



Winchester District
United Methodist Church
David T. Forrest

NEWS FROM...

THE CORE OF THE



September 2007



**WINCHESTER DISTRICT
MINI SCHOOL OF MISSIONS**
September 22, 2007, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Stephens City UMC

9:00 - 9:30 REGISTRATION AND COFFEE
9:30 - 10:00 PLENARY: Phyllis Baker, Deaconess
10:00 - 12:30 1ST HALF OF CLASS
12:30 - 1:30 LUNCH
1:30 - 4:00 2ND HALF OF CLASS; DISMISSAL

CLASSES

- Spiritual Growth Study: Music and Mission
Instructor: Sandra Baker
- Geographic Study: Israel/Palestine
Instructor: Rev. Pam Montgomery
- Globalization: Its Impact In Our Lives
Instructor: TBA

CEU applied for. Men and women, pastors and lay are encouraged to attend!

The cost of the class including lunch is \$7. (Study books will be available for purchase at registration; the cost of the book is not included in the registration fee.)

PLEASE REGISTER as soon as possible.

NURSERY PROVIDED at no charge. Please pre-register at least one week in advance with the number of children for nursery in order for enough supervision to be provided.

REGISTRATION FOR MINI SCHOOL OF MISSIONS

Name _____

Local Church _____

Phone _____ Email _____

CLASS SELECTION (You will be placed in one class only.)

1st choice _____

2nd choice _____

I will use the nursery for _____ children/ages _____

Please tell us at least 1 week in advance if you need the nursery.

Please send registration form and \$7.00 per adult to the Winchester District Office, 21 S. Kent Street, Winchester, VA 22601. Make your check payable to Winchester District UMC and indicate for Mini School of Missions.

DISTRICT CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER



- 3 District Office Closed
- 6 Committee on Superintendency, District Ofc., 10 a.m.
- 8 UMM Annual Golf Tournament, Bowling Green, 7 a.m.
- 11 Clergy Assoc. Executive Comm., Dist. Ofc., 9:30 a.m.
- 13 Clergy Association, Blue Ridge Hospice, 9 a.m.
- 16 UMW Annual District Mtg., Relief UMC, 2:30 p.m.
- 17-20 Dist. Superintendent at Cabinet Meeting
- 22 Mini School of Missions, Stephens City UMC - 9 a.m.
- 25 DCOM, Braddock St. UMC - 10 am
- 26 DCOOM, Duncan Memorial UMC - 9 a.m.

Celebrate Children's Sabbath-October 19-21 (or a time of your choosing)

The theme for this year's Children's Sabbath is "My Boat Is So Small: Creating a Safe Harbor of Hope and Health Care for All Children." Children's Sabbath is a chance for local congregations to participate in an interfaith initiative to celebrate the joys that children bring but also to be advocates for their care. This is a national, interfaith event sponsored by the Children's Defense Fund.

UMFS (United Methodist Family Services) is once again providing each district in the Virginia Annual Conference with 10 planning manuals for Children's Sabbath. These will be available in each district office in September. Each manual provides excellent worship and education resources, clip art, and other resources for planning and implementing either a congregation or civic celebration.

Don't miss this special occasion to learn more about the urgent needs of children, to reflect on the call of our faith to respond to the needs of the young and poor, to create a harbor of hope and healthcare for children and to commit to help children throughout the year through prayer, compassionate service, and justice-seeking advocacy.

Please feel free to contact me at lray@umfs.org or (804)254-9692 for further resources or assistance in planning your Children's Sabbath.

Linda Driver Ray
Church Relations Coordinator, UMFS

A word from the District Superintendent...

"What are your views on Christian missions?" someone once asked the Duke of Wellington, hero of the Battle of Waterloo, according to a story much beloved of many preachers.

"Sir," replied the Iron Duke, according to the oft-told tale, "What are your marching orders?"

Well, of course, our marching orders as the church are pretty clear: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19).

One of the truly fascinating aspects of human existence, however, is how easy it is for us to be distracted from our main purpose in any area of human life. A classic illustration of this truth is college sports: sometimes it seems as if, say, the football team is the tail that wags the dog. After all, does the university exist for the benefit of the football team or the other way around? Who is paid more, the coach or the school president? Presumably, in fact, all colleges were established to educate students, not entertain TV viewers on New Year's Day.

