



Winchester
District
United Methodist
Church

News from...

The Core of the Winchester District



June 2008

David T. Forrest
District Superintendent

Annual Conference 2008!



2008 Annual Conference Logo

The 2008 Virginia Annual Conference logo reflects the second phrase of the conference challenge and flows from the original 2007 logo created by the conference communications staff. The Virginia Conference challenge is "Let's get growing! More people, more young people, more diverse people. All for Jesus!" The 2008 logo was created by Linda Rhodes, conference Director of Communications, in collaboration with Angie Williams, conference Director of Youth, Young Adult, and Single Adult Ministries.

Volunteers needed for Potato Drop

The conference Board of Global Ministries and the Society of St. Andrew are co-sponsoring a Potato Drop, **Tuesday, June 17, 5:30 a.m.** SoSA is delivering a tractor-trailer filled with more than 20 tons of donated sweet potatoes to Roanoke and the BOGM is helping to cover the cost of shipping. The truck will arrive in the predawn hours and the potatoes will be dumped at the far end of Parking Lot A at the Roanoke Civic Center, facing the intersection of Williamson Road and Orange Ave. Volunteers are needed to help bag and load the potatoes for pickup by regional food banks, church pantries, soup kitchens, and other local feeding agencies. Bagging is expected to be completed before 7:30 a.m.

For more information about the national, non-profit food salvage, hunger-relief work of the SoSA, or about the Virginia Annual Conference Potato Drop, contact Judy Bair at 1-800-333-4597.

'Let's Get Growing' (More Young People) Expo

The Virginia Conference will sponsor its second annual "Let's Get Growing!" Expo on June 17 at the Special Events Center of the Roanoke Civic Center Complex, during the 2008 Virginia Annual Conference.

Last year the conference was given the challenge "Let's get growing; more people, more young people, more diverse people, all for Jesus!" The emphasis at this year's Expo will be on "More Young People."

The Expo will provide resources for churches of all sizes; help churches identify and reach youth and young adults who are not actively involved in church; provide examples of what are significant and successful youth and young adult ministry; teach the congregational responsibility to be in relationship with young people. Training opportunities will be available during meal breaks, and food will be for sale on site so that people may eat while listening to the training sessions. Vendors will also be present to provide resources to local churches.

The first conference ministry Expo was held at 2007 Annual Conference with a focus on evangelism, the "reaching more people" part of the conference challenge. Hundreds of annual conference members and friends visited the event and participated in the training that was offered.

For more information, e-mail Keri Marston, chairperson of the Expo Committee, at keri.marston@timberlakeumc.org.



A word from the District Superintendent...

Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it (Exodus 20:8-11 NRSV).

I sometimes ask my wife, Nancy, (jokingly!) if she's been committing adultery. I'm not really worried about it, of course, primarily because she's far too moral a person for that, but secondarily, because she's so busy all the time that she'd be way too tired to do such a thing!

And the latter reason is why I ask her the question kiddingly: She seldom, if ever, rests—even on the sabbath, and so I ask her if she's breaking all the other nine commandments, too. Of course, in all honesty I must confess that I don't always take a day of rest each week, either.

I think that it is one of the largely unremarked-upon tragedies of our age that despite all our new modern conveniences, no one (or so it seems) has time to rest anymore. I'm old enough to remember when most stores, at least, were closed on Sundays—allowing their employees to spend the day with their families, if nothing else.

“Multi-tasking” is the mantra of our times: everyone is supposed to be busy, busy, busy doing a myriad of things ALL the time. And yet God commands us to REST, at least one day a week. Where did we get the idea that we're more important than God?

Which brings me to our plans for this summer: I suppose that one could say that I'm just quoting scripture to justify a long, paid vacation! For in accord with ¶ 425 of the *Discipline*, I'll be taking a three months' renewal leave from late June until roughly mid-September. From mid-July to mid-August we'll be in Ireland and England—much of the time with our three sons and one daughter-in-law. Needless to say, we're really looking forward to the family time—maybe Nancy'll even be forced to rest!

While I'm gone, the Rev. Tony Layman of Winchester one of our tireless (or so it seems) retired pastors and a former district superintendent, will be filling in for me as need be. Let me say publicly how very grateful I am to Tony for this large act of kindness on his part.

And let me thank you for this opportunity to rest and renew. I certainly hope that you have some such time this summer—not to mention every week (see above commandment)--as well.

David Forrest



Invitation to Retirement Service & Reception for Jay & Harriett Hanke

As a friend or colleague of Jay and Harriett Hanke you appreciate the many wonderful gifts these individuals have brought to their ministries throughout the past 39 years. Their work in missions, music, and church leadership has touched the lives of thousands directly and many, many more people indirectly. It is these gifts and their magnificent impact that will be celebrated with a special service to mark the completion of the Hanks' appointment at Mount Olivet UMC in Arlington and their retirement from active ministry.

