



Winchester District
United Methodist
Church

David T. Forrest
District Superintendent

NEWS FROM...

THE CORE OF THE WINCHESTER DISTRICT



November 2008

2008 VIRGINIA CONFERENCE TEAM LEADER TRAINING EVENT NOVEMBER 22, 2008

A Virginia Conference United Methodist Volunteers In Mission (UMVIM) Team Leader Training Event will be held on Saturday, November 22, 2008 at Lakeside United Methodist Church, 2333 Hilliard Rd, Richmond, VA 23228-4501 (804-266-7016) from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Team Leader Training is required for all first-time team leaders, but all interested persons are welcome to attend whether leading a team or not. All participants must pre-register by 12:00 noon, Monday, November 17, 2008.

Lunch will be provided. Register by sending this form to the Office of Mission, P.O. Box 1719, 10330 Staples Mill Road, Glen Allen, VA 23060, or fax to (804) 521-1144. All team leaders must have a Team Leader Handbook (see below) to attend this event.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Local Church: _____

District: _____

Day Phone: _____

Evening Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Use *mapquest.com* for the location and directions to Lakeside Church.

Note: The new *Team Leader Handbook* (available since September, 2006) is required for this course, available from the Atlanta Office of UMVIM online at <http://www.umvim.org/VIM_Store.htm> for \$26.00 including shipping, or call (404) 377-7424.

DISTRICT CALENDAR



- 2 Daylight Saving Time Ends!
- 10 Comm. on Superintendency, District Office - 10 a.m.
- 11 Clergy Exec. Committee, District Office - 9:30 a.m.
- 12 District Clergy Assoc., Duncan Memorial - 9 a.m.

18-19 DS at Cabinet Meeting in Richmond
26 District Office Closes at 1 p.m.
27-28 District Office Closed

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- 2 DCOM, Braddock St. UMC - 10 a.m.
- 9 Clergy Ext. Committee, District Office - 9:30 a.m.
- 12 Clergy Assoc. Christmas Dinner, Mt. Olive (Toms Brook) - 6-8 p.m.
- 23 District Office Closes at 1 p.m.
- 24 - Jan. 2 District Office Closed



December



MARK YOUR CALENDARS ~ PLAN TO ATTEND!!

**Annual Winchester
District Leadership Training
Saturday, January 3, 2009
8:30 a.m. ~ 4:00 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 are
available by calling the District Office
at (540) 662-7332.**

Registration Deadline is December 15, 2008!!



A word from the District Superintendent...

“From Maintenance to Mission”

That’s the phrase that we in the Virginia Conference of the UMC are using to describe where we hope to go with all of our churches, and that is the goal for all of our ninety-nine churches here on the Winchester District, as well.

What does it mean? Well, at some point or other all of us church folks have had the experience of being in some kind of meeting where lots of time is taken up in discussing some such topic as what color the new carpet in the church parlor should be. That’s a classic “maintenance” kind of issue.

On the other hand, a “mission” kind of issue would be something like: what are we going to do about all these kids in this neighborhood who’ve never even *seen* a church parlor? What does Jesus want us to do about them and their families? That is a mission question.

These, of course, are just examples, but you get the idea. The comprehensive plan for the Virginia Conference for the next thirty years, “All Things New—Fruitful and Multiplying,” has two proposals. One is to establish 250 new faith communities in the next thirty years, and the other is transform existing churches. Obviously, all ninety-nine of our current churches fall under proposal #2.

By adopting a common vision, all of our churches will have as their goal becoming “Five Talent Churches.” Jesus, in the Parable of the Talents in Matthew 25:14-30, teaches us that he expects us to bear fruit with the talents—the gifts and blessings—he gives us.

Such Five Talent Churches will demonstrate (in the words of Bishop Robert Schnase):

- Radical Hospitality
- Passionate Worship
- Intentional Faith Development
- Risk Taking Mission and Service
- Extravagant Generosity

In the year 2038 will your church have a three-decade’s long record of fruitful mission or just thirty more years of maintaining the status quo? Read Matthew 25:29-30 to see what difference it makes.

