

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 I, Issue 7

August 2004

Bishop Kammerer Assigned to Virginia Conference

Bishop Charlene Payne Kammerer was introduced to the Virginia Conference General and Jurisdictional Conference delegation on Saturday morning, July 17, by Bishop Joe E. Pennel, Jr. Bishop Kammerer has been assigned to the Richmond area beginning September 1.

Charlene Payne Kammerer is currently resident bishop of the Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church, with headquarters in Charlotte. Elected to the episcopacy at the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference (SEJ) at Lake Junaluska, North Carolina, July 1996, she was assigned to the Charlotte Area. At the SEJ meeting in July 2000, Bishop Kammerer was reassigned to the WNC Conference where she superintends 288,575 members in 1,144 churches from Greensboro to the Tennessee border.

In her second quadrennium on the Council of Bishops, Bishop Kammerer is assigned to the General Commission of Religion and Race, and Task Force of the Bishops’ Initiative on Children and Poverty. She is passionately committed to the Episcopal Initiative on Children and Poverty and is giving significant leadership in this area across the church.

Charlene Payne Kammerer was born on January 5, 1948, in Orlando, Florida. She spent her early years in Winter Garden, where her home church was First United Methodist. She graduated from Wesleyan College in Macon, Georgia, with an A.B. degree in religion and philosophy in 1970. Wesleyan is the first college in the world chartered for the granting of degrees to women. She obtained Master of Christian Education and Master of Divinity degrees from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, Illinois. She was ordained deacon 1975 and elder in 1977 in the Florida Conference. She received a Doctor of Ministry degree in 1991 from United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio.

Bishop Kammerer’s service in the church has included equal years in parish ministries and connectional ministries, including service as a campus minister at Duke University and as a district superintendent of the Tallahassee District, Florida Conference. Her longtime interests in ministry include higher education, mission involvement, and the spirituality of administration. She has served as a director of the General Commission on Status and Role of Women and as director of the General Board of Global Ministries, including chairperson of the United Methodist Committee on Relief from 1992-1996. She has received the Outstanding Alumnae Award from both Wesleyan College and Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, and has been honored with Doctor of Divinity degree from Bethune-Cookman College (FL) and Pfeiffer University (NC).

She was married to Leigh Kammerer on August 29, 1970. Leigh was born in Wisconsin and grew up in Florida. Prior to coming to Charlotte, Leigh served as clinical unit manager at the Addiction Recovery Center in Tallahassee, Florida. He is unit manager of the Work Release Center of the Mecklenburg County Sheriff’s Department, working with inmates who receive addiction counseling as part of their sentencing.

Leigh and Charlene’s son, Chris, wed Sarah Shepherd, October 7, 2000. The couple lives in Richmond, Virginia area where Sara is a student at VCU and Chris is completing his tour of duty with the United States Navy. Charlene and Leigh became first-time grandparents, January 28, 2002, with the birth of Christopher Martin Kammerer.

Bishop Kammerer enjoys walking and roller-blading, reading for fun, pottery and fine art, theater and movie and the nurturing of friendships.

Bishop Pennel states: “I want you to know how pleased and excited I am about my successor, Bishop Charlene Kammerer. I truly believe that her life as a pastor, as a district superintendent, and as a bishop has uniquely prepared her for spiritual and temporal leadership in the Virginia Conference. The fact that she is the first female bishop to serve Virginia only adds to my sense of anticipation of the new and sensitive leadership that she will bring.”

From the District Superintendent:

Dear Staunton District Co-Workers:

As I write this, I am still home recuperating from my surgery on July 9th. I am so very appreciative of the ways you have held me in care and concern, through your prayers, cards, notes, emails, and calls. All the biopsies were negative, so now it is just a matter of healing completely and regaining full strength. I am looking forward to being back at work, in the churches and in the office.

In the next few weeks we, as a conference, will say goodbye to Bishop Joe and Mrs. Janene Pennel, thanking them for the leadership they have brought the Virginia Conference since their arrival in 1996. On September 1st we will welcome Bishop Charlene Kammerer and her husband Leigh to our conference. It will be our joy to get to know them and work with them in service to Christ's kingdom.

