



MAY 2007

Older Adult Recognition Sunday, May 6

At our 2006 Annual Conference, the first Sunday in May of each year was set as *Older Adult Recognition Sunday*. In 2001, we adopted a resolution regarding Older Adult Recognition which calls us to recognize our "older adults for they have answered, and continue to answer God's call in mission, ministry, and service to others, by yearly designating a Sunday as *Older Adult Sunday*; and... that each Virginia United Methodist Church be encouraged to recognize and honor its older adult members on *Older Adult Sunday*."

Celebrating Older Adult Recognition Sunday provides an opportunity to share our stories of witness and faith. There is so much for us to learn together, so many ways for us to support and care for one another, so many ministries for us to embrace – together, old and young alike!

This year's theme is "Witnessing: Stories of the Faith." Worship suggestions and a bulletin insert developed by the Older Adult Ministry Council can be found on the Conference website at www.vaumc.org, select "Ministries," then "Older Adult Ministries," followed by "Older Adult Recognition Sunday."

In addition to the first Sunday in May being our Conference's recognition of *Older Adult Sunday*, May is also *Older Adult Month*. It has been proclaimed as such since the time of President John F. Kennedy.

When *Older Americans Month* was established in 1963, only 17 million living Americans had reached their 65th birthdays. About a third of older Americans lived in poverty and there were few programs to meet their needs.

Now, our nation is in the midst of a boom in the aging population. Older people are living longer and staying healthier and more active much later in life. In 2011, the first wave of the 78 million baby boom generation turns 65.

More than ever, we need to recognize the need for and give attention to ministries with older adults in our churches. Materials for *Older Adult Month* can be found at http://www.aoa.gov/press/oam/May_2007/Materials_Downloads.asp (U.S. Administration on Aging website).

Martha E. Stokes
 Director of Lay Life and Work, Disabilities,
 and Older Adult Ministries



DISTRICT CALENDAR FOR MAY 2007

- 3 "Alert Youth Rally, Sportsplex - 6-9 pm
- 4 District Office Closed for Apple Blossom Festival
- 4-6 Conference UMW Spiritual Life Retreat
- 10 District Trustees, District Parsonage - 3 pm
- 14-15 District Superintendent at Cabinet Mtg.
- 16 District Finance Comm., District Ofc. - 10 am
- 22 DCOM Braddock St. UMC - 10 am
- Nomination Facilitators, District Ofc., - 1:15 pm
- 23 DCOOM, Braddock Street UMC - 9:00 am
- 24 Aldersgate Celebration, Braddock St. - 5:30-7:30 pm
- 25 Clergy "Spring Fling", Shenandoah University - 6 pm
- 28 District Office Closed for Memorial Day
- 31 Bd. of Missions Steering Comm, District Ofc. - 1 pm

District Office welcomes new employee!

The Winchester District Office would like to welcome Melanie Melester as the new District Financial Administrator.

Melanie, a Winchester native, graduated from Handley High School. She is happily married to her high school sweetheart, Steve Melester. Melanie is a member of Burnt Factory UMC where Steve is the pastor. They have two grown sons, Ben and Sam.

For the last twenty years, Melanie has helped Steve run their family-owned business, and has been very active in volunteering in the community.

Melanie says she feels very blessed to work in the District Office with Sheryl and David.

4th Annual Alert Youth Rally 2007

Thursday, May 3 - 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

at the Sportsplex, located off
U.S. 11 South in Winchester

Featuring Lee McBride and John Reuben
Plus opening music by: *YOURS FOR MINE*
Food, fun, games, merchandise...
and a Velcro wall!

A word from the District Superintendent...

“Connectionalism.”

Apparently, it isn’t even a real word: it isn’t found in dictionaries. (Spell-check even balks at my using it here!) Nevertheless, I had the privilege to see it in action during the terrible week beginning April 16th. On that day we district superintendents had gathered at the United Methodist Center in Glen Allen for our week-long appointment making-session with the bishop. After worship that morning, as we were leaving the chapel, word came that something terrible had happened at Virginia Tech.