You are invited to share in this celebration during a worship service and reception on Sunday, June 29 at Mt. Olivet UMC, 1500 Glebe Road, Arlington, VA 22207. The worship service will begin at 5:30 p.m. followed by a reception at 7 p.m. Jay will deliver a final sermon on this special day. Individuals representing significant components of Jay's career in ministry will offer brief reflections.

Contributions to a love offering can be made by mailing a check, payable to Mt. Olivet UMC, to the address above. Please note “Hanke Love Gift” on the check memo line.

Annual Conference Offering

Each year members of local churches are encouraged to help raise money for global mission projects designated by the bishop. The pastor or lay representative of each church will take that money to annual conference where it will be collected during a special time of the session.

This year's offering goal is \$300,000 and will benefit the following projects:

- ◇ Brazil: \$50,000 — VIVART (Hip-hop ministry with inner-city youth). VIVART means "Life Through Art."
- ◇ Mozambique: \$50,000 — Orphanage at Cambine Mission Center.
- ◇ Global HIV/AIDS Fund: \$100,000 — Ongoing assistance in offering help and treatment for those with HIV/AIDS.
- ◇ Rebuilding of Searshore UM Assembly Center, Biloxi, Miss.: \$100,000 — A cornerstone place for youth ministry in Mississippi, destroyed by Hurricane Katrina.

More information about these projects can be found on the links to the left, or contact the conference Mission Office at 1-800-768-6040, ext. 144 or (804) 521-1144, or Mission@vaumc.org.

DISTRICT CALENDAR



1 Annual Conference Orientation,
Stephens City UMC - 3-5 p.m.
6-7 UMM Tri-District Retreat,
Camp Overlook

14 Cabinet meets in Roanoke

15-18 Annual Conference, Roanoke Civic Center

24 DCOM, Braddock St. UMC - 10 a.m.

28 District UMW "Day Apart" Randolph-Macon
Academy

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2 Clergy Moving Day

3 District Office Closes at 1 p.m.

4 District Office Closed

7 UMM Executive Committee,
District Office - 7 p.m.

12 Clergy "Welcome" Picnic, Burnt Factory UMC
Shelter - 5 p.m.

22 DCOM, Braddock St. UMC - 10 a.m.

Chaplain's Day of Re-creation for Clergy,
Strasburg Riverfront Park - 9 a.m.

25-27 School of Christian Mission, Blackstone

28-31 School of Christian Mission, Blackstone

29 Cabinet meets in Richmond

Winchester District Representatives to Conference Boards & Agencies

The CLDDT known as the "Conference Leadership Development and Discovery Team" (formerly known as the Conference Nominating Committee) met in January and March to nominate conference leaders. These representatives from our Winchester District will be elected at the 2008 June's Annual Conference and will serve on the following Boards/Agencies:

CLDDT:

Rev. Michael P. Kendall

Leadership Development Institute:

Steve Jennings, re-elected.

United Methodist Foundation

Rev. Jeff Witt, re-elected

Tellers:

Clergy: Steve Melester, Lay: Sheryl Pifer

We say thank you to the following people for their years of service at the Conference level.

James Page served three years on the Board of Church & Society.

Richard Shickle served four years on the Board of Higher Education Ministries.

Sheila Smith served two years on the Children's Initiative Committee.

Sandra W. Baker

CLDDT representative 2004-2008

Board of Church & Society:

Nellie Barton, re-elected, James Templeton, Bret Hrbek

Lifespan Ministries:

Rev. Mike Mayton, re-elected.

Board of Pensions:

Rev. Tony Layman



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www.Winchesterdistrictumc.org

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.



Our United Methodist men local units operate on an annual charter that is renewed each year. Of the 32 active chartered fellowships on the Winchester District 27 have already renewed for 2008 of which two are new charters, Brucetown and our newest chartered unit, Mt. Zion/Hamilton. It is always a blessing to report a new chartered unit. Let me encourage the five units that have yet to charter for 2008 to do so as soon as possible.

Our spring Bowl-a-thon raised in excess of \$4,000 and the 5K Race/1K Fun Walk over \$6,000. With those two events at least two churches, Braddock Street and Welltown, achieved their \$1,000 annual challenge pledge to Heart Havens and several other churches are well on their way to meeting that challenge. Last year 11 churches met that goal and 26 of the 99 churches on the Winchester District made contributions to Heart Havens. It is our goal to increase the number of churches meeting the \$1,000 challenge and all the churches making a contribution to Heart Havens however much they can.

As I write this letter I am thinking about our *United Methodist Men's Tri-District Retreat June 6 and 7* and should you be reading this on or before June 1 let me invite you to join with other men at Camp Overlook's Blessing Lodge who seek to better understand God in our lives, men who know they are not perfect but want to do better, men who are giving God some special time to talk with them and shape their lives! Invest these 24 hours with the Lord and see how he blesses you! Call or email me so I can get you registered. It will begin Friday evening with check in starting about 5 p.m. and end around 4 p.m. on Saturday.

For more information you can contact me at wincdistrictumm@hotmail.com or 540-678-0243.

Blessings,
Jim Green