

The Ashland District Connection

Connecting laity and clergy to make disciples of Jesus Christ

Ashland District
Virginia Conference

July/August 2008

on the Web at www.ashlanddistrict.org

Mark V. Ogren
District Superintendent
ashlandds@vaumc.org

Lyn Robeson
District Office Manager
ashlanddistrict@vaumc.org
District Office: (804) 798-1649

Larry Tubbs
District Lay Leader
tubs@verizpn.net

VIRGINIA CONFERENCE APPROVES THE 250 TASK FORCE REPORT AND RAISES OVER \$220,000 IN OFFERINGS PLUS DEDICATING OVER 38,000 KITS

From the Ds

On Monday, June 16, 2008, while meeting in Roanoke Civic Center, the 2008 Annual Conference meeting of the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church approved All Things New.

All Things New is the name for the vision of the Virginia Conference to start 250 new faith communities in 30 years. More than anything else, I believe All Things New is an invitation to change our way of doing church from maintenance to multiplication.

All Things New is about starting new faith communities and about renewing existing churches. Early in our work on the 250 Task Force we recognized that if we are going to start 250 new faith communities everyone – lay and clergy and every church – of all sizes and shapes were going to be invited to move from maintenance to multiplication.

All Things New is:

1. A proclamation of faith in the abundance of God's grace through Jesus Christ.

2. A reclaiming of our United Methodist heritage as a missionary movement of God's Holy Spirit.

3. A vision for spiritual renewal through an invitation for all churches to be fruitful and to multiply.

So let's get started ... Here is one way regarding renewal of our existing churches:

October 3-4 Evangelism Training at Duncan Memorial UMC. "Authentic Outreach" taught by Stuart Holt was offered this past winter at Blackstone and comes highly recommended. The Ashland District Council on Ministries and the Ashland District Board of Laity will co-sponsor this event. Each church is asked to send two representatives who will be trained to repeat this at your local church. The cost for individual books is \$25 per person. Registration will be through the Ashland District Office.

See you there!
Mark

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

From the District¹ Lay Leader

Julie and I are back from the Annual Conference in Roanoke feeling energized by the Bible study, worship services and challenges set before us. Annual Conference adopted the "All Things New" planting seeds for 250 new faith communities over the next 30 years. The 250 Task force has been working 2 years on this proposal and the members of Annual Conference were asked to sign a commitment card of support for the "All Things New" plan. The Ashland District, being one of the fastest growing Districts, will have many opportunities to plant seeds of faith over the next 30 years.

Deech Kirk, executive director of the Center for Youth Ministry Training in Nashville, told us young people are not being "touched by our faith in a way that makes a difference in their lives." As a result, he said they are inarticulate about their faith. What young people **do** want is an authentic faith community. "It's time for the church to reclaim testimony." Young people want to hear "this is how God changed my life," or "I experienced God this week by"....

What a segue into what the Ashland District has planned for Friday, October 3rd and Saturday, October 4th at Duncan Memorial in Ashland. Please mark your calendar now for these two dates. Stuart Holt from The Evangelism Institute will be leading us through a style of sharing our faith in Christ in a way that is non-threatening, non-argumentative, and builds true friendships. This course, **Authentic Outreach**, was held last fall at VUMAC and was well received by those who attended. Clergy and laity are both encouraged to attend this training. Please call Lyn at the district office to sign up for this course. (1 Peter 3:15 NIV)

Go Fish!
Larry

How about a beginners' mission trip?

A week-long mission trip is being organized to Statesville, NC, the week of August 3-9, 2008, to help with the building of new homes that are sold to deserving families at a low cost. The construction projects are the work of the Wesley Community Development Corporation, an arm of the United Methodist Western Conference.

The construction is done by volunteers, working with professional oversight. No experience is needed—just a willing heart and helpful hands. Each team member will be asked to contribute \$150.00 to cover the cost of transportation and living expenses for the week. Housing will be provided. Volunteers must be at least 15 years of age. A team planning meeting will be held at Fredericksburg UMC on Sunday, July 13th, at 2:00 pm. Anyone interested in taking advantage of this mission opportunity should contact Gary Gross (540-786-8060) or Phil Haynes (540-891-8849).

