



May 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.

Conference Orientation on Sunday, June 6

An orientation session for Winchester District members of the 2010 Virginia Annual Conference will be held on **Sunday, June 6, 3–5 p.m.**, at Stephens City UMC. It is important that pastors, church lay delegates, and district lay delegates be present to be briefed on issues coming before the Conference.

Haiti earthquake survivor to speak at Laity Banquet



The Rev. Jim Gulley, a United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) consultant who was trapped with colleagues in the rubble of the Hotel Montana after the Haiti earthquake, will be featured speaker at the Virginia Annual Conference

Mission Breakfast Monday morning, June 14, and at the Laity Banquet that evening. He will address the Annual Conference evening session Tuesday, June 15.

Gulley was in Haiti as part of a three-member team from the General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM) on a quest to improve medical services and agricultural practices in Haiti, one of the world's poorest countries. The other two were the Rev. Sam Dixon, head of UMCOR, and the Rev. Clint Rabb, who led the Volunteers In Mission area. Dixon and Rabb did not survive the ordeal.

Tickets for the Laity Banquet are available by calling our District Lay Leader, Kathy Lutman, at 540-454-2836 or emailing klutman213@aol.com.

Annual Conference Offering to benefit Brazil, Mozambique, and Grace Ministries

Each year members of local churches are encouraged to help raise money for global mission projects designated by the bishop. The pastor or lay representative of each church will take that money to Annual Conference where it will be collected during a special time of the session.

Bishop Charlene Kammerer has announced that the 2010 Annual Conference offering goal is \$300,000 and will benefit the following leadership development 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. This year's offering will help fund curriculum and teacher training materials for "Shade and Fresh Water" centers and other children's centers sponsored by the Brazil Methodist Church.
- ♦ **Mozambique: \$100,000** — This money will help pay for education and training for Sunday school teachers, lay preachers and pastors in the United Methodist Church in Mozambique.
- ♦ **Virginia: \$100,000** — Grace Ministries, a community outreach program of the Arlington District, addresses the most pressing material and spiritual needs of low-income immigrants in northern Virginia and empowers immigrants to become community leaders. Grace Ministries provides emergency food, clothing, household items, diapers and health care information at seven United Methodist Churches. Your gifts will help provide job training programs for personal care aides, certified nurse aides and for CDL/ESL training for school bus drivers.

A word from the District Superintendent...

I've been thinking back to the moving experience that I had on Saturday, April 10th, when I drove over to Duncan Memorial UMC in Berryville for the closing Holy Communion service for the Lay Speaking Ministries training.

The district committee that plans those events—usually held twice a year in fall and spring—always invites me to lead the closing worship experience with them. And I never cease to be inspired by the several dozen people who come for the daylong (8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.) classes. It is a long day, and I always kind of feel sorry for the people who have to sit through a (mercifully brief, usually) sermon from me at the end of it before receiving the sacrament.

It's inspiring for me as the district superintendent to greet all those people who come out to learn and to serve because they love Jesus and want to share that love. I go to lots of meetings and receive lots of emails and phone calls, not all of which (believe it or not!) are as exciting as the lay speaker training. Seeing those folks inspires me to keep going to all those meetings and answering those calls and messages. They are truly what this work is all about: equipping the laity to be in ministry alongside the pastors.

Well, anyway, the April 10th group astounded me by giving me a fat envelope with a nice card signed by them all and a wad of cash inside. They said that since we're leaving the district they wanted to show their appreciation by giving us (Nancy and me) a gift for missions in our name. I was shocked by their thoughtfulness and embarrassed to think how little I'd actually done for them! But nevertheless I want to thank them very much.

Afraid to touch the money, I turned it over to Melanie Melester, our district financial administrator, who counted it and reported that it amounted to \$175! Quite a gift—which Nancy and I decided to give to our district's Amor y Paz UMC—which always runs a deficit because its ministry is to those regarded as least important among us.

Having been raised by one and having been one myself since I was a young man (though nearly bald even then, alas!), I've always had great appreciation for pastors, for theirs is truly a tough job. But this time, especially, let me thank the laity for all that you do in Christ's name.

Keep serving! God bless you.

David Forrest

Stop Hunger Now Meal Preparation

Members of the upcoming Annual Conference will be invited to participate in the preparation of 100,000 meals through Stop Hunger Now.

Meal preparation will take place in the exhibit hall on Monday and Tuesday. Stop Hunger Now meals are filled with dried vegetables, a chicken broth tablet, soy, rice, and 21 nutrients. Each packaged and sealed meal, able to feed six people, is shipped to those in need around the globe.

The cost of the meals will be \$25,000. Churches and individuals wishing to assist with the cost of preparing the meals are invited to contact Marc Brown, Director of Connectional Ministries, at MarcBrown@vaumc.org.

2010 Annual Conference Logo



The 2010 Virginia Annual Conference theme, "Leading by Following Jesus – Disciples: Nurtured and Transformed," is based on the portion of the conference vision statement that focuses on God's people being "nurtured and transformed" by Virginia Conference faith communities. By using imagery from the first time Jesus called to his disciples and asked them to leave their fishing boats and follow him, we are reminded that this same Jesus continues to call disciples today and urges us to follow him. The logo was designed by Richard H. Jenkins, freelance graphic designer and illustrator, who is a member of St. Luke's United Methodist Church in Richmond.

