



February 2009

# DISTRICT DISPATCH

A Newsletter of The Richmond 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.*

## United Methodist Urban Ministries of Richmond

### growing 'Shalom Farm'

United Methodist Urban Ministries of Richmond (UMUMR) is preparing for one of its most advantageous projects to date. Final preparations are being made for Shalom Farm, a project spearheaded by Rob Moore, a community developer at UMUMR.

Richmond has seen much change in terms of social justice and civil rights. And though Richmond progressed quite far over the past 100 years, there are some issues that are still plaguing the city, including food security. From the lack of fresh fruit and vegetables available to residents of urban Richmond to the overall lack of quality food available to many, Shalom Farm will look to serve that need by providing crops to the local urban area.

Due to the current economic climate, food prices are slowly climbing. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations states that "60 percent or more of all spending by the urban poor goes for food." By fulfilling its mission of facilitating "collaborative partnerships among individuals, congregations, and organizations to assure food security in Greater Richmond," UMUMR is attempting to make an impact on the food security problem through Shalom Farm.

But there is more to Shalom Farm than the food security component. Another goal is to educate youth not only on basics, such as what time of the year to plow or even what "plowing" means, but also to explore the necessity of farming and what it means to each of the children. Processed foods have nearly become the norm in urban areas, and many do not know where their food comes from. In addition, many of the processed foods that are consumed can contribute to health issues that harm segments of our community. To show the differences between these foods and fresh foods could be the first step in closing the health disparity gap that has risen.

UMUMR is developing partnerships with Camp Westview on the James, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Gum Spring United Methodist Church, Central Virginia Food Bank and the Society of St. Andrew. In addition to these groups and agencies, there are countless individuals that make the Shalom Farm and this progress possible. Most importantly, Psalm 107 gives us our greatest call for thankfulness: "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! His faithful love endures forever."

For more information on Shalom Farm and how you can get involved, contact Moore at 266-9350, or <moorer@umumr.org>.

*--Tim Gammel II, UMUMR, Reprinted with permission from*



## Golf Tournament

Golfers are invited to reserve your spot at Providence UMC's annual Golf Tournament to be held Friday, April 17, beginning at 1:00 p.m. at the Providence Golf Course, 1160 S. Providence Road. Half of the proceeds will go to support United Methodist Urban Ministries of Richmond (UMUMR) and its 2009 primary focus, Shalom Farm at Camp Westview on the James. The other half will support Upward Soccer. The cost per golfer is \$65. A picnic will follow the tournament at the Providence UMC picnic shelter, 901 S. Providence Road. Call 745-3182 for registration information. ♦

## Congratulation!

The following churches in the Richmond District paid 100% of their 2008 apportionments.

- ◆ Bethel
- ◆ Beulah
- ◆ Bon Air
- ◆ Brookland
- ◆ Centenary
- ◆ Central
- ◆ Corinth (Goochland)
- ◆ Corinth (Sandston)
- ◆ Emmaus at Stratford Hills
- ◆ Gum Spring
- ◆ Laurel Hill
- ◆ Memorial
- ◆ Mount Pisgah
- ◆ New Life
- ◆ Providence
- ◆ Reville
- ◆ River Road
- ◆ Shady Grove
- ◆ Skipwith
- ◆ St. Andrew's
- ◆ St. Mark's
- ◆ St. Matthew's
- ◆ Trinity
- ◆ Willis
- ◆ Woodlake

We thank them for their commitment to the larger ministry of the United Methodist Church.

Steve Jones  
Superintendent

## Refinance Church Debt?

Your Virginia United Methodist Credit Union can help lower the montly payments. We offer loans for parsonages, vans and buses, new church construction and renovations. Call Mike Haydon at 672-0200. ♦

## INSIDE

Letter from the Superintendent .....	2
District Youth Retreat.....	2
District UMW Breakfast.....	3
Opportunities.....	4



## Richmond District

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February 2009

### A Word from the Superintendent:

As the season of Lent begins on February 25, I am reminded of the words of another clergy. This observer commented that in reading the church newspaper announcements, there appear to be more churches who celebrate Shrove Tuesday with pancake suppers than there are churches who keep Ash Wednesday with services of the imposition of ashes.

