

NEWS FROM... THE CORE OF THE WINCHESTER DISTRICT



July/August 2007

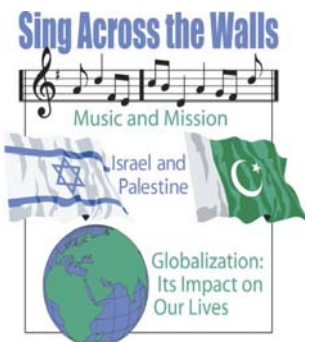
APPOINTMENT CHANGES ON THE WINCHESTER DISTRICT

Appointment	New Pastor	Coming from...	Previous Pastor	Going to...
Boyce-Millwood-White Post Charge	James Adam Sowder	First Appointment	Janet F. Grissett	Accomack Charge Eastern Shore District
First UMC, Associate	Douglas Reid Sasser, II	First Appointment	J. Robert Berghuis	Columbia Furnace-Union Forge Charge Harrisonburg District
Francis Asbury Charge	William Todd Gess	First Appointment	Isaac L. Luttrell	N/A
Leesburg UMC	James N. Wishmyer	Register Chapel Ashland District	Albert D. Sikkelee	Interim—Retired
Purcellville Circuit	Alphonso Leon Irving	First Appointment	Sonja F. Oliver	Warwick Memorial, Associate Peninsula District
Strasburg UMC	Edward P. Winkler	Arlington Forest Arlington District	Wm. Anthony Layman	Interim—Retired
Warrenton UMC	Sarah May McQueen	First Appointment	New Appointment	
Wesley UMC (Winchester)	Michael Q. Mayton	New Kent UMC Peninsula District	James R. Rodden	Central UMC (Hampton) Peninsula District
Shenandoah University Dean of Spiritual Life	Rhonda VanDyke-Colby	Director of Institute for Church Professions	Gary L. Robbins	Greene Memorial UMC Roanoke District
Shenandoah University Director of Church Relations	Donald VanDyke-Colby	Providence UMC Richmond District	New Position	

School of Christian Mission scheduled for July

The 2007 School of Christian Mission will be held July 27-29 (weekend session) and July 30-August 2 (week session) at the Virginia United Methodist Center in Blackstone. Following this year's theme, *Sing Across the Walls*, class offerings include - Geographic Study: Israel/Palestine; Spiritual Growth Study: Music and Mission; Issue Study: Globalization: Its Impact In Our Lives. Please contact the District Office for a brochure or click on events at the Conference website <www.vaumc.org> under the above dates.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: The District Mini-School of Missions is scheduled for September 22, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., at Stephens City UMC. See *Page 3* of this newsletter for more information!



The 2007 Virginia Annual Conference logo is based upon the theme, "Let's Get Growing," which flows out of our conference vision statement: "We envision churches where all God's people are welcomed at table, nurtured, and transformed to be Christ to others in the world." The logo was created by the Virginia Conference communications staff, in collaboration with Richard H. Jenkins, a graphics designer and member of St. Luke's UMC, Richmond District.

A word from the District Superintendent...

We are fortunate to be in Virginia—not just because it's a beautiful place with a great heritage—but also because, in the words of Dr. Lovett Weems, “the harvest is plentiful in Virginia.” Dr. Weems, of Wesley Seminary in Washington, was one of the speakers at Annual Conference in Roanoke last month. He presented a fascinating description of the demographics of our state in the years ahead.

Unlike many other parts of the country, Virginia is growing rapidly: it is one of eighteen states projected to grow by more than 25% by 2030. (That sounds like a long time off until you realize that it's only twenty-three years from now.) That's a lot more people than we have here now—and we think that the roads are jammed now!

Moreover, and interestingly, Virginia is one of only fourteen states that are expected to show a population increase of those younger than eighteen of more than 25% by 2030. And it is one of only eleven states where the median age is projected to be under thirty-eight by 2030. In other words, despite all of us aging baby boomers still hanging around, Virginia's population in the coming decades will still include plenty of young people. That's not true in many parts of the country. Finally, the ethnic diversity that has increased here by 43% since 1990 will continue apace in the coming years.

All of this information means that our conference's vision for the future—“Let's Get Growing! More People. More Young People. More Diverse People. All for Jesus!”—hits just the right notes. We have a mission field before us here in Virginia. The fields are white unto harvest, as Jesus said. Clearly, the world needs Jesus now more than ever—if for no other reason than that there are more people around now than ever before!

