



March 2010

THE DISTRICT CORE

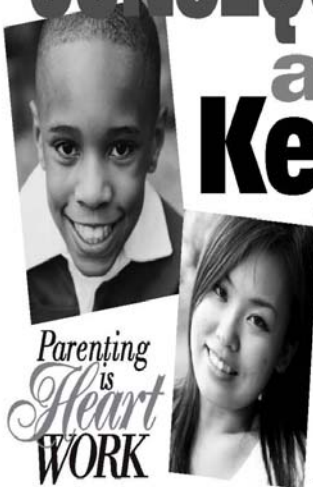


A NEWSLETTER OF THE WINCHESTER DISTRICT • VIRGINIA CONFERENCE • THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
We envision churches where all God's people are welcomed at table, nurtured and transformed to be Christ to others in the world.

Parenting Seminar

For parents of children
ages 2-18

Cooperation, CONSEQUENCES, and Keeping Your Sanity



Connect with your kids
in ways that will change
their hearts.

You will learn...

Practical ideas to help you
address the hearts of your kids.
This seminar is entertaining,
encouraging, and life-changing.

Bring the whole family!

Children through age 12
will learn in fun and exciting
ways how they can enhance
family life. Nursery
care available
for ages 3 and
younger.



www.biblicalparenting.org

Presented by
Cindy Randolph

**Saturday
April 10
10:00 am - 3:00 pm**

Braddock Street
United Methodist Church
115 Wolfe St in Winchester

Cost: \$15 per adult
Lunch is provided

For more information contact
Dana Jackson at (540) 338-2937
or email harmonyouth@aol.com.
Please register by Monday, April 5.

Bishop Names Four New District Superintendents

After a year of no changes in the Bishop's Cabinet, the Virginia Conference will see four districts get new leadership in the coming church year. Bishop Charlene Kammerer announced the changes February 10.

The Rev. Ken Jackson will oversee the Alexandria District. The Rev. Tommy Herndon will become superintendent of the Harrisonburg District. The Rev. Mike Houff will be appointed to the Staunton District. And the Rev. Larry Thompson Jr. will lead the Winchester District.

Current Alexandria Superintendent Alan Reifsnnyder and Harrisonburg Superintendent Ed Pruitt will retire at 2010 Annual Conference. Superintendents Kathleen Overby Webster (Staunton) and David Forrest (Winchester) will receive appointments to the local church.



Thompson is currently serving at Asbury UMC in the Harrisonburg District, and has served churches in Woodbridge, Front Royal, Powhatan, Salem, Covington, Staunton and Wirtz (Danville District). He was president of the Virginia Council of Churches from 2001-2002. Thompson is a graduate of Eastern Mennonite Seminary.

Two of the newcomers are not new to the Cabinet, having served previously. Jackson served as superintendent of the Lynchburg District from 1994 to 2001, and currently serves as pastor at St. Matthews UMC in Annandale. Herndon is serving at Manassas St. Thomas UMC in the Alexandria District and also is a former superintendent, having served in Portsmouth from 2000-2005.

Houff is currently at First UMC in Salem, where he has served since 1999.

A word from the District Superintendent...

“You shall not deprive a resident alien or an orphan of justice; you shall not take a widow’s garment in pledge. Remember that you were a slave in Egypt and the Lord your God redeemed you from there; therefore I command you to do this.” (Deuteronomy 24: 17-18 NRSV)

Throughout the Old Testament the Lord repeatedly reminds the people of Israel of their heritage as slaves in Egypt. Indeed, one of the great words of scripture in Old and New Testament alike is: “remember!” Remember what I did for you, O my people, the Lord says to Israel repeatedly. Never forget who you are and where you came from: Egypt’s slave land. “Remember, I am with you always,” says Jesus in the Great Commission at the end of Matthew’s Gospel.

The Lord is correct in this emphasis, of course, because human beings are nothing if not forgetful. I remember as a child in Sunday School being struck by how soon the children of Israel forgot all that the Lord had done for them as soon as they got across the Red Sea. “Things sure are tough here,” they said in effect, “I sure wish we were back in Egypt!”

How easily we forget the Lord’s goodness to us, as well. We always seem to assume that we deserve all our blessings, while our pains must be God’s fault.

