

The Ashland District Connection

Connecting laity and clergy to make disciples of Jesus Christ

Ashland District Virginia Conference

January/February 2008

on the Web at www.ashlandvaumc.org

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ASHLAND DISTRICT TRAINING

January 12, 2008, 8:30-12:45

Fredericksburg United Methodist Church

Angie Williams, our Conference Director of Youth, Young Adults and Singles, will be the keynote speaker. Sessions include *The Road to the 2008 General and Jurisdictional Conferences*; *Mission Made Easy—What are the resources available for your local church?*; *What Are Our Missionaries Doing around the World and How Can My Church Get Involved?*; *Reaching Out to Hispanics and Latinos in Our Community*; *Taking the Next Step—When your little church experiences growth...or wants to*; *Training for S/PPRC Members*; *Transitions—When your church is preparing for a pastoral change*; *I Am a Lay Leader: But What Does That Mean?*; *Tech 101: An Introduction to Technology for Worship*; *Wisdom Skills: Older Adult Ministries*; *Reaching Out, Sharing Christ*; *Worshipful Work of Committees and Councils*; *Stewardship Strategies for the Local Church*; *What Every Teacher Needs to Know*; *Missing in Action: Improving Our Ministries to Young Adults*; *Blame My Brain: A Look Inside the Teenage Mind*.

Fredericksburg UMC is at 308 Hanover Street. If you need directions go to www.fumcva.org or call 540-373-9021.

From Your District Superintendent

Grace and peace to you in the name of our risen savior, Jesus Christ. Happy New Year and welcome to 2008!

On January 12, we will be gathering for our Ashland District Training Day to be held at Fredericksburg UMC. A great day of church leadership training is planned. There will be two worship sessions and a keynote address. Cokesbury will have a display, and of course there will be food!

DID YOU KNOW?

Robert Wuthnow, in his book, "After the Baby Boomers," says the future of the

church is being shaped more by the absence of younger adults than by their presence. He goes on to say that the most pronounced social trend defining the life patterns of today's young adults (age 20-44) is delayed marriage.

"Many congregations have gotten spoiled," says Wuthnow, "thinking they can serve young adults by sponsoring a lively high school group and then catering to young married couples with children." This approach leaves out 75% of today's young adults.

SO WHAT WORKS?

Wuthnow's research has indicated several characteristics of congregations that attract young adult folks. For instance: 1) Newer congregations seem to have an advantage in attracting young adults; 2) youthful congregations tend to be located in metropolitan areas where young adults live; and 3) youthful congregations are more racially and ethnically mixed.

THEREFORE

We have invited Angie Williams, our Conference Director of Youth, Young Adults and Singles, to do our keynote address on January 12 for our Ashland District Training Day so that – we can learn how to connect to young adults – not to make our institutions survive but that we learn how to care for a new generation of young adults as they face important life decisions such as selecting a mate and choosing a career.

See you on January 12!

*Grace and peace,
Mark*

speaking of Youth

The mission agency of The United Methodist Church located in New York City is looking for twelve persons ages 18 to 25 to work in mission settings in the United States for 10 weeks of summer service and education. Interns will receive a \$1,000 stipend, travel to and from their place of assignment, and room and board.

The 2008 summer interns will be placed with United Methodist institutions and churches across the United States. Each placement involves some element of social justice, which allows interns to become engaged with the church in action in eradication of injustice.

Successful applicants must be able to dedicate a full 10 weeks to the program. Orientation begins in New York City on June 1. Service gets underway on June 8 and ends on August 2, followed by a week of debriefing, again in New York.

Participants must have completed at least one year of higher education. An online application form is at <http://new.gbqm-umc.org/connections/youth/>.

The deadline for applications is February 1, 2008. Phone interviews will take place in March. Notifications of acceptance will come in March or April and the placements will be announced in May.

MORE INTERNSHIPS

- Virginia Conference UMC

Three summer internships are available for 2008. The successful applicant should be interested in pursuing a career in a ministry setting, have experience and passion for the area in which they apply, and familiarity with The United Methodist Church. Intern salary is \$250 a week (with number of weeks determined by each supervisor). Interns must have completed high school. To request guidelines and an application, please contact Becky Tate (email: beckytate@vaumc.org, phone: 804-521-1139, or toll free: 800-768-6040, ext. 139). Deadline for applications is **February 15th**.



- Calling 21

This is a new immersion experience in congregational ministries. Churches hosting these college interns are in the western and northern regions of the Virginia Conference. Each intern will live with a host family and work with pastors and church leaders who are exploring what it means to be a calling congregation.

Applicants must have completed at least one year in college. These are paid internships and will require a minimum of 9 weeks. The contact is Rev. Don VanDyke Colby of Shenandoah University in Winchester (dcolby2@su.edu or phone 540-535-3546). Applications are posted on www.su.edu/cont-ed/calling21.htm.