Your Virginia United Methodist Credit

Union knows that you are looking for ways to offset rising fuel costs. We can help.

- **Hybrid Car Loan Special-** Rates as low as **4.75% APR.**
- **Church Vans and Buses-** Quick approval, excellent rates and **terms up to 8 years.**
- **Refinance** the vehicle loan that you currently have with another financial institution at a rate **2% less** than your current rate down to a minimum of **5.50% APR.**

Visit us online at www.vumcu.org or contact our loan department at 866-657-0004. Credit restrictions apply. Membership open to all Virginia United Methodist churches and church members within the Annual Conference.

Let's get growing!
More people! More diverse people!
More young people!

Another Training Opportunity

To help your congregation find more ways to welcome everyone, consider attending the "Living Our Promise" Igniting Ministry training on Saturday, September 20th from 9 am to 3 pm at Shady Grove UMC, 8209 Shady Grove Road, Mechanicsville.

"Pastors, church leaders, laypersons — anyone interested in reaching out to the unchurched in your community — should attend this training," said Linda Rhodes, Conference director of Communications. "If you've never participated in Igniting Ministry training, this event will help your church get started in reaching out to the unchurched in your community. If you're already involved with Igniting Ministry or have attended a training session, this event will provide opportunities to learn additional welcoming and marketing techniques plus ways to develop an image identity for your church."

Cost is \$40 per congregation, regardless of how many attend from a single church, plus \$10 per participant to cover lunch and snacks.

To register online, visit the Conference Web site, www.vaumc.org, click on "events" and then the date. Or download the registration form, complete it and mail it with a check or credit card information to the Communications Office, Virginia United Methodist Conference, P.O. Box 1718, Glen Allen, VA 23060. Or call 1-800-768-6040, ext. 110, and give Peggy Cribbs your credit card information. Registration deadline is Friday, Sept. 12.

Welcome to Our New District Administrative Assistant!

No, Lyn Robeson has not left. She has been promoted to Office Manager and is pleased to introduce our new part-time administrative assistant, Lynn Manley. Lynn is working 10 hours a week in the district office. She is married and has two children. Her email address is lynnmanley@vaumc.org. We are very pleased to have her assisting both Lyn Robeson and Mark Ogren.

Youth Advocates for Christ

Register now for a leadership training opportunity for your youth ministry August 1-3 at VAUMC in Blackstone. Youth Advocates for Christ is a weekend to train youth to be strong leaders and to help develop visions and goals for the coming school year. The weekend is guaranteed to strengthen your youth ministry. Cost is \$100 per participant which includes program, lodging with linens, meals and resources.

For more information and to register go to www.vaumc.org/youth and see info under YAC. Or call Becky Tate at 804-521-1139 or email at beckytate@vaumc.org.

Speaking of Youth

All God's Children Camp is in need of help getting campers to and from camp, as mentors who will participate with their assigned children in the week's activities, and for scholarship funds (\$300 per camper). These campers are children whose mothers are incarcerated. These are the dates:

- August 3-5 at Camp Highroad in Middleburg
- August 10-15 at Westview on the James
- August 17-22 at Occohannock on the Bay

If you or your church can help, contact Ann Davis at 800-768-6040 ext. 138 or email her at AnnDavis@vaumc.org.

Do You Know Your Church Children?

At Annual Conference Deech Kirk, executive director of the Center for Youth Ministry Training in Nashville, challenged each one of us to get to know at least 7 of our church youth. Know not just their name, but what grade they are in and what are some of their favorite things to do. Make sure we are sharing our faith with our youth!