If this is so, it is not hard to imagine why: Pancakes, Mardi Gras hats, and beads are always more appealing than sooty ashes and scriptures that speak of our mortality and need for repentance. Most of us are uncomfortable with Ash Wednesday's talk of our death; who gladly hears the words, "you are dust and to dust you shall return?"

Yet, the Christian church long ago began the practice of starting Lent with a call to remember our mortality. It did so because it knew that such remembering would lead us to examine our relationship with God. If our lives might end at any time, then we will likely treasure this relationship. Most importantly, where there is any separation or pain in this relationship, we will want to repair and make it right.

May this Ash Wednesday be a time for us to seek God's forgiveness and love where it is needed in our lives.

In Christ,

Steven R. Jones

### In the Richmond District and Virginia Conference in January Steve Jones...

- ◆ Led the C3, Creating Christian Community, District Leadership Training Event at Ramsey Memorial UMC.
- ◆ Attended worship at Trinity UMC, Beulah UMC, and the Ministry Sunday Worship Services at Reveille UMC.
- ◆ Conducted the annual "January Interviews" of all itinerant District Clergy.
- ◆ Attended the Convocation for Clergy at Blackstone.
- ◆ Consulted and met with leaders and members of Richmond District churches and the VUMCC. ◆

### Prayers for...

- ◆ Rev. John Bright and daughter Samantha who continues to rehab from November joint surgery.
- ◆ Rev. Marc Brown and his father H. Morton Brown who was hospitalized the first of the year with heart issues.
- ◆ Bryan Compton, Conference IT director, and his father Olin Compton who is receiving treatment for colon cancer.
- ◆ Estelle Pruden, administrative assistant to Bishop Kammerer, who is undergoing treatment for breast cancer.
- ◆ Anna Workman, Conference director of Church Development, who is recovering from foot surgery in December.
- ◆ Rev. Chancellor Hamilton, retired, who is recovering from surgery in January. ◆

### District Youth Retreat

The Richmond District Youth Retreat "Are You Afraid of the Dark" will be held February 20-22 at the Eagle Eyrie Retreat Center in Lynchburg. The keynote speaker will be Rev. Derrick Parson, former James Madison University Wesley Foundation director and pastor of Asbury Memorial UMC in Chesterfield. Music will be presented by The Logan Jones Band. This will be a fun filled weekend, so make plans now to attend. The cost is \$105 per person. Deadline for registration is February 1. For more information contact Rick Vance at [<RVance36@comcast.net>](mailto:RVance36@comcast.net) or call 512-9725. ◆

### True North

Virginia Conference director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries Angie Williams will be the keynote speaker at the May 1-3 True North:



A Confirmation Retreat at Westview on the James. The Steve Kropp Band from Fredericksburg will provide worship leadership. True North is a retreat from Claim the Name and is specifically for middle school students. This is a retreat designed to supplement the local church confirmation training. For more information or a registration brochure go to [<www.westviewonthejames.org>](http://www.westviewonthejames.org) or call Cat Holbert Rudys at 457-4210. ◆

### Oberammergau 2010

The "once every decade" performance of the Passion Play in Oberammergau, Germany is just 16 months away! We want to invite you to join Bishop Kammerer and us for this inspiring experience as we witness faith in action by a community, demonstrated through music and drama for more than 370 years. Departure date is June 22, 2010, and the costs start at \$2998. We look forward to serving as the Richmond District Coordinators for this Education Opportunities Tours (EO) trip, as well as to meeting you and sharing more about this trip. Questions? Call us at 359-1044 (Brookland UMC), or email [<neillcaldwell@vaumc.org>](mailto:neillcaldwell@vaumc.org).

