

The Ashland District Connection

Connecting laity and clergy to make disciples of Jesus Christ

Ashland District Virginia Conference

March/April 2007

on the Web at www.ashlanddistrict.org

Mark V. Ogren
District Superintendent
ashlandds@vaumc.org

Lyn Robeson
District Secretary
ashlanddistrict@vaumc.org

John Nelson
District Lay Leader
jnelson@wilddbblue.net

William James
District Chaplain
wajames@comcast.net

District Office: (804) 798-1649

From the DS

Dear Friends,

The Ashland District Leadership Training Event is rescheduled for Saturday, March 24th with registration at 8:30 a.m. at Caroline Middle School – Anna Workman will do the keynote address. On the original date of this February event, we were forced to cancel at 8:55 am with 200 people present when a fire broke out in the projection room of the auditorium. Fortunately, no one was hurt. Spread the word that we are on again for March 24th.

Annual Conference Offerings

Bishop Charlene Kammerer has announced the projects for our 2007 Annual Conference offerings.

Brazil – Children: \$75,000. Children in Brazil will be served by three ministries: Shade and Fresh Water Project, Hospital Boat and Macuxi Indigenous Mission.

Mozambique – Education: \$50,000. Our

support will go to build elementary and vocational schools, girl's dormitories, a women's training center and to offer health and pastoral education.

Russia – Leadership Development: \$25,000. The South Caucus District of the Russia UMC will receive help in campus ministry and District development.

Alaska – Native Americans: \$50,000. Support will go for ministries in Nome (feeding ministry, teen and senior center), Unalaska (fishing village support and outreach), Ketchikan (outreach to unemployed) and Anchorage (ministry to and with immigrant people).

Global AIDS Funds – Health: \$100,000. HIV and AIDS programs in United States and around the world will be helped.

Annual Conference 2007 - Let's Get Growing -

We will have a special Evangelism night at Annual Conference this year. There will also be a special speaker addressing the projected growth and change patterns of our Commonwealth into the near future. Our Bible

Study will focus on "Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World."

Finally – please be in prayer for our churches and pastors during this time of making appointments. This is a spiritual discernment process in which we all listen closely to God and to one another and then trust that the Holy Spirit will give us clear direction for the next steps in order that we might be in step with God's will.

Grace & peace,

Mark



Please forward to 9-12th grade youth who might be interested:

Third Annual Peace with Justice Essay Open to VA Conference Youth

Awards are given to the first (\$250), second (\$150), and third (\$50) place winners. The topic for this year's essay is "War and Rumors of War: Our Challenge to Live in Peace." For more information contact Jessie Askew at 434-821-0520.

Pandemic Flu

It's hard to get concerned about something we have never seen or been through. But maybe we should. Public health officials believe it is only a question of "when" not "if" we have another pandemic flu. "When" could be 5 years or 20 years.

The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates the 1918 Spanish-flu pandemic killed more people in 3 weeks than AIDS has killed in 24 years.

Pandemic means a widespread epidemic of a disease. Avian or bird flu is a candidate to become a pandemic.

WHO has recorded 274 human cases of bird flu. The disease has killed 61% of its victims. The disease has been found in more than 36 countries in Asia, Africa and Europe. It has not jumped to the United States or the Western Hemisphere.

So far, the disease has passed from bird to bird, and occasionally from bird to human. It has not mutated and spread from human to human.

Two health officials would like to provide more info to our churches. Hanover residents contact Becky Lyttle, Pandemic Flu Coordinator for the Chickahominy Health District (804-365-4324). Liane Sowinsk represents the Rappahannock health district. Call her at 540-288-2636.

Conference Programs

March Forth for Children on Friday, March 9 and Saturday, March 10

Registration deadline is Friday, March 2. *March Forth for Children* will focus on mission, ministries and advocacy for and with children. Friday afternoon and evening (2 - 8:30 pm) will include workshops, dinner, special music and a keynote address, "We are One with Christ, We are One with Children," by Bishop Kammerer. Saturday (9 am to 5 pm) will include a variety of workshops. The keynote address on Saturday will be presented by a panel of gifted speakers: Rev. Regina Anderson-Cloud, chair of the Children's Initiative Committee, will speak on issues related to children here in Virginia; Rev. Sally Jo Snyder of the Children's Defense Fund will speak on national issues of concern for children; and Rev. Denise Honeycutt, Virginia Conference Director of Global Missions, will speak on global concerns for children and how the church is in ministry with them. On Saturday there will also be a showcase of curricula for 2007 Vacation Bible School.

The event will be held at Trinity UMC in Richmond at a cost of \$50 for both days or \$30 for one day (meals included are Friday dinner, Saturday lunch, and refreshments during breaks).

To register or for more info, visit the conference Web site at www.vaumc.org (under "Events") or contact Ann Davis (804-521-1138).

A Day Apart in Christian Education on March 29

"Recruiting, Training and Appreciating Volunteer Leaders" will be the focus of this event sponsored by the Virginia Conference Christian Educators Fellowship (CEF) from 10 am to 4 pm at the UM Center in Glen Allen.

