



**June 2007**

## What to look for at Annual Conference in 2007!

### District Annual Conference Orientation

An orientation session for Winchester District members of the 2007 Virginia Annual Conference will be held on Sunday, June 3, 3-5 p.m., at Stephens City UMC. It is important that pastors and lay delegates, and district lay delegates be present to be briefed on issues coming before the Conference.



### 'Let's Get Growing' 2007 Conference Theme

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.

### Volunteers needed for Annual Potato Drop

The conference Board of Global Ministries (BOGM) and the Society of St. Andrew (SoSA) are co-sponsoring a Potato Drop, **Tuesday, June 12, 5:30 a.m.** The potatoes will provide 120,000-135,000 servings of food to the region's poor and hungry.



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 contact Judy Bair at 1-800-333-4597.

### Expo at Annual Conference to highlight 'how-to' of evangelism

Jesus calls the churches of the Virginia Annual Conference to make disciples from the metropolitan area of northern Virginia, to the shores of eastern Virginia, from central and western Virginia, to the whole world. To do that the church needs to have the tools to make a difference, and this is the aim of the "Lets Get Growing Expo" at Annual Conference.

The expo will run from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on both Tuesday, June 12 and Wednesday, June 13 in the new Special Events Center at the Roanoke Civic Center. When you come to the Expo you will discover a variety of resources to explore that will help you begin to envision how your church might grow the ministry of making disciples in your community.

Resources will include evangelism experts, consultants, communications and discipleship resources as well as local churches that want to share what Christ has done in their congregation. Also at the lunch and supper breaks of annual conference there will be 20-minute workshops offered, and there will be food areas where you can eat and talk with one another about our common focus of making disciples.

### 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 these five projects:

- Brazil — Children: \$75,000;
- Mozambique — Education: \$50,000;
- Russia — Leadership Development: \$25,000;
- Alaska — Native Americans: \$50,000;
- Global Aids Fund — Health: \$100,000.

More information can be found on the Web at [www.vaumc.org](http://www.vaumc.org) under "Resources" and "2007 Annual Conference." Or contact the conference Mission Office at 1-800-768-6040, ext. 144 and by e-mail at [Mission@vaumc.org](mailto:Mission@vaumc.org)

## *A word from the District Superintendent...*

I remember reading years ago a story in the *Reader's Digest* about a man who took an old clock that had been in his family for generations to a repairman for fixing. When he returned a few days later to pick it up, the repairman showed him what he'd found written inside the back of the clock. It was a notice left by a previous clock repairman decades earlier—way back in the nineteenth century. It said something like, "Date: April 18, 1883"—then, "Weather: Cloudy"—and then, "National Affairs: Muddled." The modern day repairman then showed the owner what he'd written beside the old notice. He gave the date and the weather (cool) and then wrote, "National Affairs: Still Muddled."

At almost any time in our national affairs over the last couple of centuries—or even going back to Jamestown in 1607!—you could pretty much say the same thing—for our national affairs are *always* muddled, are they not? That is because our national affairs are conducted by human beings, and what is the first truth that the Bible teaches us about human beings? (See Genesis 3, if you're unsure of the answer.) That's right: that we're a bunch of sinners who always make a muddle of *everything* we touch.

Remembering that simple fact may not make life any easier to live, but it will make it easier to understand. For if you start off expecting perfection in yourself or others, you are doomed to a lifetime of disappointment. And, of course, that is true about the church as well: it is made up entirely of human beings! The pastors are all human beings, and the members are all human beings. It follows, then, that though the church is a God-inspired institution, it is still a human one, as well.

This is a good truth to keep in mind as Annual Conference convenes this month: not all that we do in Roanoke will approach perfection; not everyone elected to General Conference next year will be angelic. Mistakes will be made, and, yes, no doubt, sins committed. We all live by the unmerited grace of God.

But please remember: the church is not our idea—it's God's idea. Participation in it is not optional for Christians. We—sinners that we are—are in this thing together—serving faithfully (and muddling things up at times) until the Lord comes.

Please pray daily for Christ's Church around the world. And thanks for all that you do in Christ's name.

