



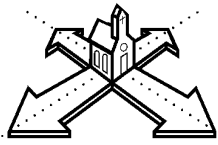
Winchester District  
United Methodist  
Church  
David T. Forrest  
District Superintendent

*News from...*

# The Core of the Winchester District



*May 2008*



## If You Don't Know Where You're Going, How Are You Going To Get There?

By Kathy Lutman  
Winchester District Lay Leader

As many of you know the Winchester District Laity team has been traveling with our District Superintendent to all of the Charge Conferences in the Winchester District over the past several years. One of the observations of the Laity Team is that there seems to be a lack of visioning and goal setting in our local churches. This need seems to be throughout the District, in both smaller and larger churches. In order to better equip our churches, we are planning a training day on Saturday, May 31, from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. at Bethel Church in Fauquier county. This training will focus on the need for and the process of establishing a vision for your church and how to create goals that complement that vision. This part of the training will be taught by Rev. Marty Martin of Bethel UMC in Fauquier county. Marty has had extensive training and success in visioning/goal setting not only in his role as clergy but in his "previous life" as a lay person.

The second part of the training will focus on developing a budget that will provide the resources need to accomplish the goals that have been set. A budget that is both realistic and faith based, obtainable yet challenges your members to go in their stewardship. In short, a budget that allows plenty of room for Christ to work through your church. This portion of the training will be taught by Rev. Marc Roberson of Brucetown/Welltown Charge. Marc will be sharing this knowledge and insights into faith-based budgeting with the participates of this training.

As you can see this promises to be a very interesting training. We would encourage both clergy and laity to attend this training as a team. The lay leadership positions that we would encourage to attend the training are: Lay Leader, Chair of Administrative Board/Church Council, Finance chair and any other laity from your church who you feel would benefit from this training.

We are offering the training in May in hopes that this will provide plenty of time for the leaders attending to go back to their local churches and apply the knowledge that they have gained in visioning, goals setting and budgeting to the process of preparing for their Charge Conference later in the year.

I am very excited about this event and I hope that you and other members of your church will be able to join us at Bethel on May 31<sup>st</sup>. Of course, as with any good UM event, you will be fed, both spiritually and physically.

Registration information will be coming out soon. I am looking forward to seeing many of you on May 31<sup>st</sup>!!!

## DISTRICT CALENDAR



- 2 District Office closed for Apple Blossom
- 5 Comm. On Superintendency, District Office - 10 a.m.
- 6 Clergy Exec. Comm, Dist. Ofc - 9:30 a.m.  
Lectionary Grp., District Office - Noon
- 9 Youth Game Night, Mt. Olive (Toms Brook) - 7-9 p.m.
- 12-13 Cabinet meets in Richmond
- 13 Lectionary Group, District Office - Noon
- 16-17 Spiritual Life Retreat, Massanetta Springs Conference Center, Harrisonburg
- 16-18 UMW Spiritual Life Retreat, Blackstone
- 20 Lectionary Group, District, Office - Noon
- 23 District Office closes at 1 p.m.
- 26 District Office closed for Memorial Day
- 27 DCOM, Braddock St. UMC - 10 a.m.  
Lectionary Group, District Office - Noon
- 28 DCOOM, Duncan Memorial - 9 a.m.
- 30 Clergy Farewell Banquet, Riverton UMC - 6-8 p.m.
- 31 Charge Conf. Training for Clergy & Laity, Bethel UMC - 9 a.m-4 p.m.



### *District Potato Drop at Riverton UMC*

Riverton UMC will be hosting a District POTATO DROP on Saturday, May 10, 8 a.m., in the church parking lot, if the potatoes are available. This event is being sponsored by the Loudoun Charge. For more information, contact Skeeter and Sarah Ramey at [sramey3@comcast.net](mailto:sramey3@comcast.net) or (540) 869-2876.

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

Back in 2001 when we took our second son (of three), Peter, up to begin his undergraduate career at Yale University (he takes after his mother in the brains department, obviously) the President of Yale, Richard Levin, addressing the parents and new students, described what he termed one of the most interesting and exciting aspects of his job. That was, it turned out, discovering over and over again the surprising interactions of the students there with the community around them. He was always, he said, chancing upon Yale students being involved in all sorts of helpful projects from playing music for senior citizens groups to volunteering at homeless shelters around New Haven.

