



October 2008

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.

Richmond District Leadership Training Event



Creating Christian Community

Saturday, October 11

8:30-12:30

Ramsey Memorial UMC
5900 Hull Street Road

What is the Christian community for which Jesus prayed?

How can your church be formed by the vision of living in joy and unity to the glory of God and by the mission of being followers of Jesus sent into the world?

Keynote speaker Virginia Conference Director of Connectional Ministries Marc D. Brown will address these and other questions related to building Christian community.

Breakout Sessions and Workshops:

- ◆ Training for Church Leaders led by Steve Jones, Jim Branscome and Al Lynch
- ◆ Forming Small Groups in the Wesleyan Tradition led by Dorothee Tripodi and John Hall
- ◆ Discipling Families led by Dr. Russell Busch
- ◆ Building Bridges of Accessibility led by Joe Winfree and Lynda Moore
- ◆ Making All Things New led by Marc Brown
- ◆ Moving Beyond Church Walls led by Dave Cooper and Marilyn Heckstall

C³ is a half day event designed to provide quality training to our church leaders in each congregation throughout the district. We know that fall is a busy time of year in the life of the church and in the lives of the people who make up the church. However, we feel that this training should be a priority for congregations.

Please plan to attend and bring with you a leadership team that includes your key leaders—lay leader, council chair, staff parish chair, treasurer, finance committee chair and trustees—as well as any others who have a heart for empowering disciples of Jesus in the 21st century. There is no limit on the size of the team that you may bring. And you will note that C³ offers not only training for required officers but also five other simultaneous breakout sessions that congregations have identified as areas in which they would like to be trained.

We believe that effective leadership begins with quality training. Brochures have been provided to pastors and administrative council chairs. However, feel free to call 521-1124 if you need more information. We look forward to receiving your registration and to seeing you and your team at this important event.

In Christ Service,
Steven R. Jones
Superintendent

Dorothee E. Tripodi, Chair
District Leadership Support Team

Children's Sabbath

This year marks the 35th year for the observance of Children's Sabbath, an annual observance sponsored by the Children's Defense Fund and endorsed by numerous faith communities, including the United Methodist Church. It is an occasion to celebrate children as sacred gifts of the Divine and to recognize and respond to the urgent needs of children. It provides the opportunity for communities of faith to renew and live out their moral responsibility to care for, protect, and advocate for all children. A workbook is provided with numerous resources for planning a local or multi-faith event. United Methodist Family Services provides workbooks to each district free of charge for distribution and use in local faith communities. For more information or to share Children's Sabbath event stories, please contact Linda Ray <lr@umfs.org>. To reserve your workbook call 521-1124. ◆

Ultimate Frisbee

All Richmond District Youth Fellowships are invited to participate October 5 in The Ultimate Frisbee Tournament sponsored by Welborne UMYF. This year there will be two sites: Collegiate School in the West End and New Hanover Presbyterian Church. This is the ultimate effort by youth to support youth whose ultimate fight is against cancer! All proceeds will benefit ASK, which helps kids with cancer undergoing treatment at VCU-MCV. Games will begin at 1 p.m. and the play off will last through the early evening. Youth Teams of 10-14 members are needed. Entry fee consists of securing two corporate sponsors. To register go to <www.askweb.org>. For information call 740-7128. ◆

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Richmond District

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October 2008

Dear Friends in Christ,

What is a good Charge Conference?

This is the season when UMC congregations are in the midst of preparations for their yearly Charge Conference. For some churches, Charge Conferences have been held so many times that its purpose is forgotten. The Charge Conference is only a formality or even a burden.

So allow me to remind all congregations that a Charge Conference is "good" when...

- ◆ A church pauses to celebrate its ministries of the previous year, and by doing so reminds itself that it is serving Jesus Christ.
- ◆ A church establishes or affirms its plans for ministry in the coming year, and by doing so confesses its faith in the power of God to do new things.
- ◆ A church demonstrates to all of its members that its finances are handled in a clear and responsible way, and by doing so models faithful stewardship.
- ◆ A church recognizes the gifts of its members by electing leaders and officers to serve AND honors and thanks those members whose service is ending. By doing so, a church understands that the Spirit gives gifts that build up the body of Christ.
- ◆ A church seeks to provide adequate compensation for its appointed clergy, and by doing so allows these leaders to focus their energies and gifts on living out their calling to servant ministry.

In Christ

Steve Jones

Around the Richmond District in August and September, Steve Jones...

- ◆ Attended worship at Shady Grove UMC, Bon Air UMC, Woodlake UMC, and Brandermill Church.
- ◆ Participated in leading worship at Emmaus UMC at Stratford Hills.
- ◆ Led one fall Charge Conference.
- ◆ Observed worship or teaching leadership by three of the District's candidates for ordination.
- ◆ Attended District committee meetings and consulted with district and local church leaders.
- ◆ Received your gift of hundreds of non-parishable food items for local church food pantries at the recent service celebrating his appointment. ◆

PAUMCS Fall Event

The Virginia Chapter Professional Association of United Methodist Church Secretaries (PAUMCS) will hold their Fall Event on Wednesday, October 22 at the Virginia United Methodist Conference Center in Glen Allen. Linda S. Rhodes, the Virginia Conference's director of Communications, will lead sessions on Igniting Ministry and Effective Communications for church secretaries.

