



February 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.

Thank you! Thank you!! Thank you!!!

Forty-seven Winchester District Churches and Shenandoah University donated 2,725 Health Kits to Haiti Relief!!



Boxed health kits in the District Office await transport to Richmond on Monday, February 1st .



From left: Rev. Mike Mayton, District Superintendent David Forrest, Meleah Mayton, Nancy Forrest, and Larry Pifer load the truck to deliver kits to Richmond.

A special Thank You to Sager Real Estate in Strasburg for the use of their "u-haul" truck!!

Winchester District Board of Missions Annual Dinner Meeting

Sunday, February 28, 2010 ~ 3-6 p.m.

Braddock Street UMC, 115 Wolfe Street, Winchester, VA

Special Guest Speaker: Mrs. Carol Gaston

*Women's Division Director, General Board of Global Ministries
President of VA Conference Board of Global Ministries*

Cost of Meal: \$10.00 per person ~ Deadline February 17

No refunds after deadline. No registrations at the door.

Mail registration below with a check to:

Winchester District UMC Office ~ 21 South Kent St. Winchester, Va. 22601

(Please note: Missions Dinner in memo line on check.)

REGISTRATION FORM

Name(s) _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Church: _____ Number attending: _____

A word from the District Superintendent...

“Those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.” Luke 13:4-5 NRSV

“He makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous.” Matthew 5:45b NRSV

Why does God allow evil in the world?

Apparently Jesus doesn't think that we need to know, for he never explains this conundrum sufficiently to our satisfaction. What he does say clearly in the two quotations above is that things happen in this fallen, yet redeemed, world of ours. Towers fall—earthquakes happen—people die—good and bad alike, evidently. And, on the other hand, all people—good and bad alike—share in God's natural blessings.

And, after all, who gets to decide who the good and bad are? God alone, apparently—a good thing, for I'd hate to have to be the judge!

This is what I believe: it is always a mistake to blame the victims in any tragedy, for who but God alone knows what the answer is, what the cause is, what the meaning is?

Moreover, it is always the right thing to help the victims, to pray for them, to care for them, to be Jesus for them—as far as we can.

That's what you've been doing in response to this latest tragedy just beyond our shores. Thank you for your Christ-like response. Keep praying and working, and one day Jesus will welcome you home.

God bless you.

David Forrest

Two church mission executives die in Haiti quake

United Methodists around the world are mourning the deaths of the Rev. Sam Dixon, the head of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) and the Rev. Clint Rabb, head of the General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM) office of mission volunteers, who died in Haiti as a result of injuries received when the hotel where they were meeting collapsed during the Jan. 12 earthquake.

Several mission and relief specialists were at the Hotel Montana in Port-au-Prince when the earthquake hit at about 5 p.m. The hotel collapsed, pinning the UMCOR team and many others beneath its rubble. The rest of the team was rescued Friday after 55 hours in the ruins of the hotel. Rabb was evacuated to a hospital in Florida, but died later from his injuries. The UMCOR team had been in Haiti for meetings with other humanitarian organizations working to improve medical services.

“Sam Dixon was a tireless servant of the church of Jesus Christ on behalf of all of us,” said Bishop Joel Martinez, interim top executive of The United Methodist Board of Global Ministries, UMCOR's parent agency. “His death is an incalculable loss to Global Ministries, UMCOR and our worldwide ministry of relief to God's most vulnerable children.” After serving as a pastor in North Carolina for 24 years, Dixon joined UMCOR in 1998 as director of field operations. He was named director in 2007.

Rabb was a native Texan and had been a pastor for 35 years with extensive mission work in Africa, Asia and Europe. He had been with GBGM since 1996. Rabb leaves behind eight children.

A third colleague, the Rev. Jim Gulley, was pulled from the rubble of the hotel relatively unscathed.

Jean Arnwine, a member of a Dallas mission team providing eye care to Haitians, died of injuries suffered in the quake. Meanwhile all members of a 15-member team from Blacksburg UMC that was working on construction projects in Haiti was safe. The team, led by the Rev. Reggie Tuck and his wife, Cathy, was evacuated through the Dominican Republic to flights home.



Heart Havens Month

Together, Heart Havens and The United Methodist Church have been addressing the need in Virginia for housing and services for adults with intellectual disabilities. We continue to need your help to provide the best possible care and quality housing.