The Scriptures move us in sundry places to remember that all our blessings come from God alone, and that he expects us to be concerned with others not so similarly blessed—which includes a lot of people on this earth. Further, Jesus calls us to make disciples of all people in that same Great Commission quoted above.

That’s why the Winchester District has a Hispanic Ministries Committee, for there seem to be a lot of Spanish-speaking people in our midst. And God seems to be especially concerned about “resident aliens” as well as widows and orphans! Chairperson Mary Frances Townsend of Leesburg UMC recently called that group together to ask the question: what does God want us to do regarding the many Hispanic people in our midst?

We’re still trying to figure that out and are beginning with information gathering, trying to find out how many Hispanics there are and what programs and ministries are already in place for them in the six counties and the city of Winchester that make up our district.

If this is something that God is calling you to involve yourself in, give Mary Frances a call (703-777-2918) or call the district office (540-662-7332). You’re also invited to the next meeting of the committee on Sunday, May 16, 2:00 p.m., at Marshall UMC.

Thanks for all you do in Christ’s name.

David Forrest

Abingdon Press releases ‘Green Church’ resources for all ages

Abingdon press has released *Green Church* resources for all ages, so churches can work together to take action as stewards of the environment. Churches and their members will learn how to become better caretakers of God’s planet as they study Scripture and scientific findings and participate in group discussion and learning activities. Each age-level study offers a Leader’s Guide that includes everything a group leader would need for all six sessions. The companion piece, *7 Simple Steps to Green Your Church*, includes a one-year plan to help churches “go green.”

For more information visit, www.GreenChurch.AbingdonPress.com.

May 2 is Older Adult Recognition Sunday

Sunday, May 2, is designated Older Adult Recognition Sunday. Materials have now been posted on the Conference Web site for 2010 Older Adult Recognition Sunday.

This year's theme, "Seasoned Adults Flavor the Young: Intergenerational Ministries," follows the 2009 theme of "Seasoned Adults Spice Up the Church." Lectionary readings for Older Adult Recognition Sunday include Psalm 148 and John 13:31-35. Since a portion of Psalm 148 reads "...young men and women alike, old and young together...", the theme of intergenerational ministries was chosen.

Go to www.vaumc.org, select "Ministries," then "Age-Related Ministries," "Older Adults," and "Older Adults Recognition Sunday" for more information.

United Methodists plan to 'Change the World' April 24-25

April 24-25 will be a weekend that could change the world. All 11 million United Methodists are being urged to come together that weekend to work in their local communities and also unite to fight malaria.

Join these Virginia Conference churches that will be participating: **Jetersville UMC** (Farmville District), Thrift Store Ministry; **Centenary UMC** (Lynchburg District), Habitat for Humanity; **Sherbourne UMC** (Richmond District), Health Clinic and Food Pantry; **Waverly UMC** (Portsmouth District), 12-church cooperative Mission Ministries; **Accotink UMC** (Alexandria District), Free desserts to community; **Floris UMC** (Arlington District), Full Circle Band concert for Mercy Hospital in Bo, Sierra Leone, and Rebuilding Together; **Emmanuel UMC** (Charlottesville District), Need-a-Prayer Drive-Thru; **St. Stephen's UMC** (Alexandria District), Grace Ministries food, clothing, diapers distribution; **Beverly Hills Community UMC** (Alexandria District), Rebuilding Together Alexandria home repair project; **Arlington UMC** (Arlington District), 6-8 community service projects; **Macedonia UMC** (Winchester District), 'What on Earth R U Up 2 4 Heaven's Sake?' worship and service; **Stanardsville UMC** (Charlottesville District), Nothing but Nets community fundraiser; **Hinton Avenue UMC** (Charlottesville District), Malaria-focused worship; soup kitchen.

