



November 2009

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.

Winchester District Annual Leadership Training

January 9, 2010

8:15-3:45 pm

Braddock St. United Methodist
Church

*What if church wasn't just a place we
go; but something we do...*



*Welcome one another therefore, just as
Christ has welcomed you, for the glory
of God. - Romans 15:7*



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church™

CLASSES

Choose from the following class offerings and instructors. All classes will be offered in both the morning and the afternoon unless otherwise noted. ROOM ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE GIVEN AT THE TIME OF REGISTRATION.

- ◆ Trustees - Lee Shaffer
- ◆ Finance - Jeff Witt
- ◆ Training for SPRC Members (AM only) - David Forrest
- ◆ Called to be a Lay Leader (AM only) - Kathy Lutman
- ◆ Worship and the Arts - DyLan Celec
- ◆ Evangelism for the Local Church - Chip Giessler
- ◆ How to Plan Short Term Mission Trips - Kristen Bloodworth
- ◆ Communication as Evangelism (AM only) - Neill Caldwell
- ◆ Effective Church Newsletters, Bulletins, & Brochures - Neill Caldwell
- ◆ Endowment & Planned Giving - Jim Bergdoll
- ◆ Extreme Children's Ministry Makeover (AM only) - Dana Jackson & Patty Singhass
- ◆ Safe Sanctuaries (PM only) - Dana Jackson & Patty Singhass
- ◆ Youth Ministries - Jed Markwood
- ◆ Models for Older Adult Ministry - Sara Hudson
- ◆ Prison Ministry - Jim Templeton
- ◆ Camp is for Kids - Wrong! - Ron Robey
- ◆ UM Beliefs - Jim Hewitt
- ◆ Goal Setting/Visioning - Marty Martin

COST

The cost is \$15. Fees include refreshments, lunch, materials, and quality instructors. For more information or a registration form, please contact your pastor, or the district office at 540-662-7332. No childcare is available for the event.

A word from the District Superintendent...

“How are we intentionally reaching new people for Jesus Christ through our ministries?”

“How are we helping new people grow and mature as disciples of Jesus Christ through our ministries and areas of responsibility?”

Pretty important questions, I'm sure you'll agree. They are found at the end of Paragraph 660 of the 2008 *Book of Discipline*. That paragraph refers to the organization of the district and its ministries and states that each district organization “SHALL (that means that it is mandatory) designate one of its members as its coordinator of witness ministries.” That person's job is to help the groups of which he or she is a part to engage in witness ministries and, in particular, to ask the above two questions.

I have two comments to make on this disciplinary paragraph: one, it is amazing what you will find if you actually read the *Discipline* (not unlike actually reading the Bible!); and two, I didn't even know that that paragraph was in there! We have certainly failed until now as district organizations to do what the *Discipline* says we must. I trust that we will be able to mend this deficiency in the coming days.

Further, I would like to suggest that these two questions are important ones for all of the committees and boards and other organizations of your church to consider, as well. For it is easy to get distracted from our primary mission, namely, making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Would it not be a good thing to have one person around also at your church whose job it is to raise the question: how does the course of action that we're considering here help us fulfill our mission? I read once, for example, of a church youth group that was preparing for an expensive trip to Disney World until someone raised that question. The youth group then reconsidered and decided to go on a mission trip instead. Presumably, those young people (and the older ones involved, too) learned a valuable lesson about our true calling as disciples of Jesus. (No doubt they also learned that a mission trip can be as wonderful an experience as a vacation—and twice as satisfying!)

Best wishes in your church's ministries as we all seek first and foremost to be faithful disciples in the days ahead.

Merry Christmas!

David Forrest

Mission Trip to Merci Center Planned for January

Nancy and David Forrest will lead a VIM trip to Merci Mission Center, North Carolina January 10-14, 2010: Journey with us to our denomination's warehouse & distribution center in Goldsboro, North Carolina. The group will stay in the center's Volunteer Village and work on a variety of projects such as: sorting and packing health kits, flood buckets, sewing girls' dresses and boy's shirts for Haitian children, office filing, small construction jobs in homes of needy families. In other words - if you want to have a 'hands-on' mission opportunity, we have a job for you! Cost of the trip: approx \$150/person including transportation, and room & board. Call the District Office at 540-662-7332 for more information about the trip.

JUST A REMINDER!!

The Builder's Club Fall Call is underway! The Fall Call recipient is Little Mountain UMC on the Cedar Grove Charge in Frederick County. They have been working to make their church handicapped accessible. The project they are now working on and in need of financial assistance is to add a two-story wheelchair lift to their building to provide access to their fellowship hall in the basement and their main floor. The estimate for this project will cost about \$25,000. Please consider a \$20 pledge to the Builder's Club to help this small membership congregation complete this project. Please send pledges to Winchester District UMC at 21 S. Kent Street, Winchester, VA 22601. Please note on the check that it is for the Builder's Club.