David Forrest



### VIM Surgical Teams to Mozambique Update

It's hard to believe but on June 1st there will be 6 weeks remaining until our first surgical VIM team departs for Mozambique. And as I write this update on our teams for this newsletter, I still do not have a final team roster for either team! Due to some family crises, recently two of my team members have had to withdraw from the trip. So, I am praying that the Lord leads 1 or 2 more individuals to join the teams. And the individual needs to 1) love the Lord Jesus Christ and feel called by God to share faith and skills with people in Mozambique; 2) have a valid passport; 3) be able to be out of the country for 16 days; and 4) be able to raise the per-person team member cost of \$3,000 in a very short period of time. Not asking for much, am I?! But GOD IS GREATER THAN THIS PROBLEM! So, needless to say, I covet your prayers!

Thanks to all of the wonderful United Methodist women on our district, we have already collected well over 400 newborn and infant knitted and crocheted caps to carry with us to Chicouque Rural Methodist Hospital in Mozambique! They will act as wonderful packing material around the medical supplies and equipment that we are taking in our suitcases, and will be such a blessing to the infants born at the hospital.

Over the next 6 weeks team members will be gathering medicines and other surgical supplies which we will then carry with us in our luggage. Individuals or groups interested in donating items or monetary gifts to purchase supplies can send checks payable to the Winchester District of the United Methodist Church, earmarked "Mozambique Medical Mission 2007"

In Christ,

Nancy Forrest-

**One potato  
Two Potatoes  
Three Potatoes  
And more...**



Riverton UMC will be hosting a Winchester District Potato Drop (similar to the one at Annual Conference) on Saturday, June 30, beginning at 8 a.m., in the church parking lot. This event is being sponsored by the Loudoun Charge and is available to all ages. This ministry helps provide about 135,000 servings of food for distribution by our local hunger relief agencies.

For more information, contact Skeeter and Sarah Ramey at [sramey3@comcast.net](mailto:sramey3@comcast.net) or by calling (540)869-2876.



## DISTRICT CALENDAR FOR JUNE

- 2 Sunday School Teacher Training, Stephens City UMC—9 a.m.-12 p.m.
- 3 Annual Conference Orientation, Stephens City UMC— 3-5 p.m.
- 9 District Superintendent at Cabinet Mtg.
- 10-14 Annual Conference meets in Roanoke
- 26 DCOM Braddock St. UMC - 10 am
- 27 Moving Day for Clergy
- 28 Clergy Association Executive Committee, District Office—9:30 a.m.



### *Inquiring minds want to know...*

Who founded the Methodist Church? Why are we called Methodists? What is *The Book of Discipline*? Why does our local church pay apportionments?

You can find the answers to these questions and more in the May issue of *The Advocate* (available online at [www.vaumc.org](http://www.vaumc.org)) which features material from an online course called "Methodist 101". The course was created by United Methodist Communications and is available on the Internet for anyone to take. It is designed as a seven-week course, but you can move at your own pace and complete the whole thing in a few hours if you like. To find out more or to sign up for the course, go to [www.umcom.org](http://www.umcom.org) and scroll down to "UMCom Training."

### 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](http://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. Watch the July/August District newsletter for more information!

### 2007 Gleaning Season is Here!!!

The local gleaning network through the Society of Saint Andrew gathered a total of 133,398 pounds of produce during the 2006 season! The produce ranged from eggs to apples to peaches to pudding. Every pound of produce gleaned provides three servings of food. This produce was delivered to various hunger relief agencies in our local area. These gleaning events occur on various Saturday morning from June through November and last 2-3hours. One volunteer can easily provide 300 servings in a two-hour period such as 10 bags of apples weighing 10 pounds each. This mission is a wonderful opportunity for all generations to serve our Savior, who when asked by his disciples in Mark 6:36-37 "to send the people away so that they may go in the surrounding country and villages and buy something for themselves to eat. He answered them, "you give them something to eat." Anyone interested in serving in this mission, please contact Skeeter Ramey at [sramey3@comcast.net](mailto:sramey3@comcast.net) or (540) 869-2876 or Betty Heishman at [rebate@visuallink.com](mailto:rebate@visuallink.com) or (540)336-2177.

