



Winchester District
 United Methodist Church
 David T. Forrest
 District Superintendent

News from...

The Core of the Winchester District



November 2007

Senior Adult Regional Conference November 10, 2007 - 8:00 am - 4:00 pm Braddock Street United Methodist Church



Jane Marie Thibault, PhD, the principal speaker for the Conference, will examine the promises the Gospels offer seniors for living lives of continued growth, love and wisdom. This conference is for all persons: persons who are retired, who will be retiring, who have older family members, person who minister to older adults or persons who are aging.

The Conference is sponsored by Winchester District Council on Ministry, Braddock Street UMC Teaching and Discipleship Workarea, and the Adult Ministry Steering Committee (an interfaith council composed of clergy and laity representing local Lutheran, Baptist, United Methodist, Episcopal and Presbyterian Churches, plus several organizations that serve the needs of Seniors).

A clinical gerontologist and associate professor of Family and Geriatric Medicine at the University of Louisville School of Medicine, Dr. Thibault is the author of "10 Gospel Promises for Later Life" and "A Deepening Love Affair: The Gift of God in Later Life." She is an inspirational, witty and well sought after nationally known speaker.

You will attend a series of workshops in the afternoon to discuss and learn more about the 10 Gospel promises. A luncheon will be served following the morning session. Free Valet Parking will be available.

For more information visit our website at www.strengthforaging.info, or phone Harmon Pritchard at 540-665-5863 or Farley Massey at 540-678-4602.

DISTRICT CALENDAR



- 2-4 UMM Spiritual Retreat, Blackstone
- 5 Committee on Superintendency, at District Office. - 10 a.m.
- 6 Clergy Assoc. Executive Comm., at Dist. Ofc. - 9:30 a.m.
 Lectionary Group, Dist. Ofc. - Noon
- 7 PAUMCS Meeting, Conference Office
- 8 Clergy Association, Round Hill UMC (Fred. Co.) - 9 a.m.
- 10 Senior Adult Conference, Braddock St. UMC - 8 a.m.
 Dist. UMM Fall Rally, Grace Annex (Purcellville) - 8 a.m.
- 13 Lectionary Group, Dist. Ofc. - Noon
- 16-17 Fall Spiritual Retreat, Cacapon State Park
- 20 Lectionary Group, Dist. Ofc. - Noon
- 21-23 **District Office closed for Thanksgiving**
- 27 Lectionary Group, Dist. Ofc. - Noon
- 29 Board of Missions, Dist. Ofc. - 1 p.m.



- 1 Dist. Parsonage Open House, 3-6 p.m.
- 4 DCOM, Braddock Street - 10 a.m.
 Lectionary Group, Dist. Ofc. - Noon
- 11 Lectionary Group, Dist. Ofc. - Noon
- 14 Clergy Christmas Dinner, Braddock St. UMC - 5:30 p.m.
- 18 Lectionary Group, Dist. Ofc. - Noon
- 20 Dist. Ofc. Open House -10 a.m.-1 p.m.
- 12/21 - 1/2/08 **District Office Closed**

Winchester District
 Conference Offering
 raises \$1,527 for
Nothing but Nets!



A word from the District Superintendent...

A number of people have commented to me about my report for the annual Winchester District Conference, held in Front Royal UMC on Sunday, October 14, 2007. It was, I think, an unusually good district conference (and I say that speaking as a veteran of dozens of them!) The spirited music and Bishop Kammerer's moving recounting of her faith journey helped to make it so.

My report, like all the others, was just available in the packet of materials given to everyone who came, not read aloud. So I was all the more surprised to find that a few people, at least, actually do read those reports!

I tried to speak honestly there, and a couple of people have asked me if I really meant what I said. One even said, "I'm going to hold you to it!" I was merely trying to analyze frankly the situation facing not just the Winchester District, but the Virginia Conference, and, I fear, the United Methodist Church in general.

That situation might be characterized—to borrow a phrase from the late Quaker theologian, Elton Trueblood—as the "cut-flower syndrome." By that he meant that instead of flourishing on its own, our civilization was trying to live on its past glories: just as a cut flower remains beautiful for a time, but eventually, it withers and dies. Indeed, of course, it is already dead.

There was a time—a hundred and fifty years ago—when Methodism was a vibrant movement, opening one new church across the country every day and adjusting to its environment along the way. We are the heirs of that lively movement, but instead of going forward, we have been gradually retracting for forty years.

