

The Ashland District Connection

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

**Ashland District
Virginia Conference**

November/December 2009

on the Web at www.ashlandvaumc.org

Mark V. Ogren
District Superintendent
ashlanddds@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,

We have several exciting events that you will not want to miss coming up in the next few months. They are:

Ashland District Conference – Sunday, November 15th, at New Season UMC. Our keynote speaker will be Shirley Cauffman, our Virginia Conference Lay Leader. Her topic will be Leadership for Today's Church. Shirley has a powerful testimony to give and she is a person of deeds not just words.

Our location will be in the Four Mile Fork Shopping Center at the corner of Route 1 and Courthouse Road (Route 208). This is the new location for New Season UMC (a new church start in 2005) and you will find the church in this shopping center.

Ashland District Leadership Training Event – Saturday, January 9, 2010, at Ebenezer UMC in Stafford, Virginia. Our keynote presentation will feature a thank you from Roy Helm who is the director of the Statesville Housing Ministry that so many of our Ashland District VIM teams have worked in over the last few years.

In addition, the usual number of workshops will be featured that offer training for: SPRC, Lay Leader, Finance, Stewardship, Children, Youth and Young Adults.

Ashland District Clergy – Stop Hunger Now Event – Tuesday, January 12, 2010. The Ashland District Clergy will be doing a 10,000 meal packaging event for *Stop Hunger Now* for the January meeting. Each of your pastors have been given \$20 and asked to multiply that amount (note Matthew 25: 14-30 for the *Parable of the Talents*) in order to raise the \$2,500 needed for the ingredients of the 10,000 meals. Please encourage your pastor in this fundraising event.

Finally - as I do charge conferences this fall, I continue to hear and see the witness of the Ashland District Churches. You make me proud to be a United Methodist and you inspire me.

Grace & Peace,
Mark

Open hearts, open minds, open doors

From Your District Lay Leader

It's that time again; we have begun the Ashland District charge conferences for the 2009 reporting period. This year is the first year we have combined churches or clusters to share in their Best Practices for last year and their visions and goals for the next year.

I want to thank the Cluster Lay Leaders as they have been attending and helping with each charge conference. We have been blessed to have the following Cluster Lay Leaders in the Ashland District. Phyllis Howze for the Caroline Cluster, David Ankney for the Hanover Cluster, Bruce Seaton for the King George Cluster, Carolyn Williams for the King William & Mechanicsville Clusters, Bob Tate for the Richmond Cluster, Jim Sizemore for the Spotsylvania Cluster and Steve Snyder for the Stafford Cluster.

Our DS, Mark Ogren led us in the Gospel lesson on John 6:35, when Jesus said to the crowd "I am the Bread of Life." Then Mark challenged us to find ways to share that bread of life that has been given with ALL who are hungry. He then reminded us of John 21:17: "Feed my Sheep if you love me."

Mark spoke about Bishop Schnase's book, *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*. Bishop Schnase says people of all ages hunger for congregations that embrace these qualities of the five practices: **radical hospitality, passionate worship, intentional faith development, risk-taking mission and service, and extravagant generosity.**

The presence and strength of these five practices demonstrate congregational health, vitality and fruitfulness. By repeating and improving these practices, churches fulfill their mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Maxie Dunnam's book *Going on to Salvation* says that "*the church is the dwelling place of Christ himself.*" The church must speak to every person, wherever that person is. Not only must the church see through the eyes of Christ and speak with the voice of Christ, *the church must heal with the hands of Christ.* The ministry of the church is the ministry of redemption and healing. So let me ask, what could you do to make your congregation more fully the Body of Christ?

Go Fish!
Larry Tubbs

E-Tithes: More Convenience for Your Members and Financial Secretary

The Virginia United Methodist Credit Union has several options available that allows your church members to transfer their tithe straight from their account to your church's VUMCU account. It makes for less money to count on Sundays and provides added convenience for your church office. Contact Adrienne Cummings for details at acummings@vumcu.org or call 866-657-0004.

Membership at VUMCU is open to all churches, clergy, individual church members, organizations and agencies of the Virginia Conference. Deposits at VUMCU are federally insured by the NCUA.

Remember our District Charge Conference on November 15th at New Season

COMING EVENTS

Faith and Politics: Making an Effective Connection: There's still time to register for this fall program sponsored by the Virginia chapter of the Methodist Federation for Social Action to be held **November 14, 2009**, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Duncan Memorial United Methodist Church, 201 Henry St., Ashland. The keynote speaker will be Rev. John Kinney, Dean of the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology of Virginia Union University. Workshop leaders include Jim Winkler, General Secretary of the General Board of Church & Society and LaTonya Joyner Reed, Esq., a Policy Analyst at the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy. The cost is \$20 and includes lunch. To register, send an email to Hunter Mabry at hmabry@gmail.com or a note to Hunter at 2315 Davis Road, Waynesboro, VA 22980 or phone 540-943-5682.

