW Coordinator for Education and Interpretation for more information and registration forms. Come and join us this July and discover for yourself the love of missions.

James Rodden, E.S. District Mission Secretary (ifrodo@mindspring.com)

Congratulations To:

Rev. Chad Herndon who graduated Eastern Mennonite Seminary and will be commissioned a Probationary Elder at Annual Conference. Chad serves Mt. Zion UMC



Rev. Jason Micheli who will be commissioned a Probationary Elder at Annual Conference. Jason serves St. John's UMC in Buena Vista.

Rev. Alice Lee Price who will be commissioned a Probationary Elder at Annual Conference. Lee serves Lyndhurst UMC

Rev. Janet Knott who will be ordained an Associate Member at Annual Conference. Janet serves Bethlehem UMC.

Rev. John Carrier who will retire at Annual Conference. John serves Central UMC in Clifton Forge.

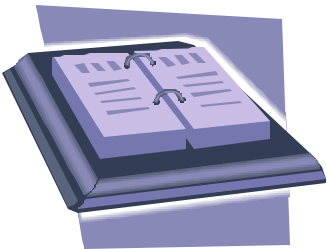
Rev. Lee Dotson who will retire at Annual Conference. Lee serves Mountain Valley UMC.

Rev. James Harris who will retire at Annual Conference. Jim serves Fishersville UMC.

Rev. Matthew Nelson who will retire at Annual Conference. Matt serves Mount Pleasant UMC in Covington.

United Methodist Men

Eleven men from the Staunton District attended the **Tri District Spiritual Retreat** at Camp Overlook May 21 & 22. We experienced a spiritually uplifting two days. The theme was "Living as Christians in a Non-Christian World." Kathleen Overby Webster talked about living as a Christian in today's culture. She also led the evening devotions Friday evening. Jay Hanke talked about being a Christian in today's work environment. Ed Pruitt spoke about men living the Christian faith in the family. He also conducted the closing worship service with communion. We are very grateful for the time and effort the District Superintendents contributed in making the Retreat such a success. A special thanks from the men in Staunton to Kathleen for her leadership.



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.

District UMMen Cabinet Meeting - July 24, 2004. This meeting is open to all UMMen in the District. The meeting will be held at Virginia Chapel UMC, Micheltown in Bath County. Coffee will be served beginning at 9:30 a.m. The meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. While the meeting is taking place, spouses will be given a mini-tour of Bath County. Following the meeting we will have lunch (Dutch Treat) at the Homestead. Immediately after lunch we will be given a guided tour of The Homestead facility. Spouses will join the men for lunch and the Homestead tour. Reservations can be made by contacting Earl Cash (540-464-1496) or any of the District UMMen Officers. Please plan to join us for this day of fellowship and fun.

UMMen Day at Camp Rainbow Connection - Join the campers on one of the Thursdays of Camp week. Men from across the conference are invited to Blackstone to fellowship with the campers and cook hamburger and hot dogs for the evening meal. The dates are July 15th and August 12th, 2004.

District UMMen Fall Rally - Fishersville UMC, September 23, 2004.

Earl Cash, President

*** DISTRICT YOUTH NEWS ***

(web site: stauntondistrict.tripod.com)

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. Pay at entrance to Lake at registration table. RSVP before May 26 to Martha Reynolds at 932-1055 or email: staudistpd@ntelos.net

THANK YOU ERIN, ASHLEIGH & REBEKAH - Thank you Erin Betlej, Ashleigh Huggard and Rebekah Rigg, for serving as Co-Presidents of 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 in all that you do.



Caption describing picture or graphic.

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

YOUTH TO ANNUAL CONFERENCE - Erin Betlej, Calvary, and Rebekah Rigg, Parrish Court, will be representing Staunton District Youth at the upcoming Annual Conference in Hampton.

VOICES OF YOUTH 2004 - Erin Betlej, Calvary and Rebecca Rigg, Parrish Court, will be traveling with Voices of Youth, a Virginia Conference youth mission team and choir in June and July. They will be on a mission tour of John & Charles Wesley's home in England. Voices of Youth will perform at 7:30 PM, Friday, July 16, 2004 at Wesley Memorial UMC, Charlottesville. Please keep them in your prayers.

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, 2004. They need Youth to come help with the elementary children Mon-Thur each week. You could come read with them, 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: wesleyuvadl@earthlink.net

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 27-29, 2004. Location: Westview on the James. Cost: \$76. For registration contact: Youth Ministries at 800-768-6040 #139.

2003-2004 Staunton District Youth Statement: "Ignite the faith. We are the youth sent here by God to make disciples."

