

The Ashland District Connection

Connecting laity and clergy to make disciples of Jesus Christ

Ashland District Virginia Conference

November/December 2007 on the Web at www.ashlanddistrict.org

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ASHLAND DISTRICT CONFERENCE AT LAKESIDE UMC Sunday, November 18, 3:00 pm Keynote Speaker: Rev. Paul Nixon

Paul Nixon is an ordained United Methodist pastor who, until 2007, was director of congregational development in the Alabama – West Florida Conference. Nixon has coached pastors and churches in many denominations across North America, with special interest in new church development and multi-site congregations in urban areas. This past June, he was appointed as the pastor of Epicenter DC, a new church based in Arlington, Virginia.

Rev. Nixon is the author of three books: *Fling Open the Doors: Giving Your Church Away to the Community* (2002); *Healing Spiritual Amnesia: Remembering What It Means to Be the Church* (2004) and his recent title, *I Refuse to Lead a Dying Church!*

We could not possibly have a more timely keynote address for the Ashland

District as we continue to live into our Virginia Conference Challenge – *Let's Get Growing!* See below for directions to Lakeside UMC. Also note that our special offering for District Conference will go to "Nothing But Nets." I look forward to seeing you all at District Conference. Please remember that our District Conference will be a one-hour (60 minutes) service and business meeting that will conclude by 4:00 p.m. with time for fellowship afterward.

See you there!
Mark

Directions to Lakeside UMC

Take I-95 to Parham Road West (Exit 83). From Parham Road, turn left at the first light onto Route 1. Go to the second light and turn right onto Lakeside Avenue. At the next light turn right onto Hilliard Road. The church is located about one mile on the left.

Who may vote at District Conference?

The membership of a district conference is composed of the following: all ordained and commissioned clergy, licensed local pastors, lay supply pastors, certified lay ministers, diaconal ministers, and deaconesses and home missionaries related to the district; a church lay leader, chairperson of the church council or its equivalent body, church school superintendent, president of the United Methodist Women, and president of the United Methodist Men from each local church in the district; the district steward from each charge and three members at large, one of whom shall be a youth, elected by each charge conference. Ashland district officers who are members of the district conference include: the district trustees, the district treasurer, the district lay leader and associate lay leaders, the presidents of the district United Methodist Women, United Methodist Men and United Methodist Youth representatives.

Open Hearts, Open Minds,
Open Doors!

From Your Lay Leader

Dear Ashland District,
Thank you for being a partner in the building of God's kingdom. I am so proud of our congregations. Our District has grown from 438,409 in 2000 to 534,000 in 2006, or roughly 96,000 new persons. Our congregations have been the fastest growing in the VA Conference. We have started two new churches: New Season in Massaponax and Harvest in Hartwood. New Song in Mechanicsville and Wilderness Community Church in Locust Grove, both of which are relatively new congregations, have finished new buildings.

Many of our churches have been adding new buildings: Tabernacle in Spotsylvania, Bethel Church in Caroline, Ebenezer in Stafford, Mechanicsville Church, Epworth in King William, Fredericksburg Church, Shady Grove in Mechanicsville and Wright's Chapel in Ladysmith. St. Peter's Church and Lebanon, both in Hanover, added a new sanctuary.

Rev. Keith Boyette of Wilderness Church at the 2006 VA Conference authored a motion for the VA Conference to start 250 new churches in the next 30 years. This is an exciting prospect for Virginia to add about eight new churches each year.

Our District Builder's Club has exciting possibilities. David Kellison of Tabernacle Church and the District Board of Missions are vitalizing the work. We all need to double

our efforts so sign up today for the District Builder's Club.

Our commitment to ministry and mission keeps growing. Several years ago a tsunami hit in south Asia and hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast and we are still sending and funding teams to help.

In recent years 53 of 62 churches have given 100% of their apportionments.

