



Winchester District  
United Methodist  
Church

David T. Forrest  
District Superintendent

# NEWS FROM...

# THE CORE OF THE WINCHESTER DISTRICT



## Looking ahead to Annual Conference

The 227th Session of the Virginia Annual Conference will be held at the Scope arena in Norfolk, June 14-17. The 2009 Virginia Annual Conference logo reflects the third phrase of the conference challenge and flows from the original 2007 logo created by the conference Communications staff. The Virginia Conference challenge is "Let's get growing! More people, more young people, more diverse people. All for Jesus!" The 2009 logo was created by Linda Rhodes, conference Director of Communications. It features the word "welcome" in four languages: English, Korean, Spanish and Cherokee.

The Winchester District Orientation Session, in preparation for the 2009 Annual Conference, will be held on Sunday, June 7, 3-5 p.m., at Stephens City UMC in Stephens City. Rev. Dr. Susan Garrett will make a power-point presentation on the 32 amendments to the church constitution that were approved by the 2008 General Conference.

In order for the amendments to become church law, they must be ratified by a two-thirds vote of the members of all the annual conferences. A yes or no vote will be taken on each amendment during the Annual Conference session.

Three key issues have emerged among the proposed amendments:

- Voting rights for local pastors
- Regional conferences world-wide
- The definition of inclusiveness.

To preview the text of the constitutional amendments, and to read articles summarizing reasons for and against each amendment visit: [www.vaumc.org/index.cfm/fa/cal.view.htm](http://www.vaumc.org/index.cfm/fa/cal.view.htm).

## DISTRICT CALENDAR



- 9 - District Office closes at 1 p.m.
- 10 - District Office closed
- 14 - Clergy Exec. Committee, District Office - 9:30 a.m.
- 16 - District Clergy, Mt. Pleasant-Lamps UMC - 9 a.m.
- 18-19 - Laity Spiritual Life Retreat, Blackstone
- 20-23 - Cabinet meets in Blackstone
- 27 - Finance Committee, District Office - 10 a.m.  
Conf. Orientation Planning, District Office. - 1:30 p.m.
- 28 - DCOM, Braddock St. - 10 a.m.
- 28 - Board of Missions, District Office - 1 p.m.
- 25 - DCOOM, Macedonia UMC - 9 a.m.
- 30 - District Trustees, District Office - 11 a.m.

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- 1 - District Office closed for Apple Blossom
- 1-3 - UMW Spiritual Life Retreat, Blackstone
- 6 - Committee on Superintendency, District Office - 10 a.m.
- 12 - Clergy Exec. Committee, District Office - 9:30 a.m.
- 18-19 - Cabinet meets in Richmond
- 22 - District Office closes at 1 p.m.
- 25 - District Office closed for Memorial Day
- 26 - DCOM, Braddock St. - 10 a.m.
- 27 - DCOOM, Macedonia UMC - 9 a.m.
- 29 - Clergy Farewell Banquet, Crums UMC - 6-8 p.m.



## *A word from the District Superintendent...*

At a training event that he led recently in Harrisonburg, Tom Berlin (one of our own now doing missionary work on the Arlington District!) talked about how Jesus looks pretty wise now, even to non-Christian people, considering the state of the economy:

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:19-21 NRSV)

All of us have learned the hard way how quickly our earthly treasures can be snatched away from us. One's heart goes out to those elderly people, especially, who've lost their life's savings in the last few months. Needless to say, these are difficult times, and I want to thank you and your church for your compassionate outreach to hurting people. All of our churches are in ministry to their communities all the time, but in traveling around and visiting various churches on our district lately, I've heard a lot of prayers for needy people and seen a lot of outreach going on in response to the current economic crisis.

Jesus knew something of human suffering, and yet he very powerfully teaches us two important things: trust God alone, for all else is sinking sand, as the old hymn has it, and love people, for ultimately no other human activity matters or lasts.