Thank you for all that you do in Christ’s name.

David Forrest

Mission News by Nancy Forrest

It’s been a really long time since I shared mission news with y’all. (Life definitely seems to hurry on, with or without me). But it’s so important to keep local churches informed of what is happening in mission ministries because serving others in the name of Jesus is one of the barometers of a person’s faith and day-to-day relationship with the Lord. So, what follows is a summary of recent information that I have gathered while serving on the executive committee of our southeastern jurisdiction’s UMVIM board of directors as well as on several conference mission committees:

Rev. Mike Mayton (Wesley UMC, Winchester) traveled to Mozambique on a pastoral leadership team in April. Mozambican pastors are enthusiastically praising the team’s work and asking for more such teams to journey to their districts. As Mozambique and Brazil are the focus countries of our conference’s mission efforts in this new quadrennium, there are Virginia-led pastoral leadership VIM trips planned for 2009 in both of these countries.

A small ‘investigational’ team of 4 (surgeon, teacher and his teenage son, physical therapist/interpreter) traveled to Chicouque and Cambine, Mozambique from our Winchester district this past March. They had a lot of ‘challenges’ and I learned a lot about when to journey (I’ll not send or lead a team during Mozambique’s ‘summer’ again – daytime temps were 100+ with 100% humidity!), but team members were able to establish and strengthen relationships with local church, hospital and school leaders, and plans for the establishment of a carpentry ministry to provide desks for Methodist sponsored elementary schools was initiated. **I am planning to lead a surgical/electrical & computer/carpentry/evangelism VIM team back to Chicouque and Cambine June 19-July 5 2009. Cost is \$3500/person.**

As the medical committee chair of our southeast jurisdiction’s UMVIM ministry, next May (2009) I also will be leading a **jurisdiction-wide medical VIM team to Manaus, Brazil to travel on Evangemed’s medical boat up the Amazon.** The 15-member team will include both general medical and dental components. **Dates are 8 May-17 May 2009 and cost is \$3000/person.**

Continued on next page...

Upcoming opportunities for Winchester District involvement:

VIM trip to Merci Mission Center, North Carolina January 11-15, 2009: Journey with me to our denomination's warehouse & distribution center in Goldsboro, North Carolina. We will stay in the center's Volunteer Village and work on a variety of projects such as: sorting and packing health kits, flood buckets, sewing girls' dresses and boy's shirts for Haitian children, office filing, small construction jobs in homes of needy families. **In other words – if you want to have a 'hands-on' mission opportunity, we have a job for you!** Cost of the trip: approx \$150/person including transportation, and room & board.

Medical/Educational Container for Mozambique: for the past 18 months I have been gathering hospital equipment and supplies, computers & monitors, baby hats, and miscellaneous educational supplies to send to Chicique and Cambine, Mozambique. We now have just about filled a 20 ft container and we need to get this stuff SENT! What remains to be done: final packing/inventorying of items; and detailed completion of paperwork required for customs; hiring of an international shipping company to load and ship the container. If any churches have some last-minute items that could be donated (baby hats, school supplies?) or would like to contribute to the cost of shipping the container (estimated cost: \$10,000) or to the purchase of a badly needed piece of (reconditioned) hospital equipment (respirators, EKG machines, stretchers), or would have some time to help with packing and inventorying the container contents, please contact Nancy Forrest or the district office.

If you feel the Lord calling you to be involved in any of the above ministries, or have an idea about a different mission ministry to which you believe the Lord is leading us, please contact me, Nancy Forrest (540-409-6555) or your district superintendent, David Forrest (540-662-7332)

DCOM Ponderings by Rev. Marty Martin

As we have considered what we have tried to do in the past and what we can do in the future, your DCOM is trying to do more things that will help the local church to achieve its goals and to make disciples of Jesus the Christ. To do that requires two things. First, it requires that we have an idea of your needs and your goals. Second, it requires that you really want the help. That may seem like a "DUH" moment, but I think it is important that we say it out loud.

