



Winchester District
United Methodist Church

David T. Forrest
District Superintendent

News from...

The Core of the Winchester District



March 2008

Our Journey of Hope: Holistic Care of the Cancer Patient

Saturday, April 26, 2008

8:00 am to 5:00 pm

Harmony United Methodist Church

380 E. Colonial Hwy.

Hamilton, VA 20158-9016

Sponsored by

Cancer Treatment Centers of America

and

Harmony United Methodist Church

Today, almost everyone knows someone with cancer – a family member, friend, coworker, neighbor ... maybe even you.

Training is available to help you cope. The Pastoral Care department of Cancer Treatment Centers of America (CTCA), through its Our Journey of Hope program, is offering to teach members of our community.

In one 8-hour session at Harmony United Methodist Church in Hamilton on Saturday, April 26, 2008, you'll learn:

- Why faith is important to health
- Why it's important to reach out to cancer patients and their families
- What a ministering person is
- What cancer is and what it isn't
- What to say and not to say to cancer patients and their families
- How to better pray for them
- What they fight emotionally, mentally, and spiritually
- What their bodies need during this fight
- Concrete ways to care for them
- Dos and don'ts of hospital visitation
- Prevention information
- Cancer-fighting recipes and more

Breakfast, snacks during breaks, and lunch will be served. Call 540-338-2937 today for more information.

Space is limited to the first 60 registrants. Register to attend. You'll gain valuable preparation for ministry to others or to someone in your own family. The Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church has approved this seminar for .5 CEU for clergy. NURSES will be awarded 6.2 Nursing contact hours for full participation. Attendees who wish to receive these nursing contact hours must pay a \$10.00 fee to Shenandoah University, fill out the required registration form, and turn in the evaluation form.

Registration deadline is April 1, 2008.

DISTRICT CALENDAR



- 1 District UMW Prayer Breakfast, Lee Jackson Banquet Room - 9 a.m.
- 3-7 DS at Cabinet meeting, Roslyn
- 4 Lectionary Grp., Dist. Office - Noon
- 8 Dist. Lay Speaker Training, Duncan Memorial - 8 a.m.-6 p.m.
- 9 Daylight Saving Time Begins
- 11 Clergy Exec. Comm, Dist. Ofc, 9:30 a.m. Lectionary Grp., Dist. Office - Noon
- 13 Clergy Assoc., Rectortown UMC - 9 a.m.
- 15 UMM Bowl-a-Thon, Northside Bowling Lanes - 12-3 p.m.
- 18 Lectionary Grp., Dist. Office - Noon
- 20 District Office closes at 1 p.m.
- 21 Good Friday - District Office Closed
- 25 DCOM, Braddock St. UMC - 10 a.m. Lectionary Grp., Dist. Office - Noon
- 26 DCOOM, Duncan Memorial - 9 a.m.
- 28-29 UMW Young Women's Retreat, Blackstone



- 1 Lectionary Grp., Dist. Office - Noon
- 7-11 DS at Cabinet Meeting, Blackstone
- 7 UMM Exec. Comm., Dist. Ofc. - 7 p.m.
- 8 Clergy Exec. Comm, Dist. Ofc - 9:30 a.m. Lectionary Grp., Dist. Office - Noon
- 10 Clergy Assoc., Macedonia UMC - 9 a.m.
- 15 Lectionary Grp., Dist. Office - Noon
- 17 Dist. Finance Comm., Dist. Ofc. - 10 a.m.
- 19 UMM 5K Race/Fun Walk, Kernstown Battlefield - 8 a.m.
- 22 DCOM, Braddock St. UMC - 10 a.m. Lectionary Grp., Dist. Office - Noon
- 23 DCOOM, Duncan Memorial - 9 a.m.
- April 22-May 2 General Conference, Fort Worth, Texas

A word from the District Superintendent...

There's a famous story about Oliver Cromwell, who ran England for a few years in the 1650's during the Commonwealth period while there was no king—Charles I having been beheaded in 1649 and his son, Charles II, not taking over until 1660. It seems that on one occasion a group of Puritan clergymen came to Cromwell to explain to him what he should do as Lord Protector of England, and after listening to them for a while, an exasperated Cromwell finally exclaimed: "Gentlemen, conceive the possibility that you may be mistaken!"

Note that Cromwell was not telling them that they *were* wrong—he was just imploring them to entertain the possibility that such a thing was possible. Among the many things about human existence in general and church life in particular that puzzles me is how many people always seem to know that they're right about every issue that comes along.

I've often thought to myself, I wish I were as certain of *anything*, as this person is about *everything*. Where does one go to obtain this omniscience, I wonder? Oh well.

