

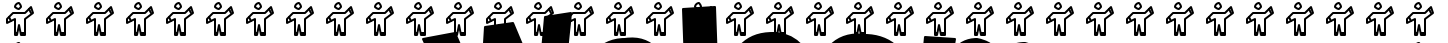


# The Staunton District Voice

**“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 6

July 2004



# Welcome



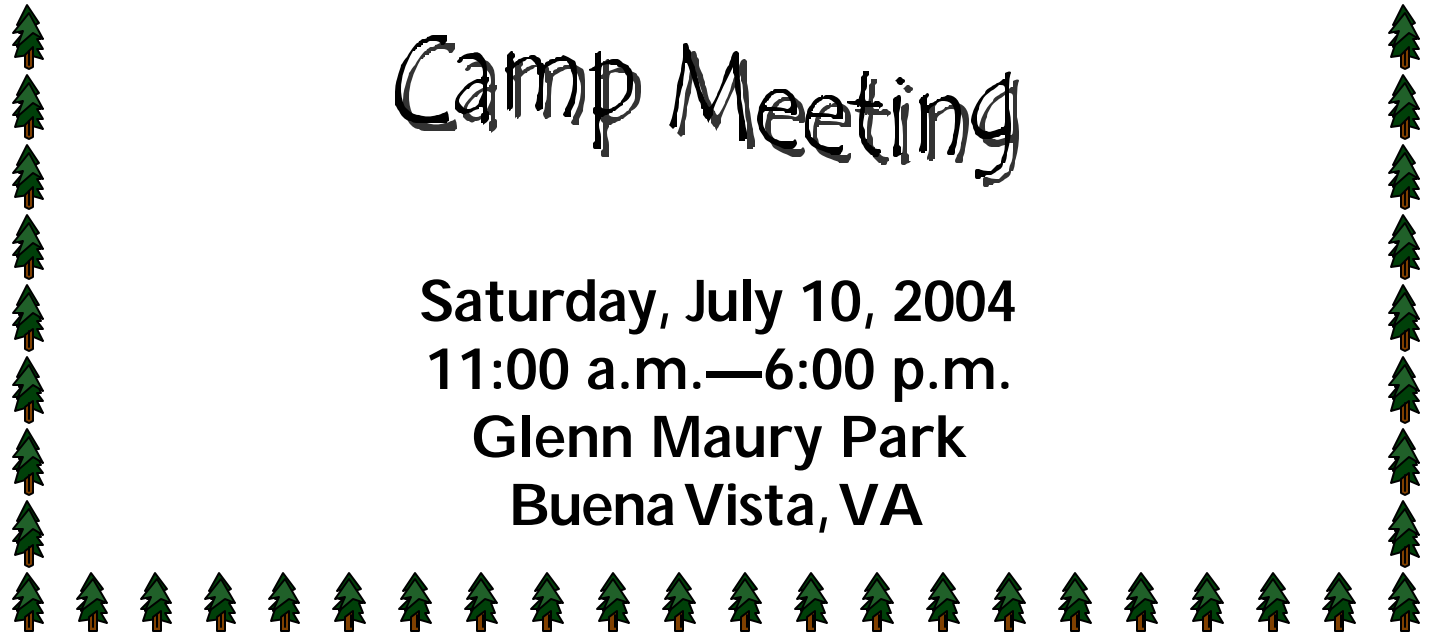
The Staunton District welcomes our new clergy:

- Augusta Springs: Mr. Thomas & Mrs. Martha Reynolds
- Basic: Rev. Donald & Mrs. Christy Gibson
- Bath: Rev. Deborah & Mr. Michael Carey
- Callaghan: Rev. Warren Carswell
- Central (Clifton Forge): Rev. James & Mrs. Debra Grogan
- Christ (Staunton): Rev. John & Mrs. Deborah Ashley
- Fishersville: Rev. Roy & Mrs. Deborah White
- Glovier Memorial: Rev. Stephen & Mrs. Lisa King
- Greenville: Rev. Kevin & Mrs. Beth Haynes
- Hot Springs: Rev. Thomas & Mrs. Mary Gore
- Marvin: Rev. Gene & Mrs. Judy Williams  
Mr. William & Mrs. Patricia Hepler
- Mt. Olivet: Rev. Lester & Mrs. Mary Susan “Susie” Kennedy
- Mt. Pleasant-South Covington: Rev. William “Bo” Setliff, Jr.
- Mt. Zion: Rev. Joseph & Mrs. Oneida Hagenlocker
- Parrish Court: Rev. Steve & Mrs. June Lewis



# Camp Meeting

**Saturday, July 10, 2004  
11:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m.  
Glenn Maury Park  
Buena Vista, VA**



## From Our District Superintendent:

Dear Friends,

Open doors.

Yes, it's more than an image from our UMC Communications advertising program. It is, I think, the perfect image for these early summer days of June and July. Oh, I know the culture around us says January is the month where we look backward and forward, but I think the reality is that June/July is such a time. Graduates line up, robed and tasseled, and pass through a door that marks the leaving of schooling behind and the beginning of new work and life experiences. Brides and grooms enter the doors of a sanctuary as separate and leave with a new united identity. In the UMC clergy pass through the front church doors after their last sermons and leave the congregation to be pastored by someone else. Then in a few days they open the doors of a new appointment and take up the pastoral work there. Congregants wave goodbye at the door to their pastor one day and open that same door in welcome to a new pastor the next. In our conference we have begun the "standing at the door goodbyes" to Bishop and Mrs. Pennel, even as we are also beginning the welcome for the new, as yet unnamed, bishop who will come to us September 1.

This is true not just about people in ministry, but also about ministries themselves. In our Conference we adopted a new organizational plan, The Common Table for Church Vitality. To go forward in this new way, is to say goodbye to a structure that served us well for many years even as we can only project how the new form will take on real shape and function. On the district, as we have worked through the Council on Ministries and Trustees and Superintendency Committee and Finance to set the spending plan for 2005 it was with a true desire that the proposed budget, and the apportionments that flow from it, would represent identifiable, concrete, faithful ministries that assist the local church in making disciples. We did not want to carry on a process that may have worked well in the past but that did not reflect careful programming and stewardship for today and tomorrow. Last year we were standing at the open door of the new district program director position. Today we can see the very positive focus that position has brought to the mission and ministry of the district, even as we continue to live into and refine the work areas.

In these next few months, each church will have opportunity to reflect on, assess, and propose new leaders, ministry emphases, and budgets. It often feels in this as though we are walking through a door that leads from the past we know well into a future we can only glimpse. Then it's good to remember the words of God, given to John of Patmos and recorded in his Revelation: *"I've opened a door before you that no one can slam shut."* (Rev 3:8, [The Message](#))

Grace upon grace,

Kathleen

Every year Virginia United Methodist Churches send thousands of kits to Annual Conference. This year was no exception. These kits represent many hours of work and gathering of items by UMW, Sunday School Classes, youth groups and entire congregations. This year churches contributed 29,181 Health Kits, 14,776 School Kits, 2,328 Layette Kits, 43 Sewing Kits, 20 Flood Bucket Kits and more than \$42,000 donated for the shipping. These kits will be sent all around the world and will make a difference in the lives of those who receive them. Thank you for being a part of God's mission in our world. A special word of appreciation is extended to the Rev. Bob Sharp who served as this year's Coordinator of Kits for Conference and those who volunteered with the loading. A job well done by all!

Peace,

Rev. J. Denise Honeycutt, Virginia Conference Director of Mission and Global Ministries



**Our Deepest Sympathy Is Extended To: Mrs. Sara Young and the Young Family on the death of Rev. LeRoy Young.** Rev. Young was a retired clergy on our District and served Granbery Memorial UMC before he retired.