- **Recruiting and Training Leaders**
- **A Model for Training Teachers Using the Series "What Every Teacher Needs to Know"**
- **Appreciating and Recognizing Volunteers**
- **Resources**

The cost is \$10 which includes lunch. To register or for more information, see www.vaumc.org (under "Events") or contact Ann Davis (804-521-1138).

April 23-25: Ministering to Families in our Churches and Communities

This retreat at Williamsburg Christian Retreat Center is sponsored by the VA Conference Christian Educators Fellowship (CEF) and open to all persons interested in education, information and age-level ministries.

The retreat will be led by Mary Jane Pierce Norton, Director of Family Ministries at the General Board of Discipleship in Nashville, TN. On Tuesday evening age level workshops will be offered to equip leaders to reach out specifically to children and their families, youth and their families, and older adults and their families.

Cost is \$125 for members and \$150 for nonmembers. Register by April 13. To register or for more information, visit www.vaumc.org (under "Events") or contact Ann Davis at 804-521-1138 or 1-800-768-6040.

UMM

United Methodist Men have scheduled Fellowship Leaders' training (formerly known as Leadership Development Day) for **March 31 at Shady Grove UMC**. Register prior to the event through the VAUMC Web site or contact John Nelson at 540-663-2542 or email at jnelson@wildblue.net.

- The UMM are working to raise funds for Heart Havens. A donor has offered to match \$10,000 if the UMM can raise \$10,000. To help reach this goal, send your Heart Haven donations to UMM treasurer Roy Werner at 712 Culpepper St., Fredericksburg 22405.

From Our Lay Leader

Recently I led a Lay Speaker Class in VA Demographics with 18 Lay Speakers from 14 Districts. Anna Workman, VA Conference Director of Congregational Development/Evangelism/Ethnic Local Church Concerns, presented a presentation entitled: "The Current Reality in America." She asked five important questions for the Church today.

- Who are we?
- What is the purpose of the church?
- Who are the people in our mission field?
- What are their needs?
- What is the needed ministry?

I believe these questions are critical for each of our District churches to answer.

Agape,
John

Motorcycle Ministry

Sunday, March 4, at St. Peter's UMC immediately following the 11 am service, anyone interested in working with this ministry is invited to attend an organizational meeting. You do not have to own or ride a motorcycle to participate. Come and help plan how we can offer another way to make disciples of Christ. Call Dave or Raynelle Ankney at 804-837-7833 or email vulcanrider54@aol.com for more info.

Lent Online

An online Lenten devotional is offered through the VA Conference Web site. "We Are One with Christ, We Are One with Children" is found at www.vaumc.org. Click on "Lenten devotional" on the right side of the page.

Each day has a scripture, a short devotional, a prayer and an action point related to mission and ministries to children around the world. Try using this on your lunch break at work.

News from UMFS

United Methodist Family Services has opened an eight-bed crisis intervention center in Centreville and a new satellite office in Lynchburg specializing in Adoptive Family Preservation.

How can we assist in this Conference ministry? Include UMFS in your confirmation class presentations about United Methodist agencies. Linda Ray will send you informational publications or speak to your confirmation class or host your group on a tour of our Richmond campus. Contact Linda at lray@umfs.org or 804-254-9692.

Include UMFS in your Vacation Bible School. Have a mission speaker or make it one of the focal points of your VBS offering.

In this Lenten season, consider designating UMFS as a topic for your church or private devotions.

Youth Events

- A 4-day event August 5-8 for rising high school sophomores, juniors and seniors to **explore the meaning of Christian vocation** will be held at Randolph Macon.
- The program includes inspirational speakers, small group activities, interaction with college students, Bible study, workshops, and much more.
- Registration is limited to the first 40 applicants.
- Contact Ed Johnson, Jr., associate pastor at Duncan Memorial (804-798-7224 or by email at ed-duncan@mindspring.com).

Summer Internships

Great Bridge UMC offers a children and youth intern position for students 18 or older.

- June 6-August 14 for a 35-hour work week with a stipend.
- Essay is required.
- Contact GBUMC at 201 Stadium Dr., Chesapeake 23322.

Tabernacle UMC in Virginia Beach offers a youth ministry internship.

- June 4-August 24 with stipend
- Housing available
- Contact Tabernacle at 757-426-2396 or email at TabernacleUMC@aol.com.

Project Transformation offers a summer internship for college students.

- June 10-August 10
- Application due March 15
- Coordinates summer day camp programs for children from low-income areas.
- Contact Shaunna at 434-295-2790 or by email at shaunna@ptva.net. See Web site located at www.ptva.net.

Impact Richmond

Register your group for an amazing summer mission experience. 2007 camp weeks are:

- July 1-4 for middle school students
- July 8-14 for middle and high school students
- July 15-21 for middle and high school students
- July 22-28 for high school students
- Contact Casey Torrence at 804-370-3565 or www.impactrichmond.org.



