



Winchester District
United Methodist Church
David T. Forrest
District Superintendent

News from...

The Core of the Winchester District



December 2007

Winchester District
Leadership Training
Saturday, January 12
Shenandoah University
Armstrong Hall
8:30 am to 4:15 pm

Together, we are Christ's Body

Registration Due December 8
Snow Date: February 9

- Nurture and Witness Ministries Workshops
- Programmatic Teaching & Discipleship-Making Ministries Workshops
- Ministry of Word and Worship Workshops
- Administrative — Leadership Ministries Workshops

Event Schedule

- 8:30 - Gathering**
9:00 - Welcome & Celebrative Worship
10:30 - Workshop # 1
12:45 - Lunch & Cokesbury Bookstore
2:00 - Workshop # 2
Day Ends at 4:15 p.m.
Registration Deadline: December 8
Cost: \$15 by Dec. 8
Late Registration: \$30

Something new for the Winchester District!

Together, we are the body of Christ. We have been called to serve together, to take up the cross of Christ for the common good and salvation of the world. God calls and uses leaders to prepare us for good works (Eph. 4:11-12) — some to show us what those good works may be, and others to coordinate those good works. In addition to being called by God, good leaders need to be equipped for their area of service.

That is what the Annual District Leadership Training Event is all about. You have been called by God to a ministry, and you have been appointed by the church to be in leadership.

Now is the time to prepare to be equipped for ministry. To better equip you, the District Council on Ministries has changed the training this year to a special one-day event. You will be able to attend two workshops of your choice. We have an outstanding line-up of training instructors from which to choose.

The training begins at 9 a.m. with a welcome and celebrative worship led by Rev. Dr. Deidra Kriewald. Dr. Kriewald is a retired professor of Christian Formation at Wesley Theological Seminary. Our preacher is Rev. Derrick Parson, an elder serving as the associate pastor of Asbury UMC in Harrisonburg. He is a graduate of Union Theological Seminary.

Workshop information and registration forms are available from your pastor, your church office, or on the District website at www.winchesterdistrictumc.org.

DISTRICT CALENDAR

December

- 1 Dist. Parsonage Open House, 3-6 p.m.
- 4 DCOM, Braddock Street - 10 a.m.
Lectionary Group, Dist. Ofc. - Noon
- 11 Lectionary Group, Dist. Ofc. - Noon
- 14 Clergy Christmas Dinner, Braddock St. UMC - 5:30 p.m.
- 18 Lectionary Group, Dist. Ofc. - Noon
- 20 Dist. Ofc. Open House -10 a.m.-1 p.m.
- 12/21 - 1/2/08 **District Office Closed**



- 1 District Office Closed for New Year
- 8 Lectionary Group, Dist. Ofc. - Noon
- 12 DISTRICT TRAINING EVENT, Shenandoah University - 8:30-4:15
- 15 Lectionary Group, Dist. Ofc. - Noon
- 21-23 Minister's Convocation, Blackstone
- 22 DCOM, Braddock St. UMC - 10 a.m.
- 24 UM Day at General Assembly, Richmond
- 29 Lectionary Group, Dist. Ofc. - Noon
District Training Task Force, District Office - 2 p.m.
- 30 DCOOM, Duncan Mem. - 9 a.m.

*The Winchester District
Office Staff wishes you and
your family a blessed
Christmas Season.*

*May your hearts and homes
be filled with joy and peace
as we celebrate the birth
of our Lord and Savior!*

David, Sheryl & Melanie

A word from the District Superintendent...

“It’s all in the adjectives!”

Those were the words of Bishop Robert Schnase of the Missouri Conference spoken during the Cabinet Convocation held at Lake Junaluska, NC the weekend of November 9-11, 2007. Bishop Schnase was one of the most helpful of the many speakers there where there were church leaders present from literally all over the world. There were bishops and district superintendents from Africa, the Philippines, and Europe—as well as all across the U.S. (I ate breakfast one morning with a D.S. from Sweden who confirmed that the northern part of his country is mostly snow with few people—something that I had always suspected!)