Since I've been in this job for the last four years, I've had numerous similar experiences. You simply cannot visit among ninety-nine different churches without being surprised repeatedly by all of the wonderful ministries that they are engaged in. One such that I finally got a chance to experience personally after hearing about it for several years is the "Nancy's Hands" puppet ministry of Ebenezer UMC in Loudoun County. On Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup> they presented a program at Amor y Paz UMC, our Spanish-speaking congregation in Winchester. The puppeteers, most of them teenagers, did a wonderful job. I was really impressed and highly recommend "Nancy's Hands" to your church. (The director, Dave Collins, can be reached at 703-472-7615.)

While there, the Ebenezer Church folks made a very generous donation to Amor y Paz—part of a legacy that Ebenezer received last year—which will help enable this important ministry to Hispanics to continue. It was a wonderful example of the strength of the "Connection"—of our United Methodist system. While our UMC is far from perfect, this "working-togetherness" of ours does make it possible for us to do much more for God and his children than we could ever do alone.

Please consider following Ebenezer's example and making Amor y Paz part of your church's mission giving and also, perhaps, joining them for worship some Sunday afternoon at 4:00 at the Montague Avenue UMC building in Winchester.

One of the most exciting things about being a disciple of Jesus is that you never know what surprises God has in store for you in the days ahead.

Thanks for allowing God to use you in wonderful and surprising ways.

*David Forrest*



### **District Annual Conference Orientation**

An orientation session for Winchester District members of the 2008 Virginia Annual Conference will be held on **Sunday, June 1, 3–5 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.



### **Joint District Conference to be held at Camp Overlook**

On Sunday, May 18, at 3 p.m. there will be a called District Conference of the Harrisonburg, Staunton and Winchester Districts at Camp Overlook's Glover Chapel. This special joint conference of the 3 districts concerns a major opportunity to expand the district's camp facility with the acquisition of 45 adjacent acres and a major renovation of the original camp buildings. Plans for renovation include expanding the bathroom/shower facilities of each building, replacing the aging metal roofs, and preserving the exterior walls with vinyl siding.

Anticipated costs for these projects is \$315,000 for the land, and \$120,000 for the buildings. There are some funds currently available and being expended on the early planning and implementation of these projects.

Specifically, Camp Overlook is requesting support from the district churches to borrow funds up to \$400,000 to purchase the land and make the improvements.

At the joint conference there will also be a proposal to conduct a capital funds campaign to repay the above loan and fund some additional capital projects.

Everyone is welcome!



## Older Adult Ministries

Rev. Jerry and Barbara Weigel, the Winchester District representatives for the Older Adult Ministry attended several seminars in 2007 on aging.

The following workshops were presented in 2007: *The Journey to Letting Be: Helping Families and Patients with End-of-Life Decisions*. *The Symposium on Aging* featuring Leo Frangipane, M.D. with sessions including topics such as Alzheimer's disease and Spirituality, Navigating the Financial Highway, Planning and Financial Long Term Care, and Parenting my Parent among others. A group from local churches and organizations in Winchester presented an older adult ministry conference entitled "Good News in the Gospels for Senior Adults" with Dr. Jane Marie Thibault discussing topics on "God's Beloved and Our Mission," "Spiritual Siblings and Powerfulness," "Suffering and Growth", and "Life Eternal and Christ."

Our interest is to present a workshop similar to these for the District. However, because of the time, planning, and expense in putting these workshops together, they have been put on hold for the time being.

However, we are interested in your feedback. If you attended any of these workshops in 2007, what did you find most helpful and what would you like to learn more about? If you did not attend the 2007 workshops, would you attend if seminars on some of these topics were presented? If so, what topics do you feel would be of most interest to you and/or members of your congregation?

Please forward your replies to Jerry Weigel at [greenwod@verizon.net](mailto:greenwod@verizon.net).

## The Closest Hundred: A Modest Proposal for Evangelism



"You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8

These are the risen Jesus' last words (as recorded by Luke, in Acts 1:8) prior to His ascension into heaven. We can think of His definition of our mission field as a series of widening concentric circles like waves rippling outward from where an object impacts the smooth surface of a pond.

