



July/August 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.

APPOINTMENT CHANGES ON THE WINCHESTER DISTRICT

<i>Appointment</i>	<i>New Pastor</i>	<i>Coming from...</i>	<i>Previous Pastor</i>	<i>Going to...</i>
Linden-Markham	Edward S. VanDyck	Amissville Charlottesville District	Robert W. Ford	James River Farmville District
Rectortown	Hija Yu	Family Leave	Christopher M. Bennett	Ebenezer Associate Ashland District
Saint Mark's Lay Supply	Jan V. Sickel	First Appointment	H. Douglas Bursch	Not Receiving Appointment
Wesley Chapel (Fauquier County)	Timo Rosenbach	First Appointment	James A. McGinnis	Not Receiving Appointment
Emmanuel	James M. Smith	Capron Portsmouth District	Neil R. Hough	Main Street (Waynesboro) Staunton District
Grace	Thomas H. Keithley	Braddock St. (Assoc.) Winchester District	E. Anne Hough	Saint James Staunton District
North Frederick	Charles W. Townsend	Pleasant View Winchester District	Suzanne (Vance) Gibson	Central Rappahannock District
Pleasant View	Hung Su Lim	First Appointment	Charles W. Townsend	North Frederick Winchester District
Harmony (Hamilton)	Stephen T. Vineyard	Bellamy Rappahannock District	Waverly G. Reames	Retiring
Lovettsville	Kwang Ho Lee	South Sussex Portsmouth District	Sandra A. Nottingham	Retiring
Mt. Zion: Leesburg	Melbourne H. Bailey	Galloway Arlington District	Dorian Powell	South Fluvanna Charlottesville District
West Loudoun	Andy Brock	First Appointment	Ralph Buddenhagen	Retiring
Christian Newcomer	Luther E. "Nip" Crites	West Virginia Conference	Dave M. Casto	Not Receiving Appointment
Toms Brook	Joseph H. Klotz, Jr.	Lower Church Rappahannock District	William R. Fisher	Retiring
Woodstock	David A. Rash	Fort Hill Lynchburg District	Charles N. Moore	Crooks Memorial Peninsula District

APPOINTMENT CHANGES continued

<i>Appointment</i>	<i>New Pastor</i>	<i>Coming from...</i>	<i>Previous Pastor</i>	<i>Going to...</i>
Braddock Street Associate	Sara E. Pugh	First Appointment	Thomas H. Keithley	Grace Winchester District
First	William M. White	Pleasant Valley Arlington District	Becky Jane Cloud	Chestnut Hill Lynchburg District
First Associate	Position Discontinued		Douglas R. Sasser	East Halifax Farmville District

A word from the District Superintendent...

As you know, the theme at this year's annual conference was the third part of the challenge adopted by the conference three years ago: "Let's get growing! More people, more young people, more diverse people. All for Jesus!"

I especially like the "All for Jesus" part—why else do we do anything as Christians?

The fact is, our state is become one of the most diverse in the union—soon California will have nothing on us! We are welcoming three new Korean pastors to our district this year, for example—reminding us again that pastors—like the people in our churches—come in all shapes, sizes, ages, colors, and genders. Another of our new pastors was born in Germany, while the spouse of yet another of our new pastors was born there. Who knew? Only God.

It is an exciting time to be in ministry—a Pentecostal time when God is pouring out his Spirit on all flesh. My son, Andrew, a seminary student at SMU in Dallas, was telling me recently about a classmate of his who was raised a Hindu in Nepal and was converted to Christ through reading the Gospel of John in his own language that someone happened to give him. He is now establishing churches in the Himalayan villages of his country. You never know what God will do!

We have a similar ministry right here on the Winchester District through which God is reaching people different from many of us. I refer to Amor y Paz UMC, our Hispanic congregation that meets at Montague Avenue UMC in Winchester. It's been a chartered congregation for seven years now, but cannot be self-sustaining financially, as those who are a part of it have very limited resources.