Similarly, the church has a clear purpose—clear "marching orders," as the old duke put it. And that purpose is not to entertain or supply somewhere for us to be buried when we are gone. (I once was pastor of a church that provided free burial plots in the church cemetery for members—a perk that caused some people to keep their name on the roll!)

No, the Lord Jesus makes it clear that our overarching purpose is to make disciples of all nations. A good question to raise about any church activity then is: how will this thing help us fulfill our purpose of making disciples of Jesus Christ?

By Annual Conference action this year, all of our churches are to submit a plan of evangelism—of disciple-making—at this year's Charge Conference. In other words, the Annual Conference is calling us to return to our reason for being, our founding purpose—disciple-making. This work requires plenty of thought and prayer, and is not easy.

Please pray that God will show us all the way forward in this essential task of the church.

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

David Forrest



Faith Journeys Sunday School Training to be held September 8 and October 13

From funds received from the annual Christian Education Sunday offering, the VA Conference Board of Discipleship Division of Education will offer training events for Sunday School in two different parts of the conference this year: September 8 at Otterbein UMC in Harrisonburg and October 13 at Trinity UMC in Richmond.

Each event offers a wonderful key note address: September 8 features Delia Halverson with "So You Want to be a Great Sunday School Teacher!" Delia is an internationally known Christian educator and author of many books including "32 Ways to Become a Great Sunday School Teacher." October 13 features Ray Buckley with "Dancing with Words: Storytelling as Legacy, Culture and Faith."

Ray is an internationally known author and illustrator of many books including "The Wing" and "The Give-Away: A Christmas Story in the Native American Tradition." Ray is currently the Director of Connectional Ministries and Native Discipleship for the Alaska Missionary Conference. There will also be individual workshops in Sunday School for children, youth, and adults, including teacher training, supplementing lessons with crafts, drama and music, nurturing faith in families, and evangelism and Sunday School.

The cost is \$25 per person which includes lunch. 0.5 CEU is available. For more information or to register, visit the conference web site at www.vaumc.org and link on the date, or call the Office of Children's Ministries and Discipleship at 804-521-1138 or 1-800-768-6040 ext. 138.

Blessings,
Ann Davis

The Fall Conference of the Valley Interfaith Council

Theme: "Tending the Garden: Interfaith Perspectives on Caring for the Earth"

When: Sunday, Oct. 7 from 2:00 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. (1:30-2:00 Registration)

Where: Shenandoah University School of Pharmacy (near the Winchester Medical Center)

Speakers: Keynote- The Rev. Katherine Jesch, national Director of Environmental Ministry for the Unitarian Universalist Church. Rev. Jesch coordinates the *Green Sanctuary Program*, supporting congregational efforts to deepen their relationship with earth, connect their love of earth with their faith, and turn their compassion into effective action for healing the earth. Before beginning this ministry in 2001, she worked for twenty years in public land planning and environmental management. She believes that the Church must be a leader in the transforming the way we view our relationship with earth.

Respondents: Regional leaders from Jewish, Christian, and Muslim traditions.

Description: The event will begin with the keynote address followed by responses from other religious traditions. There will be dialogue among the speakers and with the audience. This will be followed by small group discussion. The event will close with a brief interfaith worship service.

Cost: \$10 if registered by Oct. 1, \$15 at the door. (Please register by October 1; it will help us with planning.)

Send Registration To: Cheryl Barlow, Institute for Church Professions, Shenandoah University, 1460 University Dr., Winchester, VA 22601

Please send the following information with your registration:

Your name, address, phone number. Your faith community, if you have one. Please include your email address if you would like to receive notice of other Valley Interfaith Council programs.

Contact (for more information): John Copenhaver at jcopenha@su.edu or (540) 665-4561

Timing: This event is part of a broader national program entitled: The Tent of Abraham: Stories of Peace and Hope for Jews, Christians, and Muslims. The date follows closely after the Jewish high holy days. It is during the Muslim fast of Ramadan and near the Christian feast day of St. Francis, the patron saint of ecology.

Project Second Chance celebrates 35 years of ministry

Project Second Chance of the Winchester District just completed 35 years of children's mission work at Mt. Zion Leesburg and Willisville Chapel/ Mt. Zion Cooperative churches this summer. The program provides extra-curriculum guidance for children 5-12 years of age, each Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. until noon. The children are served a nutritional lunch before leaving the program each day.