While the methods are many and varied, the goal is the same: making disciples of Jesus Christ. How will you church respond to the plentiful harvest of Virginia?

Thank you for all that you do in Christ's name.

David Forrest



VIM Surgical Teams to Mozambique Update

Because of your prayers and support and God's blessings, the two surgical Volunteers in Mission teams headed to Chicuque Rural United Methodist Hospital in Mozambique will be leaving this month. Our District Superintendent's wife, Nancy Forrest, the team leader, will be there for both back-to-back teams. The first leaves on Friday, July 13th and returns on Monday, July 30th. The second leaves on Friday, July 27th and returns on Sunday, August 12th. Please pray for safe journeys for the teams and for God to use them in a mighty way to make a strong impact in healing the hurting in Mozambique in Christ's name. It is hard to overestimate the value of the skills of the surgeons and other team members there at a hospital that has no permanent doctors at all.

This is the third year that Virginia Conference surgical teams have gone to Mozambique, and many strong relationships have developed in the process. Some of the same doctors and other medical people have gone each year—along with some new ones each time. The outpouring of support for this effort has been overwhelming. Many thanks to all who have made the hundreds of infant caps that the teams are taking with them and to all who have contributed financially or in any other way.

Among the generous contributors has been the Winchester Medical Center which is donating used computers and other equipment to the hospital in Chicuque. Because of this generosity and that of other hospitals in Richmond a container will be sent to Chicuque when there is enough in the Mozambique Fund to pay for it to be shipped all the way through to the hospital (which didn't happen the last time).

Nancy and other team members will be available to share the story of what God does through them this year in Mozambique upon their return. Thanks so much for your prayers and interest.

**WINCHESTER DISTRICT
MINI SCHOOL OF MISSIONS**

September 22, 2007

9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Stephens City UMC

9:00 - 9:30 REGISTRATION AND COFFEE
9:30 - 10:00 PLENARY: Phyllis Baker, Deaconess
10:00 - 12:30 1ST HALF OF CLASS
12:30 - 1:30 LUNCH
1:30 - 4:00 2ND HALF OF CLASS; DISMISSAL

CEU applied for. Men and women, pastors and lay are encouraged to attend!

CLASSES

1. Spiritual Growth Study: Music and Mission
Instructor: Sandra Baker
2. Geographic Study: Israel/Palestine
Instructor: Rev. Pam Montgomery
3. Globalization: Its Impact In Our Lives
Instructor: TBA

\$7.00 - Cost of class includes lunch.
(Study books will be available for purchase at registration; cost of book not included above.)
PLEASE REGISTER as soon as possible.

NURSERY PROVIDED at no charge. Please pre-register at least one week in advance with the number of children for nursery in order for enough supervision to be provided.

REGISTRATION FOR MINI SCHOOL OF MISSIONS

Name _____

Local Church _____

Phone _____ Email _____

CLASS SELECTION (You will be placed in one class only.)

1st choice _____

2nd choice _____

I will use the nursery for _____ children/ages _____
Please tell us at least 1 week in advance if you need the nursery.

Please send registration form and \$7.00 per adult to the Winchester District Office, 21 S. Kent Street, Winchester, VA 22601. Make your check payable to Winchester District UMC and indicate for Mini School of Missions.

**WINCHESTER DISTRICT
*Servant Leadership Workshop***

Saturday, August 25

8:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Bethel UMC in Warrenton

WHO? Congregational leaders (including clergy) both newly elected or currently serving and young (including youth) and old. After August 1, attendance will be opened to Arlington and Alexandria District so register early!

WHAT? The training is Bible study emphasizing Matthew 5:1-8 (The Beatitudes). The training is designed less to give techniques for solving contemporary leadership problems and more toward developing the servant leadership style and attitude depicted by Christ. There will be eight talks (concerning aspects of the beatitudes) and discussion following each talk. Interspersed among the talks are some dramatizations conducted by the Reverend Al Horton (well-known across the conference for his portrayal of biblical personalities).

WHEN? Saturday, August 26, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Snacks will be provided upon arrival. A bag lunch will be provided mid day. And dinner will be served too.

WHERE? Bethel UMC just outside of Warrenton. To get there from the Winchester area, come east on Interstate 66 to exit 28 toward Warrenton (Route 17 South). From exit 28, go 7.4 miles to Route 628 where you turn left. About one-half mile up Route 628, Bethel Church is on the right. For additional directions please see the website <www.bethelumc.com> or call 540-347-7288.

