

# The Ashland District

# Connection

Connecting laity and clergy to make disciples of Jesus Christ

Ashland District  
Virginia Conference

January/February 2007

on the Web at [www.ashlanddistrict.org](http://www.ashlanddistrict.org)

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## WANTED:

Young adults in their 20's and 30's interested in going on an international mission trip. An UMVIM team is forming from Virginia and Missouri to serve in Ecuador. You will be working on this church.



Interested persons should contact Rob Monolo through email at [jrmbvdm@aol.com](mailto:jrmbvdm@aol.com) or by phone at 804-690-2792.

## OTHER UMVIM NEWS

United Methodists Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) ministry continues to grow. Four team leadership training sessions are scheduled for the year. All first time team leaders must attend a leadership training session prior to leading a team. Each training session will be from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30

p.m. Registration begins at 8:45 a.m. A \$10 registration fee is required, payable at the door. Lunch will be provided. Continuing Education Units (0.5 units) will be provided for those needing CEU certification.

All team leaders must have a *Team Leader Handbook* to attend this course. The *Handbook* is available from the Southeastern Jurisdiction Office of UMVIM at [www.umvim.org/VIM\\_Store.htm](http://www.umvim.org/VIM_Store.htm) for \$26.00 including shipping, or call 404-377-7424. Versions of the *Handbook* printed prior to September 2006 will not be used. *There will be no Team Leader Handbooks for sale at the training session.* 2007 scheduled sessions are:

- **February 17\***: Mountain View UMC, Forest, VA (Lynchburg District) (Online registration for this event is now open at the Conference Web site at [www.vaumc.org/index.cfm/fa/content.view/menuID/1017.htm](http://www.vaumc.org/index.cfm/fa/content.view/menuID/1017.htm).)
- **March 24\***: St. Stephen's UMC, Burke, VA (Alexandria District)
- **April 28**: Norfolk UMC (Norfolk District)

- **November 17**: Lakeside UMC, Richmond (Ashland District)

\*In case of bad weather, these events will be the following week, same place, same time. The full details of the training are available on the Conference Web site listed above. Pre-registration is required, also available through the Conference Web site. Contact Kip Robinson, Virginia Conference Coordinator for UMVIM, for further questions at 804-264-7856 or [krobin7856@aol.com](mailto:krobin7856@aol.com).

## Ashland District Leadership Training

**Saturday, February 10, 2007**

**9:00 a.m. —12:45 p.m.**

**Caroline Middle School  
13325 Devils Three Jump  
Road, Milford, VA**

Workshop topics:

- *Communications = Evangelism*
- *Mission and Advocacy with Children*
- *Training for S/PPRC Members*
- *Structuring the Local Church for Ministry*

- *Reaching Adults with Small Group Ministries*
- *Come Learn about Your Community of Faith from 22 Different Demographic Characteristics*
- *Exemplary Congregations in Youth Ministry*
- *Missing in Action: Improving Our Ministries to Young Adults*
- *Drowning in the Details? 15 Strategic Insights for Running a Church*
- *Sharing the Good News*
- *Endowment and Planned Giving for the Local Church*
- *Seeker-Friendly Worship*
- *Developing Ministries for Older Adults*
- *1099's, W-2's: What Is a Treasurer Supposed to Do?*

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### FROM OUR DS

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. As 2007 begins I want you to know how truly grateful I am to serve as your District Superintendent. This gratitude is directly proportional to the experience of conducting 54 Charge Conferences between September 26 and December 5. Time after time I left inspired not only by your faithfulness to the gospel but by your very obvious joy and fulfillment in serving Christ.

On January 8-10, 2007 I will be attending Ministers' Convocation at Blackstone. One of the speakers will be Bishop Scott Jones who serves the Kansas-West Annual Conference. Bishop Jones and his Cabinet are evaluating ministry effectiveness based on eight

characteristics of a healthy congregation:

1. **Worship Attendance** – How does your church's worship attendance relate to what's happening to the population of your community? In a declining community, stable worship attendance is success. In a growing community, stable attendance is not success.
2. **Professions of faith** – How many people, other than the members of the confirmation class, came to Christ through profession of faith?
3. **Social action** – Is your church involved in social action projects appropriate to your community?
4. **Sunday School attendance** – Are the people attending worship connected to a small group experience like Sunday School where they are fed or feeding others spiritually?
5. **Growing dollars** – Is your church spending more each year in ministry?
6. **Growing percentage for mission** – Is the church spending more each year on being in mission outside the congregation?
7. **M & M's (Mission & Ministry funds) paid in full** – Is the church paying its full commitment to the connectional mission of the church?
8. **Commitment to excellence** – Are we giving our best to the Lord in service in all aspects of our ministry?