Why? Partially, at least, the answer is resistance to change. Those of us in the church tend to be pretty comfortable with the way things are. We like our church and our church family as it is—so what's the problem? Ultimately, the problem is Jesus, who won't let us alone—who brings up things like the Great Commission and the Great Commandment—who doesn't seem to be too concerned with our comfort!

Jesus wants us to make a difference in his name in the world—to make disciples and to change the world. The question is not: why do we have to change, but what do we have to do to win people to Christ? That's scary business and hard work, but I don't see anyway around it. Please pray that Jesus, the Lord, of the church will lead us forward.

David Forrest



Reclaiming Sabbath: A Time for God in Your Life

November 16 – 17, 2007

Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center

Blackstone, Virginia

A workshop and retreat sponsored by the Virginia Conference Board of Discipleship, Division of Spiritual Formation. Come join us for a time apart with our key presenter and renowned retreat leader and author Marjorie J. Thompson. Along with Division of Spiritual Formation and Conference leadership, a variety of workshops will be offered that are designed to rejuvenate and deepen your spiritual life.

The retreat begins at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, November 16 and concludes at 3:45 p.m. on Saturday, November 17. Dress comfortably and bring your Bible and any other personal retreat materials.

An indoor labyrinth will be available; please bring white socks to wear while walking it. For the photography workshop, bring any type of still camera (film or digital).

The following workshops will be offered at both Session 1 and Session 2:

- *Sabbath* - Marjorie J. Thompson
- *The Labyrinth* - Carol Sanger
- *Prayer and Dance* - Judy Bennett
- *God and Nature* - Luz de Tablan
- *Lectio Divina* - Donna McEwan
- *Centering Prayer* - Walt Westbrook
- *Prayer and the Visual Arts* - Chris Suerdieck
- *Praying with Eyes Open: Photography and Spirituality* - Bert Cloud

Cost for the weekend: \$90 Cost for Saturday only: \$50 0.5 CEU is available.

Space is limited. The deadline for registration is **November 9, 2007**. Additional information and registration forms are available on-line. Go to: www.vaumc.org and then "Events."



UMCOR's New Gift Catalog

The United Methodist Committee on Relief's new Gift Catalog is now available on UMCOR's homepage at www.umcor.org. The new catalog highlights some of UMCOR's core programs around the world and details alternative gift suggestions.

Along with the catalog, UMCOR is offering special resources including a promotional flyer, bulletin insert and cards for honorary gifts. If you are looking to make a life-changing contribution this Christmas season, let UMCOR's Gift Catalog help you.

Available throughout the year, this new catalog can be used for making selective contributions to the many programs and projects that UMCOR supports around the world. Each dollar amount on the list represents what your gifts could buy and determines the approximate cost of each item for that region. 100 percent of donations will go to the designated program.

Give on Someone's Behalf

Choose to feed a family of five in Africa in tribute of a friend, family member or loved one. Gifts can be made in honor of someone else as well as giving directly to the program. Those wishing to give a gift in honor of a loved one can receive an UMCOR gift card to let that person know of the gift that was made in his or her name. Call UMCOR to find out more about this program at 1-800-554-8583.

Additional Materials

UMCOR is providing two additional resources that are excerpted from the catalog. One is a Christmas List that itemizes the cost of gifts you can donate to specific UMCOR supported programs. The other is a new church bulletin insert with gift examples that can be shared with your local church or community. Encourage others to give differently this year through the UMCOR Gift Catalog.

Give the gifts that serve the whole family of God and honor the birth of Jesus. Our greatest gift is to give to others in Christ's name.

Clergy/Spouse Christmas Dinner will be held at
Braddock St. UMC on December 14, 2007

Social time 5:30 P.M. with dinner at 6:00 P.M.



Catered by: Shaffer's of Woodstock Cost: \$16.00/person
Your check will be your reservation: please make it out to the "Winchester District Clergy Association" and mail it to Suzanne Vance c/o the District Office, by December 1.

Fall Spiritual Formation Retreat

When: Friday, November 16, 6:30 p.m. through Saturday, November 17, 4:00 p.m.

Where: Cacapon State Park near Berkley Springs WVA

What: This retreat will prepare focused leaders of small groups and fully engaged group members by offering tools to sustain healthy groups. This retreat will help form new groups or strengthen existing groups with training topics such as:

- How to Form Your Group: Small Group Models & Resources
- Active Listening—Holy Listening
- The Seven Deadly Sins of Small Group Ministry
- Coaching and Growing New Leaders,
- Asking Good Questions: Icebreakers and Beyond Spiritual Formation Office
- Uniting Around People in Pain—The Art of Group Prayer.

