



April 2011

# THE DISTRICT CORE



A NEWSLETTER OF THE WINCHESTER DISTRICT • VIRGINIA CONFERENCE • THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
*We envision churches where all God's people are welcomed at table, nurtured and transformed to be Christ to others in the world.*

## *UMCOR Responds to Japanese Disaster*



The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), the United Methodist relief agency, is responding to

victims of the March 11 earthquake and tsunami in Japan by providing emergency funds to the United Church of Christ in Japan, which is using the funds to distribute food, clean water, clothing and heating fuel.

The United Methodist Committee on Relief, which had received some \$600,000 in donations as of March 21, quickly made initial \$10,000 grants to the United Church of Christ in Japan, and GlobalMedic, a Canadian relief partner, to provide basic necessities to earthquake/tsunami survivors.

The Japanese government has requested that outside groups not come to Japan.

## Ordering of Ministry event to be held for clergy May 15-16

Are guaranteed appointments coming to an end? That is one of the pressing questions that will be discussed at the upcoming "Ordering of Ministry" event **May 15-16** at the Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center (VUMAC) in Blackstone.

Dr. Ken Carter Jr., chair of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry Division of Ordained Ministry and member of the Study Commission on Ministry, will present study commission findings and likely proposals from it to be made at the 2012 General Conference.

Dr. Mary Elizabeth Moore, dean, Boston University School of Theology, will lead consideration of theological ramifications of these matters in light of Methodist/Wesleyan heritage.

A panel composed of Carter, Moore and Bishop Charlene Kammerer will lead a discussion of the proposed changes and implications for United Methodist clergy.

A .5 CEU is available. **Registration deadline is May 6.** More information is available on the conference website.

## Bishop Kammerer names three new members of Cabinet

Bishop Charlene Kammerer has announced members of her 2011-2012 Cabinet, which will include three new faces, a reduction from 18 to 16 districts, and new names and new boundaries for several districts.

The Rev. Janine Howard will be Danville District superintendent. The Rev. Ted Smith will become superintendent of the new Fredericksburg District.

The Rev. Bob Parks will become Farmville District superintendent. The Rev. John Vest, currently Portsmouth District superintendent, will become James River District superintendent. The Rev. Joseph D. Carson, current Rappahannock District superintendent, will become York River District superintendent.

The Rev. Brad Phillips will remain superintendent of the general area which is currently called the Norfolk District but will be renamed the Elizabeth River District.



## Sojourn to Sacredness

### *A Theological Ecological Pilgrimage for Young Adults*

Beginning Monday, June 6—Friday, June 10. spend 2 days and nights on the Appalachian Trail, and 2 days and nights on the Shenandoah River!

We will begin at Blackburn Shelter on the Appalachian Trail in the northern Shenandoah Valley and end in Front Royal on the Shenandoah River. Come and re-new your relationships with God, each other, and the earth!

We're first timer friendly so if you don't have experience backpacking and/or canoeing.....no problem. We will teach outdoor living skills that are low impact and earth friendly.

We will experience the beauty of God's creation, learn about some of the problems creation is facing, and discuss ways in which the church can be a part of the solution. Joining us for conversations on the pilgrimage will be scientists, environmentalists and theologians.

Cost is \$125.00, which includes canoes, food, transportation to and from trail, river, etc. and camping fees. \$25.00 will be paid at time of registration with \$100.00 being due upon arrival. Participants will provide their own backpack, backpacking tent and sleeping bag. A full list of what to bring (and not to bring), where to meet, logistics, etc. will be provided upon registration.

Leaders are: Rev. Pat Watkins, 703-323-4643, [jpatdenise@mac.com](mailto:jpatdenise@mac.com), and Rev. Gary Heaton, 540-635-2935, [frumcpastor1@comcast.net](mailto:frumcpastor1@comcast.net).

More information and registration forms are available on the conference website, [www.vaumc.org](http://www.vaumc.org), click on the Conference Events Calendar, go to the June calendar and click on the event date.



### Linden/Markham Charge

invites you to  
"Walk in the Way"

The churches of the Linden/ Markham charge invite each of you to join them for a conversation with God's creation as they begin a journey called *Walking in the Way* later this spring.

On Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. (rain or shine) we will be gathering at the Trillium Trail parking area on Blue Mountain in Linden, Virginia, for a short informal devotional time followed by a walk among the sea of wildflowers that carpet the floor of the G.R. Thompson Wildlife Management Area.

The walk is intended to give each of us a chance to fellowship as we walk, talking with other believers or simply walking softly in the woods as God speaks through the petals of a wildflower's bloom. All are welcome!

For more information please contact the Linden/Markham Office - (540) 636-9497, or Nathan Staley - (540) 635-9252.

### Old Adult Recognition Sunday

In April 2008, General Conference adopted legislation inviting congregations to celebrate Older Adult Recognition Day each year during the month of May.

We were well ahead of this legislation when the 2006 Virginia Annual Conference agreed to designate the first Sunday in May as Older Adult Recognition Sunday.