### Bishop's Convocation on Religion & Race

The Commission on Religion and Race would like for you to mark your calendars/palm pilots for the Bishop's Convocation on Religion and Race: Friday, September 14, and Saturday, September 15, 2007. This event will be held at The Williamsburg United Methodist Church, Williamsburg, Virginia.

The theme is: *Journey of Faith; Tears, Testimony, Triumph*. Our focus will be on Native American Rights in honor of the 400 Year Anniversary at Jamestown, Virginia. Our keynote speaker is: Chief Anne Richardson, Chief of the Rappahannock Native American Tribe.

Early registration, before August 1, is \$25, and after August 1, is \$35. This will include a Reception on Friday evening, a continental breakfast and lunch on Saturday.

Send your check, made payable to Virginia Conference, (indicate for Convocation on memo line), to Yvonne Seals, P.O. Box 1719, Glen Allen, VA 23060 or call 800-768-6040 for additional information.

Please make your hotel reservations early. Due to the 400 Year Anniversary, the Williamsburg area will be booked up in the fall.

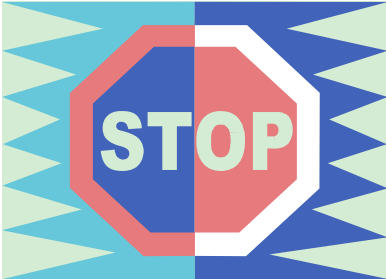
### Kernstown UMC seeking Director of Youth Ministries

Part-time Director of Youth Ministries at Kernstown United Methodist Church in Winchester. The successful applicant should be a self-starter able to plan and implement youth activities, organize mission trips, work with staff, parents and volunteers, and serve as a Christian mentor to youth. Some college and experience with youth required. Send resumé to SPRC, Kernstown UMC, 3239 Valley Pike, Winchester, Virginia 22602 or e-mail to [kernstownumc@verizon.net](mailto:kernstownumc@verizon.net).



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Visit our website at:  
[www.Winchesterdistrictumc.org](http://www.Winchesterdistrictumc.org)

**UNITED METHODIST MEN** Spring will soon be over and summer will be here, our young people will be finishing up another school year. Our youth and adults in many of churches will be going on Mission trips, working with and participating Vacation Bible Schools, Camps, gleanings and other activities that are there for us to 'Be doers of the word and not hearers only' as quoted in James 1:22.

Since our last letter many good things have happened. We had a very successful 5K Race on April 28 raising over \$11,000 for Heart Havens, and our Bowl-A-Thon back in March netted over \$3,400. These were successful due to your participation and we thank you. As a people we are good at doing these things so much so that at times I am concerned that we might be in the mode of 'doing all the right things for the wrong reason'. Now that begs for some explanation and I will give it from my perspective.

By the time you receive this newsletter we will have, in most of our churches, celebrated Pentecost. What happened? You know the story. The Holy Spirit came upon them and filled them. Not only did they begin witnessing to others but "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer" Acts 2:42 (NIV). "And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved" Acts 2:47b. How were these people being saved? Yes, they were being saved by the power of the Holy Spirit but they were hearing and seeing that power as expressed in Word and deed by the Apostles.

We often hear that numbers are not the important thing; it's the Spirit in which we do things. Numbers are important and "I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent." Luke 15:7 (NIV).

How is it with our witness? Or, to make it more personal, how is it with YOUR soul? Some may have joined an Aldersgate Day Celebration on May 24 which relates to the Heart Warming experience of Charles and John Wesley. It was after this experience that their ministry moved outward and into the community. Perhaps 'we need' to have that experience again and get a 'band' of Wesleyan brothers sharing together so as to grow in 'spirit' and reach out to others with the saving grace of Jesus our Lord.

Let me sum up my thoughts on fund raising and our being more into the Word with this quote from Matthew's gospel, "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former". Matthew 23:23 (NIV)

May God's blessings rest upon each of you as we move upward and onward in our Faith journey.

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