



April 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.

Camp Overlook Benefit Golf Tournament

Saturday, June 4, 2011

2:00 PM

**Shenvalee Golf Resort
in New Market, VA**

Golf Tournament Shotgun Start

**4-player Captain's Choice
Senior tees for those over 75**

Entry Fee:

\$260 (4 person team)

**Includes all golf fees, cart, prize money and dinner
(served immediately after golf at Shenvalee)**

Registration Deadline:

May 27, 2011

Information:

Monty Cox at (540) 740-8540 or mcox@shentel.net

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!

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.



Sojourn to Sacredness *A Theological Ecological Pilgrimage for Young Adults*

Beginning Monday, June 6—Friday, June 10. spend 2 days and nights on the Appalachian Trail, and 2 days and nights on the Shenandoah River!

We will begin at Blackburn Shelter on the Appalachian Trail in the northern Shenandoah Valley and end in Front Royal on the Shenandoah River. Come and renew your relationships with God, each other, and the earth!

We're first timer friendly so if you don't have experience backpacking and/or canoeing.....no problem. We will teach outdoor living skills that are low impact and earth friendly.

We will experience the beauty of God's creation, learn about some of the problems creation is facing, and discuss ways in which the church can be a part of the solution. Joining us for conversations on the pilgrimage will be scientists, environmentalists and theologians.

Cost is \$125.00, which includes canoes, food, transportation to and from trail, river, etc. and camping fees. \$25.00 will be paid at time of registration with \$100.00 being due upon arrival. Participants will provide their own backpack, backpacking tent and sleeping bag. A full list of what to bring (and not to bring), where to meet, logistics, etc. will be provided upon registration.

Leaders are: Rev. Pat Watkins, 703-323-4643, jpatdenise@mac.com, and Rev. Gary Heaton, 540-635-2935, frumcpastor1@comcast.net.

More information and registration forms are available on the conference website, www.vaumc.org, click on the Conference Events Calendar, go to the June calendar and click on the event date.

DISCOVER GOD'S CALL...

VUMAC, Blackstone, May 20-22, 2011.

Inspirational Speaker: The Rev. Terry Duckworth,
Conference Evangelist for the Western N.C.
Conference UMC.

The retreat includes Bible Study, small groups, worship, prayer time & meditation, and a pre-retreat survey of spiritual gifts. Discover God's Call is a ministry that teaches people about spiritual gifts, helps them discern their own spiritual gifts, and how God may be calling them to use them. This program has been affiliated with the Foundation for Evangelism and retreats have been held at churches on the Farmville District and Peninsula District.

The basic cost of the retreat is \$215, which includes material for a 2-week pre-retreat study on spiritual gifts.

The Discover God's Retreat has been approved by the Virginia Conference for both advanced lay speaker credit and for 2 CEU credits for clergy. In addition, there are some half-scholarships for first-time laity and some full scholarships for first-time clergy.

You can learn more about Discover God's Call at www.discovergodscall.org or by calling Rev. Susan S. Rigg at 434-572-4406 or email revedansusan@embarqmail.com.

Video training class for new Church Council chairs now on Web

A video training class, "Church Council Chairs: More Than Leading a Meeting" led by Martha Stokes, conference director of Leadership and Inclusivity, for new Church Council chairs is now available on the conference Web site.

This 16-minute course is an orientation for new Church Council chairs that focuses on seven core responsibilities of the Church Council chair, mainly as they affect the discipleship role of the Church Council.

The video training class is available by going to www.vaumc.org, click on "Ministries," then "Laity," then "Lay Leadership Resources."

Start planning now for *Change the World* May 14-15

United Methodists around the world will participate in community service projects on **Saturday, May 14**, and neighbors will be invited to attend church services on **Sunday, May 15**, as part of "Change the World 2011."

Local churches can start preparing now to participate in this year's Change the World weekend.

First, identify a project that makes a difference in the local or global community (or both). Then, register at www.rethinkchurch.org/changetheworld and download the free flyer. Third, invite your community to get involved.

Free and discounted resources are available to all churches who register. Registered churches will receive free shipping and postage from product orders placed on www.cokesbury.com through May 15.

Jubilee Assistance Fund

The Jubilee Assistance Fund (JAF) is a loan program where a local church establishes an account at the Virginia United Methodist Credit Union to provide collateralized small, short term loans for individuals who would not qualify for loans otherwise. To qualify for JAF, the borrower agrees to receive financial counseling, loan monitoring and payroll deduction.

The program is a way to provide your church members short term help during a financial crisis and financial management tools to assist them with long term financial stability.

For information on partnering with VUMCU to establish a fund at your church call 866-657-0004 or email: creditunion@vamcu.org.

Coming Soon!

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

a District-wide Mission Event



September 23-25, 2011



DISTRICT CORE

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Virginia Conference
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DISTRICT CALENDAR

- ◆ May 3 - District Comm. on Ordained Ministry, District Office - 9 a.m.
- ◆ May 4 - Mission Celebration Committee, District Office—10 a.m.
- ◆ May 9 - Dist. Lay Ministries Committee, Round Hill UMC (Ld.) - 7 p.m.
- ◆ May 17 - Finance Comm., Dist. Office - 9 a.m.
- ◆ May 21 - UMM Cabinet Mtg.
- ◆ May 24 - District Council on Ministries, Brad-dock St. UMC - 10 a.m.
- ◆ May 24 - Clergy Farewell Dinner, Front Royal UMC - 6 p.m.
- ◆ May 27 - District Office closes at 1 p.m.
- ◆ May 30 - District Office closed for Memorial Day



- ◆ June 1 - District Committee on Superin-tendency, District Office - 10 a.m.
- ◆ 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 15-19 - Annual Conference, Roanoke
- ◆ June 29 - Clergy Moving Day