Who: Anyone in a small group or who feels God calling you to grow Spiritually through small groups should attend this training experience.

Cost: \$45 for overnight lodging/\$15 for Commuters

Sponsored by: BSUMC Spiritual Formation Team & Winchester District COM

Registration for Fall Spiritual Formation Small Group Training Retreat

Cacapon State Park, WVA – November 16-17, 2007

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone () _____ E-mail _____

Congregation/Organization _____

Registration Fees: Make checks payable to Braddock Street

United Methodist Church (Memo: Fall Retreat)

Registration + Overnight Lodging \$45 _____

(Deadline: November 5, 2007—Double Occupancy only)

Registration + Commuter Fee \$15 _____

(Deadline: November 12, 5:00 pm)

Would like to share a room with _____

Continuing Education Requested (.5 credits) (check box)

Send the registration form and fee to:

Rev. Dr. Cynthia Zirlott, Spiritual Formation Minister

Braddock Street UMC 115 Wolfe Street.

Winchester, VA 22601

All registrations must be received in writing with fee. No phone, e-mail or fax registrations can be accepted. **Cancellations after November 1 will not be refunded.**



MARK YOUR CALENDARS~ PLAN TO ATTEND!!

**Annual Winchester
District Leadership Training
Saturday, January 12, 2008
8:30 a.m. ~ 4:15 p.m.
at Shenandoah University's
Armstrong Hall**

One day special event with classes led by an outstanding line-up of training instructors from which you may choose.

More information and registration forms available by calling the District Office at (540) 662-7332.



Winchester District
United Methodist Church
21 S. Kent Street
Winchester, Virginia 22601

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www.Winchesterdistrictumc.org

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

UNITED METHODIST



Many things are moving through my mind as I begin writing this brief note. I just received a list of those registered for the Rally. There are 13 for the Winchester District. I am still optimistic that by the time you read this it will be doubled.

It is time to begin renewing our charters for 2008. The charter is what binds us together as UMM. It is through chartering and charter renewal, and individual men subscribing to membership in the EMS/Legacy Builder programs of the General Commission on United Methodist Men that UMM are the major supporters of the UPPER ROOM PRAYER MINISTRY, SCOUTING and HUNGER RELIEF.

I have names of 37 men's fellowships on the Winchester District. Of this number 28 are chartered. There have been two new charters for 2007, Bethany in Purcellville and Grace in Middletown. Two fellowships chartered in 2006 did not renew in 2007. It is anticipated that three of the nine currently non-chartered fellowships will charter for 2008 bringing the total charters to 31.

Bill Owen, District Vice President for Membership, has sent out a letter with the chartering form for you to charter through our District. Chartering through the District means you support your District Cabinet and the Virginia Conference UMM. This in turn enables these two bodies to assist you in your many ministries. Let me encourage you to renew your charters as soon as possible and invite those of you that have not renewed in the past, have lapsed charters or perhaps have never chartered to do so for 2008 as there are several important things happening among the UMMen that needs each one of us to be involved.

The chartering letter Bill sent out to each of the local presidents also had five tickets for a nominal fee of \$5 to cover the cost of the breakfast at our District Fall Rally. We want to encourage you to get five men from your fellowship to be at the Rally. The event will be on Saturday November 10. This is the annual event for all our fellowship to come together for an 8 AM breakfast, election of Cabinet Officers, other business as needed and a time of Spiritual Worship. This year our rally is being hosted by Austin Grove UMM and will be held at Grace Annex UMC in Purcellville.

Let's get Growing! All for Jesus. This is the conference theme for all United Methodist. I am sure that most of you are aware that our District is growing in population at a very fast pace. However, our churches are growing, if at all, at a much slower pace. And the male population in our Churches has diminished considerably over the past years. The haunting question in my soul today is trying to answer why this has happened, and why does it continue to be so? Men, if we are going to make a difference for Christ then we are going to have to become mature Biblical Christians and Spiritual Fathers. Should you not quite understand the wording of the previous sentence stay tuned for more is coming our way to define Biblical Christians and what it means to be Spiritual Fathers.

If you have any questions on any of the above please do hesitate to contact me at 540-678-0243 or email jimgreen14@hotmail.com or wincdistrictumm@hotmail.com.

Blessings,
Jim Green