

The Ashland District Connection

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

**Ashland District
Virginia Conference**

March/April 2009

on the Web at www.ashlandvaumc.org

Mark V. Ogren
District Superintendent
ashlandds@vaumc.org

Lyn Robeson
Office Manager
ashlanddistrict@vaumc.org

Lynn Manley
Administrative Assistant
LynnManley@vaumc.org

Larry Tubbs
District Lay Leader
TubbsL@verizon.net

District Office: (804) 798-1649

From the DS

Dear Friends,

5 Talent Academy Opening Conference

This event will be held on Monday, March 30, 2009, from 10 – 3:00 p.m. at Ebenezer UMC here on the Ashland District and is open to all – clergy and laity – who are considering being a part of the 5 Talent Academy.

YOU WILL RECALL – that our annual conference vision called “All Things New” is an invitation to start 250 new faith communities over the next 30 years. We will do that in two ways: by starting new faith communities and by renewing our existing churches. The 5 Talent Academy is about renewing our existing churches.

The 5 Talent Academy has offered the following challenge goals to all who participate:

1. **Ministry with the Poor:** 10% of annual giving ministry with the poor.
2. **Worship:** 5% annual increase in average worship attendance.
3. **Faith Development:** Small group participation represents 50% of average worship attendance.
4. **Stewardship:** 10% annual increase in giving.
5. **Evangelism:** Professions of faith represent 10% of average worship attendance.

It is my prayer and hope that every church on the Ashland District will send your pastor and lay leaders to this informational event to learn more about being part of the 5 Talent Academy. You may register online at www.vaumc.org. For more information, see the article on page 2.

Hope to see you there!

*Grace and peace,
Mark*

More on the 5 Talent Academy

The 5 Talent Academy is excited to invite you to our opening event on March 30th, at Ebenezer UMC in Stafford from 10:00 to 3:00. This will be an inspirational and challenging day for all individuals and congregations who are excited to take the next step in mission and ministry. Our time will be opened and led by Jorge Acevedo, pastor and leader from the Florida Conference. Jorge has brought an innovative style to his ministry that has helped to move the church he serves from 30 to 1000 in weekly attendance. One of the church's signature statements is "send us the people that nobody else wants..." Jorge will challenge and encourage us as to how we can be even more faithful stewards of the congregations we serve.

At our gathering, you will also have the opportunity to hear more specifically about the 5 Talent Academy. The leadership team will be there to share their vision and invitation for each congregation to join in this adventure. All are invited and we especially encourage pastors and at least one lay person in leadership to attend. Space is limited and will be on a first come, first served basis. Cost is \$25.00. Register online at the Conference website. If you have questions, contact Peter Moon at pmoon@woodlakeumc.org, Anna Workman at annaworkman@vaumc.org or call Pat Hickman at 804-521-1155.

From Your District Lay Leader

In 2nd Corinthians 5:20 it says that we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ; be reconciled to God.

You don't hear the word **entreat** very often, but I like the meaning of the word. It means "to ask earnestly for something," beseech, implore, to make an earnest request or petition. To be an **Ambassador**, you are a diplomatic official of the highest rank sent on a special mission, an authorized messenger.

The real mystery of God's calling is that God sees qualities in each of us that may make little sense to us. Once in a while something—or someone—surprises us and puts us on a new path. Can you recall a time when your life was changed by a surprise?

I believe that time is now with our conference vision of "All Things New." We are invited as church leaders to lead the visioning and revitalization of our local churches; we are to encourage and support our churches as we become more fruitful and multiply. This applies not only to our churches, but to each of us. Let us pursue our desire to be the best visionary leaders we can be.

I would encourage you to attend as many training events as possible to better understand "All Things New" so that you can be the ambassador for Christ at the local church. Please plan to attend the 5 Talent Academy noted in the article above.



Larry Tubbs
Go Fish

District Opportunities

Safe Sanctuaries

Basic Class: March 14th at the United Methodist Center in Glen Allen

At this one-day training event (10 am-4 pm), workshop leaders will define types of child abuse and neglect, highlight the abuser's profile, identify areas of vulnerability within church programs, and discuss policies and procedures to reduce the risk of child abuse and neglect in the local church. Participants will be equipped with resources to lead a similar training event in their own church for youth teachers and workers.