I know that as the summer winds down and the fall schedule begins much prayer, discernment, thought, and work go into the process of visioning and setting goals for the coming year, identifying and selecting leadership, and building a faithful budget. I am very pleased that this fall one of the tools we will use across the district is *The Church Transformation Survey and Workbook* by Don Griffith. This has been used for two years in the Florida Conference to great effect. We are using it as a model for our conference and are very blessed to have this tremendous resource available to us at no cost. I think this tool will be very helpful to each church as it understands its present so it can move well into the future and I think it will be a tremendous help to the district as we strive to serve the churches and communities across the Shenandoah Valley and Alleghany Highlands.

As I recuperate, I look forward to the work we will do together and pray God's blessing upon you.

Grace upon grace,

Kathleen



Two case studies from Don Griffith's *Church Transformation* files:

Church #1:

Heritage UMC (not its real name) is a historically white congregation in a community that has become multi-racial. Ideally situated for impacting the community, the worshipping congregation has continued to age and decline. They have resisted previous efforts to change them and most pastors remain there for a relatively short period of time. They wish more people would come but they like each other and feel they are not in danger of closing. When asked about their future, many would like new people to come and most figure that some pastor in the future will "bring in the young families." Asked to select a category for their church, they choose "Maintaining".

The pastor and a couple of key lay persons completed the *Church Transformation Survey* because it was required for every church in the Annual Conference. The score of the church was 17, "Dying" on the *Church Transformation Survey*. The category came as a shock to many of the people in the church. It was a "dose of reality" for the congregation. After discussing their score with the District Superintendent and a specialist in church transformation, the congregation began to own its score. They became more open to alternative forms of ministry that would give their church hope for the future. The church is now part of a multi-racial cooperative parish focused on growing attendance and impacting the community in practical and positive ways.

Church #2:

Senior UMC (not its real name) used to have 400 people in worship. As recently as five years ago, it had 200 in Sunday morning worship. Four years ago, the pastor retired and a new pastor was appointed to the church. The church entered a two year period in which it declined rapidly. After two years, there were fewer than 100 people in worship and no one from the surrounding community attended the church. A church consultant was called in to help assess the situation. The church scored in the "Dying" category. The church entered into a cooperative parish ministry with another church that was also struggling (though for different reasons). *The Church Transformation Survey* formed the basis for creating a strategy to move the church forward. The survey and the workbook were used by an implementation team to map out the specific steps the church would need to grow.

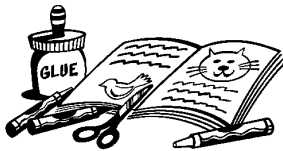
In the last two years, the church has increased worship attendance by 70% and now scores in the maintaining category. It continues to address the items in the survey to further strengthen its ministry. It is also working to begin a contemporary worship service later this year.



Our Deepest Sympathy is extended to the Hopkins Family on the death of Rev. Robert Hopkins. Rev. Hopkins was a retired clergy on our District and had served Stonewall-West View Charge, Natural Bridge Charge, Lyndhurst UMC and Peoples-Marvin Charge.

Camp Meeting

Thank you to all those who helped make the Camp Meeting a success. The team was headed up by Rev. John Fisher, Rev. Lee Dotson, and Dante Thompson. Thank you for all your hard work. We had great preaching that day! Messages were given by Rev. Lee Dotson, Rev. Deborah Koontz and Rev. John Miller. We were blessed with wonderful singing provided by Good News from Covington, The Edenaires from Eden UMC in Bath County, the Voices of Praise from Community UMC in Staunton, and the Pleasant View Mass Choir from Pleasant View UMC in Waynesboro. The Pleasant View Praise Dance Team delighted us with interpretive dance. Those in the congregation also got to do a little singing too, thanks to Rev. Janet Knott for leading us and John Staubus for playing for us. We had some great food too! The rains came and chased away our food people, but it did not dampen the spirits of those who were in worship at the Camp Meeting. We had a very blessed day.