Therefore, the only way that Amor y Paz can survive is if our other ninety-eight churches make it a priority in their mission outreach. Please pray about this need and ask God to show you and your church what (if anything) God wants you to do about it.

All of our churches are involved in mission—some locally, some globally—all for Jesus! That's wonderful—keep up the good work. We just need to know if your church feels led to support Amor y Paz on an ongoing basis as well, otherwise it is hard to see how it can be around much longer. Please let me know. Thanks for all you do in Jesus' name.

David Forrest

'4 Cans 4 Conference' Collection Was A Success!

By your generosity, we provided a total of **8,868 pounds of food** for the South Eastern Virginia Food Bank during Conference. There were also monetary gifts of \$85 which we shared directly with SEVA FB.

SEVA FB was extremely grateful....and pleasantly surprised that we arrived several times with load after load of food for their use and distribution. They were great about unloading the U-Haul van several times, about sending a large truck to Scope, and about encouraging and expressing their gratitude for your contributions.

Your generosity will help in a couple of ways. First, it will generate some income for the SEVA Food Bank, as they provide these resources to their member agencies at 18 cents per pound (nearly \$1,600 in income for the network). Second, it will provide food directly to those numerous food pantries, shelters, and soup kitchens throughout southside Tidewater, which they will use in a variety of ways, including direct give-aways to those in need, supplying food preparation sources, and senior citizen support.

Jim Earley
Walker Chapel UMC
Arlington, VA



School of Christian Mission

The School of Christian Mission is one of the best kept secrets of our conference. It is a cooperative school offered by the Virginia Conference Board of Global Ministries and United Methodist Women (UMW). It offers a wonderful opportunity for your whole congregation to come alive to mission by participating in a weekend or week "school" held each year at the Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center (VUMAC) in Blackstone, Va.

It is an excellent "mission trip" for your **youth**. They have a fun time together as they learn about what we United Methodists are doing around the world to alleviate suffering and to spread the good news of Jesus Christ. They participate in hands-on mission projects, ranging from gleaning to work in a battered women's shelter.

There is also an intergenerational study for adults and **children**. During the weekday session, there is a class for children (ages 5-12). The participants participate in hands-on mission activities that make mission real for them.

There are classes for adults where **men** and **women** (young and old alike) come to learn and become involved in mission groups through one of the three courses from which they choose.

Each year there is a Spiritual Growth, a Geographic, and a General issues course offered. Each course helps us understand God's work in our world, how we are involved as United Methodists and challenges us as individuals in our personal life and local congregations. Meeting and sharing with United Methodist missionaries is also a highlight of the school.

After attending a school, we encourage you throughout the year to help share your newfound knowledge of mission with your congregation and across the conference. Below are the courses being offered for the next several years. For more information about the school, contact the conference mission office at 1-800-768-6040, (804) 521-1100, ext. 144; e-mail: mission@vaumc.org.

2009 Course Dates

Weekend Session: July 24-26

Week Session: July 27-30 2009

2009 Course Titles

Spiritual Growth Study: Food and Faith

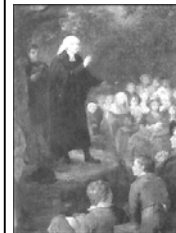
Issue Study: Giving Our Hearts Away- Native American Survival

Geographic Study: The Beauty & Courage of Sudan

Youth Study: Native American Survival and Sudan

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

The Winchester District Mini School of Mission will be held on Saturday, September 26, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Stephens City UMC.



SAVE THE DATE
Front Royal UMC
is sponsoring an
Old Fashioned
Wesleyan Camp
Meeting

Saturday August 8, 2009

(rain or shine)

Activities beginning at 2:30 pm

Isaac Walton Park, Browntown

Potluck Dinner

Church will provide paper goods,
tea & lemonade

Come see John Wesley and ride his horse, enjoy a traditional camp meeting, participate in small group fellowship and fun, potluck dinner ("love feast") and then a service "Under the Stars" in the evening. Bring your chair or blanket. All ages welcomed. For more information, please call the Front Royal Church office, 635-2935 or email Cary Burke at frumceducation@comcast.net.