COST? The cost is \$20 per participant to cover the cost of meals and materials. The deadline is Monday, August 14.

Do I get any credit for attendance? One CEU is being offered clergy. Lay speakers can receive an advanced Lay Speaker's certificate.

How do I reserve a seat in the training? Fill out the attached registration form and send it with your check to: Bethel UMC, ATTN: Servant Leadership Training, 6903 Blantyre Road, Warrenton, VA 20187.

REGISTRATION FOR DISTRICT SERVANT LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Name _____

Phone () _____ Email: _____

Address _____

Church _____

Make check payable to: Winchester District UMC and note on the memo line Servant Leadership.

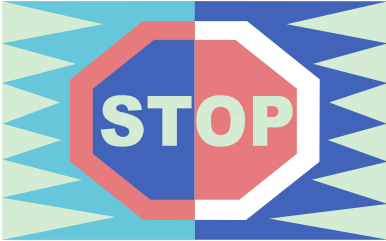
____ Yes I would like to receive CEU credit.

____ Yes I would like to receive Advanced Lay Speaker Credit



Winchester District
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 Winchester, Virginia 22601
 540-662-7332

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Visit our website at:
www.Winchesterdistrictumc.org



DISTRICT CALENDAR FOR JULY/AUGUST

July

- 4 District Office Closed
- 7 Clergy Picnic, First UMC Picnic Shelter, 5-7 p.m.
- 11 District Finance Committee, District Ofc., 10 a.m.
- 15 District Stewards Mtg, Duncan Memorial, 3 p.m.
- 17 District Superintendent at Cabinet Meeting
 District Training Task Force, District Ofc, 10 a.m.
- 24 DCOM Braddock St. UMC - 10 am
 District Conference Planning Comm., District Office, 1:15 p.m.
- 27-29 School of Christian Mission (Weekend Session), Blackstone
- 30-8/2 School of Christian Mission (Week Session), Blackstone

August

- 14 Charge Conference Set-up Mtg., Kernstown, 10 a.m.
- 16 Charge Conference Set-up Mtg., Marshall, 10 a.m.
- 17-19 UMW Young Women's Retreat, Blackstone
- 20-24 District Superintendent on Vacation
- 25 Servant Leadership Event, Bethel UM (Fauquier), 9 a.m.-9 p.m.
- 28 Nomination Facilitators, District Office, 10 a.m.
- 29 DCOOM, Duncan Memorial, 9-11 a.m.
- 30 District Board of Missions, District Office, 1 p.m.

September

- 3 District Office Closed for Labor Day

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

Highlights from Annual Conference

THE 225th SESSION OF THE VIRGINIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE opened with a service of remembrance and Holy Communion at the Roanoke Civic Center on Sunday, June 10.



Choral music was provided by the combined choirs of Samaria Baptist Church and Tsena Commocko Baptist Church of Providence Forge, Va., under the direction of Arnette Adkins. They are the home churches of the Chickahominy and the Eastern Chickahominy tribes.



The Rev. Larry Jent, pastor of Amelon United Methodist Church, Lynchburg District, was the featured preacher for the service. Jent, a person of Cherokee and Sauk heritage, has always been involved in ministry to Native Americans. Jent closed his sermon by playing "Amazing Grace" on a flute and then singing it in his Native American language.



As conference secretary, Rev. Bob Blinn, read aloud the names of "those who have entered Eternal Rest" a bell tolled and a candle was lighted.

During Monday morning session, the Rev. David McAllister-Wilson, president of Wesley Theological Seminary, addressed the laity. He highlighted churches across the conference that faced obstacles and overcame them to grow and flourish.



Tom Lee, the **Conference Kits** coordinator, announced that as of 1 p.m. on Tuesday, 36,675 kits had been collected from local churches across the conference. The kits will be delivered to the Sagar Brown Center in Louisiana for distribution by the United Methodist Committee on Relief to wherever they are needed. Lee noted that some flood buckets donated one year from Virginia made their way back to Virginia following Hurricane Isabel.



The Monday evening service featured "Responding to the Call: A Service for the Ordering of Ministry."

Bishop Kammerer preached on, "Whoever Would Be Great Among You", followed by the licensing of the local pastors (38 persons), the reception of the associate members (two persons), the commissioning of the probationary members (34 persons), the ordaining of deacons (four persons) and elders (22 persons), and the recognition of orders (one person).



On Tuesday morning, Shirley Cauffman, conference lay leader, presented her Laity Address with the theme, "Trust and Partnership." She requested of the clergy, "Teach us how to share our faith and what we believe.

