

The Ashland District Connection

Connecting laity and clergy to make disciples of Jesus Christ

**Ashland District
Virginia Conference**

September/October 2007 on the Web at www.ashlanddistrict.org

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LET'S GET GROWING!

EVANGELISM WORKSHOP

In response to the Virginia Conference evangelism focus, **Let's Get Growing: Responding to the Challenge**, a workshop will be offered Tuesday, October 16th from 9:30 am to 3 pm at Tabernacle UM Church at 7310A Old Plank Road in Fredericksburg. Most of us have friends and neighbors who are un-churched, but we are hesitant to approach them to share our story of the wonderful love of God.

Come with a group from your church and learn how to reach out. Clergy and laity both are invited.

Registration is \$45 and covers lunch and materials. If you have three or more attending, take one-third off the price. To register, go to the Web site www.FourSeasonsMinistry.org or send this information (name, address, phone number, email and indicate if CEU is desired) and a check to Four Seasons Ministry, 3140 Waterton Dr., Midlothian, VA 23113 by October 1st. For questions, call Rev. Franklin Gillis, Jr., at 804-272-3313 or fgillis@fourseasonsministry.org.

From Your Ds

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I pray your summer has gone well and that you have had some time for rest and renewal.

Often when I am seeking direction from God on how the good Lord wants me to serve, I ask myself, "Will this next step require God or is this a step that I feel confident on my own to take?" If I feel confident on my own then I am usually sure

that God would want me to do something else. As you might imagine this spiritual discernment process involves asking whether or not I am comfortable for I believe God calls us outside our comfort zones. This process also forces me to question if I want God to guide or if I want to be in charge. Again I know I want God to guide me; it's just hard to give up control.

The bottom line for me has become my own spiritual conclusion: I do not want to be in charge. I want God to be in charge which usually means I must face a certain level of anxiety or fear that means I am out of my comfort zone. Finally, I have concluded I want to be part of something that will only happen if God is guiding the process.

I share my own spiritual discernment process with you in hope that it will be helpful as you consider your next steps especially as it relates to our Annual Conference theme – "Let's Get Growing". Often we must take the steps to prepare for folks we want to welcome even before they come as a way to show true Christian hospitality. We can expect to make some mistakes but we should never be afraid to fail – we should only fear that we would never try.

You remain in my prayers. Please never doubt my love for each of you and how proud I am of your witness.

**Grace and peace
Mark**

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

Lay Speaking Classes

Do you have an interest in becoming a lay speaker? Do you need re-certification as an advanced applicant? If you answer yes to either question, contact Chris White at 804-730-9763 or by email at chriswhite9279@comcast.net for an application.

Classes will be held at Ladysmith Elementary School on Saturday, October 20th, from 8:30 am to 5 pm and on Sunday, October 21st from 1:30-4 pm. Get to Ladysmith by taking exit 110 off I-95, head west on Route 639 (Ladysmith Road), cross over U.S. route 1 and the school will be on your left.

The class for beginning speakers will be taught by Rev. Robb Almy, pastor at New Season UMC. It will focus on leading, caring and communicating.

Advanced students have the choice of "Sharing God's Story in the Pulpit," led by Rev. Jim Chandler, pastor at New Song UMC or "Leading in Worship" by Rev. Charles Swadley, pastor of Lakeside UMC. The former class is designed for laity who substitute for ministers in the pulpit. The latter class is directed to those who lead congregations in worship by helping to understand corporate worship, learning how to plan worship and developing practical skills.

Cost is \$25. Lunch will be provided.

ACADEMY OF SERVANT LEADERSHIP

The Board of Laity is again sponsoring this 3-day event to be held at the Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center (VUMAC) on February 29-March 2, 2008, and March 2-4, 2008. The Academy is open to clergy and laity (especially those new to leadership positions) in either session. CEU credit and re-certification for Certified Lay Speakers is offered for both sessions. If you have always wanted to know more about Jesus' leadership style, then you need to attend this Academy. It is based on the Beatitudes and will help you learn more about being a servant leader. The Academy is led by Dr. Evelyn Laycock, one of the most sought after Bible teachers of our time. She is assisted by Zane Scott, Victor Dingus, and our own Rev. Al Horton.

