

The Ashland District Connection

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

**Ashland District
Virginia Conference**

September/October 2008

on the Web at www.ashlandvaumc.org

Mark V. Ogren
District Superintendent
ashlandds@vaumc.org

Lyn Robeson
District Secretary
ashlanddistrict@vaumc.org

Larry Tubbs
District Lay Leader
tubbsl@cox.net

District Office: (804) 798-1649

From Our DS

Dear Friends,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our risen savior, Christ the Lord. I pray that your summer has been a time for fun and rest and for time to renew.

Now as we look to our ministry together this fall I want to offer you one challenge and then highlight two events. Here is the challenge:

While attending the School of Congregational Development in Orlando, Florida, from July 31 to August 5 sponsored by the General Board of Discipleship and the General Board of Global Ministries, I heard the testimony of one pastor who said his daily prayer is simply: **“Lord, send me the people nobody wants or sees. Amen.”**

My challenge is to ask you as a leader in the Ashland District to pray this prayer with me and then may we wait and see what God does!

The first of the two events I want to bring to your attention occurs on October 4, 2008. Our District Council on Ministries is sponsoring a relational evangelism event at Duncan Memorial. **Authentic Outreach** will be taught by its author/creator Stuart Holt. This training was offered at Blackstone last winter and our representatives felt so

strongly about its value that we are offering a one-day training event.

We must continually focus on our call to share the gospel and make disciples. We recall the challenge that the Reverend Keith Boyette gave our whole annual conference in June 2006 when he made us aware that nearly one third of our churches in Virginia have not had a profession of faith in the last few years. This relational evangelism event gives us a specific way to address our ministry to folks who are far from God and unconnected to a faith community. Please encourage your church leadership – both pastor and lay leadership to be present.

The second event is our Ashland District Conference on November 16, 2008, at 4:00 pm at Mechanicsville UMC featuring Bishop Charlene Kammerer as our preacher.

We are so fortunate to have Bishop Kammerer as our spiritual leader. She guides the leadership of our annual conference with a vision to share the gospel with all God's people in a way that empowers and builds up the Body of Christ. You will not want to miss this opportunity to hear our Bishop preach. All members of the Ashland District are welcome – not just delegates to our District Conference.

Finally, during our 2008 Annual Conference meeting we adopted a vision for our Annual Conference to create 250 new faith communities in the next 30 years. This vision is entitled *All Things New.* Once *All Things New* was officially approved delegates were given a chance to come forward to express interest in a particular part of this vision. Over 600 individuals came forward to say they wanted to be a part of creating new faith communities.

Go to our conference website at www.vaumc.org and click on "All Things New" to learn more so you may join in this movement of God to share the gospel and make disciples.

See you in church!

Grace & peace- Mark

From Our Lay Leader

Living the United Methodist Way, Scripture, Tradition, Reason, and Experience was the theme for the SE Jurisdictional Conference of the United Methodist Church that was held July 16-19, 2008. Virginia led the delegation with 60 delegates, 30 clergy and 30 laity. It was my privilege to be one of these lay delegates.

Besides electing a Bishop, the Rev. Paul Leeland from the North Carolina Conference, we had several other business items to address. We read and listened to the Amendment to the Articles of Incorporation, plus a new adopted organizational plan for three agencies of the SEJ. We also elected several committee members to various boards and agencies. The worship services and teaching sessions were interesting and inspiring. It felt good to be a United Methodist in the midst of 500 other United Methodists.

I traveled back to North Carolina August 3-9 on a mission trip to

Statesville, NC, for the Wesley Community Development Corporation. WCDC is an affiliate agency of the Western North Carolina Conference that builds affordable housing for individuals and families. We had seven members from the Ashland District make this VIM trip led by Gary Gross our Ashland District VIM coordinator. (See Gary's article on page 5.) We had only a few injuries and everyone thought they would like to come back next year but not in August. It was almost 100 degrees each day we worked.

I'm now back in Fredericksburg planning for our *Authentic Outreach* training at Duncan Memorial in Ashland on October 4th. Come, see and taste a new thing in sharing your faith. Please mark your calendar! The cost is \$25 for the work book and \$8 for lunch. Call Lyn in the district office to register for this training.

As always, God is good!! And as written we are called to share our gifts and talents.

*Go Fish
Larry Tubbs*



In celebration of the International Day of Peace, a group of faith-based and other organizations are sponsoring the 5th annual Family Peace Festival on Sunday, September 21, from 11:00 am until 5:00 pm at St. Joseph's Villa at 8000 Brook Road in Richmond.

The Mission of the Family Peace Festival is to provide an opportunity for children, youth, and adults to gather in celebration of peace and diversity. This event will foster a growing sense of community through a variety of experiences including an interfaith worship service, arts and crafts, games and entertainment. Please come!