The event is open to all church administrative staff, full-time, part-time, paid and volunteer, including but not limited to administrative assistants, financial secretaries, office managers and newsletter editors. A registration brochure is available at <www.vaumc.org> or call 521-1124 for information. ◆

UMW News

Make plans now to join the District United Methodist Women (UMW) for their October 11 trip to the Rappahannock Tribe Pow Wow. The "On the Road Again in Mission Express" weekend trip, October 31-November 2, will go to Brooks Howell Home in Ashville, Lake Junaluska Retreat Center and the Cherokee Reservation. Please contact your local UMW president or call 747-6493 for more information.

The Virginia Conference UMW will hold their 36th Annual Meeting on October 25-26 at VUMAC. Bishop Charlene Kammerer will be the guest speaker. The meeting will include worship, business, and district officer training. The following focus groups will be offered: "The First Americans," "Using Art as Meditation," "Star Events for Local Units," "Ubuntu Travels," and more. For registration information go to <www.vaumw.org>.

The Richmond District UMW will hold its Officers Training Event on November 15 at Welborne UMC, 920 Maybeury Drive. Registration begins at 9 a.m. and the program and training will be from 9:30-11:30 a.m. All UMW members are invited to attend this educational event where information will be disseminated to assist leaders in the local UMW. The theme will be "Publish Glad Tidings: Healing and Wholeness for All." Rev. Lisa Sykes, Associate Pastor of Welborne UMC, will speak on the issue of "Mercury Poisoning and Children's Health." Rev. Sykes, the parent of a mercury-poisoned child, is an advocate for efforts to protect children from mercury containing drugs that many believe are associated with the high incidence of autism and neurological disorders in children.

The Mission Emphasis will be "Embrace Richmond," a faith-based charitable organization that helps families exiting homeless shelters by providing basic furniture and household items. Such assistance improves the health and well-being of the household and prevents families from experiencing future episodes of homelessness. Participants are requested to contribute new or gently used pots, pans, silverware; paper towels, paper plates, plastic drinking cups for children and adults.

For more information call 323-9134. ◆

Y'all Come!

Nothing says "fall" like food, fun and fellowship. Join Bon Air UMC, 1645 Buford Road, on Saturday, October 18, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., as they celebrate fall with pumpkin pies, pumpkin carving and decorating contests, entertainment by The John Ivins Worship Band and Susan Greenbaum, moon bounce and games for the children, barbecue chicken, hot dogs, hamburgers, and popcorn. Flu shots will be available for \$28 or proof of Medicare Part B. Proceeds from the pumpkin sales will benefit youth missions. See <www.bonairumc.org> or call 272-2042 for more information. ♦

UMFS Auction

United Methodist Family Services 4th Annual Auction is scheduled for Saturday, October 4, 7 to 10 p.m. at the Jepson Alumni Center on the University of Richmond campus. This annual event offers the opportunity to partner with UMFS in touching lives and creating futures. Interesting prize packages from around the Commonwealth will be available in the silent and live auction. For more information, please visit <www.umfs.org> or call 353-4461 ext. 1735. ♦

Empowered for the Future

On October 18 and 19 Corinth UMC, 23 W. Williamsburg Road, will celebrate 120 years of mission and service in the Sandston community. On Saturday, October 18 there will be an Old-Fashioned Barbecue and historical musical from 5-8:00 p.m. On Sunday, October 19 Rev. Dr. Stephen C. Hundley will preach at the 10:55 a.m. worship service. A reception will immediately follow the service. Call 737-4837 for more information. ♦

Invisible Children

If you and your youth are looking for ways to make a difference in the world, please consider going to the viewing of the newest film from Invisible Children, a ministry to fight the atrocities committed against children who are forced to be soldiers. The event will be at River Road UMC, 8800 River Road, at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 11. Please see the flyer at <http://www.riverroadumc.org/templates/System/details.asp?id=38289&PID=615067>. For more information call 740-7061 ext. 15. ♦

Prayers for...

- ◆ Rev. Ileana Rosario, Conference Director of Hispanic/Latino Ministries, whose mother has been hospitalized during September.
- ◆ The family of Rev. Morgan Smart, retired, who died September 15.
- ◆ The family of Rev. Charles L. Ammons, retired, who passed away August 31.
- ◆ The family of Mrs. Arlene Jenkins, widow of Rev. Ray R. Jenkins, who died August 29.
- ◆ Avis Lavender, wife of Rev. Jim Lavender, who is recuperating from knee replacement surgery in September. ♦



2008 Dillard Forum

The Dillard Forum of Trinity UMC, 903 Forest Avenue, presents a series of lectures and discussions featuring widely acclaimed theologian Dr. James "Mickey" Efir. Dr. Efir is Professor Emeritus of Biblical Interpretation at Duke University, where he taught Greek and Biblical studies for nearly 50 years.