What is United Methodist Family Services and what can it do for me? This diverse agency serves the needs of children in your community, and you can be a part of it. There are children in your community that are constantly in need of your support. We are often charged with the giving of our prayers, presence, gifts, and service. We would ask that you prayerfully consider the ways in which you open your heart to all of these forms of giving. If you feel a call to serve your community in a new and deepened way, We urge you to investigate the opportunities to serve with UMFS. We are in need of people to act as foster parents in your area. With thorough training and the support of social workers you will be supported throughout this process. Please check our website at www.umfs.org to learn more.





DISTRICT CORE

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Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

DISTRICT CALENDAR

- ◆ July 1 - Pastors Moving Day
- ◆ July 2 - District Office Closes at 1 p.m.
- ◆ July 3 - District Office Closed
- ◆ July 6 - UMM Exec. Comm., District Office - 7 p.m.
- ◆ July 14 - Clergy Exec. Comm., District Office - 9:30 a.m.
- ◆ July 15 - Cabinet meets in Richmond
- ◆ July 16 - UMM at Camp Rainbow
- ◆ July 17 - Clergy Assoc. Welcoming Reception, Kernstown UMC - 7-9 p.m.
- ◆ July 24-26 - School of Christian Mission, Blackstone (weekend session)
- ◆ July 27 - 30 - School of Christian Mission, Blackstone (week-long session)
- ◆ July 28 - DCOM, Braddock Street UMC - 10 a.m.
- ◆ August 11 - Clergy Exec. Comm., District Office - 9:30 a.m.
- ◆ August 13 - Clergy Association meets at Emmanuel UMC, Lovett Weems, Speaker
- ◆ August 25 - DCOM, Braddock Street UMC - 10 a.m.
- ◆ August 25 - Board of Missions Steering Comm, District Office - 1 p.m.
- ◆ August 26 - Charge Conference Set-up Mtg., Kernstown UMC - 10 a.m.
- ◆ September 1 - Charge Conference Set-up Meeting, Marshall UMC - 2 p.m.

Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will....

1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18



Highlights from Annual Conference

NORFOLK - The Virginia Annual Conference celebrated current and future diversity when it gathered for its 227th session June 14-17 at the Scope arena.

Bishop Charlene Kammerer reminded members that there is a place for everyone at God's table. "How much will we expand the table of Jesus' fellowship and his radical hospitality? What kind of table will we set in our United Methodist congregations?" Bishop Kammerer asked. "Jesus is the one in charge. It's not our choice who is invited," she concluded.



Bishop Hee-Soo Jung

Bishop Hee-Soo Jung of the Northern Illinois Conference, the conference preacher, challenged attendees to be the leaders in reaching out to others. "We've spent too much time arguing about who is in and who is out. ... It's not about retention, but recruitment. You have to be willing to go somewhere you've never been and do something you've never done."

An "expo" brought representatives from local churches that are succeeding in diversity to conference to share their success stories. Videos celebrated churches that are modeling Bishop Robert Schnase's "Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations."

Songleader Debi Tyree of the Global Praise program at the General Board of Global Ministries in Nashville taught attendees songs from traditions around the world.

Bible study led by Dr. Anne Burkholder, associate dean of Methodist Studies at Candler School of Theology, talked about the difficulties of achieving diversity, using the conflicts among the first Christians as an example.

Mozambique's Bishop Joaquina Nhanala thanked Virginia for its ongoing "Initiatives of Hope" partnership with the Methodist church in Mozambique.

The conference approved a \$15 million capital campaign to support the "All Things New" strategy of the conference to start 250 new faith communities over the next 30 years. Church change expert Dr. Gil Rendle talked about "All Things New" and said to make it work, "Do we have the will to be made into new people?" With the primary objective to change the church culture to fruitfulness, he reminded members that they would need to be willing to change its norms and standards.