Rev. Lynne Caldwell  
Pastor, Brookland UMC and  
Neill Caldwell,  
Editor, *Virginia Advocate*

## District UMW Breakfast

The Richmond District United Methodist Women will hold their Annual Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, March 28 at Trinity UMC, 903 Forest Avenue. The theme of the event is Jesus at the Table. Participants may register beginning at 8:30 a.m. Breakfast will be served at 9 a.m. followed by the program and worship. The guest speaker will be the Rev. Ben Campbell, Pastoral Director of Richmond Hill. Rev. Campbell is also the Co-Founder of the Micah Initiative, a partnership program between Richmond Public Schools and churches, synagogues, mosques and other communities of faith in Metropolitan Richmond, for the purpose of supporting the education and the nurture of the children of Richmond. The Mission Emphasis for the event will be the Micah Initiative, for which a monetary offering will be received. The cost of the breakfast is \$7 per person and the reservation deadline is March 14. Reservations should be sent to Mary Jo Whipple, District Treasurer, 1753 Raintree Commons Drive, Henrico, Va. 23238-4222. For information, call 323-9134. ♦

## Clergy Spouses Retreat

The Virginia Clergy Spouse Retreat will be held at the Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center (VUMAC) in Blackstone, March 5-7. This year's theme is Bridges to Abundant Living. The resource leaders will be the Rev. Ed Wright and the Rev. Libby Wright. Clergy spouses are invited to join in this time of fun, fellowship and spiritual renewal. Registration information is available online at <[www.vaumc.org](http://www.vaumc.org)>>events> or by calling (434)292-5308. ♦

## VIM to Russia

Volunteers in Mission Team to Pyatigorsk, Russia is scheduled for July 10-26. This is a wonderful opportunity to be in mission and enjoy a time of touring and shopping. This will be our 10th year with a VIM work team to this area where work has been supported by the Virginia Conference. This is an opportunity to help in the rehabilitation of the Boarding School and fellowship with the members of the local United Methodist Church in Pyatigorsk. Call Rev. Sam NeSmith for information at 323-9134. ♦

## PAUMCS Spring Retreat

The Virginia Chapter of the Professional Association of United Methodist Church Secretaries (PAUMCS) will host their spring retreat, Explore the Art of Practicing the Presence, March 29-30, at the Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center, Blackstone. Rev. Myrtle Frances Hatcher, Peninsula District Superintendent, who is known for her wonderful worship experiences, will be the speaker for the event. Rev. Hatcher will lead the group in a time of learning about how they can intentionally experience God's presence in their hectic work environments as they seek to be the face and hands of Jesus to those they encounter in their day-to-day tasks. The event is open to all church administrative staff, full-time or part-time, paid or volunteer, including but not limited to administrative assistants, financial secretaries, office managers and newsletter editors. Cost is \$75 for PAUMCS members, \$90 for non-members, which includes room on Sunday evening and breakfast and lunch on Monday. To register go to <[www.vaumc.org](http://www.vaumc.org)>>ministries>>PAUMCS> or call 521-1124. ♦



## Restless Hearts

Restless Hearts: Where Do I Go Now, God? is an overnight event March 27-28, for all young adults (18-30) interested in discerning how God might use their lives for good, not simply those interested in ordained or other forms of full-time service in the church. Keynote speakers are Alex Joyner and Rhonda VanDyke Colby; music and worship will be coordinated by Shenandoah University's DeLyn Celec; and a variety of small groups will provide time for reflection and focus on more specific topics. Activities (meals, large and small groups, and worship) will be at Williamsburg UMC, with accommodations at Williamsburg Hospitality House (a brief walk across W&M's campus). Registration is \$50 but the entire amount will be refunded to participants who stay for the entire event. For registration information go to <[www.vaumc.org](http://www.vaumc.org)>>events>. ♦

## Career and Connect

In these times of job loss and challenging economic situations, it is helpful to have a place to discuss "what's next?" Good Shepherd UMC's Career and Connect is such a place. Here you will find human resource professionals who can offer practical tips to aid in job searches as well as a group that shares how to walk through the emotional changes job loss brings. Career and Connect meets the second and fourth Tuesday at 7 p.m. in room 122 at Good Shepherd UMC, 9155 Hungary Road. For more information call 270-7613 or visit <[welcomhome@goodshepherdumc.us](mailto:welcomhome@goodshepherdumc.us)>. ♦

## Special Message

Has your church presented opportunities for endowment giving to your congregation? Have you talked about special gifts through planned giving? Has your church received a bequest in recent years? Have you presented to members of your congregation the idea of including your church in a life-income gift arrangement or naming the church the beneficiary of a life insurance policy? If the answers are yes, the gifts that come by presenting these opportunities will be a blessing to your church and to its ministry. If the answers are no, you may want to contact the Virginia United Methodist Foundation for information on these opportunities. We'll be glad to send you information and/or to visit with your leadership to discuss these ideas. Call me at 521-1120 or, you may contact me at <[JimBergdoll@vaumc.org](mailto:JimBergdoll@vaumc.org)>.