Each session is limited to 50 people so register early by going to www.vaumc.org and selecting "Events," then searching by date, or you may get a brochure by calling Ginny Chambers at 800-768-6040, ext. 153.

Ashland District UMM

Induction of new officers will take place at the annual meeting of the Ashland District United Methodist Men at Wright's Chapel in Ladysmith on October 27th from 10 am to 1 pm with lunch provided. The program will also include music and a speaker. Even if you do not have a UMM chapter at your church, but would like to meet other Christian men, come to Ladysmith and join in the fellowship.

From Our Lay Leader

Charge Conference Season is coming soon when we celebrate the many ministries and missions of our congregations during 2007 and the plans for 2008.

Rev. Keith Boyette addressed the Virginia Annual Conference in June saying that Wilderness Community Church has taken in more than 30 new Christians on profession of faith in the last year. He said our area has grown, and that many of these persons have not been invited to be disciples of Jesus Christ. He feels passionately that all Virginia United Methodist Christians need to invite more disciples of Christ. To support his passion, the Census estimates have shown our district population has grown from 330,000 in 1990, to 513,000 last year, a growth of 183,000 new persons in our community. It is projected to grow to 593,000 by 2011 for an additional 80,000 new persons.

Our churches have grown, but have not kept pace with the area population growth. In 2000 our District had 6097 average worship attendance, 396 professions of faith, and 2832 in average Sunday School attendance. In 2005 we had 7348 average worship attendance, 470 professions of faith, and 3064 in average Sunday School attendance. The District has grown some each year, and the district population has grown from 438,409 in 2000 to 513,571 in 2006.

As Rev. Boyette passionately requested, we need to continue to grow in our Christian disciple making by inviting our new neighbors, co-workers and friends to a relationship with us and Jesus Christ. As we celebrate our many ministries and missions this year, let us join together and commit to make more disciples of Christ in the coming days and weeks.

**Agape,
John**

UMVIM

United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) are everywhere. If you are interested in going on a local, national or international team to help others, please call or email the editor (804-448-2622 or katecook@bealenet.com or Rev. Keith Mottley, Virginia Conference UMVIM coordinator at 540-740-8959). Within the next 6 months there are teams going to Kansas, Mississippi, Louisiana, Ecuador, Peru, Cuba as well as many other locations. Costs vary and can be supported by fundraisers in your church. You don't have to be proficient at building. All you need is love for your neighbors wherever you are. Here are some of the trips:

Mississippi: Wright's Chapel in Ladysmith is leading a team for hurricane repair soon. Call the church office (804-448-1251) for more info.

Kansas: The May 2007 category 5 tornado destroyed Greensburg and surrounding counties. All skill levels are needed from professionals to non-skilled. Volunteers must be at least 16. Contact the UM Recovery Center in Haviland, Kansas (umcrecovery@kswestumc.org or 620-862-5422) for more information.

Peru: Wilderness UMC is forming a medical team to continue their work with the Quechua Church in the Andes Mountains from October 20-28. If you are interested in participating even if you are not a medical professional, call Becky Van Renan (540-972-9264).

Cuba: A March trip is planned. Call the UMVIM office in Georgia for more info (404-377-7424.)

Here is an article from a trip this summer to Statesville, NC, to assist the Wesley Community Development Corporation with building homes for low income families.

Eleven members from the Ashland District both skilled and unskilled spent a week working on two houses, one of which needed siding applied and then wrapped with Tyvec and the other house needing floor joists, flooring, and walls. They managed all of that in one week.

One of the homes was for a single father and his daughter. They visited the team at the work site with Dad pitching in to help. His daughter shared her excitement with the team. The lady who would be moving in the other house set up a table with water, tea and treats for the team. According to Derrick Hoiska from New Hope UMC, the team was

blessed by their presence. They were also blessed with good weather, thanks be to God!