Through an Older Adult Recognition Sunday, United Methodists are invited to show appreciation and support for older adults who continue to enrich and strengthen our faith communities. This Sunday should also call the church to action in addressing the needs of older adults in the congregation and community.

Suggestions for this year's recognition Sunday, developed by the Conference Older Adult Council, can be found on our website at: [www.vaumc.org](http://www.vaumc.org), select "Ministries," followed by "Age-Related Ministries." You will see "Older Adult Recognition Sunday" in the drop-down menu for Older Adults.

## DISCOVER GOD'S CALL...

VUMAC, Blackstone, May 20-22, 2011.

Inspirational Speaker: The Rev. Terry Duckworth,  
Conference Evangelist for the Western N.C.  
Conference UMC.

The retreat includes Bible Study, small groups, worship, prayer time & meditation, and a pre-retreat survey of spiritual gifts. Discover God's Call is a ministry that teaches people about spiritual gifts, helps them discern their own spiritual gifts, and how God may be calling them to use them. This program has been affiliated with the Foundation for Evangelism and retreats have been held at churches on the Farmville District and Peninsula District.

The basic cost of the retreat is \$215, which includes material for a 2-week pre-retreat study on spiritual gifts.

The Discover God's Retreat has been approved by the Virginia Conference for both advanced lay speaker credit and for 2 CEU credits for clergy. In addition, there are some half-scholarships for first-time laity and some full scholarships for first-time clergy.

You can learn more about Discover God's Call at [www.discovergodscall.org](http://www.discovergodscall.org) or by calling Rev. Susan S. Rigg at 434-572-4406 or email [revedansusan@embarqmail.com](mailto:revedansusan@embarqmail.com).

## Retreat for Creation's Caretakers to be April 30 in Richmond

A retreat for Creation's Caretakers will be held 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. **Saturday, April 30**, at Roslyn Retreat Center, Richmond.

If you are working, either as a professional or a volunteer, in any capacity involving the care and healing of God's creation, this retreat is especially for you.

Come away with God, each other, and creation to celebrate, worship, rest and replenish your souls. We will worship together, spend time with God's creation individually and in small groups, and have conversations among ourselves, all designed to deepen our understanding and experiences of the relationships we have with God, each other, and creation; and to gain confidence, energy, and courage to be leaders in the healing of God's creation.

The cost is \$40 per person, which includes a continental breakfast, lunch, afternoon snacks and retreat space.

For more information e-mail the Rev. Pat Watkins at [jpatdenise@mac.com](mailto:jpatdenise@mac.com) or call (703) 323-4643.

## Start planning now for *Change the World* May 14-15

United Methodists around the world will participate in community service projects on **Saturday, May 14**, and neighbors will be invited to attend church services on **Sunday, May 15**, as part of "Change the World 2011."

Local churches can start preparing now to participate in this year's Change the World weekend.

First, identify a project that makes a difference in the local or global community (or both). Then, register at [www.rethinkchurch.org/changetheworld](http://www.rethinkchurch.org/changetheworld) and download the free flyer. Third, invite your community to get involved.

Free and discounted resources are available to all churches who register. Registered churches will receive free shipping and postage from product orders placed on [www.cokesbury.com](http://www.cokesbury.com) through

— Coming Soon! —

"We've a Story  
to tell to the  
Nations"

a District-wide Mission Event



September 23-25, 2011



## DISTRICT CORE

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## DISTRICT CALENDAR

- ◆ April 9 - UMM Clean-up Day at Heart Havens - 9 a.m.
- ◆ April 11-15 - Cabinet meets at Blackstone
- ◆ April 17 - Open House at Winchester Heart Havens - 12:30 -3:30 p.m.
- ◆ District Clergy Luncheon, Bowling Green - 12 p.m.
- ◆ April 19 - April 5 - District Comm. on Ordained Ministry, District Office - 9 a.m.
- ◆ April 21 - District Office closes at 1 p.m.
- ◆ April 22 - District Office closed for Good Friday
- ◆ April 23 - UMM 5K Run at Kernstown Battlefield - 7 a.m.
- ◆ April 24 - EASTER SUNDAY
- ◆ April 29 - District Office closed for Apple Blossom
- ◆ May 4 - Mission Celebration Committee, District Office—10 a.m.
- ◆ May 9 - Dist. Lay Ministries Committee, Round Hill UMC (Ld.) - 7 p.m.
- ◆ May 10 - District Comm. on Ordained Ministry, District Office - 9 a.m.
- ◆ May 17 - Finance Comm., Dist. Office - 9 a.m.
- ◆ May 21 - UMM Cabinet Mtg.
- ◆ May 24 - District Council on Ministries, Braddock St. UMC - 10 a.m.
- ◆ May 24 - Clergy Farewell Dinner, Front Royal UMC - 6 p.m.
- ◆ May 27 - District Office closes at 1 p.m.
- ◆ May 30 - District Office closed for Memorial Day