Please note the new Web site for the District Office!
www.ashlandvaumc.org

**CELEBRATION
of the Lay Leadership Ministry
of
JOHN NELSON
Friday, January 25, 2008
6:30 PM
Fredericksburg UMC**

The Ashland District has been blessed with the presence, prayers and leadership of John Nelson for the past 5 years. In honor of John's service, the District is creating the John Nelson Lay Speaker Scholarship Fund. To contribute, send your check payable to the Ashland District UMC, P.O. Box 1808, Ashland, VA 23005.

Cost for the dinner will be \$15. The entrée will be Chicken Cordon Bleu. A vegetarian meal is also available. Call Lyn Robeson at the District Office (804-798-1649) for a reservation by January 18.

The following is John's last article as Lay Leader:

Thank you for your many prayers and support during the 5 years as your District Lay Leader. I have felt deeply supported and cared about. It has been a great journey of faith together. During my 5 years I have driven over 30,000 volunteer miles and visited most of our 62 churches, many of them numerous times.

Our VA Conference has blessed us with great District Superintendents. For all these years, we have been the fastest growing district in the Conference.

Your seven Cluster Associate Lay Leaders have been much help. We have attended roughly 260 Charge Conferences over the 5 years. The Associate Lay Leaders and I have presented about 265 100% Apportionment Appreciation Certificates. A big thank you to Butch Kelchner in Richmond Cluster, Carolyn Williams in Mechanicsville Cluster, Dan and Gail Dietze in King George Cluster, Dave and Raynelle Ankney in Hanover Cluster, Phyllis Howze in Caroline Cluster, Jim Sizemore in Spotsylvania Cluster, and Steve Snyder in Stafford Cluster.

I have mentioned in the past that 183,000 new souls moved into our district since 1990, and another 80,000 new persons are projected to come in the next 5 years. The medium age of our UMC congregations is around 60, but our counties medium age is in the 30s. We need to make our congregations look more like the counties we live in, and more attractive to these younger people. We need to invite them to be part of the body of Christ, show them hospitality, have worship to attract them, nurture them in Christ and send them out in mission and ministry to invite others.

The summer before I became your District Lay Leader, our District Superintendent, Rev. Brooke Willson, taught a class in which he said all of our institutions have grown larger. As our communities have grown, businesses have grown in number and size. Food stores like Food Lion and Ukrop's have more stores but also are bigger with more selection and variety. Wal-Mart and other department stores not only have more sites but are also bigger and display a greater variety of goods and services. Our colleges and universities are bigger with more students. Our hospitals have grown in number and are bigger as our communities have grown. Contrast this with our churches. Some have grown along with their communities; however, many have stayed the same size or declined. Proof of this is 40% of the congregations in VA have had no professions of faith in recent years. We need to make sure our churches are inviting, hospitable, nurturing, and sending, and that we have adequate parking, adequate space and quality worship.

Thank you for your support and service in building God's Kingdom here in the Ashland District. Let us be more intentional about growing God's kingdom under our new District Lay Leader.

*Agape
John*

**John Nelson Introduces the New
Ashland District Lay Leader, Larry
Tubbs**

Dear Ashland District Laity & Clergy, it is my distinct honor to introduce our new Ashland District Lay Leader Larry Tubbs and his wife Julie. Larry and Julie are two of the most gracious people I have known. Larry and I started Lay Speaking together in the 1970s.

Here are a few of Larry's credentials:

- Active in Fredericksburg UMC
- Started the FUMC prayer ministry using the Upper Room Prayer Hot Line
- Former Chair of Trustees at FUMC during a major building project
- Active in the Fredericksburg Emmaus community
- Initiated United Methodist Men (UMM) supporting the Upper Room Prayer Hot Line
- Initiated the District UMM Annual Heart Havens Golf Tournament
- District UMM President for 4 years and raised over \$20,000 for Hogan 11 at Westview
- Worked with 60 District UMM to build that Hogan in one day
- Formed the first District UMM Cabinet
- VA Conference UMM VP for Membership and Administration
- VA Conference UMM VP for Spiritual Life
- Provided leadership in planting new churches
- District and Conference United Methodist Volunteers in Mission supporter for delivery of flood buckets and other supplies for Hurricane disaster as well as helping rebuild
- District and Conference nominations team member
- Conference Board of Discipleship
- Conference UMCOR board member

- Delegate to the 2008 Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

With such an outstanding biography, let it not be forgotten Larry is also a leader and proud member of the FROGS (Fellowship of Retired Old Golfers).

Larry and Mark Ogren forged a strong relationship while Mark was pastoring Fredericksburg UMC. I look forward to working with and supporting them in their ministry together.