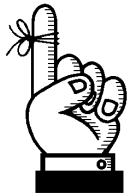


Casa de Amistad Needs:

With school just around the corner we are in need of some items for our bookbag drive. Items needed include: zippered notebooks, backpacks, packs of regular ruled note paper, rulers, legal pads, construction paper, glue sticks, washable markers in 8-pack basic colors, and 24-pack crayons. **We do not need pencils.** If your church can help, please call Robin Powell at 943-5502 to choose something from the list. We would like to help 50 to 60 children this school year.

Lay Speaking Training Is Coming.

Saturday, October 2: The Basic Course will be offered at Christ UMC in Staunton.
 Saturday, October 2: An Advance Course will be offered at Epworth UMC in Selma, VA
 Saturday, October 23: The Basic Course will be offered at Parrish Court UMC in Covington
 Saturday, October 23: An Advance Course will be offered at Marquis Memorial UMC in Staunton.
 Each course will be a one day event. We will meet from 8:30 am to 6:30 pm; lunch will be provided.
 The Basic course is \$15.00
 The Advance course is \$20.00
 This includes materials, snacks and lunch
 Brochures will be mailed out in the middle of August



United Methodist Men

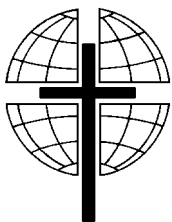
UMMen Day at Camp Rainbow Connection August 12th, 2004 - Join the campers on Thursday of Camp week. Men from across the conference are invited to Blackstone to fellowship with the campers, cook hamburger and hot dogs for the evening meal. Two men from the District attended Camp Rainbow on July 12, 2004 and had a great time assisting.

District UMMen Fall Rally at Fishersville UMC, September 23, 2004. Featured singers will be "Sunset Mountain Boys".

District Cabinet Meeting October 23, 2004, Location to be announced.

Conference UMMen Spiritual Retreat November 5 -7, 2004 - Time to submit your registration. Hear J. Ellsworth Kalas, Professor of Preaching, Asbury Theological Seminary talk about "**Men Sent by God.**"

Earl Cash, UMM President



Message of Gratitude from the first team of Mozambican missionaries to Virginia Annual Conference

To the planning team,
Members of the body that coordinated all activities of our mission,

Brothers and sisters, we want to express in few words the felling that comes from the bottom of hearts.

It is indeed a pleasure for us to acknowledge your extra effort in planning the trip of this group of missionaries to Virginia. There is no doubt that you served as a bridge that connected people from different countries, with different languages and cultures. When we arrived in Atlanta and Richmond airport we had a warm welcome from you and different people of this conference. This reception made us feel at home and also made us feel that the love of God is at work in the church of Virginia.

In addition to that, we also noted that it was through your effort that all places that we visited had been transformed into a fertile ground for our mission. In a nutshell, we have found our mission facilitated because of your intelligence and diligence. Without mentioning names of individuals, we would like to recognize the fact that many people who were coordinating our work were senior brothers and sisters who did not spare their energy to support us in our activities. Some of you are retired people from different jobs, but because you are not yet tired you accepted to dedicate your time for us.

The relationship between Mozambique and Virginia Annual Conference is no longer a dream but a reality that can not be denied. It is a relationship that has proved to be rooted in the foundation of the love of Jesus Christ our Lord. Through this love we are given power to demolish strongholds of the society where we live, and to destroy the walls of segregation, racism and create of society of people of God. Where there will be no Mozambican, no American, and no poor or rich, but people of God with the same identity washed with the blood of Christ.

It was a privilege for us to be the first missionaries from Mozambique to Virginia. This makes us believe that it was not easy for you to plan the trip and activities of this team. We strongly believe that we (the planning team and the first Missionaries) are now part of the historical foundation of the relationship between the United Methodist Church in Mozambique and Virginia. It is obvious that as human being we had some weaknesses in different areas, but your tolerance and patience made this mission a successful and joyful moment. Your spiritual support, physical presence and diligence show that you are a real incarnation of the love of God for us. In you, we experienced God's presence in our mission.

