



Winchester District
United Methodist
Church

News from...

The Core of the Winchester District



April 2008

Our Journey of Hope:

Holistic Care of the Cancer Patient

Saturday, April 26, 2008

8:00 am to 5:00 pm

Harmony United Methodist Church

380 E. Colonial Hwy. Hamilton, VA 20158-9016

Sponsored by

Cancer Treatment Centers of America and
Harmony United Methodist Church

Space is limited to the first 60 registrants. Register to attend. You'll gain valuable preparation for ministry to others or to someone in your own family who is suffering from cancer. The Virginia Conference of the UM Church has approved this seminar for .5 CEU for clergy. NURSES will be awarded 6.2 Nursing contact hours for full participation. Attendees who wish to receive these nursing contact hours must pay a \$10.00 fee to Shenandoah University, fill out the required registration form, and turn in the evaluation form.

Registration deadline is April 1, 2008.

Call 540-338-2937 today for more information.

Winchester District Spiritual Renewal Retreat

May 16-17, 2008

Massanetta Springs Conference Center

Remembering Our Story, Following Your Path

EVERY LIFE is a unique and invaluable story, thus every person's journey is uniquely shared. God speaks to us in our stories. Our faith stories are the spiritual legacy we give and leave with those we meet along the way. One way out of spiritual wastelands or spiritual plateaus is to examine the meaning of all the various pieces of your life in the light of the Holy Spirit. This Spiritual Renewal Retreat will help you do this and more.

Registration forms are available online at www.winchesterdistrictumc.org or by calling the District Office at 540-662-7332.

Registration deadline is April 2, 2008.

DISTRICT CALENDAR



April

- 1 Lectionary Group, District Office - Noon
- 7-11 DS at Cabinet Meeting, Blackstone
- 7 UMM Exec. Comm., Dist. Ofc. - 7 p.m.
- 8 Clergy Exec. Comm, Dist. Ofc - 9:30 a.m.
- Lectionary Group, District Office - Noon
- 10 Clergy Association, Macedonia UMC - 9 a.m.
- 15 Lectionary Group, District Office - Noon
- 17 District Finance Comm., District Office -10 a.m.
- District Trustees, District Parsonage—3 p.m.
- 19 UMM 5K Race, Kernstown Battlefield - 8 a.m.
- 22 DCOM, Braddock St. UMC - 10 a.m.
- Lectionary Group, District Office - Noon
- 23 DCOOM, Duncan Memorial - 9 a.m.
- 26 Our Journey of Faith:Holistic Care of the Cancer Patient, Harmony UMC, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
- April 22-May 2 General Conference, Fort Worth, Texas

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- 2 District Office closed for Apple Blossom
- 5 Comm. On Superintendency, District Office - 10 a.m.
- 6 Clergy Exec. Comm, Dist. Ofc - 9:30 a.m.
- Lectionary Grp., District Office - Noon
- 9 Youth Game Night, Mt. Olive (TB) - 7-9 p.m.
- 12-13 DS at Cabinet Mtg. in Richmond
- 13 Lectionary Group, Office - Noon
- 16-17 Spiritual Life Retreat, Massanetta Springs Conference Center
- 16-18 UMW Spiritual Life Retreat, Blackstone
- 20 Lectionary Group, District Office - Noon
- 23 District Office closes at 1 p.m.
- 26 District Office closed for Memorial Day
- 27 DCOM, Braddock St. UMC - 10 a.m.
- Lectionary Group, District Office - Noon
- 28 DCOOM, Duncan Memorial - 9 a.m.
- 30 Clergy Farewell Banquet, Riverton UMC - 6-8 p.m.
- 31 Charge Conf. Training for Clergy & Laity, TBA



A word from the District Superintendent...

You may have heard me say something that I repeat frequently this time of the year: if I had my way every pastor would have an ideal appointment and every charge a wonderful pastor! However, we're dealing with human beings here: the bishop and cabinet are human; the pastors are human; and the churches are all human, as well. What that means is spelled out very vividly in the Bible, where human frailty is all too apparent from Genesis to Revelation.

I must confess that these thoughts are occasioned by the appointment-making cabinet meetings that we have had in February and March and by my desire to request that you pray for us as the cabinet meets at the Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center in Blackstone, VA April 7-11 to finish (we hope) the appointment-making process for this year.

I find appointment-making exhausting work (of course, just sitting around a big table all day is tiring, I think!), perhaps because I do care so much about doing God's will and making good appointments. My first year on the cabinet one of the veteran D.S.'s finally said to me, after noticing my anxiety over the whole process, "Don't worry, the appointments will be made." He was right, of course. They get made every year and work out amazingly well, for the most part.

There is one truth about the whole process that the bishop suggests that we D.S.'s all share with our pastors: that is that there is no way to explain the reasons certain appointments are made or not made to anyone not present at the cabinet table. The cabinet is always dealing with a set of factors at any given time in process that it must take into consideration in making the appointments. Obviously, the appointments are interrelated. Sometimes we make a whole set of appointments one day only to have to change the whole thing the next due to unforeseen circumstances.

Allow me to give Bishop Kammerer the final word on this subject (addressed primarily to the pastors but true for all of us): "Sometimes God will send you where you do not plan to go." That certainly has proved to be the case in my life, and I can truly assert that I always found God there when I got there!

Please pray for the bishop, the cabinet, all our pastors and their families, and all our churches as well during this important "season" of the year. Thank you very much.

David Forrest



District Council On Ministries – We are here to help you

Last year as each of our churches had their charge conferences, there was a lay person visiting from the district as an observer. One of the observations of the lay person teams was that many churches could use some instruction on how to create a vision for the future of their church and how to set and achieve the goals that would make the vision a reality.