For Our Youth

The Youth Mission Opportunities Web site is up and running. The goal of this site is to help connect youth with opportunities to serve God through missions. The site is set up to find mission sites in a variety of ways. You can search by location (by district, state, or international), age, price, and length of service.

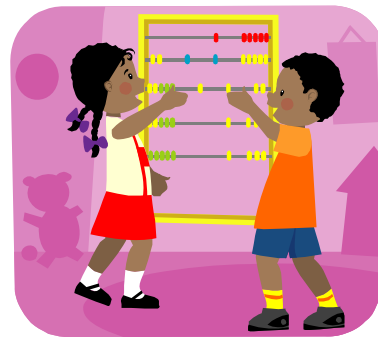
To visit the site, go to the Youth page (www.vaumc.org/youth) or Mission page (www.vaumc.org/mission) of the Virginia Conference Website and click Youth Mission Opportunities to find ways our youth can serve God with joy and love.

At Westview on the James, September 19-21, 3rd-5th graders will jump into action by playing some great games; learning more about each other and more about how faith calls us into action. We'll be joined by Beanie Kelly & Ann Mahurin, Children's Ministries Directors of Shady Grove and River Road UMC, for Bible study and worship. This is our third year of this growing ministry. Children enjoy meeting other children who are ready to reach out into the world! Register now to ensure you and your children can be a part of this great weekend. Contact Cat Holbert Rudys, Assistant Director, at 804-457-4210 or via email at wvretreats@hughes.net for more questions.

Additional fall retreats at Westview are also available! Reserve a weekend (Friday night through Sunday morning) in September-November and take advantage of our special fall retreat package. The retreat package includes

accommodations in the hogans and meals from Saturday breakfast through Sunday breakfast. Also included is a 2-hour group building session on our Challenge Course. The rest of the weekend you can fill any way you'd like. Our Mission Coordinator can plan an on-site work project for you. Come away to this special place apart to bring your youth group back together!

The total cost for the fall retreat package is \$55 per person (for groups of 20 or more). For groups of fewer than 20, we will happily work with you to provide a comparable experience. Contact Cat Holbert Rudys by phone or email listed at bottom of left column.



This year marks the 35th year for the observance of Children's Sabbath sponsored by the Children's Defense Fund and endorsed by numerous faith communities, including the United Methodist Church. A Sunday in October is suggested. It is an occasion to celebrate children as sacred gifts of the Divine and to recognize and respond to the urgent needs of children. It provides the opportunity for communities of faith to renew and live out their moral responsibility to care for, protect, and advocate for all children. United Methodist Family Services provides workbooks to each district office.

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

Training Opportunities

SAFE SANCTUARIES

Basic Training—Sept. 20

Greene Memorial UMC, Roanoke

Advanced Training—Nov. 15

Crenshaw UMC, Blackstone

In March, courses will be held in Glen Allen and Williamsburg

Safe Sanctuaries training is based on materials to help recognize and prevent abuse towards our children and youth.

For more information or to register, go to www.vaumc.org and click on events, or contact Ann Davis at 800-768-6040 ext. 138 or 804-521-1138 or email at AnnDavis@vaumc.org.

A DAY APART IN CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Thursday, Sept. 25 from 10 am to 3 pm at the UMCenter in Glen Allen

From Urgency to Action: Effective Ministry with Children led by Liz Perraud, National Coordinator of Regional Teams for the LOGOS Ministry.

Ageless Ministry: Models for Older Adult Ministry led by Martha Stokes, VA Conference Director.

Cost is \$10 per person. For more information or to register, see above.

NUTS AND BOLTS FOR LIFE LONG LEARNING AND TEACHING

Sept. 13 at Aldersgate in Charlottesville

Oct. 4 at Baylake UMC in Virginia Beach

Oct. 11 at Smith Memorial UMC in Collinsville

There will be workshops for leaders of children, youth and adults. Cost is \$25 per person. Use contact info above.

LAY SPEAKING CLASSES

Oct. 18 and 25 from 8:30 am to 2 pm at Wilderness Community Church on Route 3 West

Certified lay speaking class will be taught by Rev. Keith Boyette on *The Discipline*. (Bring a copy of the 2004 Discipline with you to class—borrow from your pastor if need be.)

Basic lay speaking class will be taught by Rev. Robb Almy. Text to be furnished upon payment and registration.

Nov. 8 and 9 at Regester Chapel UMC in North Stafford

Certified lay speaking class will be led by Rev. Teresa Smith on *Recognizing Grief and Depression: Reaching out with home and healing*. Materials will be furnished in the class.

Basic lay speaking class for youth (high school through college) will be taught by Jim Sizemore. Text will be furnished upon receipt of registration and fees.

