

The Ashland District Connection

*Connecting laity and
clergy to make
disciples of Jesus
Christ*

**Ashland District
Virginia Conference**

July/August 2007

on the Web at www.ashlanddistrict.org

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VIRGINIA CONFERENCE RAISES OVER \$400,000 IN OFFERINGS AND OVER \$600,000 IN MONETARY VALUE OF 37,188 KITS

What wonderful work can be accomplished for God when God's people work together!

Virginia United Methodists gathered in Roanoke from June 10-14 to worship, sing, conduct business, and to elect delegates for general and jurisdictional conferences next year.

In support of our Initiatives of Hope in Russia, Mozambique and Brazil, the total offering stands at \$242,000.

On Wednesday evening after the program and between balloting, Bishop Charlene Kammerer decided to auction off the "Nothing but Nets" decorated basketball to raise money for the malaria-prevention project in Africa. A spirited auction ended with a generous offer of \$1000 and the Bishop could keep the ball! What followed was a God-inspired flurry of pledges and offerings from clergy and laity. Actual cash raised in about an hour was \$25,531 with an additional \$80,000 in pledges. That translates to 10,553 bedding nets for children in Africa to prevent malaria.

On Thursday morning the Youth Service Fund collected \$7,694.

A total of 37,188 kits were delivered at an estimated value of \$600,654 with an additional \$55,000 in checks.

Delegates voted to authorize up to \$9 million to renovate and expand the Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center (VAUMC) in Blackstone.

Delegates also authorized the continuation of the task force studying the initiative put forth at the 2006 Conference to build an additional 250 new churches within the next 30 years.

Several resolutions attempting to change the wording in the discipline relating to the acceptance of new members were defeated. Writers of the resolutions had wanted to have the Conference back these proposed changes thereby allowing them to be brought before the General Conference next year as Virginia Conference resolutions. Delegates voted to retain the wording in *The Book of Discipline* as it currently stands.

The following persons from the Ashland District were elected to the Jurisdictional Conference July 16-19, 2008: laity members Kip Robinson (Lakeside UMC), now serving as Associate Director of SEJ UMVIM in Atlanta, and Larry Tubbs of Fredericksburg UMC; clergy members Elizabeth Givens of Kenwood UMC, Mark Miller of Ebenezer, and Mark Ogren, our Ashland DS.

Never underestimate the power of one.

With God I can do all things!

Let God Be God

MORE CONFERENCE NEWS

The Reverend Trevor Hudson from Johannesburg, South Africa, was our Conference pastor. He delivered three powerful sermons reminding us we are on a journey from willfulness to willingness.

His personal journey in South Africa led him to establish a "Pilgrimage of Pain and Hope" as his country struggled through 12 years of painful reconciliation between white and black South Africans.

The humility he brings to the pulpit is a tribute to his own journey to let God be God.



The Reverend Michael Slaughter scoffed at our desire to start 250 churches in 30 years. He wants 200 new churches in 2 years.

What a story he tells of the small blue-collar community in Ohio where he serves. They moved from being a mega-church to a mission-focused church. He reminded us the number of people in the sanctuary on Sunday is not what matters. Serve the people where you are and numbers will take care of themselves.

They have a church service during the week for the people who use their food bank. And the service is held at the food bank. They have a service for the people in the 12-Step program, held at the same place they hold the 12-Step meetings.

When a church in the state closes, the Bishop calls Michael to see if he wants it. If

they adopt the church, they assign four lay people to serve the community and figure out what needs can be met. After one or two years, one of the lay people will quit their day job and go to licensing school to become a local pastor for the church. That's commitment.

Who needs your ministry? Do you have seniors who are hungry? Do you need to help young families with children? How about the homeless? The abused? Rev. Slaughter challenged us to do as Christ commanded: "to serve the least of these my brethren."