ASHLAND DISTRICT CALENDAR FOR JULY AND AUGUST, 2008

*VUMAC—Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center

Date	Time	Event	Location
7/1	7:00 p.m.	District Board of Missions	District Office
7/2		Pastor Moving Day	
7/3	12:00 p.m.	Closing Early for 4 th of July Holiday	District Office
7/4		Closed for 4 th of July Holiday	District Office
7/6-12		FredCamp	Fredericksburg
7/6-12		Richmond Metro Workcamp	Richmond
7/7	6:30 p.m.	ADYC	Shady Grove (H) UMC
7/7	7:30 p.m.	District UMM	Wright's Chapel UMC
7/7-10		Ministry Summit	Lake Junaluska, NC
7/8	7:00 p.m.	District Lay Speaking Committee	District Office
7/9	7:00 p.m.	District Finance Committee	District Office
7/11	6:00 p.m.	District Clergy Welcome Picnic	Poor Farm Park, Ashland
7/13	2:00 p.m.	District VIM Team Meeting	Fredericksburg UMC
7/13-18		Camp Rainbow Connection	VUMAC
7/16-19		Jurisdictional Conference	Lake Junaluska, NC
7/22-23		Probationer Residency Event	VUMAC
7/25-27		School of Christian Mission	VUMAC
7/27	3:00 p.m.	District Stewards' Meeting	Wright's Chapel UMC
7/28-31		School of Christian Mission	VUMAC
8/1-3		Youth Advocates for Christ	VUMAC
8/3-5		<i>Are You Listening? Hearing God's Call</i>	Randolph-Macon College
8/3-9		District VIM Trip	Statesville, NC
8/7	7:00 p.m.	District Board of Church Location & Building	TBA
8/8-9		Lay Supply Pastor Orientation	VUMAC
8/10	3:00 p.m.	District Charge Conference Set-up Meeting	Wright's Chapel
8/10-15		Camp Rainbow Connection	VUMAC
8/15-16		Conference Disaster Response Academy	VUMAC
8/15-17		Conference UMW Young Women's Weekend	VUMAC
8/22-24		Middle School Mission Weekend I	Westview on the James
8/23	9:30a.m.	Older Adult Ministry Workshop	Ebenezer UMC
8/29	12:00 p.m.	Closing Early for Labor Day Holiday	District Office

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

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



Bishop Charlene Kammerer
District Superintendent Mark V. Ogren
District Office Manager Lyn Robeson
District Administrative Assistant, Lynn Manley
District chaplains:
Claudia Stallings, beaverdamumc@embarqmail.com
Robert Lewandowski, revboblew@wwink.net
Newsletter Editor Kate Cook, katecook@bealenet.com



Ashland District Moves 2008

At this time of year we acknowledge the services of our pastors who are moving to new positions and welcome the pastors who are coming to the Ashland District to serve in our churches. We wish God's blessings upon you all.

N. Burton Brooks (Florence) from Extension Ministry as Executive Director of Church Funding Associates

to:

Norfolk District – Baylake UMC

James Maddox (Sandy) from Colonial Beach

to:

Norfolk District – Saint John's UMC

Beth-Marie Barnett Helmbrecht (Bruce) from Shiloh (H)

to:

Ashland District – Colonial Beach UMC

Jeffrey Smith (Lee) from Shady Grove/Olivet Charge

to:

Charlottesville District – Orange Circuit – Bethlehem and Salem

Bret-Ashton Gresham (Erin) from Enon

to:

Harrisonburg District – Asbury UMC Harrisonburg as Associate

Glenn Williams from Mt. Hermon Assistant
to:
Retirement

Coming to Ashland District

Shiloh: Larry Erbin from Middleburg UMC – Winchester

Shady Grove/Olivet: Fred Marvel (Carol) from Rockingham Court– Roanoke
District

Enon: Kang Uk Lee (Ji Young) from Dunn Loring – Arlington District

McKendree: Jim Porter (Elizabeth) from Basset Memorial – Danville District

Mt. Hermon Assistant –Janie Nickle – Ashland District

Special Note

Greenwood/Laurel Park will be yoked effective July 1, 2008

Dean Pittman – Pastor

Mary Ann Googins – Minister of Discipleship

District Clergy Picnic

All district clergy and their families are invited to welcome our new clergy families at the Ashland District Clergy Welcome Picnic on Friday, July 11th at 6 pm at the Poor Farm Park Shelter #1. Bring your lawn chairs. Dress casual. Food and drinks will be provided. Please rsvp to the District Office (804-798-1649).