As we continue to Share the Gospel and Make

Disciples, I pray that we might use these eight characteristics as a fruitful way to empower our churches to even more faithful ministry.

*Grace and peace,  
Mark*

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### LAITY NEWS

The **Laity Spiritual Life Retreat** will be held at the Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center (VUMAC) in Blackstone on April 21-22, 2007. It will be a time of Bible study, reflection on the Word through small groups, worship, singing and fellowship. A retreat experience for children ages 4-11 will also be offered. The theme for this year's retreat is "Telling Your Story of Faith." For more information and registration form, go to the Conference Web site at [www.vaumc.org/repository/Events/2007LaityRetreatFinal.pdf](http://www.vaumc.org/repository/Events/2007LaityRetreatFinal.pdf)

**Laity-Net** is a list serve established as an information exchange for laity across the Virginia Conference. To subscribe, type VaLaityNet-subscribe@yahoogroups.com into your browser. For other news, subscribe to the monthly **Virginia Advocate** and visit the Conference Web site at [www.vaumc.org](http://www.vaumc.org) where articles, events, and directories are found.

**Lay Speaking Ministries Academy** is February 23-25 at VUMAC. If you are interested in becoming a lay speaker or want to be certified (or recertified), there are

excellent courses available. For additional information, visit the Conference Web site at [www.vaumc.org/index.cfm/fa/cal.view2/EventID/960.htm](http://www.vaumc.org/index.cfm/fa/cal.view2/EventID/960.htm).

**Virginia Conference Laity E-News** is a way of sharing information with the laity of our churches provided by our Conference Lay Leader, Shirley Cauffman. The newsletter is on the Conference Web site at: [www.vaumc.org/repository/Laity/LaityNewsletterJan07.pdf](http://www.vaumc.org/repository/Laity/LaityNewsletterJan07.pdf).

**OPINIONS WANTED!**

**Res-Net** (Resolutions Net), an unmoderated conference electronic discussion group, has been established by the Common Table to allow discussion of the 12 resolutions not addressed at the 2006 Annual Conference in Hampton. The forum allows for views to be expressed by United Methodists, both lay and clergy.

The 12 resolutions are posted in their entirety on the Conference Web site, along with relevant Disciplinary paragraphs, at [www.vaumc.org/index.cfm/fa/content.view/menuID/3238.htm](http://www.vaumc.org/index.cfm/fa/content.view/menuID/3238.htm). A link is also provided on the home page of the Conference Web site ([www.vaumc.org](http://www.vaumc.org)). The page will be found under "Resources" then "Common Table." Statements were solicited and posted from the makers of each resolution and the board or agency to which

each resolution had been referred.

You must subscribe to Res-Net before you can post to it.

- Subscribe: [www.Res-Net-Subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:www.Res-Net-Subscribe@yahoogroups.com)
- Post message: [www.Res-Net@yahoogroups.com](mailto:www.Res-Net@yahoogroups.com)
- Unsubscribe: [www.Res-Net-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:www.Res-Net-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com)

If you have difficulty, please send your request to [Communications@vaumc.org](mailto:Communications@vaumc.org) or call Brenda Capen at 800-768-6040.

The **Virginia United Methodist Credit Union**

wants to help all Virginia United Methodists to "...earn all they can, to save all they can, so they can give all they can," as proscribed by John Wesley. To help your church members with their financial needs and concerns, they are offering financial seminars to individual churches and church groups. Current seminars include:

- Steps to Financial Freedom
- Reading Your Credit Report
- Identity Theft
- Kids & Money
- College Bound

To schedule your free workshop, contact Trisha Bryant at [tbryant@vumcu.org](mailto:tbryant@vumcu.org); or 866-657-0004 toll free.