Costa Rica Trip

On January 5-14 ten high school and college students and a few adults from Lebanon and Beaverdam UMC traveled to Costa Rica on an UMVIM trip led by Jason Stanley, youth minister at Lebanon UMC.

Poverty is a reality in Costa Rica. The team spent time working with a small Protestant church, Iglesia Cristiana Luz de un Nuevo Dia, in a shantytown called Los Diques which sits at the base of a volcano that has not been active since the 1970's. In this dry river bed, shacks have been set up using plastic sheeting, corrugated tin, flattened out oil drums or scrap lumber.

Running water is available only a few hours each day. Few homes have electricity. Most have dirt floors.



The team led VBS and spent a day doing repairs on the church including painting and replacing the floor and carpet in the sanctuary.

They will be going back in 2008. If you would like team members to do a program at your church or for more information concerning the 2008 trip, contact Jason at gofishleb@yahoo.com.

One Great Hour of Sharing

Churches will have the opportunity to ensure that UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) can meet its cost of doing business. Methodists are proud to be able to say that 100% of our contributions go to the areas in need of relief. We can say this because we fund UMCOR's operating costs through this annual offering: **"One Great Hour of Sharing" on March 18.**

Call 1-888-346-3862 for materials to share with your congregations. But most of all, give all you can for this special offering.



MFSA

Celebrates

100 Years

Methodist Federation for Social Action is holding its celebration for 100 years of service at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Crystal City, VA, on April 13-15. For more information and to register, go to www.mfsaweb.org.



District Clergy Mission Team

What are our ministers up to? Not only our ministers, but our DS!

Bob Smith and Mark Ogren are leading a clergy mission team to D'Lberville, Mississippi, from February 23 to March 2. Word from the team as we go to press is they are truly working—putting up walls and other real construction.

Special thanks to all of them: Jon Baker, Beth-Marie Barnett, Kerry Boggs, Spencer Broce, Bill Duganne, Charlie Reynolds, Claudia Stallings, Won Un, Paula Werner, Jim Wishmeyer, Mark Ogren and Bob Smith are representing the Ashland District in this UMVIM-sponsored hurricane relief team.

They want to thank all the lay speakers who filled in for them on Sunday, February 25. We look forward to hearing their tales of adventure.

Reminder!

Ashland District Leadership Training has been re-scheduled for Saturday, March 24.

- Same place
 - Caroline Middle School off Route 207 in Caroline County
- Same time
 - 9 am to 12:15 pm
- Same keynote speaker, Anna Workman
- Cokesbury will have a display
- Contact your pastor if you are able to attend



ASHLAND DISTRICT CALENDAR FOR MARCH AND APRIL 2007

Date	Time	Event	Location
3/4-5		Spring PAUMCS Retreat	Williamsburg Retreat Center
3/5	7:30 p.m.	District UMM	Wright's Chapel
3/9-10		March Forth for Children	Trinity UMC, Richmond
3/12	6:00 p.m.	District Council/Board of Laity	Aunt Sarah's, Carmel Church
3/13	9:00 a.m.	District Clergy Meeting	Wright's Chapel
3/22	10:00 a.m.	District Committee on Ordained Ministry	District Office
3/23-25		Confirmation Retreat: A Tribal Experience	Westview on the James
3/24	9:00 am.	District Leadership Training Event	Caroline Middle School
3/24	9:30 a.m.	UMVIM Team Leader Training	St. Stephen's UMC, Burke
3/24-25		Awakening 2007	Randolph-Macon College
3/25	3:00 p.m.	All God's Children Easter Party	Wesley Memorial, Richmond
3/25-27		Conference Elders' Retreat	VUMAC
3/29	10:00 a.m.	A Day Apart in Christian Education	UM Center
3/31	9:00 a.m.	Conference UMMen Fellowship Leader's Training	Shady Grove (H) UMC
4/2	7:30 p.m.	District UMM	Wright's Chapel
4/3	7:00 p.m.	District Board of Missions	District Office
4/12-14		25 th Annual PAUMCS Meeting	Dallas, Texas
4/14	9:00 a.m.	District UMW Day Apart	Aldersgate UMC
4/21-22		Conference Spring Laity Spiritual Growth Retreat	VUMAC
4/23-25		Family Ties: Ministering To Families in Our Churches And Communities	Williamsburg Christian Retreat Center
4/27	6:00 p.m.	District Clergy Spring Fellowship Dinner	Home of Lee & Jeffrey Smith
4/28	10:00 a.m.	Conference Advanced Safe Sanctuaries Training	UM Center
4/30	10:00 a.m.	District Committee on Ordained Ministry	District Office

* PAUMCS = Professional Association of United Methodist Church Secretaries

The Ashland District of
The United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 1808
Ashland, VA 23005

Non-Profit U.S.
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Permit #54
Ashland, VA 23005



Bishop Charlene Kammerer
District Superintendent Mark V. Ogren
District Secretary Lyn Robeson
804-798-1649
www.ashlanddistrict.org