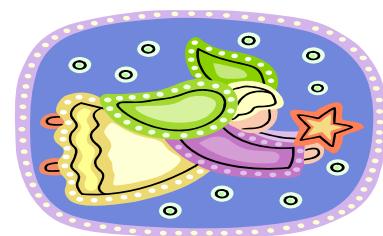
Our giving to others is on the rise. UMVIM team giving and the number of mission trips have grown steadily in the last 5 years. We had hurricane Isabel pass through the area, and UMVIM teams helped. Carolyn and I have been to North Carolina 5 times with our District UMVIM teams to build housing for low income persons.

Our best work is yet to come in building God's Kingdom. Let us celebrate our giving in ministry and mission and continue to give. Thank you for your work.

*Agape,
John*



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



UMVIM Team Leader Training Saturday, November 17 Lakeside UMC

We have trained more new team leaders in the past 2 years than ever before. You must have attended a training session to lead an UMVIM trip. Our district is hosting the last team training session of the year. Registration begins at 8:45. Session ends at 3:30 pm.

Please note you must bring a copy of the September 2006 Team Leader Handbook (none will be available at the session). Books are available for \$26 from the Southeastern Jurisdiction office of UMVIM. Call 404-377-7424 to order. Pre-registration is required because lunch is provided in the \$10 registration fee. An application form is printed in the November *Advocate* on page 12. Or you may go online to www.vcumc.org and then go to publications under resources. Mail form to the Conference office.

Directions to Lakeside UMC are on page one.

**Remember District
Conference, Sunday,
November 18th
3 pm**

Speaking of UMVIM

UMVIM teams are needed in Dulac, LA, particularly for the months of November and December. The Disaster Response Ministry in Dulac (part of the LA Conference, UMC) has received a grant of \$250,000.00 that must be spent on the purchase of materials for client homes prior to December 31, 2007, and all projects must be completed by February 15, 2008. All of this work is in reference to hurricane reconstruction. For more information contact the Dulac Station Manager directly: J.P. McGuire at 985-201-1356, or, johnpaulmcguire@bellsouth.net or register a team online at

www.laumcstormrelief.com and request "Dulac."

Opportunities to serve exist into 2008 but we have the particular desire to maximize this grant for November and December.

Another Mission Opportunity: Upper Mattaponi Indian School Renovation

Ashland and Rappahannock UMC Districts have the opportunity to assist with converting an original Indian school from office space back to its appearance before closing in 1965. The Upper Mattaponi school building is the only one in the state that is an original Indian school building. After restoration it will become a

museum placed on the Virginia Tourism map to heighten awareness of Virginia Indians.

Teams will start on November 10 by tearing out paneling and the dropped ceiling. This effort will continue through early spring. If your church wishes to organize a team to help in this effort, please contact Pat Koontz (804-798-3500) or Chief Ken Adams by phone (804-370-5249) or email Ken at kennethfadams@yahoo.com.

UMCOR and California fires

UMCOR continues to offer support to those affected by the wildfires in Southern California. UMCOR personnel, including the Rev. Tom Hazelwood, head of UMCOR's domestic disaster response, are working with California-Pacific Annual Conference.

UMCOR anticipates a long term response to these fires that caused nearly a million people to evacuate.

"The generosity of United Methodists is once again apparent," says Hazelwood about the many people who are eager to volunteer in the recovery effort. "These are early days in the recovery process. Cash gifts are the best way to help the recovery effort right now."

Anyone wishing to donate may send to UMCOR Advance #901670, Domestic Disaster Response.

Pray without ceasing.

CHRISTIAN FAITH AND THE DEATH PENALTY

For a discussion on this topic, plan to attend Saturday, November 17th from 10 am until 3 pm at Centenary UMC in Richmond. Keynote speaker will be Ron McAndrews speaking on "My Life as a Death Row Warden and How I Became an Abolitionist."

The workshop is sponsored by the Committee on Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministries and by the Methodist Federation for Social Action.

Registration is \$20 payable to Virginia Conference UMC. Send to Rev. Dr. Pat Shipley, Centenary UMC, 411 E. Grace St., Richmond, VA 23219 with "DP workshop" on the memo line. You need to register by November 10th.