**Remember! Ashland District Leadership Training is Saturday, February 10<sup>th</sup>**  
Brochure coming to pastors



**DeBorah F. Barnwell, Advocacy Chair of the Children's Initiative Committee**, sends this message to the district:

**FACTS (Focused Advocacy Can Transform Society)**

The Children's Initiative Committee (CIC) of The Virginia Conference believes that God calls us to advocate on behalf of "the least of these." In consultation with the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy, CIC would like your support of the 2007 Legislative Session in the following areas:

- Minimum wage increase
- Support funding for kinship foster care
- Healthcare in the face of poverty

For more information on the bills being considered, check out the Virginia Interfaith Center's Web site at [www.virginiainterfaithcenter.org](http://www.virginiainterfaithcenter.org) and the Voices for Virginia's Children's web site at [www.vakids.org](http://www.vakids.org).

Things you can do:

- Sign up to receive issue updates from Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy.
- Inform your local congregation through all communications channels.

- Network with other organizations in your area for greater impact.
- Send handwritten letters to your legislator stating your support; involve children!
- Attend **U.M. Day at the Capitol** on January 25, 2007.
- Make a personal visit to your legislator to discuss issue(s).
- Celebrate our successes! Know the FACTS!

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**Lay Members-at-Large** to the 2007 Annual Conference (in alphabetical order) elected at District Conference are:

- *Kate Cook*, Beaverdam
- *Ann Davis*, Forest Grove
- *Charlotte Edge*, Fredericksburg
- *Patricia Erickson*, Peace
- *Tim Etheredge*, Enon
- *Rebecca Guy*, Fredericksburg
- *Cynthia Hay*, Tabernacle
- *Diann Kellison*, Tabernacle
- *Pat Koontz*, Duncan Memorial
- *Ralph Lawton*, Wilderness
- *Sue Lewandowski*, Rehoboth
- *John Nesselrodt*, Lebanon
- *Linda Perry*, New Song
- *Nancy Post*, Dahlgren
- *Lyn Robeson*, Wright's Chapel
- *Kip Robinson*, Lakeside
- *Karen Selden*, Mechanicsville
- *Kenneth Smith* (Young Adult), Fredericksburg

- *Jason Stanley* (Young Adult), Enon
- *Charlotte Stewart*, Regester Chapel
- *Larry Tubbs*, Fredericksburg
- *Granville Wade, Jr.*, Shady Grove (H)
- *Hilda Watson*, Aldersgate
- *Marie Williams*, Fletcher's Chapel
- *Janet Woolfrey*, Wilderness

Alternate Lay Members-at-Large (in numerical order):

1. *Reuben Greene*, Rehoboth
2. *Ennis Parrish*, Peace
3. *Carol Mills*, Forest Grove
4. *Jack Morris*, Tabernacle
5. *Raymond Haddock*, Tabernacle

Also at District Conference, we elected **nominees to the 2008 General and Jurisdictional Conferences.**

They will run for election at the 2007 Annual Conference with other nominees from all other districts across the state. Our nominees, in alphabetic order, are:

- Kate Cook*, Beaverdam
- Ann Davis*, Forest Grove
- Patricia Erickson*, Peace
- Diann Kellison*, Tabernacle
- Jack Morris*, Tabernacle
- Ennis Parrish*, Peace
- Kip Robinson*, Lakeside
- Jim Sizemore*, Tabernacle,
- Larry Tubbs*, Fredericksburg.

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**FROM OUR DISTRICT LAY LEADER**

Another Christmas season has come and the New Year is here with a chance for us to be new creations. The old has passed away. God wants us to reconcile with Him. Our congregations have the chance to witness, relate, invite, welcome, host, nurture, come to table, transform, make disciples, and then be sent out into the community.

I have been analyzing our district progress over the last five years. In 2000 we had 16,619 members, 396 professions of faith, 6097 average worship attendance, 311 baptisms, and 2832 in average Sunday School attendance, with 842 youth, 540 men, and 1573 women.

The 2005 membership is 18,616 (9% increase), 470 professions of faith (up 8%), 7348 average worship attendance (up 8%), 446 baptisms (up 7%), and 3064 in average Sunday School attendance (an 8% increase), comprised of 1074 youth, 551 men, and 1474 women.

The District has grown some each year, and the district population has grown from 438,409 to 513,571 (a 9% increase). We need to continue to build our disciple making and congregations by inviting our new neighbors, co-workers and friends into a relationship with us and Jesus Christ.

*Agape,  
John Nelson*

**Lake Junaluska Conference & Retreat Center sessions offered in 2007**

- Becoming a Blessed Church, March 7-9
- Caring for Creation, April 12-15
- Becoming Barnabas, April 30-May 2
- Family Camp at Camp Adventure, July 26-29
- Small Groups, July 26-28
- Ministry With Tweens, July 19-22
- 6th Annual Sacred/ Liturgical Dance Workshop, July 30-August 2
- A New Offering - Sacred/ Liturgical Dance, August 3-5

For more information, go to [www.sejumc.org](http://www.sejumc.org).

