



June 2011

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.



Annual Conference Orientation on Sunday, June 5

An orientation session for Winchester District members of the 2011 Virginia Annual Conference will be held on **Sunday, June 5, 3 p.m.**, at Stephens City UMC. It is important that pastors, church lay delegates, and district lay delegates be present to be briefed on issues coming before the Conference.

Our District Lay Leader, Kathy Lutman, will have tickets for the Laity Banquet to be held on Friday, June 17, at the Hotel Roanoke. The cost of a ticket is \$29.

School of Christian Mission to be held July 22-24, July 25-28

The 2011 School of Christian Mission will be held at the Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center (VUMAC) in Blackstone **July 22-24 and July 25-28**, under the theme "All Things Made New."

Spiritual Growth Study leaders include the Rev. Steve Hundley, superintendent of the Roanoke District; and the Rev. Pat Watkins, executive director of Caretakers of God's Creation.

Registration deadline is July 10. Visit www.vaumc.org, click on Ministries, then School of Christian Mission, for more information, including detailed brochure, registration form and class choice, or contact Louise Miller, dean of the school, at rollmiller@cox.net.

Please note that online registration will NOT be available this year.

4 Cans for 4 Conference Food Drive at Annual Conference

Friends, it's time to begin gathering canned and staple goods to benefit the SW-VA Food Bank in the Roanoke-Salem area of our Conference. Each Clergy and Lay Member of Conference is asked to bring a minimum of 4 cans of food to this year's gathering in the Roanoke Civic Center. The offering should be: 1 can of meat; 1 can of vegetables and/or fruit; 1 can of soup and/or stew; 1 can that may be opened with a Pop-Top.

If each Clergy and Lay Member brings the minimum number of cans, we may be able to present the SW-VA Food Bank more than 10,000 pounds (5 tons) of food to distribute to the various agencies in the area of the Roanoke Civic Center!

This can be a church-wide collection, a Youth Group project, an initiative of the UMW or UM Men, your congregation's Mission emphasis group, or an opportunity for individuals to take up a meaningful, personal act of charity and grace.

You gifts are also not limited to 4 Cans! You are welcome to..... Bring 4 boxes of cans! Bring 4 dozen cans! Bring 4 cases of canned food! Bring 4 cans of each type of food! Bring 4 grocery bags of cans! In addition, there is a need for cereal (*hot, cold, or instant*), peanut butter and jelly, cooking oils, dry preparation aids (*like Hamburger Helper, pasta, etc.*), flour, sauces, etc.

Also, as you are able, please bring your 4 Cans in *recyclable grocery bags*, rather than the easily-available and -abused plastic bags. The SW-VA Food Bank will gladly pass the 99¢ re-useable ones along to the recipients with the food.

Please do not bring home-canned items, out of date cans, glass jars, damaged cans, fresh fruits/veggies, or already-opened or partially used

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4 cans 4 conference cont.

supplies. Remember those who will be receiving these gifts as you prepare them!

As you might already know, the need for the ministry and supplies of the SW-VA Food Bank continues to grow. More requests come every day for food supplies.

In the last two years, VA United Methodists have given more than 15 tons of canned and staple goods (plus more than \$500 in cash donations) to the SE-VA Food Bank in Norfolk, as we gathered there for Conference. Now, as we prepare to convene in Roanoke, let's continue this tradition by bringing 4 Cans 4 Conference!

UMCOR Continuing Support for Storm-Struck Conferences

In less than eight weeks, the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) has disbursed about a quarter-of-a-million dollars in emergency grants to 15 United Methodist annual conferences across the United States.

In that same period, more than 9,300 cleaning buckets have been shipped to devastated areas from depots of the UMCOR Relief-Supply Network. .

Rev. Tom Hazelwood, UMCOR's US Disaster Response executive, reiterated that UMCOR remains firm in its "absolute commitment to walk alongside these annual conferences, these local churches, and communities" that have been affected by this spring's severe weather.

"We absolutely will be there with them," he said, even as he noted that funding for US Disaster Response, specifically the 2011 Spring Storms Emergency Advance, remains very low.

Please give generously to provide for so many who are experiencing overwhelming need this year. Your gifts to **US 2011 Spring Storms, UMCOR Advance #3021326** will help storm survivors recover.

Exploring Ministry Event Set For November 2011 in St. Louis

Some young person you know needs to hear about Exploration '11, scheduled for November 11-13, 2011 in St. Louis, MO. Someone 18 to 26 years old who is gifted for ordained ministry, but hasn't yet identified his or her gifts to serve the Church and the world. A young adult who is already considering a call to ordained ministry in The United Methodist Church. Do you have a desire to impact the Church for the future? Your invitation may help these leaders for the future hear a call to ministry. Pass this invitation on so that they can explore their passion and possibilities.