Team members in addition to Derrick include Pat Acors and Dottie Mason from Rehoboth UMC; Tammy Bristow from Providence UMC; Carolyn and co-leader John Nelson from Dahlgren UMC; and Matt and Mike Ballard, Sue Hoiska, Mary Frame and Greg Sokolowski from New Hope UMC. Congratulations to all!

FLOOD BUCKETS NEEDED!
For contents and instructions go to
www.umcor.org.

HEALTH CARE FOR ALL
Saturday, October 6th
10 am-3:30 pm
Ivy Creek UMC
Charlottesville, VA

With an unprecedented health care crisis looming, the Virginia Conference Board of Church and Society, Board of Global Ministries, UM Women, and the Methodist Federation for Social Action are bringing in Dr. Ross Isaacs, MD, Associate Director of the Center for Health Disparities at UVA, and Linda Hanna Walling, Executive Director for Faithful Reform in Health Care from Cleveland, OH, for a day-long conference.

Cost is only \$20 which covers all materials, refreshments and lunch. Mail check payable to VA Conference UMC with HCFA event on the memo to Becky Breeding, 875 Bailey Road, Ft. Defiance, VA 24437. Include your name, phone, church name and district. Deadline: September 29th.

CHILDREN'S SABBATH
October 21

"My boat is so small: Creating a safe harbor of hope and health care for all children"

Ashland District Calendar for September and October 2007

Date	Time	Event	Location
9/6	7:00 p.m.	District Nominations	Wright's Chapel UMC
9/8	1:30 p.m.	Harvest Prayer Walk	Margaret Brent Elem., Stafford
9/10	6:00 p.m.	District Council/Board of Laity Combined Meeting	Aunt Sarah's, Carmel Church
9/10	7:30 p.m.	District UMM	Wright's Chapel UMC
9/11-12		District Clergy Retreat	Camp Hanover, Mechanicsville
9/13	10:00 a.m.	District Committee on Ordained Ministry	District Office
9/14-15		Bishop's Convocation on Religion and Race	Williamsburg UMC
9/15-16		Kids Workcamp	Westview on the James
9/20	7:00 p.m.	District Board of Church Location and Building	District Office
9/21	9:00 a.m.	9 th Annual Heart Havens Golf Tournament	Lee's Hill Golf Club, F'burg
9/21	10:00 a.m.	Created by God	UM Center
9/22	10:00 a.m.	Children in Worship	Duncan Memorial UMC
9/23	3:00 p.m.	District UMW 35 th Annual Meeting	Bowling Green
9/28-30		Conference Adult Youth Workers' Academy	Eagle Eyrie
9/29	9:30 a.m.	"It Won't Always Be This Way!"	Regester Chapel UMC
10/1	7:30 p.m.	District UMM	Wright's Chapel UMC
10/2	7:00 p.m.	District Board of Missions	District Office
10/4	10:00 a.m.	Where is God in the midst of Suffering?	Regester Chapel UMC
10/6	10:00 a.m.	Health Care for All! Event	Ivy Creek UMC, Charlottesville
10/9	9:30 a.m.	District Clergy Association	Wright's Chapel UMC
10/12-14		Discover God's Call	VUMAC
10/13	9:30 a.m.	Faith Journeys Sunday School Training	Trinity UMC, Richmond
10/16	9:30 a.m.	Let's Get Growing: Responding to the Challenge	Tabernacle UMC
10/18	10:00 a.m.	District Committee on Ordained Ministry	District Office
10/20-21	See article	District Lay Speakers' Seminar	Ladysmith Elem., Ladysmith
10/21	3:00 p.m.	Water in the Desert	Regester Chapel UMC
10/26-28		Conference UMW 35 th Annual Meeting	VUMAC
10/27	10:00 a.m.	District UMM Annual Meeting	Wright's Chapel UMC
10/30	6:30 P.M.	Bishop's Scouting Dinner	St. Mark's UMC, Midlothian

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