Advanced Class: March 21st at Williamsburg UMC

At this one-day training event (10 am-4 pm), workshop leaders will explore issues of child/youth abuse and safety related to the Internet; how to incorporate new policies and procedures with the use of computers, the Internet and cell phones into existing child/youth protection policies; screening of volunteers with national background checks; steps needed to be able to safely welcome released sex offenders into the church, and a sharing of "success" stories and best practices.

Cost for both classes is \$25 per person which includes lunch and resources. For more information or to register go to the Conference Web site (www.vaumc.org) at "Events" link on the date or call Ann Davis at 800-768-6040, ext. 138.

Day of Listening

At the 2008 General Conference, 32 amendments to the church constitution were approved. In order for the amendments to become church law, they must be ratified by a two-thirds vote of the members of all the annual conferences. A "Yes" or "No" vote will be taken on each amendment at the 2009 Virginia Annual Conference, meeting June 14-17, 2009, in Norfolk, Virginia. Key issues in the amendments include voting rights for local pastors, reorganizing the world-wide church into regional conferences and redefining the inclusiveness of the church.

Each "Day of Listening" will begin at 9 am and conclude with Holy Communion at 1 pm. Everyone is welcome. Clergy and lay conference delegates are especially urged to attend. Three dates are scheduled:

March 7th at Heritage UMC in Lynchburg

March 21st at New Town UMC in Williamsburg

March 28th at Culpeper UMC in Culpepper

For more information, contact Robert C. Blinn (804-798-7224 or

Robert.blinn@duncanmemorialumc.org) or David V. Ford (757-258-1072 or pastor@newtownumc.org)

Virginia United Methodist Credit Union

In 2008, the Virginia United Methodist Credit Union's church loans ranged from \$6000 to over \$2.7 million. Contact us first when your church needs to **refinance current debt** or is seeking loans for **renovations, new construction, vans, buses or parsonages**. Contact Mike Haydon at 866-657-0004 or mhaydon@vumcu.org.



TEAM LEADER TRAINING

Three Mission Team Leader training sessions are being held this spring: **March 14th** at Manor Memorial UMC at 9320 North Congress St. in New Market on the Harrisonburg District, **March 28th** at Dranesville UMC at 1089 Liberty Meeting Ct. in Herndon on the Arlington District, and **April 25th** at Fox Hill Central in Hampton. The cost is \$10 plus the Team Leader Handbook that can be ordered from www.umvim.org, click on "About UMVIM" and then scroll down to VIM Store. The handbook is the first item listed. The cost of the handbook is \$26 which includes shipping and handling. In order to lead a team, you must attend a training session.

All sessions will begin at 9 am for registration and light refreshments with dismissal by 3:30. The \$10 check should be payable to **Virginia Conference** and covers the cost of lunch. Registration deadline is the Monday before the session.

To register for any of these go to the Virginia Conference Web site www.vaumc.org and click on "Ministries" then scroll down to "UMVIM" then click on "Training" on the left side of the page. There you will find two ways to register as well as a map with directions to the church.

For more information, contact Keith Mottley at pastorkm@shentel.net or 540-740-8959.

MISSION TEAM OPPORTUNITIES

An Ashland District Mission Trip to Statesville, NC, is scheduled for May 3-9, 2009. The mission team will be working with the Wesley Community Development Corporation (WCDC) to help build affordable housing. The cost of the trip is estimated to be \$150.00. WCDC provides lodging for the team. This is a good mission opportunity for first-timers. Both skilled and unskilled team members are welcome. Co-leaders for the mission trip are Gary Gross, Tabernacle UMC, and Phil Haynes, Fredericksburg UMC. The photo below shows some activity from the 2008 trip to WCDC. For more information and to become a team member, please contact Gary at 540-786-8060 or by e-mail at garlind68@comcast.net, or Phil at 540-891-8849 or by e-mail at conradp1@verizon.net.



