

The Ashland District Connection

Connecting laity and clergy to make disciples of Jesus Christ

Ashland District Virginia Conference

May/June 2009

on the Web at www.ashlandvaumc.org

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District Office: (804) 798-1649

May Activities for the Ashland District

May 9: United Methodist Family Day at Kings Dominion

Bring your friends and the whole family and enjoy a fun day at Kings Dominion in Doswell. Special discount tickets for United Methodists are available for May 2, 9, 16, 23-25. An all-you-can-eat picnic will be available on May 9th only from 1:30-2:30 in the Group Catering Pavilion. Meal tickets must be purchased in advance. A brochure and registration form can be down-loaded at the Conference Web site at www.vaumc.org.

May 15-17: Lay Speaker Training

Training will be held at two sites: Fredericksburg UMC and Wright's Chapel at Ladysmith. **Basic Lay Speaking** will be offered at Fredericksburg UMC for adults, beginning at 7:30 pm on Friday, May 15th. **Basic Lay Speaking for Youth** will be held at Wright's Chapel, also beginning at 7:30 pm on Friday, May 15th. Two **advanced courses** will be offered: **Puppetry** at FUMC with Pastor Gale and Dan Dietz leading, beginning at 8:30 am on Saturday, May 16th, and **Clowning as a Ministry**, to be offered at Wright's Chapel led by Joyce Fairbanks, also on Saturday, May 16th at 8:30 am. Both advanced classes will also meet Sunday afternoon. Registration forms, fees, schedule, lunch provision, etc., will be mailed to the Lay Speakers in each church to get the word

out, answer questions and encourage registration. If more information is needed, contact Becky Guy, Director of Lay Speaking, Ashland District, 96 Salvington Road, Falmouth, VA 22405 (540-373-8258 [cell] or 540-479-3448; e-mail: mwcof61@cox.net.)

May 30: "From Ordinary to Extraordinary" Workshops

Ebenezer UMC will host this workshop led by the Rev. Glen Langston from Four Seasons Ministry. Participants will explore and cultivate an understanding of effective church leadership in the 21st century, focusing on the biblical and theological underpinnings of the role of laity in ministry. Cost is \$10. For more information, contact Martha Stokes at 1-800-768-6040, ext. 154 or MarthaStokes@vaumc.org.

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From the DS

Dear Friends,

As we prepare for Annual Conference June 14-17 in Norfolk, there are several important events for you to know about:

Annual Conference Offering – each year members of local churches are encouraged to help raise money for the following mission projects:

Brazil \$100,000 – The Shade and Fresh Water Project is a national network of centers developed by the Brazil Methodist Church to keep children off the streets and away from gangs and drugs.

Mozambique \$100,000 – The United Methodist Theological Seminary at Cambine Mission trains future clergy and laity leaders to serve the needs of the hundreds of new United Methodist churches being established throughout this southeastern African nation.

Virginia \$100,000 - Pathways Ministries works to rebuild and strengthen the city of Petersburg and surrounding counties by rehabilitating older homes, building new affordable single family homes, providing free medical and dental clinics and providing at-risk youth with education and training for the work force by involving them in a productive role rebuilding their communities.

Ashland District Annual Conference Orientation

On Sunday, June 7 at 3:00 pm at Wright's Chapel UMC in Ladysmith, we will explain important procedures that will take place at Annual Conference as well as give overviews on some key issues. Keith Boyette and Bob Blinn will lead a special presentation on the Proposed Amendments to the Constitution of the United Methodist Church.

United Methodists at the Movies

This is a community outreach campaign featuring advertising in 33 movie theaters across the state. Advertising began on

Friday, March 27, and will continue through May 21. The Ashland District has partnered for advertising at Fredericksburg 15, 3301 Plank Road, Fredericksburg, and at Virginia Center 20, 10091 Jeb Stuart Parkway, Glen Allen.

Thanks for all you do to share the gospel and make disciples. I hope to see you at Annual Conference Orientation on June 7 and at Annual Conference in Norfolk June 14-17.

Grace & Peace,
Mark

The 1st Annual Rick Griffith Memorial Golf Tournament

On July 16th, 2008, the Ashland District was stunned at the loss of one of our pastors, Rick Griffith, to a sudden fatal heart attack. Rick's family is organizing what they hope will be an annual event to raise funds for the Richmond Chrysalis Ricky G Memorial Scholarship and for the American Heart Association. Golf was one of Rick's passions. It seems appropriate to gather friends and family and celebrate Rick's life and raise funds for a worthy cause at the same time.

On **May 21st**, with a shotgun start, 4-person teams (using Captain's Choice rules) can tee off at Meadowbrook Country Club on 4801 Hermitage Road in Richmond. Cost is \$100/person. Send registration fees to *The Griffiths, 3601 Ghent Drive, Chesterfield, VA 23832* with check payable to Richmond Chrysalis.