Sisters and brothers, the relationship between the two conferences is a challenge, not only for Christians, but to the people of Mozambique and Virginia as well. As it has been said earlier, this is an attempt to unite people of different cultures, languages and people of different lifestyle. Challenges are there, but we do believe that "in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us"-Jesus Christ (Rom. 8:37)

May God almighty continue to bless us in our endeavor to make the love of God shine in the world.

The First team of Missionaries from Mozambique to Virginia,

Zefanias A. Chihulume
Zaqueu S. Ranchaze
Julieta F. Samo
Joao F. Sambo
Sorau S. Vilanculos
Naftal O. Naftal

Lidia Radio
Lidia Gulele
Aida Bartolomeu Tamela
Amado E. Albino
Inês Sarmento
Eduardo Angêlo

From: Budapest, Hungary

Dear Friends,

Twelve years ago, we stood and watched our little boy riding away from us on his first bike...today I remembered that day as we watched Matt, now 16, mounting the steps to the train pulling away for almost five weeks (June 24-July 28) helping at an outreach English camp in western Hungary. It is a great feeling seeing him entering into ministry himself, even as it's a little scary sending him off into the "yonder"! Thank you for all your love and prayers for our children through the years, and specifically in the past months in preparation for this outreach. We were very touched by the testimony Matt prepared to share, and by how he has grown and matured in the Lord during these past three years. (It was with some trembling we returned to Hungary three years ago, with a teenager who most emphatically did NOT want to move back overseas! Sometimes it was really hard to trust the Lord in those decisions, but it is so wonderful to look back now and praise Him for all that He has wrought!)



Jon (14) and Rosemarie (12) have been helping with outreach as well this week. A volunteer work team from Dallas is here repainting the church and also conducting a VBS. Jon and Rosemarie have been kept busy "shepherding" several children from our neighborhood who are attending, as well as a girl from the soccer club. They seem to be having a good time as well, though, and are enjoying getting to hear some "real" English!

Dave has been rising to the challenge of lots of extra preaching, in part helping to cover for the senior pastor at our sister church, whose wife just died after suffering a sudden illness similar to a stroke. He is also trying to cover for me at home as I have returned to language school three days a week.

In the midst of all this, the cell groups have continued to make progress. The past month has been an especially vulnerable time as we approached the first cell multiplication. We've experienced a few unexpected jolts and hitches, but last night it was with great joy that for the first time the multiplied (two) groups met in separate homes. I confess, I wasn't looking forward to hosting our group last night, as I was so tired and a bit discouraged, with language school both yesterday and today, some sad news from back home, and we still needed to finish getting everything packed and ready for Matt's departure. But as everyone talked and prayed, especially as we broke into twos and threes for prayer at the end, there was such a sweet sense of fellowship and love and concern that I felt blessed as well! (I can tell people are praying for us--THANK YOU!!)

POINTS of PRAYER:

PRAY FOR THE VISA RENEWAL PROCESS; Dave goes to the office tomorrow to make formal application. Please pray for us to be able to have/obtain all the needed documents with a minimum of trouble/hassle. Pray for grace and favor!

Sun., June 27: Dave will preach to both congregations in Budapest

Tues., June 29: we've invited Jon's music teacher and his family for dinner--pray for relationship building with Janos' wife and children and for the Lord to be glorified. We plan to watch a video about a gifted music teacher (*Mr. Holland's Opus*) which Campus Crusade uses in their ministry here.

Wed., June 30: a planning meeting for the cell groups

Sat., July 3: FOR MATT. as the first batch of students arrive and he begins to lead his group (the first week he will spend training with other team members.) FOR THE REST OF US as we host a Fourth of July cookout involving both Christian and an unchurched family.

July 8: Beth's last day of class; pray for wisdom and provision as to continuing language studies.

July 11-July 18: pray for wisdom and God's guidance in decisions concerning camps, as the Word of Life outreach camp Jon and Rosemarie are interested in attending coincides with the Hungarian church family camp we had all planned to attend. Pastor Steve Cordle will bring a team from a cell-based UMC church in Pennsylvania to share some additional cell training.