"The Harvest Is Plentiful," presented by Dr. Lovett Weems of Wesley Theological Seminary offered compelling data on the growth patterns of our state. His complete PowerPoint presentation can be found at www.churchleadership.com. Dr. Weems challenged us to reach out to "more people, younger people, and more diverse people." He gave information on four regions of the state—Tidewater, Shenandoah, Capital and Northern Virginia—each containing major pockets of growth and diversity. Virginia needs us!



Come and Worship!

From the DS

Welcome to the District!

- **Robert C. Blinn** will serve Duncan Memorial and is coming from the Danville District. (Bob's wife, The **Rev. Mary Beth Blinn**, will serve Providence UMC on the Richmond District.)
- **Ellen S. Heatwole** (husband - Jim) will serve Forest Grove and is coming from the Richmond District.
- **William R. Freeman** (wife - Claudette) will serve Aldersgate and is coming from the Staunton District.
- **Livingstone S. Dore** (wife - Michele) will serve Chamberlayne Heights and is coming from the Richmond District.
- **Brenda L. Pusso** (husband - Keith) who will serve Epworth and is coming from Wilderness Church on the Ashland District.
- **Keith D. Moore** (wife - Janet) will serve Providence Church and is coming from the Staunton District.
- **Jeri L. Bishop** will serve New Hope and is coming from the Lynchburg District.
- **Theodore Smith** (wife - Teresa) will serve Register Chapel and is coming from the Alexandria District.
- **Colonial Beach UMC** which is served by **James R. Maddox** (wife – Sandy) is transferring from the Rappahannock District.

Fond Farewells!

- **Dwight and Patti Zavitz** will go to serve Belmont on the Richmond District.
- **Rik and Ann Davis** will go to serve Huguenot on the Richmond District.
- **Bill and Karen James** will serve Skipwith on the Richmond District.

- **Charlene Beethoven** will be taking a sabbatical leave for one year.
- **Grant and Marion Bomberger** will be returning to the retired status.
- **Charles and Mindy Reynolds** will go to serve Verona on the Harrisonburg District.
- **Bob and Lee Smith** will serve at Singers Glen on the Harrisonburg District.
- **Jim and Debbie Wishmyer** will serve Leesburg on the Winchester District.
- **Amy and Ed Johnson** will go to Sentara – Norfolk to do hospital chaplaincy (Amy) and to Virginia Beach (Ed) on the Norfolk District.
- **Mary Ann and Chris Buscher** will go to the East Culpeper Charge on the Charlottesville District.

We offer our prayers of love and support for all these families as they continue to serve in Christ's name.

Grace and peace,
Mark

From Our Lay Leader

The 2007 Virginia Annual Conference in Roanoke from June 10 to 14 has come to a close. It was one of the best. I am always excited to go, and look forward to catching up on these friendships.

The opening Worship Service of Remembrance and Holy Communion included some pastors I have known and remember their ministries. Rev. Larry Jent brought the message on Jesus as a 12-year-old as compared to our young people today. The Monday night Ordination Service included many of our district pastors, and I look forward to greeting them and wishing them well. I like to reflect on our faith journeys.

Tuesday night we were treated to Rev. Michael Slaughter of Ginghamburg, Ohio, who presented us with many opportunities for mission and ministry. Michael told us about

MORE ON MISSIONS

The Virginia Conference School of Christian Mission will be held July 27-29 (weekend) and July 30-Aug.2 (weekday), at VUMAC in Blackstone. "Singing across the Walls" is the theme for this year's school where men, women, youth and children will study Music and Mission, Israel and Palestine, and Globalization. Register early to receive your class choice. Deadline to register is July 16. For more information and to register, visit the "Events" section at www.vaumc.org and click on the date.

Lebanon UMC has begun planning its UMVIM trip to Los Diques de Cartago in **Costa Rica**. This year, they are planning on two teams for 9 days each. The first trip is December 28, 2007, through January 5, 2008. The second trip is January 5-13, 2008. The primary project will be to lead a VBS at a small Protestant church, Iglesia Cristiana Luz de un Nuevo Dia. For more information, including an application form, ways to help the mission project, and information about the community, contact Jason Stanley at 804-746-0980 or gofishleb@yahoo.com.