Clergy and laity need to trust each other to work as partners because neither of us can do it all alone. When you consider the number of clergy versus laity, the clergy need our help. We are all in this together."



The Society of St. Andrew also reported that its Potato Drop **on Tuesday morning** during annual conference was a big success. A pile of 46,710 pounds of donated sweet potatoes was bagged in less than three

hours. **The cost of shipping and mesh bagging was covered by the Loudoun Charge in the Winchester District in honor of their pastor, Dr. William Wade, and his commitment to feeding the hungry.**

At the invitation of Bishop Kammerer, the Rev. Trevor Hudson was the special guest preacher during three services at Annual Conference. Rev. Hudson has been in the Methodist ministry for over 30 years, spending most of this time in and around Johannesburg, South Africa. Much of his ministry is shaped by two passions: to help ordinary people discover a compassionate, down-to-earth and life giving spirituality; and to build the kind of local faith community where people can discover what it means to be God's missional people the world today. You can hear Rev. Hudson's inspiring sermons online at www.vaumc.org.





On Tuesday night, The Rev. Mike Slaughter, pastor of Ginghamburg Church in Ohio, was the special guest speaker for a night of emphasizing evangelism. The area he serves is in an industrial area with mostly blue collar workers, but his church is still growing. They average 4,200 in attendance.

Slaughter said, "The Lord is known by his justice. Follow justice and justice alone. When we talk about true renewal it has nothing to do with size. We have to forget about numbers. The light of the church goes forth when you demonstrate the righteousness of God in the community where you live."

The Annual Conference Offering received on **Wednesday morning** for Initiatives of Hope stands at \$242,000. Amado Mucambe, a mission interpreter who has been visiting the conference from Mozambique, offered the prayer for the offering. Amado is a student at Shenandoah University.



Following the Wesley celebration on **Wednesday evening**, a *Nothing But Nets* video showed how easy it is to eradicate malaria. The Virginia Conference had already received \$26,000 for the campaign.



Martha Stokes, conference Director of Lay Life and Work, Disabilities, and Older Adult Ministries, presented the bishop with an "official *Nothing But Nets* basketball."

Also during the Wednesday morning session Ron Hardman and John Clarke presented the report of the Task Force on Conference Facilities. The task force recommended that a capital funds campaign be initiated to underwrite the estimated \$8 to \$9 million cost of the expansion of the current facilities at the Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center (VUMAC) in Blackstone. The conference voted to accept the recommendations put forth by the task force during the afternoon session.

During a pause in conference action, the Rev. Mike Mayton was called on. He offered \$50 for the basketball to be given to the *Nothing But Nets* campaign. A bidding war started with District's out-pledging each other, sections of clergy and laity in the stands gathering donations, and conference delegates donating their expense allowances. "When the Holy Spirit breaks out it's kind of hard to control," Bishop Kammerer said. Lynne Hundley, Cottage Place Church, said, "Looks to me like we're ready for an altar call. Why don't we pass the bucket and let people put the money in."



In the **Wednesday evening** session, the conference, led by the Rev. Barry Foster, paused to honor the 300th anniversary of the birth of Charles Wesley with a Celebration, filled with the writer's hymns. A mass choir from the Lynchburg District sang anthems and led the conference in hymn singing. The celebration also featured a brass band.

As the frenzy continued, the bishop remarked, "I think I need the conference treasurer up here." An estimated tally at the evening counted \$25,531 in cash and over \$80,000 in pledges.



Following the Bible study on Thursday morning, Bishop Kammerer announced that the water had been turned into wine and that an estimated **\$103,000** had been raised the previous evening for *Nothing But Nets*.

The Committee on the Episcopacy has requested that **Bishop Kammerer be reappointed to Virginia** in the next quadrennium. Darlene Amon asked for the endorsement of the conference. It was received with a rousing, standing ovation.

In closing the four day conference, a Service of the Word and **Fixing of Appointments** was held at 11:15 a.m.



The Rev. Karen Greenwaldt, general secretary of the General Board of Discipleship, is leading this year's **Bible studies**.

The **bluegrass gospel musical group Fort Vause** of White Memorial UMC in Shawsville led the attendees in singing on Wednesday morning.



Photos from Conference taken by Adelle Gunn, District delegate and member of Stephens City UMC



David Sault from Stephens City UMC was easy to find in the crowd!



For more on the 225th Virginia Annual Conference visit the conference webpage at www.vaumc.org.