July 25-Aug. 1: Dave and Jon plan to accompany the Hungarian church-connected Boy Scout group to Romania.

PRAY FOR GOD TO PROVIDE MORE GOOD RENTERS FOR OUR HOME IN VIRGINIA as the previous couple moved out of state in May.

*******PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR INCREASED OR ADDITIONAL GIVING FOR OUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT; FOR GOD'S TIMING AND PROVISION IN OUR MINISTRY HERE IN HUNGARY.*******

Love and prayers,
Dave and Beth Greenawalt

From Our District Program Directory

We had a great Camp Meeting on July 10th. The music was diverse and wonderful, the speakers were inspiring. If the rains had stayed away it would have been a perfect day. Thank you to all that made the day possible.

We have some great opportunities for our youth coming up in the fall. See the youth article.

We will be having District Lay Speaking Ministries Training in October. I am really excited about the district being able to offer training on the district for those folks who want to become Lay Speakers but cannot go to Blackstone in the winter for training. Lay Speaking Ministries is more than about filling an empty pulpit on Sundays, it is being a leader in the church, witnessing their faith by spoken communication, church and community leadership and care-giving ministries. Lay speakers are involved in just about every facet of the life of the church especially those that touch other people's lives.

As summer continues to speed by take time to enjoy the bright beautiful colors of the flowers, the lush greens of the trees and grass, and enjoy a time of star gazing on a bright warm night. God creation is so magnificent, so awe inspiring, and so comforting. It would be a shame to miss it as we hurry from one activity to another. Our lives have gotten so busy that I often think the lazy crazy days of summer no longer exist. So might I suggest for all of us to take a time to go off and enjoy God's creation, let Him speak to you as you sit and watch the stars on a summer evening or as you take a hike in the woods enjoying the beauty of the sights and sounds that surround you.



O Lord our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth... Psalm 8:1

Martha

BAZAAR - BASIC UNITED METHODIST CHURCH SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 8AM-1PM

This years marks our 30th Bazaar Anniversary. Items that will be available are: Collectibles, Books, Holiday crafts, Bake Shop, General Store, Apple Dumplings, Homemade Ice Cream and the Men's Club food booth. Country Ham and Egg sandwiches will be available for breakfast and Country Ham sandwiches, Hamburgers and Hot Dogs will be available for lunch.

This is always a fun filled day at Basic. We invite you come and help us celebrate our 30th Bazaar Anniversary.



SUNDAY SCHOOL, YOUTH OR CHURCH MISSION PROJECT:

To replenish supplies and in anticipation of future needs, UMCOR is seeking energetic volunteers to assemble flood buckets and ship them to the agency's volunteer center and warehouse, UMCOR Sager Brown in Louisiana. Why not create a fun project for a church school class or vacation Bible school group? You'll find specifications for the buckets at <http://gbgm-umc.org/umcor/print/kits/floodbucket.stm> . Or, for \$45 you can underwrite one flood bucket. Mark your check with UMCOR Advance #901440, Material Resource Ministry, and specify "Flood Buckets" in the memo line and send it to The Virginia United Methodist Center: Mission Office, PO Box 1719, Glen Allen, VA 23060.



Spring Laity Spiritual Life Retreat

The 2005 Laity Retreat will be held on April 16-17 at VUMAC. Our leader will be Dr. David McAllister-Wilson, President of Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C. and a member of the Virginia Annual Conference. The theme for the retreat will be "Marvelous grace".

There will be a children's retreat along the same theme.

The retreat offers a time away from daily routines to focus on our spiritual journeys and our relationship with God as we participate in Bible Study, small group discussion, worship, singing our faith and fellowship.



***** DISTRICT YOUTH NEWS *****(web site: stauntondistrict.tripod.com)*****BACK TO SCHOOL BASH*****

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

*****HIGHLIGHT YOUTH ON MISSIONS *****

We would like to highlight the many youth and churches within the Staunton District that are participating in mission projects this summer. Please send me a short summary of your mission experience and we'll get it in the upcoming SDV newsletters. Email steve.joplin@hollister.com or call 886-9367.