As the day continued, we heard updates as we sat around the cabinet table working on the appointments of the pastors throughout the conference. It was, of course, unbelievable: more and more people killed. The Roanoke District Superintendent, Steve Hundley, was in almost constant contact that day by phone and email with people in Blacksburg, especially Reggie Tuck, pastor of Blacksburg United Methodist Church and Glenn Tyndall, director of the Wesley Foundation, our campus ministry at Virginia Tech.

Those two pastors, like many other people that week, gave themselves unreservedly in ministering to the hurting in Blacksburg—representing all the rest of us United Methodists there admirably. That is United Methodist Connectionalism at it best.

Then, the next morning, Tuesday, Bishop Kammerer announced that she and Steve Hundley were leaving at once to be where they needed to be: representing our church at the memorial service held that day at Virginia Tech, attended by Governor Kaine and President Bush. Once again, I was proud that you and I were represented there by our church leaders. The Bishop and Steve later ministered to students at the Wesley Foundation and attended a service that evening at Blacksburg United Methodist Church, where Bishop Kammerer was the preacher, before returning late that night to Richmond.

Throughout Virginia and beyond—offers of condolence and help poured in from around the globe—United Methodists have continued to be in ministry in Christ’s name to all those touched by the tragedy at Virginia Tech—and that is all of us—including our Korean brothers and sisters.

Our United Methodist Church is far from perfect, but I thank God for this historic “Connection.”

God bless you.

David Forrest

Feast of Days: Aldersgate Celebration May 24 at Braddock Street

This Feast of Days will be sure to be a “heart-warming” experience as we explore, experience, and reflect on some of the verses and prose of Charles and John Wesley.

How will we celebrate? Tea time in England was a time of lively discussion about the current events and important religious matters. Many of the Wesley Band meetings were held during High Tea time. In keeping with this tradition, this Feast of Days spiritual direction event will be a “High Tea (or Meat Teas as it was called).

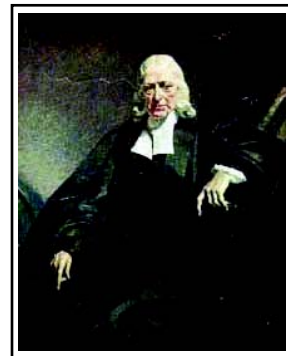
When: May 24 at 5:30 - 7:15 p.m.

Where: Braddock Street UMC.

Cost: \$10 donation

Registration: Registration is needed to help prepare for your hospitality needs.

Register by calling Dr. Cynthia Zirlott by May 15 at 540-667-3366 or email formationbsumc@comcast.net.



Kits for Conference

Currently the most needed kits by UMCOR are the Sewing Kit and the Layette Kit. However, you may collect any kit you would like. Be sure to follow UMCOR guidelines for each kit. The contents for the two most needed kits are listed below.

Money may also be contributed instead of kits. Make checks payable to Virginia United Methodist Conference. Earmarked: UMCOR Kits - code # 901440. Mailing address: Treasurer Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church, PO Box 1688, Glen Allen, VA 23060

Sewing Kit

Value: \$18 per kit

- 3 yards of cotton or cotton-blend, solid color or print fabric (must be 3 yards of uncut fabric)
- 1 pair sewing scissors
- 1 package of needles
- 1 spool of thread
- 5-8 matching buttons

Wrap sewing notions in the fabric and place in a sealed one-gallon plastic bag. Or you may choose to make a donation of \$18.

Layette Kit Items

Value: \$35 per kit

- Six cloth diapers
- Two shirts or two one-piece body suits
- Two baby washcloths
- Two gowns or sleepers
- Two diaper pins
- One sweater open in the front
- Two receiving blankets

Wrap items inside one of the receiving blankets and secure with diaper pins. Or, you may choose to make a donation of \$35.

Processing and shipping: \$1.00 per kit

Please Do NOT include any personal notes, money or additional materials in the kits. These things must be painstakingly removed and will delay the shipment.