This program was implemented 35 years ago by the Virginia Annual Conference to strengthen the ethnic minority churches of the Winchester District. At its beginning the program facilitated three charges on the Winchester District, John Mann, Middleburg, and Leesburg. Only two of the charges are still in operation. We thank the District Board of Mission for their continuing support, and the churches that have helped in funding these programs.

Bernice Smith, Director

JOIN THE FAMILY - THE VIRGINIA UNITED METHODIST CREDIT UNION



Are you aware that there is a credit union that has been created specifically for you and your church?

The Virginia United Methodist Credit Union that was originally chartered in 1952 to serve the needs of clergy has now expanded to include all those who attend a United Methodist church within the Virginia Annual Conference.

We want to invite you to become a member of our credit union family so that you can enjoy the many privileges of membership. We offer an array of financial services, including competitive savings rates and hard to beat loan rates. AND if we are open, your telephone calls are answered personally!

Check us out at www.vamcu.org or give us a call 866-657-0004.

Jennifer Scroggins, our Church Relations Specialist, is available to answer your questions and travel to your church to share with you about the credit union.

FINANCIAL TIP OF THE MONTH:

Fight identity theft by monitoring and reviewing your credit report. You may request your free credit report online at www.annualcreditreport.com. Consumers are eligible for one free credit report every calendar year. If you see anything on your credit report that is not familiar, contact the reporting company to verify the account.

Superintendency Committee to write petitions during September meeting

During their September 6 meeting, the District Committee on Superintendency will have an opportunity as a district committee to write one or more petitions addressing various paragraphs of the Discipline for the 2008 General Conference. Each petition must address only one paragraph, except if two or more paragraphs in the *Discipline* are so closely related that a change in one affects the others, the petition may then call for the amendment of those paragraphs to make them consistent with one another. We will be looking at different paragraphs since 2008 General Conference has a **new** legislative committee on “**Superintendency**”. Committee members were sent certain paragraphs and page numbers from the Discipline to review. These paragraphs are ‘open for changes’ and may either remain the same, be rejected, amended, and added to the Discipline.

The Book of Resolutions is a volume declaring the church’s stance on a wide variety of resolutions on social justice issues that are considered instructive and persuasive, but not binding on members. It is to be revised eight years following its adoption. With this in mind, the 2008 General Conference will be reconsidering various resolutions from the *Book of Resolutions*.

As the chair of the District Committee on Superintendency and a delegate to the both General Conference and SE Jurisdictional Conference, I encourage you as a clergy or lay member of the Virginia Annual Conference to take this opportunity to check on the district website as to what changes are open to the Discipline and submit petitions. Instructions for Petitions and Petition forms are available by e-mailing petitions@umpublishing.org. The deadline for submitting petitions is October 26, 2007. Petitions can also be mailed to Gary W. Graves, Petitions Secretary, United Methodist General Conference, P O Box 188, Beaver Dam, KY. 42320-0187.

Sandra W. Baker
Chairperson, District Committee on Superintendency



The District Trustees extend their thanks and appreciation to the United Methodist Men at Bethel United Methodist Church in Fauquier County for dedicating many hours to improvements at the District parsonage. Painting, installation of new garage doors, mulching and general landscaping has been done by this group of volunteers.

It is the hope of the Trustees that other UMM groups will come forth and help with similar jobs to maintain the district parsonage. This is an opportunity for service and fellowship. Please contact the District Office if your UMM would be interested in volunteering.

Joan Lewis,
Chair, District Trustees



Stay on top of Conference news with the *Virginia Advocate*

Would you like have the Virginia Advocate newsmagazine delivered to your home?

Individual subscriptions are presently \$15.00 for one year when paid directly to the Advocate office. Individuals may also subscribe during their local church’s annual Advocate campaign at a rate of \$15.00.

Subscriptions should be sent to: Virginia United Methodist Advocate, P.O. Box 1719, Glen Allen, VA 23060

Multiple-year subscriptions are available at reduced rates. For more information call Peggy Cribbs at 1-800-768-6040, ext 110 or email PeggyCribbs@vaumc.org.



As I write these few lines it is cloudy, misty and raining off and on. In many parts of our District it has been a dry summer and we are grateful for the rains that are coming. How has it been with your soul this summer? Has it been dry there too or have you been feasting daily in God’s word, drinking in the bountiful blessings that He so freely gives for us to enjoy our journey here on planet earth?