See your pastor or lay leader for registration forms or contact Becky Guy, Director of Lay Speaking at 540-479-3448 or email at mwcof61@cox.net.

PAUMCS FALL EVENT

The Virginia Chapter Professional Association of United Methodist Church Secretaries (PAUMCS) will hold their Fall Event, *Experience Your Conference Connection 2008*, on Wednesday, October 22 at the Virginia UM Center in Glen Allen. Linda S. Rhodes, the Conference director of Communications, will lead sessions on *Igniting Ministry* and *Effective Communications* for church administrative staff, full-time, part-time, paid and volunteer, including administrative assistants, financial secretaries, office managers and newsletter editors. Cost is \$20 for members and \$30 for non-members. A registration brochure is available at www.vaumc.org or call 804-521-1124 for more information.

10th Annual Heart Havens Golf Tournament

On Friday, September 19, the Fredericksburg United Methodist Men are sponsoring the 10th annual golf tournament to benefit Heart Havens, a non-profit agency providing homes and residential alternatives for disabled persons of all faith and backgrounds. The tournament will be held at The Gauntlet Golf Club in Fredericksburg, with registration beginning at 8 am and a shotgun start at 9 am. Fees are \$70 per golfer. For more information, call Bill Simpson at 540-899-5701.

Ashland District Mission Trip

Gary Gross, Ashland District UMVIM Leader, reports that seven hardy Ashland District team members traveled to Statesville, NC, on August 3 through the 8 while we were under a heat spell here in the mid-Atlantic. The team worked with the Wesley Community Development Corporation, an affiliate agency of the Western North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church which is developing rural affordable housing in the Statesville area. Scheduled teams come in and start where the last team left off.

The foundation for the home was in place. The team installed the foundation sill, the support beams, the floor joists and bands, the subfloor, and the walls on three sides of the home. At a rate of \$15 per hour, the team contributed \$4,000 in donated labor. Congratulations for work well done! Contact Gary at 540-786-8060 to discuss other district mission trips you would like to attend.

In the photo below, front row team members are Gil Seaux, Ellen Snead, and Wayne, the local Statesville construction supervisor. The back row team members are Brad Gerstbrein, Phil Hayes, Bob Bos, Larry Tubbs and Gary Gross. Thanks to all!



ASHLAND DISTRICT CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2008

Date	Time	Event	Location
9/6	4:00 p.m.	Second Annual Community Celebration	Aldersgate UMC
9/8	6:00 p.m.	District Council & Board of Laity Combined Meeting	Aunt Sarah's, Carmel Church
9/9-10		District Clergy Retreat	Camp Hanover, Mechanicsville
9/16	7:00 p.m.	District Lay Speaking Committee	Wright's Chapel UMC
9/19	8:00 a.m.	10 th Annual Heart Havens Golf Tournament	The Gauntlet, Fredericksburg
9/19-21		Kids Workcamp	Westview on the James
9/20	9:00 a.m.	Conference Igniting Ministry Training	Shady Grove (H) UMC
9/20		District UMW Annual Meeting	Lakeside UMC
9/21-23		Local Pastors, Assoc. Members & Spouses Retreat	VUMAC
9/23	9:30 a.m.	District Committee on Ordained Ministry	District Office
9/25	10:00 a.m.	A Day Apart in Christian Education	UM Center
9/27	10:00 a.m.	Annual Family Fun Festival	Forest Grove UMC
9/28-30		Conference Multi-Staff Retreat	Shrine Mount, Orkney Springs
9/29-10/2		District VIM Trip	Goldsboro, NC
10/2	7:00 p.m.	District Board of Church Location & Building	TBA
10/4	8:30 a.m.	Authentic Outreach Event	Duncan Memorial UMC
10/6	7:30 p.m.	District UMM	Wright's Chapel UMC
10/7	7:00 p.m.	District Board of Missions	Tabernacle UMC
10/14-15		First Year Probationers & Mentors Retreat	VUMAC
10/17-19		Conference Middle School Mission Weekend II	Westview on the James
10/18	8:30 a.m.	District Lay Speaking Ministries Training	Wilderness Community UMC
10/18	9:30 a.m.	District UMM Installation of Officers & Luncheon	Wright's Chapel UMC
10/21	9:30 a.m.	District Clergy Association	Wright's Chapel UMC
10/21	12:00 p.m.	District Local Pastors & Local Pastor Mentors Training	Wright's Chapel UMC
10/22	9:30 a.m.	PAUMCS Event	UM Center
10/25	8:30 a.m.	District Lay Speaking Ministries Training	Wilderness Community UMC
10/25-26		Conference UMW 36 th Annual Meeting	VUMAC
10/28	9:30 a.m.	District Committee on Ordained Ministry	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