These thoughts aren't occasioned by any particular incident of late—they're just my idle late-winter musings. The real topic here, of course, is humility, a much underrated virtue, it seems to me. The Apostle Paul enjoins us not to think of ourselves more highly than we ought to think (Romans 12:3)—good scriptural advice. Because of my naturally sinful human nature, I tend to see the world from a "David" perspective—which is to say, from a skewed perspective. Having a wife and children has helped me to understand—surprise!—that I am not always right.

If you are a layperson and disagree with your pastor on an issue, let me to encourage you "to conceive the possibility that you may be mistaken." And if you are a pastor, let me encourage you to do the same. Allow for the possibility that the other person is genuinely seeking to God's will—and that's not always easy to discern!

And let me encourage you to pray for the other person. Prayer for another always frees us to see that person as a human being—one, ultimately, for whom Christ died, as we ourselves are. That is the greatest thing that can be said of anyone.

And please remember me in your prayers as well.

David Forrest



District Council On Ministries – We are here to help you

Your District Council on Ministries (DCOM) began the year with our District Leadership Training event. By your increased participation and the evaluations that you provided, we feel like the event was very helpful for you, the local church leaders. That was our intent for that event and for the coming year. We intend to provide events that will assist the local church in accomplishing our mission to grow in our relationship with God and to make disciples of Jesus the Christ. To let you know what we are doing, we intend to have a monthly article in the newsletter and we are going to make maximum use of the district website.

Here are a few examples of events that we are planning for the coming year. We are trying to make the website more user friendly to find resources to help you in each of the work areas of the DCOM. As each of the work areas enters their information, you will soon be able to find what people and program resources are available within the district to help the local church. If you are interested in lay speaking, don't forget our District Lay Speaker Training on March 8th. On April 26th, Harmony Church is hosting a program concerning Holistic Care for Cancer Patients. On May 16th and 17th, we are sponsoring a retreat that will help in faith story sharing. On May 31st, we are planning a training session on visioning, goal setting, and budgeting to assist pastors and local church leaders to prepare for annual charge conferences that will begin in the fall. On August 23rd, Bethel Church in Warrenton is going to host Servant Leadership Training. And on November 1st, we are going to host an evangelism training event called "Authentic Outreach". Stay tuned for more events.

To be relevant and to provide you assistance that will help, we also would like to hear from you. We welcome your suggestions and you can send them to me (patandmarty@comcast.net or 540-347-7288) or any of the other members of the DCOM.

Rev Marty Martin
DCOM Co-Chairperson



Stewardship is more than \$\$\$!

Upon hearing the word stewardship many church people immediately see dollar signs and nothing more. A Christian's stewardship certainly does involve one's finances but it involves far more than just that area of one's life.

We cannot talk about authentic Christian stewardship without also talking about the vows of Church membership. We promised to faithfully participate in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, and our service. When a church engages in a financial stewardship campaign each year members should also be given an opportunity to pledge prayers, presence, and service as well as money.

God has blessed us in so many ways and we owe a portion of all those blessings back to God and the work of the Church.

Waverly Reames
District Stewardship

Treasure Seekers Spiritual Growth Retreat

sponsored by the
Virginia Conference
Board of Laity
April 12-13, 2008
Virginia United Methodist
Assembly Center
Blackstone, Virginia

The conference Board of Laity welcomes Neil M. Alexander, president and publisher of the United Methodist Publishing House, as leader of the 2008 retreat with the theme "Treasure Seekers." He will be joined by music leaders Nancy VanZant and the Rev. Wes Astin.

A retreat experience again will be offered for children, ages 5-11, who accompany their parents/guardians/grandparents. For more information, visit the Web at www.vaumc.org, under "Events."

Please register early due to limited space!

Authentic Outreach

"An Evangelism Approach that is as natural as bragging about your kids"

Two pastors and three laity from the Winchester District traveled to Blackstone in February in order to be trained to lead a new Evangelism/Faith sharing course for the Winchester District leadership. The goal is to get this training into the local churches within a year or so. Stay tuned for information about dates and times.

The course is called 'Authentic Outreach' and is written and produced by TEI (the Evangelism Institute) in Richmond. Mr. Stuart Hall, the CEO and author of the course, led our training and encouraged those present to make a personal investment in reaching our friends, family and neighbors for Jesus Christ. The training was a two-day crash course in what will be a 10-week experience for our churches and pastors.

Those in attendance were pastors and laity from all 18 Districts and some from Conference boards and agencies. The general enthusiasm and spirited discussion may prove to move this effort forward as your District Council sets dates and locations for the first two local training events to come. Please be in prayer as to how God may be calling you and your church to participate in Authentic Evangelism.