Bishop Joaquina Nhanala

The Rev. Glenn Tyndall, who just completed 35 years of service as campus minister at Virginia Tech, spoke for the 2009 retirees, who totaled more than 477 combined years of ministry. Tyndall challenged the "voices who seek to diminish the importance of campus ministry" as foolish, especially in a time of new faith community development. "Where will new pastors originate if not from campus ministry?"

In other action taken at Annual Conference:

- o Sixty-five existing congregations signed on for a renewal program called the "5 Talent Academy."
- o Recipients of this year's Denman Evangelism awards for laity were David Glass and Steve Clark, members from Beulah UMC, Richmond District. This year's clergy recipient was the Rev. Sherry Daniels, pastor of Norfolk UMC. Daniels was also the preacher for the Service of Remembrance.
- o Members of the conference donated a total of 38,070 kits for UMCOR, and monetary donations were \$76,804. Also, 9,800 pounds of non-perishable food items were donated for local agencies. The Conference Offering for missions in Mozambique and Brazil, and the Pathways ministry in Petersburg, totaled more than \$200,000.
- o The conference also organized a special offering for the Central Conference Pension Initiative to offset the loss of the annual "Cokesbury checks" this year.
- o Volunteers including more than 100 youth bagged 35,000 pounds of sweet potatoes for area food pantries.
- o The conference passed resolutions on protecting the Chesapeake Bay, energy conservation and study of the itinerant system and clergy compensation.
- o Thirteen were ordained elder, two ordained deacon, 28 commissioned as provisional members and 26 licensed as local pastors.

- o In constitutional amendment voting, only Amendments 8 (adds gender) and 22 (Bermuda) received more than a two-thirds support. Sixty-one percent voted in favor of Amendment 19, which would allow local pastors to vote on General and Jurisdictional Conference delegates. Amendments 2, 6, 9 and 17 also received majority support but not two-thirds. Other amendments failed outright.

The communion table used during Annual Conference was made from recycled wood from structures in the Driver community in southeastern Virginia which were destroyed by tornados in April 2008.

The Virginia Conference showed positive membership growth in 2008. Membership stands at 338,602, up 968 from the previous year. Worship attendance stands at 117,020, down by 932.

-Neill Caldwell is editor of the Virginia United Methodist Advocate

More conference news is available on this site at

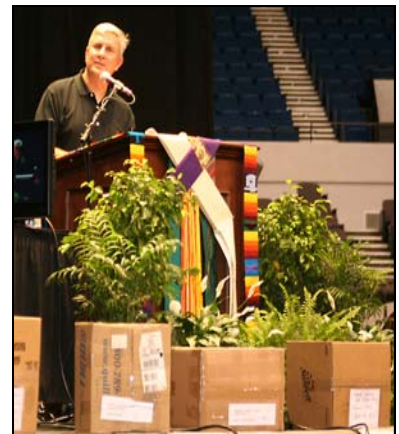
<http://www.vaumc.org/index.cfm/fa/content.view/menuID/5240.htm>



The Rev. Raymond Wrenn, attending his 69th annual conference and Ms. Airee Watson, a youth member attending her first conference, led the conference in opening prayer.



Conference Lay Leader, Shirley Cauffman, delivers the Annual Laity Address with the assistance of Bishop Kammerer.



The number of kits collected for UMCOR this year are: 1,802 Birthing Kits, 2,009 Baby/Layette Kits, 16,193 School Kits, 15,633 Health Kits, 2,356 Sewing Kits, 88 Flood Buckets for a total of 38,070 kits. Monetary donations equaled \$76,804.55.



Churches bring covenants to participate in Five Talent Academy to the altar at Annual Conference.



Matt Leslie, a student at JMU, delivers a message on Tuesday evening about joy. He asked conference members to think about what it must have been like to see Jesus' disciples and the joy they must have had at times.



Galilee Youth Choir performs during the closing worship on Wednesday.

For more information or to hear sermons from the 227th Virginia Annual Conference the conference webpage at www.vaumc.org.