April means Easter, this year. Jesus is Alive! That Good News never fails us and transforms life on earth with a joy that cannot be purchased (or lost!) on Wall Street.

Thanks be to God for his great love toward us in sending us Jesus!

*David Forrest*

### ***Sitting on the Fence: The Church & Immigration***

There's still time to register for *Sitting on the Fence: The Church & Immigration* - a spring retreat sponsored by the Virginia Chapter of the Methodist Federation for Social Action on April 17-18, at Camp Highroad in Middleburg, Virginia.

*Sitting on the Fence* will provide insight and theological reflection about local, state and national issues of immigration. Resource persons for the event include staff members of Just Neighbors, Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy, and Church World Service's Immigration and Refugee Policy office

Costs for the event are \$100 which includes room, 3 meals and registration, a student rate of \$75 and a commuter rate of \$50.

To register, please reply by April 2, 2009 with your name, address, email and payment to: Hunter Mabry, Treasurer, Virginia MFSA, 2315 Davis Road, Waynesboro VA 22980-2011.

### **Youth asked to help pilot new hunger program**



The General Board of Global Ministries has asked Virginia youth groups to help pilot a new program to fight world hunger.

The “B1: One Being, Being One” program connects youth to issues of hunger and poverty facing people locally and around the world. Youth groups participating in B1 are encouraged to hold a 24-hr. food fast, or to fast from media for the week or engage in another activity that allows the group to be in connection with the poor.

Part of the fast will raise funds for one of the UMC's Advance projects (example: Society of St. Andrew's Potato Project) that empower the poor and disempower unjust systems sustaining poverty in our world.

B1 helps youth learn about the many faces of poverty, unjust systems and some of the ways The UMC is responding to the needs of those suffering.

For more information call the Mission Office at 1-800-768-6040 or go to <http://new.gb-gm-umc.org/advance/b1/connect>.

## Surgical team heading to Mozambique in June

Again this year Nancy Forrest, our district superintendent's wife, will be leading a surgical team of volunteers to the Chicuque Rural Hospital run by the UMC in Mozambique.

The dates are June 12-28, 2009, and in addition to the two surgeons who are going, there are several others with nursing and medical-related skills, as well as some teachers who'll be working at the UMC schools in Cambine, about an hour away from the hospital.

The team asks for your prayers, as they work and plan for the trip, now just two months off.

## Spring is the Time for New Growth!!!

It's that time of year when we see new growth all around us. The trees are budding, flower bulbs are starting to bloom and some of us may even be thinking about what we are going to plant in our gardens this year! Since your minds are already on growth I want to let you know of several opportunities coming up that will enable you to grow spiritually as well.

The first event is our **Conference Spiritual Growth Retreat** which will be held on April 18-19 at Blackstone. This is always an outstanding event that is available for the whole family. This year's theme is "Being in Perfect Harmony With The Soul". Bring your children or grandchildren with you for the Children's Retreat! The Children's retreat is for children ages 5-11 which allows children to experience the same theme and scripture as the adults. The registration deadline is April 1, 2009 but if you hurry you can still attend!!! To download a brochure and registration form go to: [www.vaumc.org/repository/events/spiritualgrowthapril09.pdf](http://www.vaumc.org/repository/events/spiritualgrowthapril09.pdf)

The second event is the "From **Ordinary to Extraordinary Leadership**" training. This training is taking place at 4 locations around the Conference. The 2 events closest to our District are: May 16, 2009 at Verona UMC in the Harrisonburg District and May 30, 2009 at Ebenezer UMC, Stafford in the Ashland District. This one-day leadership opportunity, designed for new and emerging church leaders, will help you grow in your understanding of church leadership and servant leadership. To download a brochure go to: [www.vaumc.org/repository/events/emergingleaderbrochure.pdf](http://www.vaumc.org/repository/events/emergingleaderbrochure.pdf)

I hope you all have a blessed Easter season and are able to take the time to enjoy and participate in the new growth all around us.