TWO HURRICANE RECOVERY TRIPS ARE FORMING

Teens 14 and older are being recruited by the First United Methodist Church in Baton Rouge, LA. They created the Terrebonne Area Restoration Project (TARP) to provide an opportunity for young people to help the people of South Louisiana recover from Hurricane Gustav that made landfall in Terrebonne Parish. Youth are being asked to dedicate one week of their summer to work on repairing roofs, floors, siding and lots of other needs. TARP begins June 14th.

For more information contact Laurie Byland, TARP Director, at 225-383-4777 x255 or email at www.thebluetarp.com. Encourage your youth groups to respond.

An adult team is being recruited by Beaverdam UMC of the West Hanover Charge for a hurricane recovery trip to Camp Love in Biloxi, Mississippi. Skilled and unskilled volunteers are needed including senior citizens. On the trip in 2008, two senior-aged women, both with arthritis, volunteered and will likely go again this year. Cost will be about \$350-400. For more information, contact the pastor, Claudia Stallings at 804-449-6794 or www.beaverdamumc@embarqmail.com.

INTERNATIONAL TRIPS

Two international trips are available according to the UMVIM Southeastern Jurisdictional office in Georgia. Currently volunteers are needed to help finish a church in La Union, Mexico. An interesting and appealing side benefit of working in this location is that teams are housed in a beautiful, comfortable hacienda built in 1585. Local host Fernando Martinez is efficient and experienced in receiving UMVIM teams. All interested persons should contact Joe Hamilton who has led multiple teams to this site (770-630-4846 or joe@newcovumc.com).

The Eastern Caribbean Island of St. Lucia is seeking assistance in 2010. An old building next to the Castries Methodist Church needs to be demolished and a new building constructed. For more information, contact Rev. C. Stilson Cato at juditha_c@hotmail.com.

UM FOUNDATION RICKARD SCHOLARSHIP

Ten \$1000 scholarships are available from the Virginia United Methodist Foundation for young persons of the Virginia Conference who are preparing for fulltime church-related vocations. Applicants may be graduating high school seniors or current college or seminary students between the ages of 17 and 30. Applicants must be nominated by their local pastor or campus minister or chaplain. Applications are available from the district office or Web at foundation@vaumc.org.

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

Ashland District Calendar March/April 2009

Date	Time	Event	Location
3/2	7:30 p.m.	District UMM	Wright's Chapel UMC
3/3-4		Order of Deacon Retreat	Richmond Hill
3/3-7		Hispanic/Latino Leaders Retreat	Lake Junaluska
3/5-7		Clergy Spouses Retreat	VUMAC
3/9	6:00 p.m.	District Council/Board of Laity Combined Meeting	Aunt Sarah's, Carmel Church
3/10	9:30 a.m.	District Clergy Association	Wright's Chapel UMC
3/14	10:00 a.m.	Basic Safe Sanctuaries Training	UM Center
3/24	9:30 a.m.	District Committee on Ordained Ministry	District Office
3/27-28		Restless Hearts: Where Do I Go Now, God	Williamsburg UMC
3/28		Conference UMMen Leader's Training	TBA
3/29-30		PAUMCS Spring Event	VUMAC
3/30	10:00 a.m.	5 Talent Academy Kick-Off Event	Ebenezer UMC
4/2	7:00 p.m.	District Board of Church Location & Building	TBA
4/6	7:30 p.m.	District UMM	Wright's Chapel UMC
4/9	12:00 p.m.	Closing Early	District Office
4/10		Closed for Good Friday Observance	District Office
4/14	9:30 a.m.	Tri-district Clergy Meeting	Shady Grove (H) UMC
4/18	9:00 a.m.	District UMW Day Apart	Duncan Memorial UMC
4/18-19		Conference Spiritual Growth Retreat	VUMAC
4/23	10:00 a.m.	Clergy Reporting of Child Abuse & Neglect	UM Center
4/25	9:00 a.m.	Responding to Family Violence	United Methodist Family Services
4/28	9:30 a.m.	District Committee on Ordained Ministry	District Office
4/28-30		Wesleyan Building Brothers Male Leadership Experience	VUMAC
4/30-5/3		PAUMCS 27 th Annual Conference	Des Moines, Iowa

The Ashland District of
The United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 1808
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@wink.net
Newsletter Editor Kate Cook, katecook@bealenet.com

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