## From Our District Program Director:

Greetings,

As I sit at my desk words of a poster in my office keep jumping off the page at me. The words are: *Discover God's direction.* How do we discern how God is directing us or our church? Or do we more often try to direct God in what we think is best? As we pray do we take time to listen to God or are we too busy asking for the answer we want rather than listening to what God is calling us to do? Do we intentionally not take time to listen to God because we are afraid of what he may ask us to do? God directs us in all walks of life. He calls some to teach, to be accountants, to be doctors; however we are all called to work in the church using our gifts and talents to build up the body of Christ. That may mean some who are called to teach as a vocation may not make a good Sunday School teacher, instead they may be called to organize the Christmas play. Or the attorney in your church may enjoy the outdoors and would be willing to explore the outdoors with our youth on occasion or the electrician makes a great Sunday School teacher. Each of us is called by God to spread the Word and to build up the body of believers.

This year at Annual Conference I attended the Laity Banquet. Bishop Pennel was the speaker for the evening. One of the things he said that caught my attention was, take time to drive ten minutes in every direction of your church and that is where your members should come from and these are the people we should minister to. We don't need to look beyond these boundaries to find our members. Yes, we may no longer live in the surrounding neighborhood, but we still attend the church because it is the church our family has always attended or it is a place where we can fill at home. Yes, maybe the neighborhood may have changed since we first came to the church; the neighborhood may be older, or may have changed economically. But, that doesn't mean we should not welcome these folks into our congregations? We need to discover God's direction for our church. As we listen to God we may discover the direction He wants us to follow is to provide shepherds to visit the folks in the community and discover what their needs are and design programs to fit the needs. Studies show that faith based social programs often succeed where others fail because we bring the hope of God into these folks lives. It is our response to God's love in our lives that makes us want to feed and provide for folks spiritual and physical needs. We, Christians, are God's hands and feet of our community.

Let us listen to God. Let us use our gifts God has blessed us with for His glory. Let us work in our community to not only provide for folks' physical needs but also let us feed them spiritually. Let us always follow Christ 's example and pray for God's guidance and wisdom in everything we do.

Grace and peace,

Martha

### Disaster Response Team

The Staunton District Disaster Response Team is looking for people who are willing to be trained and to respond when disaster hits our area. If you would like to serve in this ministry please call the district office: 932-1055 or call Calvin Hughes at 464-1038 for more information.

## **\*\*Treasurers Please Note:**

Please make checks out to the **Staunton District** not to the District Treasurer, John Hensley. Thank you.



### **Jim Branscome, Conference Treasurer, announced the following:**

Just an update on the Conference offering with some great news. Through the efforts of Denise Honeycutt working with a friend of hers who wanted to support a ministry for women through a trust fund, we received a donation of \$55,000 for the Women's Training Center in Mozambique. Since this is one of the projects supported by our Conference offering, we are applying this gift to the offering which brings the total as of today \$331,700. God is good - all the time!

### **CONGREGATIONAL SONG Retreat/Seminar**

CROSS-PATHS Ministries, Richmond, VA, is pleased to announce the second in the series of retreats presented by the ACADEMY FOR PASTORAL MUSICIANS. The retreat/seminar will focus on issues and dynamics surrounding Congregational Song in 21<sup>st</sup> century worship, and the power of song in faith formation and transformation. The event leader will be noted hymn writer, ordained UM elder, JOHN THORNBURG, of Dallas, Texas, lecturer at Perkins School of Theology, SMU. The 2004 Retreat/Seminar will be offered August 27-28 (Friday-Saturday) at the Hermitage at Cedarfield Clubhouse, Richmond, Virginia. The 24-hour retreat/seminar is open to all clergy, laity, church musicians, and worship leaders. Details and registration on line at [www.CrossPathsMinistries.com](http://www.CrossPathsMinistries.com). For an event brochure and more information contact: Roger Dowdy (Rdowdy-cp@mindspring.com) ph. 804-754-8371; fax 804-754-8379 web: [www.CrossPathsMinistries.com](http://www.CrossPathsMinistries.com).