In the past we have focused on having district events to which you were invited. We will still have some of those because they can be most cost effective like our servant leadership training, lay "speaker" training, and our leadership training day. But district events also can provide venues that you do not have in all your local churches. As an example not all local churches have a UMM, UMW or Youth Group, so the district provides a way for local churches to draw on district resources to support those needs.

In the coming year, we hope to learn from your charge conferences what you want and need and to offer you assistance to achieve your goals. Some of the many areas that we might be able to help in are goal setting and visioning, evangelism, youth, young adult, and senior ministry, stewardship, children's ministry, and communications.

But to have any impact we need your help whether we are talking about a district event or focused assistance. We need for you to make a commitment. In our society that commitment is not something that is valued, but it is something that God values and hopes that we will too. Commitment is at the heart of that love God with all your heart, soul, and mind stuff and that love your neighbor as yourself stuff. So we figure that you are not just setting goals but you are committed to them and we want to help you realize them. So, if something is offered, we need for you to sign up, put the event on your calendar, and come. Sounds simple doesn't it?

The other way we need your help is to let us know what you need. When I was a child and my mom used to try to feed me something I did not want, I spit it out. Today when we try to provide something you don't want, you don't respond. We are never sure if it is lack of communication (Did the word not get out?) or what. So, here is the deal. If you have an area you would like help in, let us know. Don't just ask a friend or someone else in your church or talk to your spouse, call the district office and let us know your question and what you need. And if we can help, we will work with you and your church to help you out.

We are not sure if this approach is going to work, but we know that the old approach is not bearing a lot of fruit either. And we also know if we can use our connectional system to help one another then we can build on our strengths instead of languishing in our weakness. So will you join us in a partnership to make disciples and to help each church realize its potential as demonstrated in the parable of the talents?

What if we focused on making disciples of Jesus the Christ? My guess is that we would change the world – faster and better and more lasting than any of our politicians are promising. So, what if?



Winchester District
United Methodist Church
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540-662-7332

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www.winchesterdistrictumc.org

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Our preliminary figures for our Golf Tournament, held in the rain on September 6, are reflecting net proceeds in excess of \$11,000. Considering the economic times we are experiencing, we are greatly thankful for those who care enough about helping others to have made this perhaps one of our best fund raisers ever. Most, if not all, of these proceeds will go to benefit Heart Havens.

On October 7, a Mission Alert was sent out to all the churches and UMM's fellowships on the District for Flood Buckets. Winchester District responded with a total of 22 buckets and \$589 coming in through our UMM's District Treasurer, and other monies being sent directly to the Conference. Many thanks to Marshall UMC for leading the way in this effort, and to Warren Charge for their generous donation as well as to all the others that contributed.

There are over 425 men registered for the UMM's Spiritual Retreat being held at Blackstone on November 7-9. Those of us who registered after October 5 had to find housing off-site as the Assembly Center was full. Please continue to pray for the staff at Blackstone, ourselves, the Sharing Groups, and the attendees, that God will pour out His Spirit on this place and the men attending. At the same time the men gather there will also be about 1,000 boy scouts camping out in the woods at their fall jamboree.

Our next District event is our Fall Rally on Saturday, November 15, at Duncan Memorial UMC. Rev. Bill Dawson will be leading us in a devotion/worship time beginning at 8 a.m. followed by a hearty breakfast prepared by the men of DMUMC, a very short business meeting mainly to elect our new officers for the coming year and then a presentation by Ron Roby, Director of Camp Overlook. Breakfast will be \$5 and there will be an offering taken for Camp Overlook following Ron's presentation. This event is open to all Clergy and Men on the Winchester District and this being the 100th year celebration of the organization of UMM we would like to see more than 100 men in attendance. So whether you are a member of a local UMM's Fellowship or not, contact your Pastor and come to our Rally. You will be pleased and uplifted with what you see and hear.

Chartering for 2009 is underway and we are pleased to report that six fellowships have already chartered through the District. I want to encourage all current fellowships to charter through the District before December 1 and should you have a men's group that is meeting and wants to organize as a chartered unit in your church please contact me at (540) 678-0243 or email wincdistrictumm@hotmail.com so we can help facilitate your Chartering.

Grace and Peace,
Jim Green