



February 2012

# 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.



## February is Heart Havens Month

February is Heart Havens Month in the Virginia Conference, a time when churches are asked to make financial contributions to this agency that provides residential services for men and women with intellectual disabilities by building and operating 12 group homes throughout Virginia.

This February, help support this mission in your own backyard by donating, volunteering or advocating for Heart Havens ([www.hearthavens.org](http://www.hearthavens.org)).

For more information, or if you would like a Heart Havens speaker at your church, call (804) 237-6097 or toll-free 1-877-442-8368; or e-mail [info@hearthavens.org](mailto:info@hearthavens.org).

## Voices of Youth still accepting applications

Voices of Youth (VOY), a Virginia Conference program designed to connect high school youths with those in need through music and mission, is still accepting applications for both youths and adults to participate in this year's **June 27-July 15** tour.

The choir will go to Joplin, Mo., to do disaster relief and then visit United Methodist churches throughout Virginia to share their experiences through word, music and worship.

To apply or for more information, contact VOY coordinator Jennifer Dixon at (757) 348-7084 or [coordinator@voyva.org](mailto:coordinator@voyva.org).

## Lay Servant Academy to be held February 24-26

The Registration deadline is Feb. 10 for the Lay Servant Academy to be held at Blackstone Conference and Retreat Center **February 24-26**.

Ten of the courses offered this year have been approved for 1.0 CEU by the Continuing Education Committee of the Board of Ordained Ministry. Participants in at least 5 hours can receive 0.5 CEU.

Approved courses are: *This Holy Mystery*, led by Rev. Bert Cloud; *Bible for Lay Ministers*, led by Rev. Dr. Mike Browder and Rev. Jennifer Vestal Moore; *Bible Teaching Aids*, led by Rev. Dr. Tom Bryant; *Survey of Apologetics*, led by Charles G. Miller; *History of Christian Beliefs*, led by Dr. Allen Barnes; *Heritage of The United Methodist Church*, led by Hal Costley; *Discover God's Call*, led by Doris Hedrick; *Exploring Our Spiritual Gifts*, led by Rev. Linda Young; *Authentic Outreach*, led by Stuart Holt; and *Understanding Men's Ministry*, led by Gilbert Hanke.

More information and a brochure are available on the Conference website at [www.vaumc.org](http://www.vaumc.org) or by contacting David Bailey at (804) 338-3168 or [dwbaily@comcast.net](mailto:dwbaily@comcast.net)

## Retreat for Clergy Spouses

The 50<sup>th</sup> annual Virginia Conference Clergy Spouses' Retreat will be held **March 15-17** at Blackstone Conference and Retreat Center in Blackstone.

The theme will be "*The Best of the Past Going Into the Future*." Keynote speaker will be Dr. Jennifer L. Braaten, president of Ferrum College.

More information is available on the conference website at [www.vaumc.org](http://www.vaumc.org). Click on "Events Calendar" and then the date.



## Training to help small churches meet Vital Congregation goals

District training events focused on helping small churches (averaging up to 150 in worship) achieve their Vital Congregation goals are scheduled for **April 22** (Harrisonburg/Winchester), **May 12** (Alexandria/Arlington), and **Jan. 13, 2013** (Richmond).

For more information, contact the conference office of Inclusivity and Lay Leadership Excellence at 1-800-768-6040, ext. 153, or e-mail [marthastokes@vaumc.org](mailto:marthastokes@vaumc.org).

## Older Adult Ministry

“ReFirement: A Creative Spark,” a retreat sponsored by the Older Adult Ministries Council will be held on April 20-21, at Blackstone Conference and Retreat Center.

The retreat will focus on fostering the spark of creativity in order to enrich the lives of older adults and enhance the ministries of the church. A variety of workshop sessions and fellowship opportunities will be available. Plan to join us for the overnight retreat and see where new creative fires may develop that will fill your heart and soul.

Call the Office of Inclusivity and Lay Leadership Excellence at (804) 531-1153 or e-mail [marthastokes@vaumc.org](mailto:marthastokes@vaumc.org) for more information.

## SoSA 2012 Lenten Devotions Program - *Living Proof*

The Society of St. Andrew invites your congregation to participate in our 2012 Lenten devotion and giving program, “Living Proof”. In keeping with the traditions of Lent, the Society of St. Andrew invites your congregation to participate in a program of spiritual reflection, prayer, and giving. SoSA’s Lenten devotion program challenges the reader to take seriously the scriptural injunctions to care for the poor, while also providing an opportunity to feed our hungry neighbors.

To obtain a free sample church packet, or personal packet of the devotion and giving program and the Good Friday Fast, call 800-333-4597, or email The Rev. Jennifer Vestal Moore at [church@endhunger.org](mailto:church@endhunger.org). There is no charge for the program, however, you are encouraged to make a donation to this feeding ministry as a part of the program.

The Society of St. Andrew hopes your congregation will join us and make feeding our hungry brothers and sisters a priority during Lent. Through your involvement in SoSA’s ministry, you and your church can provide nourishing food to those most in need, especially during these cold winter months and economically challenging times.

## DISTRICT CALENDAR

- ◆ February 6-10 - Cabinet meets at Blackstone
- ◆ February 14 - District Committee on Ordained Ministry, District Office—9 a.m.
- ◆ February 16 - District Clergy Association, Harmony UMC - 9 a.m.
- ◆ February 18 - UMM Annual Bowl-a-Thon, Northside Lanes - 12 p.m.
- ◆ February 21 - District Finance Committee, District Office - 10 a.m.
- ◆ February 21 - DCOM Executive Committee, District Office - 12 p.m.
- ◆ February 24 - 26 - Lay Servants Academy, Blackstone
- ◆ February 29 - District Trustees, District Office - 11 a.m.

- ◆ March 3 - UMW District Prayer Breakfast, Lee Jackson Restaurant—9 a.m.
- ◆ March 13 - District Committee on Ordained Ministry, District Office—9 a.m.
- ◆ March 19-23 - Cabinet meets at Blackstone