*Agape
John*

**VA CONFERENCE LAY SPEAKING
TRAINING AT VUMAC
February 22-24**

The 30th anniversary of this annual training event at the Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center will offer 21 advanced classes as well as the 10-hour basic course. The registration form and course outline are available on the Conference site and due to VUMAC by February 15: www.vaumc.org/repository/Events/WesleyExhorterBlackstoneIssue2008.pdf.

You may also call or email VUMAC (434-292-5308 or CyndiSchnell@vumac.org).

DID YOU KNOW....that the Virginia United Methodist Credit Union offers loans for:

- New church construction
- Parsonages
- Large renovations
- Lines of Credit
- Vans and buses

Visit their Web site at www.vumcu.org or call at 804-672-0200 or 866-657-0004.

**Don't forget District Training This
Saturday (January 8th)
at Fredericksburg UMC
8:30-12:30**

250 TASK FORCE WANTS YOUR FEEDBACK!

Shady Grove UMC
February 2nd
10:00-12 noon

This task force established by action of the 2006 Annual Conference to address the goal of starting 250 new churches in the next 30 years has completed a first draft of the plan called "All Things New."

Laitly and clergy feedback are needed not just from our district but the entire conference. This is an important document for the 2008 Annual Conference. Send some members from your churches to participate in the discussion.

A draft of the plan and other supporting documents can be found at the Virginia Conference Web site at www.vaumc.org/index/cfm/fa/content.view/menuID/3800.htm.

For further information contact Marc Brown, Task Force Chair at RichmondDS@vaumc.org, or other members: Robb Almy, Darlene Amon, Tom Berlin, Brenda Biler, Keith Boyette, Janet Bracey, Shirley Cauffman, Young Jin Cho, Paulo Da Silva, Melissa Dunlap, Lorenzo Hill, Bishop Charlene Kammerer, Christie Latona (consultant), Peter Moon, Carl Moravitz, Mark Ogren, Wayne Snead, Brooke Willson and Anna Gail Workman.

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



HOW TO REACH YOUNG PEOPLE?

Does your church have a good story to tell?

The 2008 Virginia Conference will be showcasing churches who are doing this well. If your church has an exciting ministry with youth (middle or high school students) and/or young adults (ages 18-30), would you share it with your fellow churches?

Throughout Annual Conference, video clips will be shown that feature ministries reaching young people. If you would like your church to be featured, please send an email to Angie Williams that answers the questions?

**How would you describe the ministry
and its target audience?**

**What are the primary goals of the
ministry?**

**Does this ministry reach young people
both inside and outside the local
church?**

**Is the ministry inclusive to at-risk
populations of young people? If so,
how?**

**Do you currently have video footage
featuring this ministry? If not, would
you be willing to allow video taping by
the Conference Communication Office?**

Mail responses to Angie Williams, Director of Youth, Young Adult & Single Adult Ministries, at VAUMC, 10330 Staples Mill Road, Glen Allen, VA 23060 or email her at angiewilliams@vaumc.org.

*Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open
Doors*

Ashland District Calendar for

January/February 2008

Date	Time	Event	Location
1/7	7:30 p.m.	District UMM	Wright's Chapel UMC
1/8	9:30 a.m.	District Clergy Association	Wright's Chapel UMC
1/8	7:00 p.m.	District Board of Missions	District Office
1/12	8:30 a.m.	District Leadership Training Day	Fredericksburg UMC
1/14	6:00 p.m.	District Council/Board of Laity Combined Meeting	Aunt Sarah's, Carmel Church
1/15		COLTS Table I Deadline	
1/17	10:00 a.m.	District Ordained Ministry Committee	District Office
1/19	9:00 a.m.	District UMW Prayer Breakfast	Wright's Chapel
1/21-23		Minister's Convocation	VUMAC
1/25	6:30 p.m.	John Nelson's Celebration Dinner	Fredericksburg UMC
1/31		UM Day @ General Assembly	Richmond, VA
1/31		COLTS Profile/Tables 2 & 3 Deadline	
2/1-2		School for Children's Ministries	VUMAC
2/4	7:30 p.m.	District UMM	Wright's Chapel UMC
2/7	9:00 a.m.	A Day Apart in Christian Education	UM Center
2/7	7:00 p.m.	District Church Location & Building Committee	TBA
2/12	9:30 a.m.	District Clergy Association	Wright's Chapel UMC
2/15-17		District Youth Retreat	Eagle Eyrie, Lynchburg
2/21	10:00 a.m.	District Ordained Ministry Committee	District Office
2/22-24		Academy of Lay Speaking Ministries	VUMAC
2/28-3/1		Clergy Spouses' Retreat	VUMAC
2/29-3/2		Academy of Servant Leadership	VUMAC

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