'School for Children's Ministry' May 11-12 at VUMAC

This event, for those who are called to ministry with children in volunteer, part-time, or full-time positions, will be led by Mary Alice Gran, director of Children's Ministries at the General Board of Discipleship in Nashville. Participants will learn practical skills in planning and coordinating ministries with children; explore new ideas, resources and ministry approaches; be refreshed and renewed in their commitment to the children in their church and community.

Cost is \$75/person, which includes workshop sessions, resources, lodging and meals (dinner on Friday, breakfast and lunch on Saturday).

To register or for more information, visit the "Events" section of the Web at www.vaumc.org, or contact the office of Children's Ministries and Discipleship at AnnDavis@vaumc.org, or (804) 521-1138 or 1-800-768-6040, ext. 138.

Bishop's Convocation on to be held in Williamsburg

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.

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> under the above dates.

Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church FAMILY FUN DAY!

Saturday May 12, 2007

Enjoy a full day of fun, food and fellowship at Kings Dominion with your family and friends!

SPECIAL DISCOUNT TICKETS
Valid Saturdays May 5, 12, 19, and 26

Only \$24.95

Ages 3 to 61 AND 48" tall or taller

JUNIORS & SENIORS

ONLY 23.95

**Children ages 2 and under
admitted FREE.**

Join the fun at the

All-You-Can Eat Picnic

May 12th from 1:30-2:30 p.m.

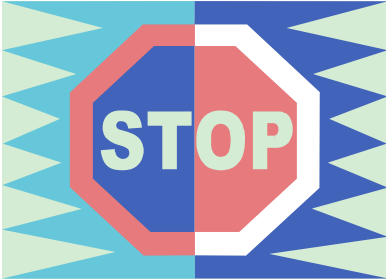
In the Group Catering Pavilion

More information on how to order tickets is available at <http://www.vaumc.org/indel.cfm/faccontent.view/menuID/640.htm>.



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Before you throw this newsletter away, please notify the District Office if you no longer wish to receive it!

Visit our website at:
www.Winchesterdistrictumc.org

Address Service Requested

UNITED METHODIST MEN I am in my second year of what could be a three year tenure as District President of the Winchester District UMMen. Our current constitution limits the President's tenure to three one year appointments if willing to serve and so elected. I have been richly blessed to have this opportunity though at times feel grossly inadequate to fulfill the mission of the position. Though I desire so much to have what I call the full cabinet come together and meet as a group it just has not happened. What is the full Cabinet? It is the basic executive committee of President, a couple Vice Presidents, Secretary and Treasurer and then a few appointed positions and each of the **local unit Presidents**.

I can rightly boast that of the 18 districts of the Virginia Conference the Winchester District is one of the most active and well organized. I have made it a point to personally visit each local Fellowship. If I have not been to yours yet please bear in mind that I may show up at your next meeting. It is always a blessing to meet with you and see the many things that each Fellowship is doing. Yet, I know that our strength lies in unity and being connected. There is no telling what we could accomplish if each Fellowship knew what each other was doing

The best means we have at the moment of supporting one another throughout the District is having a meeting of the Full Cabinet at least two times a year, participating in District events and attending our annual fall Rally. The next meeting of the full cabinet will be a 'called' meeting and it will be the first Monday of the third quarter, July 2. May I urge each local President to put this date on your calendar and invite your Pastor to come with you?

While it may seem that our goal is to have a men's Fellowship in every congregation that is not really our vision. The vision is for every man to have a living, growing relationship with Jesus Christ, for every man to be a disciple! There are two problems that plague the church today: biblical illiteracy and lack of male involvement. As the men of the church go, so goes the church. Most Christian denominations in America are in a serious decline. Men are absent and too many of those in the pews are sadly living as cultural Christians. (Words and thoughts lifted from *No Man Left Behind*.)

Men, if we are going to call ourselves followers of "The Way" and profess Christ as our Savior we need to be sure we "possess" the Holy Spirit within and **band together** and in the spirit of our theme song "Rise Up, O Men of God".