Winchester District Youth Retreat
**THAW: Dealing with Moments
 that Freeze Us**

- * **When: February 5-7, Friday 8 pm-Sunday noon**
- * **Where: Hunting Ridge Retreat Center, Winchester VA**
- * **Featuring the band, *Stereoreel*, and added service project**
- * **Who: 6th-12th graders and those sponsoring them (we request gender appropriate adults – one for every seven youth – if you need to “share” sponsors let us help!)**
- ◆ **Cost: \$85 ; includes lodging 2 nights (bunk beds but need own linens), four meals (breakfast Saturday - breakfast Sunday), 2 snack nights, and all activities! (Please eat dinner Friday on your way and plan lunch after you leave Sunday)**

Jubilee Assistance Fund

The Jubilee Assistance Fund (JAF) is a loan program where a local church establishes an account at the Virginia United Methodist Credit Union to provide collateralized small, short term loans for individuals who would not qualify for loans otherwise. To qualify for JAF, the borrower agrees to receive financial counseling, loan monitoring and payroll deduction. The program is a way to provide your church members short term help during a financial crisis and financial management tools to assist them with long term financial stability.

For information on partnering with VUMCU to establish a fund at your church call 866-657-0004 or email: creditunion@vaumcu.org.

*DCOM Highlight on
 Winchester District Young Adults*

Ministry with Young Adults is often difficult and even overlooked by some churches. The grouping “Young Adults,” typically refers to those adults ages 18-35. Ministry to this group is unique due to the variety of lifestyles and circumstances surrounding that age: school, work schedule, significant others, etc... all factor in to making traditional ministry approaches extremely ineffective. Throughout our conference we are working hard to reach out and welcome this group in new and exciting ways!

Most churches have a few young adults in their congregation, but not enough to constitute a group of consistent size for meeting. To that end, we have a few offerings for smaller numbers to join a much larger group.

We currently offer a weekly gathering for open recreation on Tuesday nights from 7:00 – 9:00 pm, typically in the fellowship hall/gym at Braddock St. UMC. On occasion, we relocate to an outdoor setting or different venue. It is our hope that other pockets of young adults will also find a time and place to similarly gather together and we could post that information throughout the district.

We also work alongside other local churches of different denominations to offer CrossLink. CrossLink is an effort to unite Christian young adults in our community. CrossLink combines live worship, a rotating speaker, and a time of fellowship for a great monthly gathering of Christian young adults. CrossLink meets on the 1st Thurs. of each month at Market Street UMC on the corner of Cork St. and Cameron St. at 7:00 PM.

If you are aware of other offerings for young adults within your church or region we would love to hear about them and spread the word. For more information on these events or for general information regarding ministry with Young Adults please contact **Jed Markwood**, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry at Round Hill UMC (Fred.) at (540) 535-5676 or jed.markwood@gmail.com.



The Winchester District office is making an ongoing effort to be good stewards of our resources by striving to send the District Core out by email to as many persons as possible. We send over 400 newsletters out each month by U.S. mail. We would like to reduce that number as much as possible. If you are receiving this newsletter as a hard copy and would prefer to receive it by email, please email Sheryl Pifer at sherylpifer@vaumc.org and we'd be happy to add you to our email list. Thanks for helping us care for God's creation.



DISTRICT CORE

Winchester District
Virginia Conference
The United Methodist Church
21 S. Kent Street
Winchester, VA 22601
Phone: (540) 662-7332
Fax: (540) 722-6780
Email: sherylpifer@vaumc.org

Charlene Payne Kammerer Area Bishop
David T. Forrest District Superintendent
Sheryl Pifer Administrative Assistant
Melanie Melester Financial Administrator
Kathy Lutman District Lay Leader
Forrest Smith Associate Lay Leader

Website:
www.winchesterdistrictumc.org

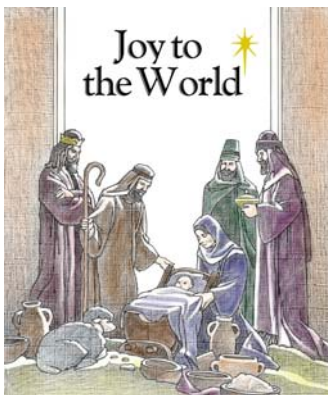
NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 138

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

DISTRICT CALENDAR

- ◆ December 4-6 - High School Youth Retreat, Eagle Eyrie, Lynchburg, VA
- ◆ December 5 - District Clergy Christmas Dinner, Strasburg UMC - 6-8 p.m.
- ◆ December 6 - SPR Training w/Beth Downs, Strasburg UMC - 2-4:30 p.m.
- ◆ December 23 - District Office closes at 1 p.m.
- ◆ December 24-January 1 - District Office Closed
- ◆ December 25 - Merry Christmas!



- ◆ January 1 - HAPPY NEW YEAR!
- ◆ January 4 - District Office Reopens
- ◆ January 9 - Leadership Training, Braddock St. UMC - 8:15 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.
- ◆ January 10-14 - Mission Trip to Merci Center
- ◆ January 12 - DCOOM, Macedonia UMC - 9 a.m.
- ◆ January 19-22 - Cabinet & Minister's Convocation, Blackstone
- ◆ January 26 - DCOM, Braddock St. - 10 a.m.