### **Hermitage Guild**

The **Samaritan Offering** was taken by most churches between Mother's Day and Father's Day. The special offering is for residents of United Methodist Homes who have exhausted their resources. If your church missed taking the offering, please do so soon. Total assistance needed for residents of the Roanoke United Methodist Home in 2004 is \$201,150. Your gifts are greatly appreciated.

Geraldine Cash

District Hermitage Guild Representative



### **United Methodist Men**

**District UMMen Cabinet Meeting** - July 24, 2004. The 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 sites of interest in the surrounding area of Bath County. Following the meeting we will have lunch (Dutch Treat) at the Homestead. Immediately after lunch we will tour 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. Reservations must be received by July 19, 2004. 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. Featured singers will be "**Sunset Mountain Boys**".

Earl Cash, District President

## New Books At the District Resource Room

### **If It Could Happen Here** .... Turning the Small Membership Church around

Author: Jeff Patton

In this book the author describes six "leavers" for transforming a small-membership church: prayer, discerning a clear vision, indigenous worship, growth groups, membership that means something, and lay pasturing. Filled with solid insights on how the principles Patton has developed can be applied in different contexts, this book will offer hope to all leaders of small-membership congregations who know that there is more in life in Jesus and want to experience it.

### **Small Congregation, Big potential** ..... Ministry in the Small Membership church

Author: Lyle E. Schaller

There are many Questions that leaders of small-membership congregations ask themselves about their church's future. Lyle Schaller suggests that two in particular should rise to the top of the list.

First, what's the right size for a church? Is the small congregation averaging two or three dozen people at worship a legitimate order of God's creation? You bet it is, says Schaller.

Second, should these congregations make their plans on the basis of few resources and fewer options, or should they see themselves as possessed of pools of talent and expanding possibilities? If you are convinced that the former is true then this book is not for you. If, however, you are among those who believe that small membership churches are distinctive places Christian witness and service, spreading the gospel and living in service to the world in ways that other, larger churches are not, then this book is for you. In it you will find the right questions as you seek to lead a small – membership congregation, and solid, practical guidance for doing so.

### **Effective Small Churches in the Twenty-First Century**

Author: Carl S. Dudley

Carl Dudley first published **Making the Small Church Effective** in 1978. In his new work **Effective Small Churches in the Twenty-first Century**, he revisits the small membership congregation, posing new questions reflective of the considerable changes that have swept over small churches in the last two decades. Among the most significant of these are shifts in institutional loyalty and individuals' sense of identity in relation to larger groups and organizations. Drawing on extensive new work in the use of stories, congregational histories, and institutional memories, Dudley explores the key components that contribute to a small congregation's sense of unity and that central idea of the first edition: the human bond of community, physical space, and memory define relationships with the small church, and these relationships in turn sustain small churches through the increasing challenges that confront them.

### **Safe Sanctuaries** and **Safe Sanctuaries for Youth**

Author; Thornbury Melton

These two books offer congregations that are committed to providing safe and nurturing ministries for children and youth a process for developing policies and procedures to reduce the risk of child abuse in the church

### **Teaching the Christian Year Seasons of Faith**

Author: Marcia Joslin Stoner

*Seasons of Faith* contains information, crafts, and activities that will enhance every holiday of the Christian Year. The book includes: a six week Lenten Study, reproducible patterns, reproducible Advent/Christmas/Epiphany worship booklet.

### **32 Ways to become a great Sunday School Teacher**

Author: Delia Halverson

For many churches teacher training has become a once-a-year event or even worse, a budget casualty. This resource uses self-directed study sessions to help teachers design individualized programs that assist them in learning how to teach. New teachers will learn the basics of teaching.