The busyness of fall is upon us. School has started, football season is here, our churches are gearing up for small group Bible studies, and a host of other activities. However, in the busyness of all that is planned may we remind ourselves that it will all be for naught if it is not centered on our ‘being’ in Christ. May all that we say or do be done to bring glory to His Name.

Having said that, what is on the agenda for the District United Methodist Men? In chronological order they are:

- Saturday, September 8, 7 AM - Annual Golf Tournament at Bowling Green Golf Course, Front Royal. Forms for signing up and sponsoring are on the District Web page.
- Monday, October 1, 7 PM - District Cabinet Meeting, District Office
- November 2-4 - 30th Annual Spiritual Retreat at Blackstone with renowned evangelist Jim Buskirk preaching on the theme, “Leaning into the Future with God”
- Saturday, November 10 - Winchester District Fall Rally

Please mark these dates and get your registrations in for the golf tournament and the Fall Spiritual Retreat as soon as possible. If you have any questions on any of the above please do hesitate to contact me at 540-678-0243 or email jim-green14@hotmail.com OR windistrict umm@hotmail.com.

Blessings,
Jim Green



Sharing Jesus' love in Mozambique

"Ha nga kona Wa ku fana na Jesu", these words taken from a traditional song that is commonly sung in Mozambique says it all: *There is no one like Jesus.* When I boarded the plane to fly into South Africa, then on to Mozambique, followed by a bus ride to the town of Chicuque, all I could think about was what I could do for Jesus and how I could help to make him famous. After a couple of days in the beautiful town of Chicuque we realized that Jesus was already very famous there and evangelizing was not necessarily what God has sent us to do and the question soon arose, what was our Purpose there?

It didn't take long for our doctors and other medical staff to jump into the workings of Chicuque Rural Hospital. They were soon performing surgeries, delivering babies, and doing patient consults. Our non-medical team members did everything from taking knit caps to all the newborns, helping out at the local "daycare", visiting a school, and even helping the construction staff shovel gravel. Life at the hospital was hard, but you never heard any complaints from the patients. For many of us, this was the first that we had seen of the deadly AIDS epidemic that is becoming so commonly heard about throughout the world. Hearing about the horrific disease was a far cry from seeing it firsthand. Even though the hospital does things A LOT differently than we do in America, they do the best they can with the few resources they have.

Perhaps one of the most touching experiences of the entire trip was our visit with the children at Cambini Orphanage. When we arrived we were again greeted with singing, but these were the voices of many precious children who didn't have parents, they just had each other. We laughed and played and handed out beanie babies which were received with bright eyes and big smiles. Any time any of our team members sat down, their laps were immediately filled with several children. Each one of us fell in love with the kids, and it broke our hearts to say goodbye.

The whole experience of the Mozambique Mission was absolutely amazing. No words can ever do it justice. Nobody who went came back the same. The guest-house became a home for us, and the people around us became like family. Through performing surgeries, playing games with the kids in the village, working at the daycare, playing soccer with local kids and teens, and conversing with those around us, we formed many relationships and became a part of the culture. Each team member touched at least one life around them and perhaps that is why we were all led to Mozambique. Relationships in Christ are the ones that last. As a team, we all grew closer and spiritually each one of us matured. Through each other, and through the love of Christ Jesus, we learned more about our amazing Savior and each one us were God's "hands and feet" on Earth.

Sarah McClelland

(Sarah is a student at Strasburg High School and a member of Toms Brook UMC.)

Virginia Chapter
PAUMCS
2007 Fall Retreat



Experience Your
Conference Connection

Wednesday, November 7
9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Virginia United Methodist
Center, Glen Allen

Speakers for the Day
Dr. Susan S. Garrett,
Conference Director of
Connectional Ministries
and

Neill Caldwell, editor of the
Virginia United
Methodist Advocate

Who Should Attend? All church administrative staff, full-time, part-time, paid and volunteer, including but not limited to administrative assistants, financial secretaries, office managers and newsletter editors.

For more information, call Susan Petrey in the Richmond District office at 1-800-768-6040, ext. 124 or e-mail RichmondDistrict@vaumc.org
Registration deadline is Oct. 24

If you are interested in car-pooling to this event, please call Sheryl Pifer at the District Office (540) 662-7332 or email SherylPifer@vaumc.org.





Winchester District
United Methodist Church
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Winchester, Virginia 22601
540-662-7332

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Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.