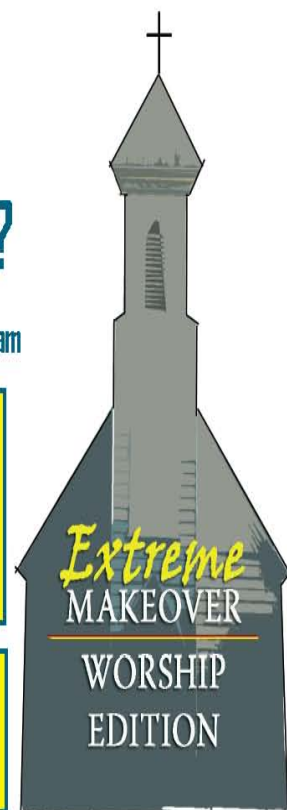
What will your church do? For more information about Change the World, go to www.rethinkchurch.org/changetheworld.

Does your worship service need a makeover?

Come spend a day with our Design Team

The Rev. Chris B. Hughes
Pneumanaut Ministries:
Personal Services and Consulting

Len Wilson and Jason Moore
The Midnight Oil Guys



Whether your worship needs a remodel, renovation, rehab or completely new construction, this event will give you the tools to design, develop, create and deliver powerful, authentic worship that is true to the risen Christ. Our design team will help you clarify your blueprint for worship, overcome obstacles and explore new methods and techniques. Choose one of two locations:

Tuesday, May 11, 2010

Calvary United Methodist Church
2179 Stuarts Draft Highway
Stuarts Draft, VA 24477

OR

Wednesday, May 12, 2010

Shady Grove United Methodist Church
8209 Shady Grove Road
Mechanicsville, VA 23111

Same program each day:

8 - 9 a.m.	Registration
9 a.m.	Welcome and Opening Worship
9:30 a.m.	Chris Hughes keynote
10:45 a.m.	Workshops I
12:15 p.m.	Lunch
1 p.m.	Len Wilson and Jason Moore keynote
2:15 p.m.	Workshops II
4 p.m.	Closing Worship

This event is designed for pastors, worship leaders and worship design teams. Registration of \$25 per person includes lunch. Registration deadline is April 30. To register, go to www.vaumc.org, click on "Event Calendar" and the date you wish to attend.

See reverse side to meet our Design Team

Sponsored by the Virginia Conference Board of Communications and the Worship Division of the Board of Discipleship



DISTRICT CORE

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Sheryl Pifer-Administrative Assistant
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Kathy Lutman-District Lay Leader
Forrest Smith-Associate Lay Leader

Website:
www.winchesterdistrictumc.org

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DISTRICT CALENDAR

- ◆ April 1 - District Office Closed - 1 p.m.
- ◆ April 2 - District Office Closed
- ◆ April 10 - Lay Ministries Training, Duncan Memorial UMC (Berryville) - 8 a.m.-6 p.m.
- ◆ April 10 - Dist. Children's Ministry Event, Braddock Street UMC - 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
- ◆ April 12-15 - Cabinet meets at Blackstone
- ◆ April 20 - Dist. Comm. on Ordained Ministry, Macedonia UMC - 9 a.m.
- ◆ April 21 - Professional Youth Directors, District Office - 10 a.m.
- ◆ April 22 - District Clergy Association w/ Marc Brown, Mt. Olive UMC (Shenandoah Co.) - 9 a.m.
- ◆ April 23-24 - District Youth 30-hour Famine
- ◆ April 24 - UMM 5k Race for Heart Havens, Kernstown Battlefield - 8 a.m.
- ◆ April 30 - Dist. Ofc. Closed for Apple Blossom
- ◆ May 4 - District Finance Committee, District Office - 10 a.m.
- ◆ May 11 - Dist. Comm. on Ordained Ministry, Macedonia UMC - 9 a.m.
- ◆ May 16 - District Yth. Council, Shenandoah University
- ◆ May 16 - District Hispanic Ministries, Marshall UMC - 2 p.m.
- ◆ May 19 - Professional Youth Directors, District Office - 10 a.m.
- ◆ May 19-20 - Cabinet meets at Blackstone
- ◆ May 23-24 - Professional Assoc. of Church Secretaries, Shrinemont @ Orkney Springs
- ◆ May 25 - DCOM, Braddock St. UMC - 10 a.m.
- ◆ May 25 - Bd. Of Missions, District Ofc - 1 p.m.
- ◆ May 28 - District Office Closes at 1 p.m.
- ◆ May 28 - Clergy Farewell Banquet, Front Royal UMC - 6:30 p.m.
- ◆ May 31 - District Ofc. closed for Memorial Day