You may wish to share this information with your Endowment or Stewardship Committee chairperson or the chairman of your Finance Committee, or other church leaders.

The Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 provides for persons 70 ½ and older in 2009 to make contributions up to \$100,000 from a Traditional or Roth IRA to qualified charitable organizations, without having to pay federal income taxes on the direct transfer. This is a wonderful opportunity for special gifts for church building programs or other special causes. Donors should ask the custodian or trustee of the IRA for more information, or call the Foundation today.

Jim Bergdoll, Executive Director  
Virginia United Methodist Foundation

### February Lay Speaking Schedule

Dann Ladd (672-1855) and Larry Brayton (539-2122), Co-Directors, Lay Speaking Ministries.

Date	Place	Speaker
2/1	Beth Shalom	Dann Ladd
2/1	Guardian Place	G Golden
2/8	Elmcroft	J Clatterbaugh
2/8	University Park	TBA
2/15	Chippendale	B Hedgepeth
2/15	Guardian Place	Edith Carney
2/22	Elmcroft	B Cousar

### Lay Speaking Academy

The Virginia Conference Lay Speaking Ministries Academy for 2009 will be held February 27-March 1 at VUMAC, Blackstone. This year's academy will offer four sections of the Basic Course for Adults. Advance courses will be offered in fourteen areas including LSMs Discover God's Call, the Joy of Journaling Your Prayers, I Love to Tell the Story, and more. For information go to <www.vaumc.org>>events> or call 521-1124. ♦

### District Opportunities

- ◆ February 5–UM Day at General Assembly, (540)363-5905.
- ◆ February 6-7–School for Children's Ministries, VUMAC, 521-1138.
- ◆ February 13-15–Celebrate Your Marriage Retreat, Camp Overlook, (540)269-2267.
- ◆ February 15–Peace with Justice Grant application deadline, (202)488-5600.
- ◆ February 20-22–Richmond District Youth Retreat, Eagle Eyrie, 521-1124.
- ◆ February 27-March 1–Virginia Conference Lay Speaking Ministries Academy, VUMAC, 521-1124.
- ◆ March 5-7–Clergy Spouses Retreat, VUMAC, (434)292-5308.
- ◆ March 14–Basic "Safe Sanctuaries" Training, VUMCC, 521-1128.
- ◆ March 21–Advanced "Safe Sanctuaries" Training, Williamsburg UMC, 521-1128.
- ◆ March 27-28–Restless Hearts: Where Do I Go Now, God?, Williamsburg, 521-1135.
- ◆ March 28–District UMW Breakfast, Trinity UMC, 323-9134.
- ◆ March 29-30–VA PAUMCS, Spring Retreat, Explore the Art of Practicing the Presence, VUMAC, 521-1124.
- ◆ April 17–UMUMR Golf Tournament, Providence Golf Course, 745-3182.
- ◆ April 25–Responding to Family Violence-Radical Hospitality: Risk-Taking Mission, UMFS, 521-11143.
- ◆ April 28-30–Wesleyan Building Brothers Men's Ministry Male Leadership Experience, VUMAC, 453-4004.
- ◆ May 1-3–Confirmation Retreat, Westview on the James, 457-4210.
- ◆ June 14-17–Annual Conference, Norfolk, 521-1124.
- ◆ July 10-26–VIM to Pyatigorsk, Russia, 323-9134. ♦



## DISTRICT DISPATCH

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 Bill Davis *Chair, Parish Development*  
 Donna Patterson *District President, UMW*  
 Roth Sykes *District President, UMM*  
 Bill Chaffin *District Ministry of Scouting Coord.*  
 D. Ladd/L. Brayton *Co-Directors, Lay Speaking*

**We're on the web at:**

[http://gbgmchurches.gbgm-umc.org/  
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**The DEADLINE for the NEXT  
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