So we're rightfully mindful of Jesus calling us to be His witnesses to the ends of the earth. But how are things in Jerusalem? Not the ancient capital of Israel, but the "Jerusalem" of your local church? How's your church's witness to its closest neighbors?

Our "Jerusalem" can be defined multiple ways: The people who work in the cubicles adjoining ours... The neighbors who live closest to our home. Our fellow students in school...

But to make it even simpler, how's your church's witness to the people who live in the 100 homes that are closest to your church building? Do each of those who are not already actively involved in your church know that they are welcome - by you and by their heavenly Father? How recently have they been told, face to face? Could it be that there are some who have lived in one of the "closest hundred" homes for more than a year who have never been invited? More than five years? More than 10 years?! They know where the church is. They may drive by it every day. Some of them can see it from their window. But have they been told recently that they are invited to come in and experience God's love?

Realistically, with the 100 churches on the district, we're talking about 10,000 homes... about 25,000 people. What a Jerusalem! If each of our churches would identify our "closest hundred," and then faithfully visit three per week, by year's end we will have made a significant step in being Jesus' witnesses in Jerusalem. We will have served and honored Jesus.

(If we need any further motivation in this matter, consider the sobering Ezekiel 3:17-21.)

And as we do this, let's share the stories of what God does through our faithfulness! Let me know and I'll spread the word. (Chip Giessler, [pastor@EvergreenChurch.net](mailto:pastor@EvergreenChurch.net)) And don't be afraid; Jesus has promised to be with us.

## BE PREPARED

Your church is eligible for a line of credit up to \$50,000

*This unsecured line of credit can be used for any project or emergency*

- No fee to apply
- Variable rate is at prime plus 1%
- Credit restrictions apply
- To be eligible, a church must be a member of the Virginia United Methodist Credit Union, complete a credit application and provide church financial information once a year



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NCUA



"Before I tell you what happened, Mom, remember...The Lord will never give you more than you can handle."



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*Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.*



The Lord did indeed bless us with beautiful weather on Friday, April 18 and with the help of a lawn cutting crew and other volunteers the race course was prepared for the Saturday 5K Heart Havens Race/1K Fun Walk. Saturday was another beautiful day with over 70 runners of all ages showing up for the scheduled 8 a.m. race at the Kernstown Battlefield. We would like to thank all our helpers, sponsors and runners for making this a successful event.

Wouldn't it be nice to just set aside some time to see where and what we have done so far this year and perhaps take in a little Spiritual food to make sure we are on the right track and doing it the right way? I wrote some last month about our being and making disciples of our Lord and Savior. We can learn more about this at this year's Tri-District Spiritual Retreat at Camp Overlook on Friday and Saturday June 6 and 7.

The retreat begins on Friday evening with check in starting about 5 p.m., and ends around 3 p.m. on Saturday. Information on the minimal cost and lodging will be forthcoming, and we can help anyone that may need assistance in this area. If you have never been to Camp Overlook or stayed in the Blessings Lodge then this is the year to be there.

So many times when chartering and sending money off to Nashville the comments come back as to who and what do we send our money for? Well this year we are bringing the Secretary of the General Commission of UM Men to lead our gathering. There will be time for you to ask questions of Rev. David Adams especially in the workshop he will be having which will reflect on the celebration of 100 years of UM Men and also look to the next 100 years of what we are to be doing in our place and time as we are the ones heading into that era. In addition to that workshop Rev. Adams will be giving us valuable tools that we can use in reaching out to others with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

In addition to the General Secretary, George Huile from Missouri will lead a workshop on Wesleyan Building Brothers which is a men's ministry for reaching men for Christ. It is a much needed ministry for all of our churches today.

Blessings Lodge holds 54 people. I would like to see the Winchester District fill Blessings Lodge by having at least one person from each fellowship attend. Male pastors are encouraged to attend as well. You will not be disappointed.

We will also need musicians to help with our praise time. Let me know if you want to volunteer, or know someone else, that can help out in this area. If you have any questions or comments about any of the above please don't hesitate to contact me.

Blessings,

Jim Green

540-678-0243 or email [winchesterdistrictumm@hotmail.com](mailto:winchesterdistrictumm@hotmail.com)