Join us as we celebrate Heart Havens Month, a time we set aside to inform the community about this ministry that was begun in 1996 by the Virginia Conference UMC.

Please visit our website www.hearthavens.org, for more information about Heart Havens. We invite you to donate individually or through your church. If you are unable to donate, volunteers are always needed for home maintenance and yard work on nearly all ten of our homes across Virginia. Visits with residents is also a great way to make smiles and to learn first hand about your neighbors in a Heart Havens home.

A Heart Havens home is located on the Winchester District at 3050 Saratoga Drive in Winchester.



Virginia Conference Lay Ministries training will be held at the Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center (VUMAC) in Blackstone, Feb. 26-28, 2010. A wide variety of classes will be offered that may not be offered on the

district level. Opportunities to serve within your home church are many and can be enhanced by taking a class that might assist in building a new ministry or strengthening an existing one.

Registration information is available from Cyndi Schnell at VUMAC at (434) 292-5308 or e-mail CyndiSchnell@vaumc.org. The registration deadline is Monday, February 15, 2010.

Amor y Paz thanks you!

At the start of the new year we want to thank those individuals and churches who have provided goods, money and/or services this past year for the Hispanic ministry at Amor y Paz United Methodist Church. We want to especially thank Montague Avenue UMC for providing the facilities for this ministry to take place, without which the ministry could not have happened at all. God bless each of you!

The Amor y Paz Support Team

Bishop's Convocation Caring for God's Creation

9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 27, 2010

**River Road United Methodist Church
8800 River Road Richmond, VA**

Ever wonder where your faith fits into environmental stewardship?

This convocation is a chance to join with other United Methodists to discuss why creation care should be incorporated into our faith. It will also provide educational opportunities for participants to incorporate elements of creation care into their home churches.

Cost to attend is \$25. Registration is available online at www.vaumc.org along with a full list of activities and more details.

For more information, contact the Rev. Pat Watkins, executive director of Caretakers of God's Creation, at (804) 612-1841 or e-mail CaretakersOfGodsCreation@cavtel.net



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

District Lay Ministries Training (formerly Lay Speaking) will be held on Saturday, March 13 - 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Duncan Memorial UMC in Berryville.

SNOW POLICY

The District Office follows the Winchester City School snow closure policy. If Winchester City Schools are closed or delayed the district office is on the same schedule!



DISTRICT CORE

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Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

DISTRICT CALENDAR

- ◆ February 4 - UM Day at General Assembly, Richmond
- ◆ February 5-7 - District Youth Retreat
- ◆ February 6 - UMM Bowl-a-thon at Northside Bowling Lanes - 12-3 p.m.
- ◆ February 8-11 - Cabinet meets at Blackstone
- ◆ February 11 - Dist. Clergy Association, Marshall UMC - 9 a.m.
- ◆ February 15 - Mission Saturation Committee, Harmony UMC - 1 p.m.
- ◆ February 16 - Dist. Comm. on Ordained Ministry, Macedonia UMC - 9 a.m.
- ◆ February 17 - Professional Youth Directors, District Office - 10 a.m.
- ◆ February 18 - District Finance Committee, District Office - 10 a.m.
- ◆ February 26-28 - Lay Ministries Training, Blackstone
- ◆ February 28 - Board of Missions Dinner, Braddock Street UMC - 3-5 p.m.
- ◆ March 2 - Committee on Superintendency, District Office - 10 a.m.
- ◆ March 6 - District Children's Event
- ◆ March 6 - UMW Annual Prayer Breakfast, Lee Jackson Restaurant - 9 a.m.
- ◆ March 8-11 - Cabinet meets at Blackstone
- ◆ March 11 - Dist. Clergy Association, Grace Annex (Purcellville) - 9 a.m.
- ◆ March 13 - District Lay Ministries Training, Duncan Memorial UMC (Berryville) - 8 a.m.-6 p.m.
- ◆ March 16 - Dist. Comm. on Ordained Ministry, Macedonia UMC - 9 a.m.
- ◆ March 17 - Professional Youth Directors, District Office - 10 a.m.
- ◆ March 21 - District Youth Council, Shenandoah University
- ◆ March 23 - DCOM, Braddock Street UMC - 10 a.m.
- ◆ March 23 - District Board of Missions, District Office - 1 p.m.