The registration fee covers lunch, refreshments and all materials. For more information, contact Hunter Mabry (hmabry@gmail.com).

November is National Adoption Month

United Methodist Family Services has been working with adoptions for 107 years. If you would like more information on adoptions, contact Linda Ray, Church Relations Coordinator, 804-254-9692 or lray@umfs.org.

A SHORT INTRODUCTION TO THE GENERAL BOARD OF GLOBAL MISSIONS

From September 16–20, our District Lay Leader, John Nelson, and his wife, Carolyn, along with 21 other Virginia United Methodists attended a 3-day Mission Education Seminar sponsored by the VA Conference Board of Global Ministries in New York City. Rev. Livingstone Dore, Vice-President of the VA Board of Global Ministries and pastor of Chamberlayne Heights Methodist Church organized the trip, the purpose of which was to “Learn more about global mission in the UMC, visit the offices of General Board of Global Missions (GBGM); receive information on how to be a missionary, how to support a missionary in a covenant relationship, and how to support advance projects around the world; and discover anew the mission-minded UMC through video resources, and conversations with GBGM staff.”

Mrs. Una Jones, Executive Secretary, Mission Education, GBGM, led the seminar stressing the four goals of the GBGM: 1) *Make Disciples of Jesus Christ*; 2) *Strengthen, Develop and Renew Christian Congregations and Communities*; 3) *Alleviate Human Suffering*; and 4) *Seek Justice, Freedom and Peace*. The Seminar began with an overview of the UMC structure with an emphasis on the connectionalism. Mrs. Jones stated that the most important part of connectionalism is the local church. The entire structure relates and depends on the local church. There are 63 annual conferences, about 35,000 churches and over 8 million members. Apportionments can be viewed as “**a portion** of our money **meant** for others.” Only a tiny portion of the local church budget goes for the cost of our global ministry. “Of each dollar contributed, on average: 84.3 cents stays in your local church for ministries and expenses. Less than 4 cents goes to United Methodist church-wide missions, salaries and administrative cost.” There are 13 boards and agencies supported by this 4%, one of which is GBGM.

The GBGM and our missionaries are funded through the apportionments (World Service Fund), Advances and Covenant Relationships. The Women’s Division (executive portion of United Methodist Women) also contributes a significant amount to missions. *GBGM missionaries do not solicit funds*. They all receive the same salary of \$25,000, plus housing, transportation, etc. The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) receives no apportionment funds. UMCOR programs are funded with operating expenses coming from One Great Hour of Sharing yearly offering. *The GBGM is our official mission arm to the world*.

Before leaving, we visited John Street UMC founded in 1766, home of the oldest Methodist congregation in the U.S.

At the conclusion of the trip, the following comment was made: “*If every United Methodist could visit and learn about the work of the General Board of Global Ministries, they would be so proud to be part of a connectional church that reaches out to the entire world with the love of Christ.*”

Agape!
John Nelson

RECLAIMING THE SABBATH: A TIME FOR GOD IN YOUR LIFE

A 1- or 2-day retreat will be held at the Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center (VUMAC) on November 17th and 18th. The Rev. Marjorie Thompson will be the featured speaker.

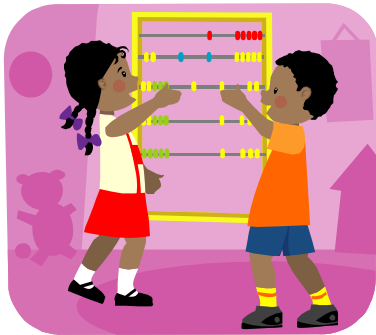
You may attend from Friday evening until Saturday afternoon or only attend on Saturday from 9 am to 3:45 pm. Registration for Friday through Saturday is \$90 including lodging and meals or \$50 for Saturday only. A variety of workshops will be offered on Saturday that are designed to rejuvenate

and deepen your spiritual life.

For more information or to register, visit the conference Web site at <http://www.vaumc.org/> and link on the date, or call the Office of Discipleship at 804-521-1138 or 800-768-6040, ext. 138.

