

The Ashland District Connection

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

**Ashland District
Virginia Conference**

January/February 2009

on the Web at www.ashlandvaumc.org

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Dear Friends,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our risen savior, Jesus Christ. Happy New Year and welcome to 2009!

We begin our ministry together in 2009 with our District Training Event on January 24th. In addition, I want to highlight two specific events in February.

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Ashland District Training Day – Saturday, January 24, 2009, at Shady Grove UMC – Mechanicsville from 8:30 am – 12:45 pm.

Join us for a great day of church leadership training. Our keynote address will be given by Marc Brown, the Virginia Conference Director of Connectional Ministries who will share more about “**All Things New**,” our conference invitation to plant 250 new churches in the next 30 years as well as renew our existing churches.

Workshops include topics such as Children in Worship, Stewardship Education, Pastor Parish Committee Training, Igniting Ministries, Evangelism, Practical Tips for Growth, Lay Leader Training, Choir Training, and display booths for Society of St. Andrew, Westview on the James, All God’s Children Camp and United Methodist Volunteers in Mission.

For more information check out our website: www.ashlandvaumc.org.

Special Events in February

CHRISTOCK – February 13-15 – Ashland District Youth Retreat at Eagle Eyrie. Be sure to save this date. Packets with more information will be mailed out soon.

Five Talent Academy – Late February (date TBA) – Conference-wide event featuring The Rev. Dr. Kirbyjon Caldwell, pastor of Windsor Village UMC in Houston, Texas (largest UMC church), will be held at Ebenezer UMC on the Ashland District as a one-day event.

This event is for all churches interested in taking part in the Five Talent Academy. Clergy and Lay Leadership are encouraged to attend.

* * * *

These events will get us off to a great start for Sharing the Gospel and Making Disciples in 2009.

*See you there,
Mark*

From Our Lay Leader

Paul writes in 2nd Cor.:5-17, “if anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation, the old has passed away, behold, the new has come.”

As we begin a new year certainly this year will be one of change—a new United States President, new regimes, new committees formed by meetings gathered around our Conference. We find it hard to fathom that this God who created the wonders of the universe, the earth and everything in it is the same one who promises to bring about a radical new heaven and a new earth. What consoling thoughts and words for a new year! God says, “I am making all things new.”

I’m very interested in “All things New,” a vision for spiritual renewal of our Virginia Conference and how it will impact our churches across the conference.

In Bishop Schnase’s book, *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*, he assists congregational leaders in holding a mirror to their own ministries in order to ask the question, “How are you doing in practicing these qualities in your congregation?”

I would like to encourage and challenge us on the Ashland District to pick up a copy of Bishop Schnase’s book and read it. On page 144 it has conversation questions:

- How would your church look if your congregation committed to performing these five practices with excellence?
- What would change?
- What excites you about that?
- What scares you about that?
- How would personally practicing these five practices with greater intentionality shape your own faith journey?
- How would practicing them change your relationship to God, to the church and to your neighbor?

Now is the time to discover new songs of hope, joy and peace and bring them to a world that is in desperate need of that music. God empowers us to achieve our dreams.

Go Fish



Larry Tubbs

2009 Vacation Bible School Curriculum Fair In Partnership with Cokesbury Bookstore January 27-29

(Tuesday & Thursday, 1-8 p.m.; Wednesday,
1-5 p.m.)

Lingle Hall on the campus of Union
Theological Seminary-Presbyterian School
of Christian Education
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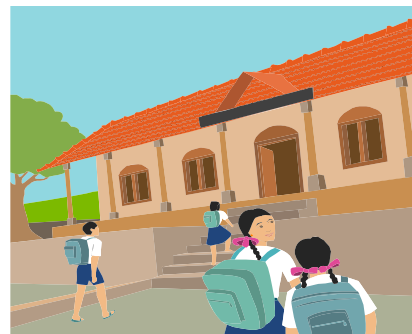
Refreshments served

FOR INFORMATION: Contact THE RESOURCE
CENTER at

804-358-8306 Toll-free: 888-241-5132

Fax: 804-358-6366

resourcecenter@cavtel.net



VUMAC Lay Speaking Academy

The annual Lay Speaking Ministries Academy will be held at the Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center on February 27-March 1. There will be four basic lay speaking courses and 17 advanced courses. Registration deadline is February 16.