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

Jim Green at 540-678-0243 or email jjimgreen14@hotmail.com or wincdistrictumm@hotmail.com.



VIM Surgical Teams to Mozambique Update

Plans for our upcoming trips to Chicucue Rural Hospital continue to progress. Although we are still praying (and seeking) for an additional surgeon to add to each team, team members are meeting monthly and beginning to gather medical supplies for the trips.

We are overwhelmed by the wonderfully positive response we are getting from individuals and churches regarding our request for infant caps. Already we have received almost 200 of them! One of the nice things about these caps is that they are SO PACKABLE! They will be used to cushion medical equipment and supplies that we carry in our suitcases. We think that we can carry at least 600 caps along with us in our luggage and then any additional ones you make us will be included in the next hospital container that we hope to ship to Chicucue in the fall.

Suggested patterns – knit and crochet – for the newborn and preemie caps were included in the April newsletter, and Sheryl Pifer at the district office has copies of the patterns as well.

Several of you have asked about sending store-made cotton knit caps for the babies. These caps are perfectly acceptable – size newborn. The request for knit/crochet caps was made with the thought that many women within the churches might have left-over partial skeins of yarn that could be used to make the caps at no additional cost.

We continue to thank God for your support! Please lift up these VIM teams in your prayers – we have a lot still to do in preparation and oftentimes feel overwhelmed with the enormity of the task. But God gives GRACE and is present in our midst!

Nancy Forrest, Team Leader

Samaritan Fund Offering

Between the Sundays of Mother's Day (May 13) and Father's Day (June 17) your church will offer you the opportunity to share in supporting the United Methodist Home by providing envelopes in your church bulletins or pew racks. The Samaritan program of Virginia United Methodist Homes, Inc. (VUMH) is a benevolent fund which provides financial assistance to residents who cannot afford the full cost of care. Please prayerfully consider supporting this important ministry of the United Methodist Church.

Annual Conference Orientation ~ June 3rd

An orientation session for 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.

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

"Let's Get Growing!" is the theme of the 2007 Annual Conference and of a major new event during this year's conference in Roanoke.

Many churches want to grow, but don't know how to do it. The "Let's Get Growing Expo," a two-day event during conference, will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday, June 12-13, in the spacious new Special Events Center at the Roanoke Civic Center.

The event will provide training and resources from a variety of groups from all over the region and the country. Representatives of groups with expertise in building up the church will share with participants in conversation, open forums, and with take-home materials. Although the Expo will be open throughout the day, special events and open forums are planned around meal and break times, so that individuals may eat and snack while they browse and learn and make important contacts.

Pastors and laity alike will come away energized for the work of reaching out, with more tools and knowledge about the how-to's of evangelism and marketing the church.

Two aspects of reaching out, marketing and personal evangelism, are critical in today's church atmosphere and both will be addressed extensively. Topics will include community demographics, friendship evangelism, authentic evangelism, welcoming, Igniting Ministry, church growth and development, and building to make room for newcomers. The exact list of vendors is not yet available. The Board of Communications again plans to offer free door-hangers for local church use on a first-come, first-served basis.

The event is co-sponsored by the Division of Evangelism of the Board of Discipleship and the Board of Communications. The planning team, consisting of members of both boards, is seeking Virginia Conference churches that have reached out effectively to their communities. In order to assist a variety of church sizes, small-, medium-, and large-membership churches will share their stories and their resources. If you would like to nominate a church for inclusion in the event, please e-mail either of the co-chairpersons of the planning team (Doug Paysour at pay-sour@rbnet.com or Stan Hargraves at SHargraves@union-psce.edu).

Tuesday night at Annual Conference will also focus on evangelism. The featured preacher will be Michael Slaughter, pastor of Ginghamburg UMC in Tipp City, Ohio, which has experienced enormous growth and is a teaching center for church life and development. Watch for further details in your conference information and packets. Even if you are not a member of conference, you are invited to participate in the "Let's Get Growing Expo."