*****DISTRICT YOUTH PLANNING MEETING*****

The next District Youth Planning meeting will take place from 2 – 4 pm, Sunday, August 29 at Main Street UMC. Youth will design, plan activities and responsibilities for the upcoming "Back to School Bash". Please come and help. We need your great ideas. See ya there!

*****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 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.

Dear Lord, help us to go therefore and make disciples.



Steve Joplin

Breaking the Deacon Code: A Day of Discernment

Wesley Theological Seminary invites anyone considering their call to ministry to participate in a day of discernment focused on the ministry of the deacon in The United Methodist Church. This one day event will be held on Saturday, October 2nd from 8:30 – 4:30 p.m. at Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington, D.C.

If **you** want to know more about the ministry of the deacon, if you are a candidate for ministry, if you are a probationer, if you are a seminary student – you are invited to come and discover the exciting and challenging ministry of the deacon.

A keynote address will be given by Rev. Barbara Garcia, a deacon and Assistant to the Bishop, Nashville Area. In addition, Rev. Sharon Rubey, Director of Conference Relations, Division of Ordained Ministry, General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, will give an overview on how to become a deacon.

In small groups, participants will meet and talk with deacons serving in a variety of ministry settings.

Registration information is available at www.wesleysem.edu. Click on "Deacon Day of Discernment" and print the registration form. Cost for the day is \$15.00 which includes a continental breakfast, lunch and materials. Deadline for registration is September 15th.

For more information contact Deborah Westbrook, member of the planning committee, dwestbrook@wesleysem.edu or Rev. Susan Cutshaw, coordinator for the event, scutshaw@mtolivet-umc.org.

Please note: All newsletter articles for the September newsletter are due to the District Office NO LATER than **Friday, August 20, 2004.**

The District Office will be closed Monday, September 6, 2004 for Labor Day.



STAUNTON DISTRICT PROGRAM CALENDAR

AUGUST

Sunday, August 1: Farewell to Bishop Pennel 4:00 p.m. at Reveille UMC,
Richmond

Tuesday, August 3: Clergy & Spouses Welcoming Picnic at Douthat State Park

Thursday, August 5-7: VUMDYLA – Randolph Macon College - Lynchburg

Thursday, August 12: UMM Day at Camp Rainbow

Friday-Saturday, August 13-14: UMW Planning Retreat

Friday-Sunday, August 20-22: Conference UMW Young Women's Retreat

SEPTEMBER

*** Charge Conferences will be held September 2– November 22**

Tuesday, September 7: Clergy & Spouses Meeting

Thursday, September 9: Board of Managers Meeting 10:00 a.m.

Saturday, September 18: UMW Annual District Meeting

Saturday, September 18: Welcoming for Bishop Kammerer, Trinity UMC, Richmond

Saturday, September 18: Youth Back to School Bash at Main Street UMC – 6:00 -10:00 p.m.

Monday, September 20: DCOM meeting – 1:00 p.m.

Thursday, September 23: UMM Rally

OCTOBER

Saturday, October 2: District Lay Speaking Ministries Training

Tuesday, October 5: Clergy Spouses Meeting

Saturday, October 9: Igniting Ministries Workshop at Fishersville United Methodist Church

Friday-Sunday, October 22-24: Discover God's Call – VUMAC

Saturday, October 23: District Lay Speaking Training

Monday-Wednesday, October 25-27: Conference Clergy Retreat

Friday-Sunday, October 29-31: Conference Senior High Retreat

Saturday-Sunday, October 30-31: UMW Annual Meeting

The Staunton District Office

P. O. Box 1048

Fishersville, VA 22939

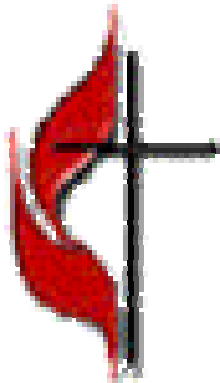
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***Open Hearts,
Open Minds, Open Doors,
The United Methodist Church***