Kathy Lutman  
District Lay Leader



## Clean Up for Kids!

Friday, April 17, 2009

8:45 a.m. – 3 p.m.

UMFS, 3900 West Broad Street,  
Richmond, VA 23230



The goal of Clean Up for Kids is to bring members of our community to UMFS to assist in beautifying our campus. Volunteer opportunities will include painting and landscaping.

UMFS strives to create a welcoming campus for the children and families we serve. Through your volunteerism, we will further create an environment that brings comfort and healing.

Assignments will be given on a first-come, first-served basis. All volunteers must be 18 years of age or older. UMFS will provide lunch.

### To participate, please contact:

Bethanie Constant, Development Manager  
Linda Ray, Community Ministries Coordinator  
(804) 254-9674,  
[bconstant@umfs.org](mailto:bconstant@umfs.org) (804) 254-9692, [lray@umfs.org](mailto:lray@umfs.org)



Virginia each year.

*UMFS provides Treatment Foster Care, Adoption, Intensive Treatment Services, School-Based Services, and FamilyCARE Services to more than 5,000 individuals across*



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*Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.*



I recently had the privilege to attend two extremely uplifting events within the District. The first was Heart Haven's Sunday at Ridings Chapel & Reliance UMC on February 8. The theme of the event was "Love One Another". Rev. Tim Teates and Executive Director, Jennifer Boyden-Barrett put on a wonderful service, and updated the congregations on Heart Havens growth and activities, while Fred Rathel moved the congregation with how he became passionate about Heart Havens. The presence and participation of the staff and guys from our local Heart Haven's Home added much to the Ridings Chapel & Reliance UMC services and the fellowship which followed for lunch at Perkins in Winchester. The second event was our annual bowl-a-thon on Saturday, February 28. This year we had a total of 104 bowlers from the youngest being just 10 years old to our eldest at age 90.

Upcoming events include our 3rd Annual 5K Heart Havens Race/1K Fun Walk scheduled for 8 AM, Saturday, April 25, at the Kernstown Battlefield. Churches and individuals can participate in five ways. These are; 1) Be a Sponsor, 2) Solicit Sponsors, 3) Be a Runner, 4) As a Runner get individuals to sponsor you, and 5) Be a helper (we need lots of these). Brochures with registration forms and sponsorship forms are being included in this newsletter being mailed and are posted on the District UMM's website as well.

The Virginia Conference UMM's "Spring Training" Day is scheduled for Saturday, March 28, at Discovery UMC in Richmond. The Rev. Dr. Jim Lavender will be the key note speaker, bringing fresh ideas on New Ways to Lead Men to Christ. Workshops include: Wesleyan Building Brothers and the Male Leadership Experience, United Methodist Volunteers in Mission, Scouting 101, Good News Jail and Prison Ministry, and All God's Children. We would to have at least one representative from each of the churches that met the \$1,000 challenge donation to Heart Haven's to attend.

The Conference UMM are sponsoring what may be the most important event to come to the Conference in many years. It is the 3 day Male Leadership Experience training on 28-30 April at Blackstone. We believe this process will reach out to men across the District to refocus on maturing their relationship with our Heavenly Father, and their role in church renewal. We have reviewed this process and reconciled it not only with our District goals for 2009 but also with the goals and objectives outlined by Bishop Schnaes in his book the "5 Practices of Fruitful Congregations". The cost of the 3 day event is approximately \$ 325 (tuition \$200 and lodging \$125). The District UMM have some funding reserved for tuition assistance, by paying the \$125.00 lodging fee for chartered members who register, further reduces the cost to about \$200 per person. Currently there are 8 registrants representing 4 churches within the Winchester District. Obviously we are hoping for a larger turnout.

Blessings, Herb Drake, Winchester District UMM President  
540-869-0661 or email at [UMMPresident@Winchester DistrictUMC.org](mailto:UMMPresident@WinchesterDistrictUMC.org)