How about a beginners' mission trip?

The Ashland District is sponsoring a trip to Statesville, NC, in a continuing effort to help build energy-efficient affordable housing for low income families. This summer's trip will be July 29-August 4 at the low cost of \$175/person. Some partial scholarships are available for young people (must be at least 16). There is plenty of work even for unskilled workers.

Contact team leader Darrick Hoiska at 540-370-4875 or dhoiska@cox.net. Lyn Robeson at the district office also can sign you up. **You must attend at least one of these training sessions:** Saturday, July 7th, 9 am to noon at Bowling Green UMC or Sunday, July 22, from 2-6 pm also at Bowling Green UMC.

August 25, Saturday night 7:00 pm.
Religious Community Night
Also Hat Night for first 2500 fans
Richmond Braves vs. Charlotte Knights
Tickets: Adults - \$6.00 Seniors (60+) &
Youth (-13) - \$3.50



You Gotta See It

Contact a member of United Methodist Men for tickets. Help us make August 25 a wonderful night of "Fun and Fellowship." Come one, come all! For additional information, contact Ennis Parrish (540- 786-1709).

PLEASE HELP!! MENTORS NEEDED FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN CAMP!

Spend a beautiful summer week at camp with children who need your love. Their mothers are in prison. Most of the children live with relatives, some of which are good situations but many are not. You will have one or two children. All you have to do is commit to one week at camp, accompany the children through the day, stay in cabins with them at night, love them, and stay in touch with them by letters or phone calls during the year. You can change a life. And you don't spend a dime except for your transportation.

- Aug. 4-10, Camp Highland, Middleburg
- Aug. 11-17, Westview on the James
- Aug. 18-24, Occohannock on the Bay, Bell Haven

If you can help change a life, call Ann Davis at 804-521-1138, 800-768-6040 or email her at AnnDavis@vaumc.org.

ASHLAND DISTRICT CALENDAR FOR JULY AND AUGUST, 2007

7/1-7		FredCamp	Fredericksburg
7/2	7:30 p.m.	District UMM	Wright's Chapel UMC
7/3	1:00 p.m.	Closing Early For Independence Day Holiday	District Office
7/3	7:00 p.m.	District Board of Missions	District Office
7/4		Closed For Independence Day Holiday	District Office
7/7	9:00 a.m.	District VIM Team Meeting	Bowling Green UMC
7/8-13		Camp Rainbow Connection	VUMAC
7/8-14		Richmond Metro Workcamp	Richmond
7/9-13		Minister's Convocation	Lake Junaluska, NC
7/18	7:00 p.m.	District Finance Committee	District Office
7/20	6:30 p.m.	District Clergy Welcome Picnic	Poor Farm Park
7/22	2:00 p.m.	District VIM Team Meeting	Bowling Green UMC
7/27-29		Conference School of Christian Mission	VUMAC
7/29	3:00 p.m.	District Steward's Meeting	Wright's Chapel UMC
7/30-8/2		Conference School of Christian Mission	VUMAC
7/29-8/4		District VIM Trip	North Carolina
8/5-8		Exploring Ministry Event	Randolph-Macon College
8/6	7:30 p.m.	District UMM	Wright's Chapel UMC
8/10-11		Conference Disaster Response Academy	VUMAC
8/12	3:00 p.m.	District Charge Conference Set-up Meeting	Wright's Chapel UMC
8/12-17		All God's Children Camp	Westview on the James
8/12-17		Camp Rainbow Connection	VUMAC
8/17-19		Conference Young Women's Weekend	VUMAC
8/24-26		Conference Middle School Mission Weekend	Westview on the James
8/25	7:00 p.m.	District UMM Night at the "Diamond"	Richmond
8/31	1:00 p.m.	Closing Early For Labor Day Holiday	District Office
9/3		Closed For Labor Day Holiday	District Office

**VUMAC—Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center*

The Ashland District of
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