To view the brochure on the Conference Web site (www.vaumc.org), you may search by date on the events calendar or by selecting "Ministries," then "Laity," then "Lay Speaking Ministries."

If you do not have access to the Web site, call the office of Martha Stokes at 800-768-6040 ext. 154 or 804-521-1154 to ask for a



brochure.

Youth Retreat

The Ashland District Winter Youth Spiritual Retreat **CHRISTOCK** will be held on February 13-15 at Eagle Eyrie. Youth leaders and workers, contact Jason Stanley at www.youth@lebanonumc.org or 804-746-0980 for an information packet.

You don't want your youth to miss this event!

Speaking of Youth

2009 College Scholarships- Virginia United Methodist Credit Union

Do you know a well deserving high school senior who is looking for money for college? Any member of a United Methodist Church or organization within the Virginia Annual Conference is eligible for membership at VUMCU. Just \$5 opens an account and gives students access to apply for the following scholarships:

VUMCU –(1) \$1500 Scholarship Accel College Grants- (4) \$5000 Grants & (30) \$1000 Grants

The scholarships are for entering freshmen and applications are due beginning mid-March. Contact Janie Hightower at: www.jhightower@vumch.org to request an application packet.

SUMMER INTERNSHIP 2009

Do you know a college student who has wondered about their role as a church leader? During the summer of 2009, the Calling 21 Interns will both learn and lead. Each intern will spend a week in mid-June in an orientation and from the end of June to the middle of August at the internship location receiving a broad exposure to church life and leadership. The host church will be a church that has been noticed and named for their potential to help young people hear God's call upon their lives. The intern's stipend will be \$2500.

Applicants should be college students interested in exploring their call to church leadership. For questions and application information, email cbarlow@su.edu or call 540-535-3546. Applications are now being accepted.

REMEMBER DISTRICT LEADERSHIP
TRAINING JANUARY 24TH AT SHADY
GROVE UMC

ASHLAND DISTRICT CALENDAR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2009

Date	Time	Event	Location
1/5	7:30 p.m.	District UMM	Wright's Chapel UMC
1/6	9:30 a.m.	District Committee on Ordained Ministry	District Office
1/6	7:00 p.m.	District Board of Missions	Tabernacle UMC
1/9-10		Passing On Faith Conference	Wright's Chapel UMC
1/12	6:00	District Council & Board of Laity Combined Meeting	Aunt Sarah's, Carmel Church
1/13	9:00 a.m.	Introduction to the Wesleyan Building Brothers Process	UM Center
1/13	9:30 a.m.	District Clergy Association	Wright's Chapel UMC
1/14	7:00 p.m.	Committee on District Superintendency	District Office
1/15		Deadline for Statistical Table 1	COLTS Program
1/15	7:30 p.m.	District Committee on Lay Speaking Ministries	Fredericksburg UMC
1/19		Closed for Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday	District Office
1/19-21		Minister's Convocation	VUMAC
1/24	8:30 a.m.	District Leadership Training Day	Shady Grove (H) UMC
1/31		Deadline for Profiles and Statistical Tables II & III	COLTS Program
1/31	9:00 a.m.	District UMW Annual Prayer Breakfast	Wright's Chapel UMC
2/2	7:30 p.m.	District UMM	Wright's Chapel UMC
2/3	9:30 a.m.	District Committee on Ordained Ministry	District Office
2/5		UM Day at General Assembly	Richmond, VA
2/5	7:00 p.m.	District Board of Church Location & Building	TBA
2/6-7		School of Children's Ministries	UM Center
2/13-15		District Youth Retreat	Eagle Eyrie, Lynchburg
2/20-21		Authentic Outreach	VUMAC
2/27-3/1		Conference Lay Speakers' Training	VUMAC

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