Steve Joplin

To Say Good Bye:

Clergy and families who are projected to be appointed off the District are: Rev. Loretta Benninghove of Basic UMC to Farmville Dist, Rev. James Burns of Greenville UMC to Harrisonburg Dist, Rev. Jeane Dunkum of Callaghan Charge to Danville Dist, Rev. Robert Ford of South Covington UMC to Winchester Dist, Rev. Chard Herndon of Mt. Zion UMC to Arlington Dist, Rev. Milton Marks of Christ UMC (Staunton) to Lynchburg Dist, Rev. Bass Mitchell of Hot Springs Charge to Charlottesville Dist, Rev. Edward Rigg of Parrish Court UMC to Charlottesville Dist, Rev. Herbert Seemann of Glovier Memorial UMC to Roanoke Dist, Rev. Wayne Warren of Bath Charge. Rev. Frederick Arndt and Rev. Robert Maas with Re-retire and Rev. Lester Kennedy of Augusta Springs UMC will be moving within the District.

Update from Terry Wood, Recovery Director, May 18, 2004

Since my last update in March much progress continues to be made. We are very close to getting some people back into their homes but we continue to find people who are in need. Much of what inspires us all to keep going is the teams, and the people we are trying to help

God calls us to go into the world and make disciples. This isn't always accomplished by a sermon or sharing the Bible with the unchurched. How we live our lives and treat each other is one of the best ways of showing the face, hands and love of Jesus. When we listen, hammer, tear out, clean up, and work as a team, setting aside our needs for those of someone else, we are showing the world what Jesus would do. When we can smile and give God the glory in the process we are living our faith. God claims us by faith and we show our thanks and love to God by our works.

John Wesley once said "Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can." He also said, "Catch on fire with enthusiasm and people will come for miles to watch you burn." Since September, many work teams have been on fire with enthusiasm and many have benefited by the warmth of the fire. All the work done so far has shown the communities affected by Isabel the meaning of our Wesleyan traditions.

I have been given opportunity to talk to some of the teams and been encouraged by the blessings they received and have shared with me. I visited with a local work team who spent most of a Saturday cleaning out a house in Surry County. The young people in the group were a great example to us all that youth are still willing to work hard and show others the arms, legs and strong back of Jesus. The team was smiling when they got there and still smiling when I left.

One evening after being out since 6 a.m., I was on my way home. It was almost 8 p.m. when I arrived in Gloucester. I stopped to take a break before continuing the last hour of my journey. When I entered the fellowship hall of the church I ran into three men who had been working all day doing repairs. During my conversation with them, I learned that all three were cancer survivors who had come to help hurricane survivors. These three men had undergone chemotherapy and radiation to the point of being very ill and losing all their hair. One of them had 78 years of life experience to share; they were all a blessing to me. I can tell you the drive home was much easier than I thought it would be before meeting these amazing men. Suddenly I didn't feel tired at all anymore. The next day I met a man who, in two days, mixed a total of 58 bags of cement by hand in a wheelbarrow.

So far The Virginia Conference has provided materials and labor to assist victims to recover in the following ways:

1. \$112,292.46 total for material in hardest hit areas in the Rappahannock and Peninsula Districts.
2. 204 work teams
3. 25,085 hours contributed by work teams (These teams have cleaned out, removed debris, painted, installed plumbing, drywall, electrical work, built ramps, installed floors, walls, windows, doors and almost anything else you can name.)

If you value the hours at \$5.00 (knowing the tasks mentioned are worth much more) The United Methodist Church has contributed \$125,425.00 in free labor.

We have provided some financial help to the recovery effort but our greatest contribution is the volunteer teams. They provide not only labor but also more blessings to all than can be counted. The progress of the work is getting to a point where we are in need of skilled teams. Right now our greatest need is for contractors and brick masons. We have a couple of projects that require foundation work. If you can provide some technical or hands on assistance please call Terry Wood, Conference Recovery Director at 757-630-8793. The need here for teams, funds and prayers is still great. Please remember there are still people living in campers.

Please continue to contribute directly to the Virginia Conference by designating your donation to the Hurricane Relief for Isabel #917. Donations can be mailed to The Virginia Conference Treasurer, P.O. Box 1719, Glen Allen, VA 23060.

Upcoming Events



June 6 - District Youth - Shenandoah Acres - 2:00-6:00 p.m.
June 7 - District Finance Committee - 7:00 p.m. - District Office
June 13-16 - Annual Conference - Hampton
June 23 - Clergy Moving Day
June 25-July - Voices of Youth in England
June 28 - District Stewards - 7:00 p.m. - Fairfield UMC
July 1 - District Board of Missions Managers Meeting - 10:00 a.m. - District Office
July 1 - New Clergy Open House at the District - 12:00-2:00 p.m.
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
August 4 - Board of Missions Managers Meeting - 10:00 a.m. - District Office
August 5-7 - VUMDYLA - Randolph Macon Women's College
August 13-14 - UMW Planning Retreat
August 20-22 - Conference UMW Young Women's Retreat - VAUMC
September 2 - Board of Missions Managers Meeting - 10:00 a.m. - District Office
September 7 - District Clergy Meeting
September 16-18 - Cabinet
September 18 - District UMW Annual Meeting
September 20 - District Council on Ministries - 1:00 p.m.
September 23 - UMM Rally

*The Staunton District Office
P. O. Box 1048
Fishersville, VA 22939*

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Open Minds, Open Doors,
The United Methodist Church*