Your District Lay Leader

It won't be long before we will be attending Annual Conference in Norfolk. Each year I look forward to seeing friends I haven't seen in a year or two. It is always exciting to catch up with stories of their families and what is going on in their local church. I enjoy the youth contingency as they share the good news of their retreats and events. The time we spend in worship, study and prayer followed by inspiring speakers lifts our spirit and we are charged to take on new challenges. I also like the mission report as we confirm that we are a global church reaching to others at home and around the world. It is refreshing when we see first time attendees raise their hands high when asked if this is their first time at annual conference.

I hope you had an opportunity to attend one of the three Days of Listening, held around the conference in March. For those who were unable to attend one of these events and would like to read any of those documents, they are available on the Virginia Conference Web site.

This annual conference we will be busy listening to and voting on 32 proposed amendments from General Conference. Three key issues have been identified among these 32 proposed amendments:

1. The Definition of Inclusivity (article 4 of the Constitution)
2. Restructuring the World-Wide UMC into Regional Conferences
3. Voting Rights for Local Pastors

So as we prepare to attend Annual Conference we need to focus on Christian conferencing and be willing to listen and to discern God's will for the church knowing God changes our thinking. Life is not all about us; it's about God working through us. When we open every aspect of our lives to God's guidance, we become more effective disciples. We not only bless others as we share what God has given us,

but we are also blessed with trust that God will provide for our needs. God develops in us a greater sense of purpose and a peace that only God can provide.

Go Fish,
Larry Tubbs



New UMCOR Birthing Kits

In developing countries, an estimated 60 million women give birth with untrained birth attendants or family to assist them. Without the basic sanitary tools for delivery, newborns can develop tetanus, the leading cause of infant mortality.

To reduce this risk, UMCOR has added another "kit" to their list. A birthing kit includes:

- 1 hotel-size bar of soap (1 oz and up)
- 1 pair of clean latex gloves
- 1 sq. yd. of clear 4 mil plastic sheeting
- 1 clean single use razor blade (carefully wrap the blade in paper or plastic to protect it and keep it from injuring handlers)
- 2 flannelette receiving blankets each 1 sq. yd
- Package these in a sealed 1-gal. plastic bag
- Include a packing list for the shipping box along with \$1 to cover each kit you send.

Obviously everything should be new. Also do not include anything not on the list.

Birthing kits will be collected at Conference.



4 Cans for Conference

When United Methodists gather for Annual Conference from the far reaches of the Commonwealth of Virginia, we have a long missional tradition of bringing school supplies, child care and sewing kits, flood buckets, and a wide array of emergency supplies for those in need around the world. This year, in addition to the other missional gifts, every Clergy and Lay Member are being asked to bring "4 Cans for Conference." This initiative is endorsed by the Conference Planning Committee, our Bishop, and Common Table leadership. On the last day of this year's Conference in Norfolk, the "4 Cans" of food (meat, vegetable, soup, and pop-top) will go to the Southeastern Virginia Food Bank, located only a few blocks from the Scope, our conferencing site.



The SEVA Food Bank has already fed more than a quarter million meals for recipients this year—more than in all of 2008! In short, demand is up; supplies are down. So, here is your mission:

- 1 can of meat or protein—beef, chicken, fish, pasta, tamales, ravioli, hash, etc.
- 1 can of veggies or fruits—corn, beans, peas, potatoes, sauces, fruit, etc.
- 1 can of soup/stew—beef stew, hearty soups, meatless soups, etc.
- 1 pop-top can—that opens without a can opener for those without access to a kitchen

Other food needs are boxed food items—hot and cold cereals, grits, cream of wheat, dried beans, peanut butter in plastic containers. Money is always needed—make checks payable to SEVA Food Bank.

Do not bring glass jars or bottles, home-canned goods, or perishable items.

Join with others and bring multiples of the above: a case of each of the groups would be welcome.

Heart Havens Concert Saturday, May 23rd, 7 pm Blackwell Auditorium Randolph-Macon College in Ashland



The Steven Kropp Band will be featured with the sounds of Jim Hewitt, Brooke and Drew Willson opening. Comedian Garet Chester will be the Master of Ceremonies. Garet says he is "a court jester in the court of King Jesus."

Price is \$15 for adults and \$10 for students and children.

For ticket information call 540-845-5797 or 804-730-4956.

Heart Havens is a Methodist home for persons with disabilities.

Did you know?

The Virginia United Methodist Credit Union has an unsecured line of credit that your church can use for any project or emergency.

- Up to \$50,000 at prime plus 1%
- No fee to apply

Contact Mike Haydon at 866-657*0004 or email mhaydon@vumcu.org.