CURRICULUM EXTRAVAGANZA!

Come Tuesday, November 20 at the United Methodist Center, 10330 Staples Mill Road in Glen Allen to review materials for your children, youth and adults. The Center will be open from 7-9 pm. Find some new tools and get some free samples. Registration is \$10. For more information or to register, visit the conference Web site at www.vaumc.org and under "Events" link on the date or call the Office of Children's Ministries and Discipleship at 1-800-768-6040, ext. 138.



What in the world is a DCSSC?

If you answered "District Clergy Spouse Support Coordinator," you would be right! As a parishioner, many of us expect our pastors to be available 24/7/365 which doesn't leave much time for the spouse of our pastor. Just

as our clergy have chaplains they can use, so each district has someone available for clergy spouses to call when the going gets tough.

Our coordinator for the Ashland District is Patty Erickson from Peace UMC in Fredericksburg. Contact her at 540-785-3545 or via email at

ericksonpc@hotmail.com.

*IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO
THINK ABOUT
CHRISTMAS!*



United Methodist Family Services has several ways you can support families in need during the holidays.

- Secret Santa--provide a gift or gifts for a child in one of their programs from a wish list—240 are needed.
- Be a holiday party sponsor for one of our regional centers at a cost of \$100. They need 80 sponsors.

- Adopt one of their cottages, classrooms or regional centers and provide needed program items for them from a wish list. Twenty volunteers are needed.

Please direct questions or inquiries to Linda Ray, Church Relations Coordinator, 804-254-9692 or through email at lray@umfs.org. They need volunteers for these assignments before December 2nd.

Be sure to save Sunday afternoon, November 18, on your calendar!
Our Ashland District Conference will be held at Lakeside UMC in Richmond at 3:00 pm.
Directions are on page one of the newsletter!
Elect our 2008 Virginia Conference Delegates at Large. Keynote speaker will be Rev. Paul Nixon.



ASHLAND DISTRICT CALENDAR

Date	Time	Event	Location
11/2-3		Passing On Faith Conference	Shady Grove (H) UMC
11/2-4		Conference UMM Spiritual Retreat	VUMAC
11/2-4		20 th Annual UM Scouting Fellowship Retreat	VUMAC
11/5	7:30 p.m.	District UMM	Wright's Chapel UMC
11/7	9:30 a.m.	PAUMCS	UM Center
11/9-11		Conference Middle School Fall Retreat	Eagle Eyrie
11/10	9:30 a.m.	District UMW Officers' Training	Providence UMC
11/12	11:30 a.m.	Mingling with Mark	Fredericksburg UMC
11/12	6:00 p.m.	District Council/Board of Laity Combined Meeting	Aunt Sarah's, Carmel Church
11/13	11:30 a.m.	Mingling with Mark	Duncan Memorial UMC
11/17	9:30 a.m.	Conference UVMIM Team Leader Training	Lakeside UMC
11/18	3:00 p.m.	District Conference	Lakeside UMC
11/20	7:00 p.m.	Curriculum Extravaganza!	Um Center
11/21	12:00 p.m.	Closing Early for Thanksgiving Holiday	District Office
11/22-23		Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday	District Office
11/29	10:00 a.m.	District Committee on Ordained Ministry	District Office
12/1	9:00 a.m.	Christmas Bazaar & Cookie Sale	Forest Grove UMC
12/3	7:30 p.m.	District UMM	Wright's Chapel UMC
12/6	7:00 p.m.	District Board of Church Location and Building	TBA
12/7-9		Winter Camp I	Westview on the James
12/7-9		Conference High School Fall Retreat	Eagle Eyrie
12/14-16		Winter Camp II	Westview on the James
12/21	12:00 p.m.	Closing Early for Christmas Holiday	District Office
12/24-1/2		Closed for Christmas/New Year's Holiday	District Office
1/12/08		Leadership Training Event	Fredericksburg UMC

The Ashland District of
 The United Methodist Church
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