Virtually, all of our churches are interested in growing, but they have not created a plan to do it. As a result, the DCOM is creating a training day to give instruction and practical experience in how to create a vision and goals to achieve the vision in the local church.

What we know now is that the training will be done on the 31st of May. We chose that day so that the training can be useful as each of our churches begin to create their goals for their charge conference in the fall. We are still considering where the training will be given. But the training is designed for pastors and local church leaders. Our hope is that you will come to this training event so that the goals you establish in the coming year might be more than words on a piece of paper.

Keep your eyes and ears open for further information concerning this opportunity.

Marty Martin
Co-Chair of the DCOM



Conference Foundation Offers Services

The United Methodist Foundation of the Virginia Conference is available to assist local churches in three ways: developing **endowment** programs, assisting individuals in planning and implementing **special gifts** for endowment or for life income instruments to benefit local churches or other United Methodist causes, or **investing** funds for local churches.

Spring is a good time to emphasize endowment and planned giving in the local church. Now is a good time to review your church's investment strategies.

Call the Foundation at 1-800-768-6040, ext. 120 or ext. 122, or email JimBergdoll@vaumc.org.



Mark Your Calendars!

Riverton UMC will be hosting a Winchester District POTATO DROP on Saturday, May 10, 8 a.m., in the church parking lot, if the potatoes are available. This event is being sponsored by the Loudoun Charge. This ministry is available to all ages and helps provide about 135,000 servings of food for distribution by our local hunger relief agencies. For more information, contact Skeeter and Sarah Ramey at sramey3@comcast.net or (540) 869-2876.



Experiencing God in Nature An Event for Elementary-Aged Children Virginia Conference United Methodist Church – Life Span Children's Council

A one day event where children can come – either with their chaperoned church group or with a parent – to explore and experience God in nature at one of our beautiful United Methodist camps.

2008 Dates

April 12 at Westview on the James in Goochland
April 19 at Camp Highroad in Middleburg
May 10 at Camp Alta Mons in Shawsville
May 17 at Camp Overlook in Keezletown
June 7 at Occohannock on the Bay in Belle Haven

Schedule

9:30 am Registration
10 – 10:45 am Activity #1
10:45 – 11 am Break
11 – 11:45 am Activity #2
11:45 – noon Break
12 – 12:45 pm Lunch
12:45 – 1:30 pm Activity #3
1:30 – 1:45 pm Break
1:45 – 2:30 pm Activity #4
2:30 – 2:45 pm Break
2:45 – 3 pm Closing Worship Service

Groups will rotate between four activities: Bible storytelling center, crafts, games and recreation, and nature walk/scavenger hunt. Groups need 2 adult chaperones per 5 children. Chaperones must stay with their children at all times. The cost of \$10 per person includes lunch and all supplies. Registration information and forms are available at www.vaumc.org, then Events, then search for date you want to attend.

Thank You!

On behalf of Grace church we would like to extend our thanks to all those who contributed to the Builders' Club call in the fall of 2007.

The generosity of everyone will now allow us to get two more stained windows restored.

In Christ's name,
Anne Hough Charles Higgs
Pastor Ad. Council Chair



Grace UMC Church
Middletown, Virginia



Church Secretaries — God's
Guardians of the Universe



*Administrative Professional
Day/Secretaries Day
April 23, 2008*



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United Methodist Church
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Winchester, Virginia

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Visit our new and improved website at:
www.Winchesterdistrictumc.org

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.



This year seems to be moving along so quickly that it seems we hardly have time to catch our breath in between meetings, events, work, rest and just keeping up in this never ending cycle.

As UM Men we are celebrating 100 years of being an official organization. But just how are we doing it or how is it being suggested we make it a celebration? As with most things it may just be another item we put on our already over-extended list of things to do. Please note our 100 year logo on this page. This was the theme of the March issue of the Advocate. If you do not receive the Advocate you can view/read it on the Conference web site at www.vaumc.org/repository/UMCom/AdvocateOnline/March2008.pdf. While we want to remember and celebrate our 100 years, let's not forget that we are about being and making disciples of Jesus Christ. Just what is a disciple? Here's a good working definition for you to use. A disciple is someone *called* to live in Christ, *equipped* to live like Christ, and *sent* to live for Christ.

At our annual Bowl-a-thon on March 15, we had a total of 62 bowlers, making up 16 teams, representing 9 churches on the District and Heart Havens, Inc. The churches were Austin Grove, Braddock Street, Greenwood, Harmony, Market Street, Reliance, Ridings Chapel, Welltown, and Willisville Chapel. Our special guest bowlers were Kiki and Terry from Heart Havens. Now that the bowling is over let me encourage you to get your sponsorship pledges gathered up and turned in to our District Treasurer.

The next District event will be the 5K Heart Havens Race/1K Fun Walk scheduled for 8 a.m., Saturday April 19, at the Kernstown Battlefield. Churches and individuals can participate in five ways 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 are posted on the Heart Haven's website.

And lastly let me remind you that our District will be hosting the tri-District Spring Spiritual Retreat at Camp Overlook June 6-7. Rev. David C. Adams, Secretary of the GCUMM, from Nashville will be our leader. This will be an inspirational time for us as Rev. Adams leads us into the 'next' 100 years of United Methodist Men's ministry.

You can certainly note from the above that I have written about events, disciples and discipleship. How do they connect? Events are tools God has given us for ministry - don't waste them. We all use them but they must be cast in the terms of the larger process and vision we have for our lives and that is the process of becoming a disciple and helping other men, not the short-term excitement of an event or an inspirational program.

Blessings,
Jim Green
540-678-0243 or wincdistrictumm@hotmail.com