Christmas at Blackstone: On **December 6th** at Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center (VUMAC), "The Brethren," a Christian male ensemble from Northern Virginia will be performing. Their repertoire encompasses everything from traditional hymns to patriotic standards to contemporary music. The full package includes the open house, banquet, concert, breakfast and overnight accommodations for \$130 per couple or \$70 per person. If you are not staying overnight, the cost is \$45 per person for the open house, banquet and program. Reservations are required. Send check to VUMAC, 707 Fourth Street, Blackstone, VA 23824. Call 434-292-5308 for more information.

Our speaker for the Ashland District Training Event on **January 9th** is Roy Helm, President of the Wesley Community Development Corporation (WCDC), in Statesville, NC. WCDC has been building affordable low-income housing as a non-profit outreach ministry of the UMC Western North Carolina Conference since 2002. A number of mission teams from the Ashland District have helped in this ministry over the past several years. Roy and Wayne Ward, Construction Manager for WCDC, will be in Virginia on the 9th as well as the 10th. If there are churches in the Ashland District who would like to have them speak, they would welcome the opportunity. Their comments can be very brief (3 to 5 minutes) or they can talk about their ministry for 30 minutes or longer. Interested churches can contact Roy (704-924-8942, ext. 24 or by e-mail at rhelm@wesleycdc.com).


Ministers Convocation: Millions of people have read, studied, and used Bishop Robert Schnase's book, ***Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations***. Now he is working on some new ideas. The 2010 convocation theme will be "***Fruitful Living***." Bishop Schnase will be the keynote speaker along with great preaching from Bishop Kammerer, Dr. Youtha Hardman-Cromwell and Rev. Jonathan Park. The date is **January 19-21, 2010** (Tuesday through Thursday), at VUMAC in Blackstone. Download a registration brochure from the Events calendar at www.vaumc.org. Registrations are mailed to the Assembly Center in Blackstone.

Attention Youth Leaders: Mark your calendars for the youth retreat at Eagle Eyrie on **February 12-14**. More info to come.

ASHLAND DISTRICT CALENDAR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2009

Date	Time	Event	Location
11/2	7:30 p.m.	District UMM	Wright's Chapel UMC
11/5	7:00 p.m.	District Committee on Church Location & Building	District Office
11/6-8		32 nd Annual UMMen Spiritual Retreat	VUMAC*
11/7	10:00 a.m.	Young Adult Leadership Group	Ebenezer UMC
11/9	6:00 p.m.	District Council and Board of Laity Combined Meeting	Aunt Sarah's, Carmel Church
11/10	9:00 a.m.	District Clergy Meeting	Wright's Chapel UMC
11/10	7:00 p.m.	District All Things New Committee Meeting	Wright's Chapel UMC
11/12	10:00 a.m.	Clergy Leadership for Midsize Church	Ebenezer UMC
11/13-15		Conference Middle School Retreat	Eagle Eyrie, Lynchburg
11/15	3:00 p.m.	District Conference	New Season UMC
11/21	9:00 a.m.	District UMW Leadership Training	Ebenezer UMC
11/21	9:30 a.m.	Conference UMVIM Team Leader Training	Lakeside UMC
11/25	12:00 p.m.	Closing Early for Thanksgiving Holiday	District Office
11/26-27		Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday	District Office
12/1	10:00 a.m.	District Committee on Ordained Ministry	District Office
12/3	7:00 p.m.	District Committee on Church Location & Building	District Office
12/4-6		Conference High School Retreat	Eagle Eyrie, Lynchburg
12/4-6		Winter Camp I	Westview on the James
12/7	7:30 p.m.	District UMM	Wright's Chapel UMC
12/8	7:00 p.m.	District All Things New Committee Meeting	Wright's Chapel UMC
12/11-13		Winter Camp II	Westview on the James
12/21-1/1/2010		Closed for Christmas Holiday	District Office
12/27	10:00 a.m.	District Youth Council	Lebanon UMC

*VUMAC—Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center

<p>The Ashland District of The United Methodist Church P.O. Box 1808 Ashland, VA 23005</p>  <p>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 Edward Johnson, atsgrad@gmail.com Newsletter Editor Kate Cook, katecook@bealenet.com</p>	<p>RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED</p>	<p>Non-Profit U.S. Postage PAID Permit #54 Ashland, VA 23005</p>
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