### **Claim the Name Confirmation teaching plans** and **Claiming the Name a Theological and Practical Overview of Confirmation.**

Published by: Cokesbury

This program is designed to be taught in 6 to 15 weeks.

### **Serving from the Heart**

Published by Abington Press

An eight week study for small groups. Build confidence and commitment among adults as they discover their own unique gifts and talents for service in the church. Finding the inspiration to serve and connecting with service opportunities begins a path to lifelong service.

## From Two of Our Missionaries

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As you prepare to attend annual conference, I thought you might find our conference experience here in Japan interesting. We are members of the Tohoku District of the United Church of Christ of Japan (note this church is United, which means shortly before WWII several protestant churches were gathered together under one umbrella: the Presbyterians, Church of Christ, Reformed, Methodists, etc. This new Protestant "denomination" works together but does not impact local church beliefs or polity! So it is a congregational system.

The national organization, UCCJ meets every two years with representatives sent from each district while the districts meet every year. A district is similar to a conference in America, representing a large land area.

The Tohoku district covers northern Honshu, the main island, including 6 prefectures (which are like states). The Tohoku District is mostly rural except for the city of Sendai, which has a population of a million people. There are 87 churches in the district; 27 have less than 10 people in attendance. 15 of the churches have no pastors and are supplied by pastors serving other churches. 40 of the churches have kindergartens or other works which help support the pastor's salary. In these cases the pastors act as the principal. Kindergartens here cover the ages of 3 to 5 so they usually have at least 3 separate classes. Some churches have stopped all activity including Sunday worship. One church on our sub-district (Aizu) closed this year and the building was sold.

There are 4 million people living in Tohoku, with about 4,000 Christians. The population in this area is decreasing except for the city of Sendai. There are 4 missionaries serving the Tohoku district, 2 United Methodist (Marable and I) 2 UCC, working in Sendai. This is the first time United Methodist have had missionaries in this part of Japan.

The Tohoku District Conference lasts 2 days. It is held each May. The journals with statistical information, reports, etc. are available before conference, which is quite a feat considering the church year ends in March. The conference is held in a large church with 200 delegates, one clergy and one lay from each church. Each person receives a badge with your name, church, and number on it. The number is your assigned seat.

The conference starts with Holy Communion. It is served Baptist or Presbyterian style. Then there is a time of celebrating new church starts and other accomplishments. Ordination follows. This year a woman and a man were ordained. There are two levels of ordination.

This year the conference considered re-structuring, changing from 10 sub-districts to 8. One of the reasons was to encourage better working relations, especially between the Sendai city churches and the rural churches beside it. Before Sendai was one district, like Richmond in VA. The new plan called for breaking Sendai into 3, putting some churches into the other districts surrounding it. Of course drawing new lines always is challenging. The debate started at 4 pm and lasted till 9 pm.

This was the year to elect the standing committee for the district which is basically the executive committee which guides the district. There are no paid administrative positions on districts. Everyone is a volunteer and they also serve churches or have lay employment. We also had to elect delegates to the national conference this year. What was comforting was that there are only two ballots, the first ballot narrows the field, and then you vote again. The ballots are hand written and counted by tellers. I made a significant impact this year at the election. My sub district chair asked if we could vote by seat number rather than writing each name in Chinese characters since the missionary would have difficulty writing the complex characters. So the decision was made for the first time that we could vote by using a person's seat number. An older missionary told me this was the first time he could vote because even though his Japanese is good, he still had difficulty with complex names!

The UCCJ church does not have bishops, so there is a moderator, vice chair, and secretary who lead the conference, and they are elected every 2 years.

Three critical issues face the church here in Japan, the decline in membership, clergy salaries and pensions, and clergy retirement housing.

Despite the challenges, the church has a positive attitude and continues to be faithful to God's call. By the way, this was the Tohoku District's 59th Conference. The Protestant church came to Japan in the 1850's, quite a late comer into a civilization of around 2000 years. If you have questions about the church here or our work please feel free to contact us. Please remember us and the church in Japan in your prayers.