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**2007 Safe Sanctuaries Training Sessions**

Safe Sanctuaries is the name commonly given by United Methodist Conferences and local churches in our efforts to make all our programs and events safe and welcoming for children and youth.

To that purpose basic and advanced training courses are offered. These workshops are one-day events at a cost of \$25 which includes resources and lunch.

**Basic Training Workshops**

**February 24** at the United Methodist Center in Glen Allen

**March 31** at Calvary UMC in Stuarts Draft

**Advanced Training Workshops**

**January 20** at Miles Memorial UMC in Norfolk

**April 28** at the United Methodist Center in Glen Allen

The sessions begin at 9:30 with registration and close at 4 p.m. Register online at [www.vaumc.org](http://www.vaumc.org) and click on "Events" and the date you wish to attend.

Or you may register by mail. Check with your minister or lay leader for the brochure or call Ann Davis at 800-768-6040 or 804-521-1138.

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**"We have some new members, now what?"**

Studies tell us that if we want to keep our new members, whether they have been previous members of a church or not, they need to be incorporated into a small group within the first few months of their membership.

A video-based introduction to the Christian faith, titled "**beginnings**" is designed for seekers and explorers who desire an intentional walk with God that encourages a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Leader training for this course is scheduled at Duncan Memorial UMC in Ashland from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on **Saturday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>**.

Registration is \$100 which includes a planning kit and lunch. Additional members

from the same church will only need to pay \$25.

**Registration deadline is January 29.** Ask your pastor or lay leader or church staff for the brochure with the registration form or contact Ann Davis, Director of Children's Ministries and Discipleship, at 804-521-1100 or 800-768-6040 or email her at [AnnDavis@vaumc.org](mailto:AnnDavis@vaumc.org).)

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Applications are being accepted for the Virginia Annual Conference 2007 Mozambique Pastoral Education Team. The team will both teach and learn about leading rapidly growing churches. Because of the explosive growth of the church in Mozambique, many pastors there have been assigned with minimal training. The curriculum we bring will be the basic Lay Speaking Ministries course. Laity and clergy are both welcome to be a part of the team. Team members must be prepared to both teach and learn, and be willing to teach what they have learned upon returning to Virginia.

The Pastoral Education Team is set for July 16 – August 1, 2007. Team leader is Bob Blinn. The cost for each team member is approximately \$3,000. For more information, contact Rev. Blinn at 276-632-9198 or [blinnrmb@adelphia.net](mailto:blinnrmb@adelphia.net).

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**WELCOMED, NURTURED, TRANSFORMED TO BE CHRIST TO OTHERS!**

## ASHLAND DISTRICT CALENDAR FOR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY, 2007

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>
1/8-10		2008 Conference Ministers' Convocation	VUMAC
1/11	7:30 p.m.	Committee on District Superintendency	District Office
1/15		COLTS Table I Deadline	
1/15	7:30 p.m.	District UMM	Wright's Chapel
1/17	10:00 a.m.	District Committee on Ordained Ministry	District Office
1/20	9:00 a.m.	District UMW Prayer Breakfast	Wright's Chapel
1/25		UM Day @ General Assembly	Richmond, VA
1/31		COLTS Profile/Tables II & III Deadline	
2/3	10:00 a.m.	<i>Beginnings</i> Leader Training	Duncan Memorial UMC
2/5	7:30 p.m.	District UMM	Wright's Chapel
<b>2/10</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>District Leadership Training Event</b>	<b>Caroline High School</b>
2/12	6:00 p.m.	District Council/Board of Laity	Aunt Sarah's, Carmel Church
2/13	9:00 a.m.	District Clergy Meeting	Wright's Chapel
2/15	10:00 a.m.	District Committee on Ordained Ministry	District Office
2/16		Valentine Sweetheart Dinner	UM Center
2/23-25		District Youth Retreat	Eagle Eyre, Lynchburg
2/23-25		Conference 2007 Lay Speakers' Academy	VUMAC
2/24-3/3		District Clergy Mission Trip	D'Iberville, Mississippi
2/24		Conference Safe Sanctuaries Training	UM Center

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