Richmond Metro Work Camp

July 12-18

Bill Giese, director of this wonderful annual event, has sent out a plea for help. Not everyone can donate time, but many can help financially. Bill says, "We didn't finish last year in the best shape money-wise, so our needs are many." When the "least of these" are having a harder time than usual, the work this year is even more important.

For those who may not be familiar with RMWC, teens from all over gather in the Richmond area and are assigned to a client, usually elderly or handicapped individuals, who need work done on their house. These teens have to pay their own way—about \$200, sleep on floors, give up a week of summer vacation to do hard construction work in hot humid conditions. According to the adult volunteers, it is a good time to watch miracles happening.

Adults are needed to be "runners" bringing supplies to work sites, to make or purchase lunches for the workers, to help transport residents back and forth from the opening session Sunday night, July 12th, and other jobs as well.

If you can help financially, mail checks to Richmond Metro Work Camp at P.O. Box 28302, Henrico, VA 23228. If you can volunteer, go to the Web site at www.richmondmetroworkcamp.com.



Bill also tells us to remember the camp in our prayers. "First, as always, we need your prayers as we finish plans for camp, as I continue to seek out youth to try to fill the camp, and the house hunt which will begin May 2nd, and keep praying right up to and through the week of camp. We can always tell when we are bathed in prayer."

UMVIM Opportunities

If your church is leading a mission trip this year and is looking for volunteers, please email your information to the editor at katecook@bealenet.com.

Mississippi Gulfport Trip

One of our churches, Beaverdam UMC, is planning a trip to the Mississippi Gulfport area to work with a hurricane-recovery group there. Last year some of the team helped complete a warehouse/dormitory at Camp Love so that volunteers have a place to stay comfortably. Dates are October 24th to November 1st at a cost of \$350 per person. No construction experience is necessary. The first team meeting will be at Beaverdam UMC at 5 pm on June 7th. A \$100 deposit is due August 16th. If you are interested in joining the team, contact Christy Monolo at cmonolo@oag.state.va.us.



Ashland District Mission Trip

Gary Gross, Ashland District Mission Chair from Tabernacle UMC, and Phil Haynes from Fredericksburg UMC are leading a team to Statesville NC from May 3-9. The team will be working with Wesley Community Development Corporation to help build affordable housing. Our district has been working with this group for several years. (The photo above is from the trip in 2008.) Please add this team to your prayer list.

A second trip is planned for later this year. Watch for more details.

Ashland District Calendar for May and June 2009

Date	Time	Event	Location
5/1	8:30 a.m.	6 th Annual Granville Wade Golf Tournament	Hobb's Hole, Tappahannock
5/1-3		Conference UMW Spiritual Life Retreat	VUMAC
5/3-9		District UMVIM Trip	Statesville, NC
5/4	7:30 p.m.	District UMM	Wright's Chapel UMC
5/9		Virginia Conference Family Fun Day	King's Dominion, Doswell
5/11	6:00 p.m.	District Council/Board of Laity Combined Meeting	Aunt Sarah's, Carmel Church
5/12	9:30 a.m.	District Clergy Association	Wright's Chapel UMC
5/15-17	7:30 p.m.	District Lay Speaking Event – Basic Course	Fredericksburg UMC
5/15-17	7:30 p.m.	District Lay Speaking Event – Basic Youth Course	Wright's Chapel UMC
5/16-17	8:30 a.m.	District Lay Speaking Event – Puppetry	Fredericksburg UMC
5/16-17	8:30 a.m.	District Lay Speaking Event – Clowning	Wright's Chapel UMC
5/21	12:00 p.m.	Rick Griffith Memorial Golf Tournament	Meadowbrook Country Club
5/21-29		Local Pastor's Licensing School	Wesleyan College, Norfolk
5/22	12:00 p.m.	Closing Early for Memorial Day Holiday	District Office
5/23	7:00 p.m.	District UMM Heart Havens Concert	Randolph-Macon College
5/25		Closed for Memorial Day Holiday	District Office
5/29	6:00 p.m.	Clergy Recognition Dinner	Wright's Chapel UMC
5/30	8:30 a.m.	From Ordinary to Extraordinary Leadership Event	Ebenezer UMC
6/1	7:30 p.m.	District UMM	Wright's Chapel UMC
6/3	7:00 p.m.	District Superintendency Committee	Wright's Chapel UMC
6/4	7:00 p.m.	District Board of Church Location & Building	TBA
6/6		Ferrum College Women's Day	Ferrum, Virginia
6/7	3:00 p.m.	Annual Conference Orientation	Wright's Chapel UMC
6/12	12:00 p.m.	Closing Early for Annual Conference	District Office
6/14-17		Annual Conference	Norfolk, Virginia Conference
6/15-19		Closed For The Week	District Office
6/20	9:00 a.m.	District UMW Taste of Mission	Rehoboth UMC
6/26		Awakening 2009	Fredericksburg Convention Center, Fredericksburg

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