Sincerely,

Mike and Marable Southall-Vess, Missionaries to Japan



**Did you know that you can read this letter in its entirety and also other letters from missionaries on the Conference Web Site ([www.vaumc.org](http://www.vaumc.org)) under Emails from Missionaries?**



### \*\*\* DISTRICT YOUTH NEWS \*\*\*

(web site: [stauntondistrict.tripod.com](http://stauntondistrict.tripod.com))

#### \*\*\*STAUNTON DISTRICT YOUTH SUMMER RALLY\*\*\*

About 70 attendees had a great time at the Staunton District Youth Summer Rally at Shenandoah Acres, Sunday afternoon, June 6. We enjoyed swimming, very messy games, worship with "Church of Rock," burgers & hot dogs on the grill. Thank you Joel Robinette for leading "Church of Rock" worship and to Chef Jim Harris for the excellent dogs.

#### \*\*\*YOUTH LEADERSHIP 2004-2005\*\*\*

Welcome to our new Staunton District Youth Co-Presidents for 2004-2005! They are Debbie Harris, Fishersville and Ashley Rohr, Marquis Memorial. 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 look forward to your creativity to reach out to others in new ways to share the love of Jesus in the upcoming year.



#### \*\*\*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 10 AM – Noon Monday -Thursday each week. Contact: Deborah Lewis at 434-977-6500 / email: [wesleyuvadl@earthlink.net](mailto:wesleyuvadl@earthlink.net)



#### \*\*\* VOICES OF YOUTH \*\*\*

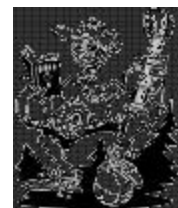
The Voices of Youth would like to thank all of those who donated over 200 Health Kits for UMCOR to help the needy throughout the country and the world. Voices of Youth will perform at 7:30 PM, Friday, July 16, 2004 at Wesley Memorial UMC, Charlottesville. Please keep them in your prayers.

#### \*\*\*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](mailto:steve.joplin@hollister.com)

#### \*\*\*METHODIST MADNESS YOUTH WEEK\*\*\*

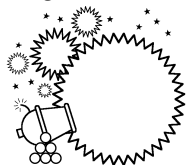
August 16-20, 2004. Spend a week at Camp Eagle Eyrie, Lynchburg performing mission work and enjoying free-time activities such as swimming, volleyball, softball, soccer, hiking and crafts. Keynote: Rev. Callie Jackson, with praise & worship led by "Fish Force" with Jamie Hudjins! Contact: Youth Ministries at 800-768-6040 #139.



#### \*\*\*MIDDLE SCHOOL MISSION\*\*\*

A weekend mission experience for 6<sup>th</sup> thru 9<sup>th</sup> 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.

#### \*\*\*BACK TO SCHOOL BASH\*\*\*



6-10 PM, Saturday, September 18, 2004 at Main Street UMC, Waynesboro. Fun, Fellowship, Games, Praise & Worship, Music and Dance. Cost: \$5. We will have PIZZA for dinner. Bring a friend.

***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

# Upcoming Events



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 1 - Bishop Pennel's Farewell Reception - 4:00 p.m. at Reveille UMC in Richmond

August 3 - Clergy Welcoming Picnic - Douthat State Park

August 5-7 - VUMDYLA - Randolph Macon Women's College

August 9 - Charge Conference Set Up Meeting - Materials handed out

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 - New Bishop's Reception

September 18 - District UMW Annual Meeting

September 20 - District Council on Ministries - 1:00 p.m.

September 23 - UMM Rally

October 2 - District Lay Ministries Training

October 22-24 - Discovering God's Call - VUMAC

October 23 - District Lay Ministries Training

October 25-28 - Clergy Retreat

October 27-28 - Cabinet

*The Staunton District Office*

*P. O. Box 1048*

*Fishersville, VA 22939*

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