Dr. Efir's talks will challenge participants to consider, and to reconsider, the Christian response to Revelation as presented in scripture.

The event schedule is:

- Sunday, October 26
 - ◆ 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.—"Apocalyptic Thought and Literature: How to Interpret Revelation and Daniel"—Trinity Hall, Trinity UMC
 - ◆ 7:00 p.m.—"Does Revelation Talk about an Antichrist?"—Sanctuary, Trinity UMC
- Monday, October 27
 - ◆ 12:30 p.m.—Lunch and Discussion at Lingle Hall, Union-PSCE, 3406 Brook Road
 - ◆ 7:00 p.m.—"Does Revelation Talk About an Earthly Millennial Kingdom? A Look at Revelation 20"—Sanctuary, Trinity UMC.

A question and answer period will follow each lecture, and childcare will be provided.

Established in 2003, the Dillard Forum is an annual event honoring the late Rev. F. Douglas Dillard, Jr. All events are free and open to the public. Call 288-6065 for information. ♦

Hermitage and Meals on Wheels for Christmas

This holiday season The Hermitage, 1600 Westwood Avenue, has volunteered to be a drop off site for gifts that will be given to homebound recipients of Meals on Wheels in the Ginter Park, Sherwood Park, Bellevue, Rosedale, Lakeside and Highland Park neighborhoods.

November 1 through December 5 anyone who would like to donate a Christmas gift to a Meals on Wheels recipient or their pet is encouraged to come to the Hermitage and pick up an ornament made by a Hermitage resident that includes the first name of the Meals on Wheels recipient and a suggested gift. If you are an animal lover and would like to provide a toy or supply item for a meal recipient's pet, a tag with the pet's name and suggested gift will also be available. Please be sure to return your gift to The Hermitage no later than December 5.

The gifts will then be delivered to Meals on Wheels where volunteer groups will gift wrap the donated presents then deliver all the gifts to meal recipients the week of December 15. Meals on Wheels delivers to more than 850 people Monday-Friday.

If you have questions call 474-1850. ♦

Oberammergau 2010

The "once every decade" performance of the Passion Play in Oberammergau, Germany is just 22 months away! We want to invite you to join Bishop Kammerer and us, and lots of other United Methodists from the Virginia Conference 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> or <lynnecaldwell@mindspring.com>.

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

October Lay Speaking Schedule

Dr. Russell M. Busch, Director, Lay Speaking Ministries, 262-1904.

Date	Place	Speaker
10/5	Guardian Place	TBA
10/5	Beth Shalom	Dann Ladd
10/12	Elmcroft	R Arnold
10/12	University Park	TBA
10/19	Chippendale	A Arnold
10/19	Guardian Place	B Hedgepath
10/26	Elmcroft	Les Deane

Fall Bazaar

Beulah UMC, 6930 Hopkins Road, will hold their annual bazaar on Saturday, November 8, 8:30-1:30 p.m. There will be a bake sale, canned goods, children's items, Christmas Shop, jewelry, books, and collectibles. A silent auction will include Christmas items, restaurant meals, and original paintings. Breakfast and lunch will be available a la carte. Call 275-2325 for more information. ♦

District Opportunities

- ♦ October 4—UMFS Auction, Jepson Center, 353-4461 ext. 1735.
- ♦ October 5—Ultimate Frisbee, Welborne UMC, 740-7128.
- ♦ October 8—Reaching Out to Infants, Toddlers, and Preschoolers, Trinity UMC, 521-1138.
- ♦ October 11—Creating Christian Community, District Leadership Training, Ramsey Memorial, 521-1124.
- ♦ October 11—District UMW Rappahannock Trip, 747-6493.
- ♦ October 11—Invisible Children, River Road UMC, 740-7061.
- ♦ October 11—Nuts and Bolts for Life Long Learning and Teaching, Smith Memorial UMC, Collinsville, 521-1138.
- ♦ October 17—Reaching Out to Children and Families, Williamsburg UMC, 521-1138.
- ♦ October 18—Reaching Out to Children and Families, Calvary UMC, Stuarts Draft, 521-1138.
- ♦ October 18—Fall Festival, Bon Air UMC, 272-2042.
- ♦ October 18-19—120th Anniversary, Corinth UMC, Sandston, 737-4837.
- ♦ October 26-27—Dillard Forum, Trinity UMC, 278-4383.
- ♦ October 22—PAUMCS Fall Event, VUMCC, 521-1124.
- ♦ October 25-26—Conference UMW Annual Meeting, VUMAC, 323-9134.
- ♦ October 31-November 2—District UMW On the Road Again in Mission, 747-6493.
- ♦ November 8—Fall Bazaar, Beulah UMC, 275-2325.
- ♦ November 15—District UMW Officers Training, Welborne UMC, 323-9134.
- ♦ February 5, 2009—UM Day at General Assembly, (540)363-5905.
- ♦ February 20-22—Richmond District Youth Retreat, Eagle Eyrie, 521-1124. ♦



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**Richmond District
Virginia Conference**

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Russell Busch *Director, Lay Speaking Ministries*

We're on the web at:

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