Marc Roberson

Helping Children to Hope, Learn and Succeed

A one day-training event will be held at United Methodist Family Services, 3900 West Broad St., Richmond on Wednesday, April 2 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Sponsored by the Virginia Conference Children's Initiative Committee, the training even will begin with a Children's Sabbath Worship, followed by workshops on a variety of topics, such as community assessments, partnerships between schools and churches, grant-writing, how to offer after-school tutoring programs, summer enrichment programs, and the critical advocacy issues for children today. The cost is \$25 per person which includes lunch.

For more information, call the Office of Children's Ministries and Discipleship at 800-768-6040 ext. 138 or online at www.vaumc.org/Events/HelpingChildren2008.pdf

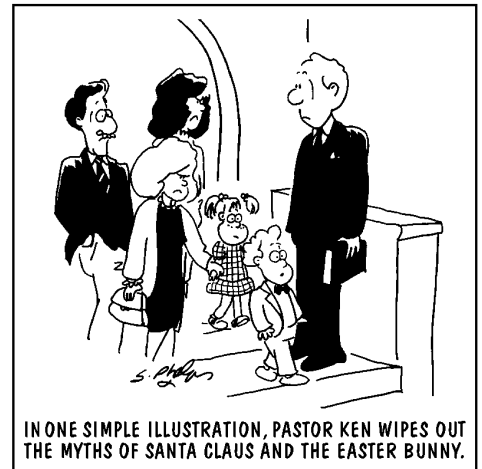


Thank You to Ministers and Spouses

I can't begin to thank each and every person, so please forgive me for a group thank you, so many of you did acts of kindness that I will never know about, truly God's angels at work.

I thank each and everyone of you for your thoughtfulness and prayer during almost difficult time. But most of I thank you for your love.

God bless all of you,
Carol Lentz



IN ONE SIMPLE ILLUSTRATION, PASTOR KEN WIPES OUT THE MYTHS OF SANTA CLAUS AND THE EASTER BUNNY.



Winchester District
United Methodist Church
21 S. Kent Street
Winchester, Virginia 22601
540-662-7332

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT # 138
WINCHESTER, VA

Visit our new and improved website at:
www.Winchesterdistrictumc.org

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.



I have been privileged to attend three uplifting events since our January Newsletter. They were the Heart Haven's Sunday at Greenwood UMC on January 28th, Super Saturday Spiritual Breakfast at First UMC on Saturday February 2nd and the organizational meeting of the Round Hill UMM over in Loudoun County.

The presence and participation of the staff and guys from our Winchester Heart Haven's Home added much to the Greenwood Service. Rev. Derrick Parson challenged the attendees to get REAL in our Christian walk with a soul-searching message at the Spiritual breakfast. The men at Round Hill came together with a commitment of purpose to serve the Lord together in word and deed. In all three events you could feel the movement of the Holy Spirit presence among us. Praise be to God our Father and to our Lord and Savior Jesus.

Now in order of upcoming District events, let me remind you that our annual Bowl-a-thon will be Saturday March 15th at Northside Lanes in Winchester from 12 to 3 PM. The cost to bowl three games is \$9, shoes included. All you need is a team of 4 bowlers who in turn solicit sponsors for their efforts. Forms and instructions have been provided to all local UMM President's and can be emailed to anyone wanting to participant. All churches are invited to join us for this outing.

The next District event will be the 5K Heart Havens Race/1K Fun Walk scheduled for 8 AM Saturday April 19th at the Kernstown Battlefield. Churches and individuals can participate in five ways. These are; 1) Be a Sponsor, 2) Solicit Sponsors, 3) Be a Runner, 4) As a Runner get individuals to sponsor you, and 5) Be a helper (we need lots of these). Brochures with registration forms have been prepared along with sponsorship forms which are being included in this newsletter being mailed and will be posted on the District website as well.

In between the above two events we will have the Conference Leadership Development Day on Saturday March 29th at Shady Grove UMC in Mechanicsville, VA. It would be most desirable to have at least one representative from each of the 11 churches that met the \$1,000 challenge donation to Heart Haven's attend. There will be worship and several different training opportunities that pertain to UMM's Fellowships. It is a day well spent.

And lastly let me remind you that our Winchester District will be hosting the tri-District Spring Spiritual Retreat at Camp Overlook, June 6 and 7. Dr. David C. Adams, Secretary of the GCUMM from Nashville, will be our leader we need the full participation of men and Pastors from our local churches and especially those that have active Men's Fellowships.

If you have any questions or comment about any of the above please don't hesitate to contact me.

Blessings,
Jim Green
540-678-0243 or windistrictumm@hotmail.com