Exploration '11 is designed to help young adults explore what ministry in the United Methodist Church looks like and to connect them with resources to respond to God's call in their lives. Young adults from all over the world will gather for a weekend of inspiring worship, engaging workshops and meaningful small group interaction. All 13 UM-related seminaries will be participating as well.

A previous Exploration event was part of the journey to ordination for the Rev. Jessica Fuller, a deacon serving at Crozet UMC. Jessica will be attending Exploration '11 as a representative from the Virginia Conference. She would be glad to talk with anyone who is interested in attending. Information on the event is available online at www.gbhem.org/exploration.



A History of Lay Speaking Ministries

For more detailed histories of Lay Speaking Ministries, check out the history found in the basic course booklet or the history written by Jim Lane & Roger Carlson.

- 1746 The lay position of exhorter is mentioned as far back as the British Conference of 1746.
- 1784 When Methodism reached across the United States, it was common for the circuit riders to be away from a church for weeks. Lay persons helped to fill in as they could in the absence of the preacher. In the year that American Methodism began, we find the office of exhorter recognized in the Book of Discipline. They were licensed by the clergy to preach and lead.
- 1948 The term “lay speaker” first appeared in the Discipline. It noted that exhorters were licensed and lay speaker were certified.
- 1956 The term “exhorter” disappeared from the Discipline in lieu of “lay speaker.”
- 1964 District and conference lay speaking committees were established in the Discipline.
- 1968 With the formation of The United Methodist Church, women could become lay speakers.
- 1972 A lay speaking course consisted of 18-29 hours of training.
- 1984 Lay speaking was divided into two levels: local church and certified. Besides filling the pulpit, numerous courses were developed to help lay speakers in many ministry areas.
- 1992 The basic elements of today’s lay speaking program were in place.

To Pastors,

Lay Speakers can be effective in increasing the ministry of your church in almost all areas. Many Lay Speakers feel that they have more to give and would like opportunities to serve. They have taken time to receive extra training toward becoming a better disciple of Christ.

Clergy are encouraged to utilize LSMs gifts in the various work areas of your church, they offer a variety of talents toward the overall ministry of the Church.

You approve all new candidates going to a Basic Lay Speaking course. Every year at charge conference you also approve all of your Local and Certified Lay Speakers.

All Pastors should encourage all LSM to have the opportunity to witness for Jesus Christ, by putting their gifts into action either in the Local Church, District or at the Conference Level. In case of illness or vacation Lay Speakers can be called upon to serve in this manner if they are led to do so. Many of our Lay Speakers have used their experiences as a prelude to full-time ministry. If you not have anyone the church to fill the pulpit you can contact the Director of LSM to assist you. We standby to assist in training your leaders. If you r church would like to strengthen lay leadership through the Lay Servant Ministry, either Basic or Advanced classes, call or email Wayne Reynolds, Director of Lay Servant Ministries on the Winchester District.

Basic and Advanced courses will be offered, starting Friday evening, September 30th and all day on Saturday, October 1st. Watch for details.

Next months topic: Where we are now.

Wayne Reynolds
Director Lay Servant Ministries, Winchester District



DISTRICT CORE

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DISTRICT CALENDAR

- ◆ June 4 - Camp Overlook Golf Tournament, Shenvalee Golf Resort - 2 p.m.
- ◆ June 5 - Annual Conference Orientation, Stephens City UMC—3 p.m.
- ◆ June 9 - District Finance Committee, District Office - 10 a.m.
- ◆ June 10-11 - Tri-District UMM Retreat, Camp Overlook
- ◆ June 13 - District Office Closes at 1 p.m.
- ◆ June 14-17 - District Office Closed
- ◆ June 15-19 - Annual Conference, Roanoke
- ◆ June 29 - Clergy Moving Day

- ◆ July 1 - District Office Closes at 1 p.m.
- ◆ July 4 - District Office Closed
- ◆ July 14 - UMM Day at Camp Rainbow
- ◆ July 23 - UMM Spiritual Event - 9 a.m.
- ◆ July 26 - DCOM, Braddock St. UMC, 10 a.m.
- ◆ July 31 - District Stewards Meeting, Duncan Memorial UMC - 3 p.m.



Coming Soon!

*"We've a Story
to tell to the
Nations"*

a District-wide Mission Event



September 23-25, 2011