Bishop Schanse is the author of a new book that you’ll be hearing about, if you haven’t already, *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*. Each of the five practices is preceded by a forceful, descriptive adjective that significantly enlarges its meaning. For example, the first practice he describes is “Radical Hospitality.” Now, all churches practice hospitality to some extent, but how many are “radical” in their welcoming of others into their fellowship? You begin to get the idea of what Bishop Schnase means by the importance of the descriptive word when you consider all five:

- Radical Hospitality
- Passionate Worship
- Intentional Faith Development
- Risk-taking Mission and Service
- Extravagant Generosity

After all, all churches worship and teach and give, but how many do it passionately, intentionally, or extravagantly?

I strongly recommend Bishop Schnase’s book and website, www.fivepractices.org where there is more information available. Cokesbury is developing a program for churches based on the five practices that is due out next August. Your church may want to make use of it.

In the meantime, why not ponder those descriptive words in relation to your own church’s practices and see how far there is a match and how much work there is to be done.

Thanks for all you do in Christ’s name, and Merry Christmas!

David Forrest



Twelve men from the Winchester District made it to the Annual Fall Spiritual Retreat held at the Conference Center in Blackstone. As always it was an uplifting weekend for those of us attended as we listened to Evangelist, Dr. James Buskirk bring his messages on *Leaning into the Future with God*. Dr. Buskirk challenged us as men to get to work and bring 200 youth to next year's retreat. The messages were of great importance and seem to be what the Holy Spirit would have us to hear as we move into the augmentation of an effort from the GCUMM of Wesleyan Building Brothers'. This will be a movement of men serving the church in equipping its men in their passionate pursuit of God ...building Spiritual Fathers. We also were able to meet and listen to the General Secretary of the United Methodist Men, Dr. David Adams.

You may wonder why equipping leaders to reach men is incredibly strategic. “Much of the chaos we see in our world today stems from the failure of men - and ironically this is from men who wake up in the morning wanting to succeed. We need prison ministries, teen pregnancy centers, ministries for single mothers - and praise God for those who are working so hard in these areas. But the best ministry in each of these areas for twenty years from now is to **disciple men today**. There is no more strategic investment in global Christianity than unleashing the hoarded time, talent, and treasures of American men.” (Quote from Man in the Mirror Newsletter).

Men are for the most part missing in our churches today and the ones that are there are, should I use the word ‘aging’. At our District Fall Rally our youngest man was 40 and our faithful old timer, Mr. Byrnes, was there at 89. The rest of us were somewhere between those numbers. Let me interject here this was another great event held on November 10 at Grace Annex in Purcellville with a delicious breakfast served by the men of Austin Grove with the help of a couple women and a moving sermon delivered by Rev. Alphonso Irving. We are also grateful for the seven pastors that attended and helped make up our group of about 47 attendees.

Let me end this letter saying that we have capable male leaders within the thirty-seven Men’s Fellowships on our Winchester District that can lead the charge to take us into the New Year making and equipping **new** disciples for Christ. Let’s get Growing! All for Jesus. This is our conference theme for the year. May I challenge each of you to take up the cause and let’s bring some of the younger men into our Fellowships, the 15 to 40 year olds. They came to Jesus when he walked on earth and if we believe he still lives today He can still bring them to us for nurturing and discipleship.

I trust you had a blessed Thanksgiving, and may the joy and love of Christ be with you as we move into this Advent season leading up to Christmas.

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



GLEANNING NETWORK TO PUT TOGETHER FOOD BOXES

Each year Pastor Elizabeth Frye would lead a drive before Christmas to fill 500 food boxes for families in the Winchester area. Members of the Gleaning Network and some local churches feel they are being led to fill the void left by the passing of Pastor Frye. They will be working to put together 100 food boxes to be given out at several area food pantries this season.

Already prayers have been answered and they have donations of the boxes, apples from the trees of Marker Miller Farm being stored at Virginia Storage, and a friend who has offered the use of her heated storage area for the food. Everything seems to be moving forward. Now they need donations of food for the packages.

In order for the boxes to be filled equally, they would like you to choose from the following items:

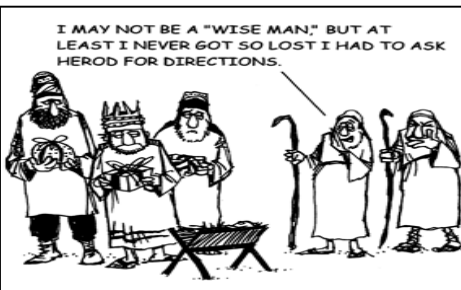
<u>Menu</u>	<u>Goal</u>	<u>Place to purchase</u>
1# canned ham	200	Family dollar \$2.59 each (Royale brand) Dollar General \$2.15 each (Bristol brand)
<u>(These hams were selected because they require no refrigeration.</u> <u>Please choose from one of these two stores.)</u>		
<u>Instant Mashed potatoes</u>	100	<u>your choice of brand and size</u>
<u>Kraft Macaroni and cheese</u>	100	<u>your choice brand and size</u>
<u>1# can of corn</u>	100	<u>your choice of brand</u>
<u>1# can of green beans</u>	100	<u>your choice of brand</u>
<u>1# can apple sauce</u>	100	<u>your choice of brand</u>
<u>Jiffy corn bread mix</u>	200	<u>Jiffy brand small box</u>
<u>Cake mix</u>	100	<u>your choice brand</u>
<u>Cake icing</u>	100	<u>your choice brand</u>
<u>Condensed milk</u>	100	<u>your choice brand</u>

The items are being collected at the Winchester District UMC Office, 21 S. Kent Street, Winchester. The office is open from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Please contact Skeeter Ramey at 540-974-5435 (cell), 540-869-2876 (home), or email sramey3@comcast.net for more information.

The last date to drop off food is December 12th!

The boxes will be filled on December 14th!

Thank you for being a part of this good work!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
The Annual Board of Missions
Dinner is scheduled for
Sunday, February 24, 2008
5 – 8 p.m. at Kernstown UMC.
Watch for more information!

**United Methodist Day
 at the General Assembly
 Richmond, Virginia
 Thursday, January 31, 2008
 7 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.**

Registration is available online at www.vaumc.org/assemblyday.pdf or by calling Martha Reynolds at (540) 942-3431. Registration forms must be received by January 22. Check must be included. No refunds after January 22.

United Methodist Day is sponsored by the Virginia Conference Board of Church & Society and the Virginia Conference United Methodist Women.



Summer Mission Opportunity for Youth

Looking for a youth mission opportunity in the mountains and foothills of North Carolina? Come to Carolina Cross Connection! CCC is outreach ministry for youth and adults to provide home repairs for disabled, elderly, and poverty-stricken families in western North Carolina.

Your group will gather with other youth and adults in one of five camp locations. Projects include wheelchair ramps, porches, painting, yardwork, underpinning, insulation, and more. Our summer staff will coordinate worksites and lead campers in worship, devotions, games, and other in-camp activities. Cost per person is \$290 and covers room, board, preparation materials, a portion of the staff salary and more. Youth must be at least 13 years old to attend.

Call 704-735-4257 for more info, or visit Carolina Cross Connection on the web at www.Carolinacrossconnection.org for registration info and 2008 dates.

Carolina Cross Connection is an interdenominational summer outreach ministry and has a covenant relationship with the Western North Carolina UM Conference.



Winchester District
United Methodist Church
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Christmas Thoughts from Flo

The nativity has always been a part of my family's Christmas. I started collecting the figures before my son was born, so my Nativity has some age on it. Every year, after I finish decorating the house for the Christmas season, I carefully find just the right place for my Nativity, so my family and friends can enjoy it and it will be safe.

However, just as we age, so have my nativity animals. A few years ago, the dog fell over and broke one of his legs, so I bought a new dog, but I still include the old one as well. Then the angel some how ended up with a broken wing, and the cow's horn deteriorated and she only has half a horn. However, I still use all of them at Christmas. Every year someone will ask me, "Flo why do some of your nativity figures have broken parts? You should get some new figures." I lovingly respond, "Where else would broken and hurting people and animals be, except gathered around the manger that holds the Christ child, who came that we might have wholeness even in our brokenness."

The broken and missing parts of my animals reminds me that we are all in need of the love that came down from heaven, into the darkness of a hurting world that could not heal itself; into the small village of Bethlehem. Therefore, I continue to use my broken pieces, including the camel, which fell over and broke a leg this past Christmas. The brokenness of the animals is reminder of the brokenness in our lives, and in our world, that Jesus came to heal.

Every year at the beginning of Advent, I remember the passage of Scripture in Luke 2:14, when the angels sing those beautiful words to the Shepherds on the hillside "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men, with whom he is pleased." I will continue to use my nativity each Christmas to remind me, my family, friends and strangers who might find their way to stable, of God's love, mercy, and grace for all his creation.

Submitted by Floetta Legg, a retired pastor living on the Winchester District.