Society of St. Andrew VBS mission project teaches kids about hunger

“Out Of This World (OOTW),” the Society of St. Andrew’s 2010 Vacation Bible School (VBS) Mission Project, is designed to supplement a church’s VBS program and is easily adaptable to any themed VBS curriculum.

This mission project helps students learn about hunger in the United States and how Jesus wants us to feed our hungry brothers and sisters. Daily activity sheets for all ages contain short scripturally based stories, facts about hunger and the Society of St. Andrew’s hunger-relief ministry, potato trivia, “Go Green” facts, pencil activities, an “OOTW” word of the day and an “OOTW” mission activity.

Along with fun and education, the goal for each VBS is to raise enough through student offerings to provide 1,000 pounds of fresh produce through the Society of St. Andrew for the plates of hungry Americans. At a nickel a pound, that’s a goal of just \$50.

All materials are free and available now from the Society of St. Andrew. Order online at www.endhunger.org/vbs.htm or call 1-800-333-4597. More information about Society of St. Andrew is available at www.endhunger.org.

May 8 will be United Methodist Day at Kings Dominion

Saturday, May 8, will be Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church Family Fun Day at Kings Dominion amusement park, with discounted tickets to the park available for United Methodists.

A special picnic will be held from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. at the Group Catering Pavilion. To purchase tickets online, go to www.kingsdominion.com, click on “Tickets,” then “Corporate Partners,” and enter company code UMC4.

The special discount tickets (\$27.50 for ages 3-61 and 48" tall or taller; \$24.50 for ages 3-61 and under 48" tall or ages 62+) will be valid Saturdays May 1, 8, 15, 22, and Memorial Day Weekend May 29, 30, 31. Children ages 2 and under admitted free.

UMCOR continues Haiti earthquake recovery efforts

United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) Health will send a team to Haiti next month to begin implementation of a strategy for post-earthquake health care, based on four priorities:

First, UMCOR will help Grace Children’s Hospital in Port-au-Prince and Hôpital de Bienfaisance in Pignon to strengthen pediatrics, surgery, orthopedics, nursing and pastoral care by fostering a partnership between the two Haitian hospitals and three U.S.-based Methodist hospitals.

UMCOR Health also will offer to train board and management teams to shore up the governance of hospitals and clinics throughout Haiti and will study the feasibility of starting a limb prosthesis program.

Finally, UMCOR will promote community-based primary care programs that focus on women’s and children’s health, prevention and treatment of malaria, and training for community workers in Haiti.

Gifts to support UMCOR’s Haiti relief and recovery work can be made online at www.umcorhaiti.org. One hundred percent of gifts made to this advance will help the people of Haiti.

UMCOR has hired a Head of Mission for the office in Port-au-Prince and a Haiti Desk Officer to work at the New York City headquarters. Local staff in Haiti now include a program officer, logistics assistant, two drivers, an office manager, and an administrative assistant.

Since the disaster in Haiti, both UMCOR Sager Brown and UMCOR West have received a total of more than 400,000 health kits – enough to replenish the supply of kits as they are sent to Haiti.

Because of this generous response, the depots are asking volunteers to transition from the preparation of health kits to the preparation of layette kits and birthing kits. Providing necessary resources for mothers and infants, these kits are in great demand as Haitians begin to rebuild their lives.



*Come join us in
celebrating*
Rev. David Forrest's

*6 years as
Winchester District Superintendent*

Saturday, June 26, 2010

5:00 p.m.

*Burnt Factory UMC Picnic Shelter
1943 Jordan Springs Road
Stephenson, Virginia*

*Please RSVP by calling the District Office
at 540-662-7332 or emailing SherylPifer@vaumc.org
NO later than Wednesday, June 16th!*

*A love offering for Chicunque Rural Hospital in Mozambique
will be presented to the Forrest family during the celebration.*

*Please send donations to the
Winchester District Office, 21 S. Kent Street, Winchester, VA 22601
by Wednesday, June 16th*



DISTRICT CORE

Winchester District
Virginia Conference
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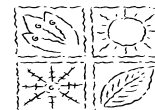
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Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

DISTRICT CALENDAR

- ◆ May 4 - District Finance Committee, District Office - 10 a.m.
- ◆ May 11 - Dist. Comm. on Ordained Ministry, Macedonia UMC - 9 a.m.
- ◆ May 11 - Comm. on Superintendency, District Office. - 10 a.m.
- ◆ 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 in Richmond
- ◆ 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

- ◆ June 6 - Annual Conference Orientation, Stephens City UMC—3-5 p.m.
- ◆ June 8 - Clergy Executive Committee, District Office - 9 a.m.
- ◆ June 12 - Cabinet meets in Norfolk
- ◆ June 13-16 - Annual Conference - Norfolk (District Office Closed)
- ◆ Farewell Celebration for David Forrest, Burnt Factory Picnic Shelter - 5 p.m.
- ◆ June 30 - Clergy Moving Day



There is a time
for everything,
and a season
for every activity
under heaven

Ecclesiastes 3:1