



THE MESSENGER

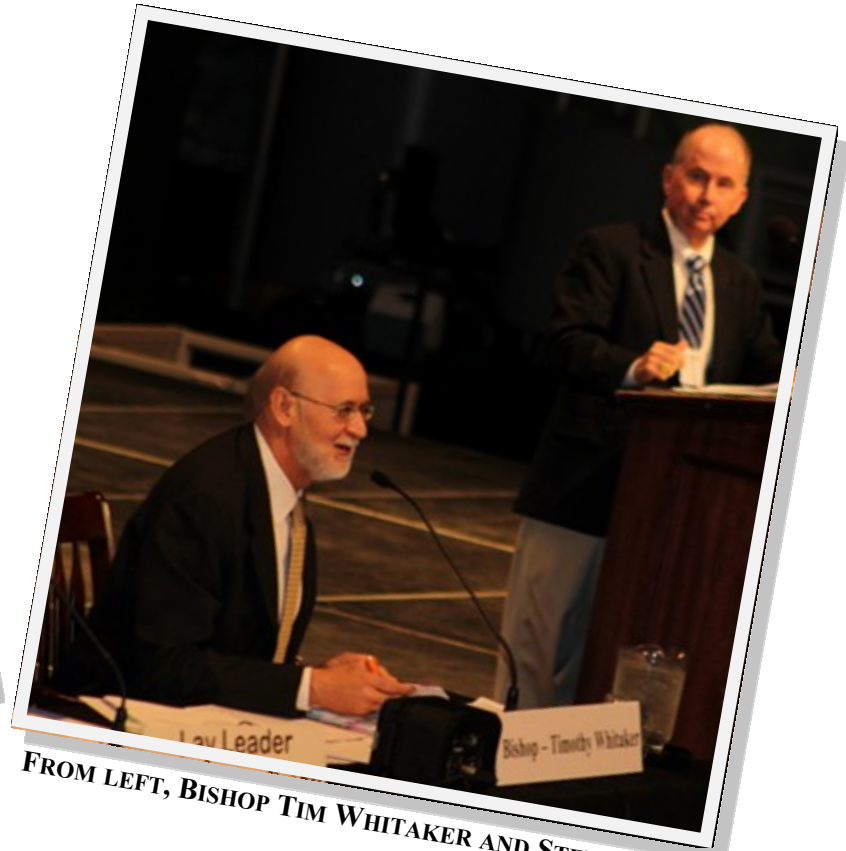
LIVING AS CHRIST'S DISCIPLES WITHIN OUR HEARTS AND BEYOND OUR DOORS

August 2011

VIRGINIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2011 – BEING CHRIST TO OTHERS: *SNAPSHOTS OF THE KINGDOM*



THE REV. SAM WELLS PREACHES ON "NOT PEACE BUT A SWORD."



FROM LEFT, BISHOP TIM WHITAKER AND STEVE BRAY



THE CHILDREN FROM THE HENRY FORK SERVICE CENTER AND THE VISITING BRAZIL CHILDREN MARCHED TO THE STADIUM TO "JESUS LOVES THE LITTLE CHILDREN" AND SANG SONGS IN ENGLISH AND PORTUGUESE FOR THE CONFERENCE MEMBERS AND GUESTS.



ELEMENTS FOR HOLY COMMUNION

VIRGINIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2011 – BEING CHRIST TO OTHERS:

SNAPSHOTS OF THE KINGDOM



More than 3,350 clergy and laity from United Methodist churches across Virginia gathered at the Civic Center in Roanoke June 15-19 for the [229th session of the Virginia Annual Conference](#). The conference was filled with worship, celebration, learning, testimony and

missions in addition to Conference business. Yogi and Jane Rager represented Powhatan UMC.

Members of the Virginia Annual Conference elected the largest U.S. delegation to the 2012 General Conference, considered almost 20 resolutions and welcomed a familiar face filling in for their bishop as “substitute teacher.”

Richmond Area Bishop Charlene Kammerer became very ill the week before conference due to an adverse reaction to a typhoid vaccination she had in preparation for an upcoming trip to Mozambique. She asked Bishop Timothy Whitaker of Florida – who was elected to the episcopacy from Virginia in 2001 and will retire to the Commonwealth next year – to preside, and it proved to be a very comfortable fit.

The theme of the gathering was mission, “Being Christ to Others: Snapshots of the Kingdom.” Thirteen children from the conference-supported Shade and Fresh Water project in Brazil were special guests at a celebration of mission. Forty-three “Mission Mentors,” who will make themselves available to speak at local churches about mission opportunities, were commissioned. The Annual Conference Offering, which will go to mission partners in Brazil, Mozambique, Roanoke and Horntown on the Eastern Shore, collected \$167,345 with additional receipts expected.

Thomas Kemper, General Secretary for the General Board of Global Ministries, announced that the Virginia Conference was again the denominational leader for designated giving for mission support in 2010. Kemper talked about United Methodist ministries in Haiti, Mongolia, Eastern Europe and Vietnam, and introduced Clara Biswas, a missionary in Southeast Asia.

Virginia Conference churches brought 52,870 disaster relief kits for United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR): 27,148 health kits, 15,192 school kits, 3,723 layette kits, 648 sewing kits, 62 bedding packs, 854 cleaning buckets, 5,243 birthing kits. The Conference members were informed that the birthing kits are being made available in impoverished countries in Africa. Although the infant mortality rate is extremely high, that death rate is cut in half if a birthing kit is available. The Society of St. Andrew’s

“Potato Drop” involved more than 220 participants who unloaded and packed 39,000 pounds of sweet potatoes that went out to 12 feeding agencies in Virginia and West Virginia.

Conference preacher the Rev. Dr. Sam Wells, Dean of Duke Chapel, preached on the indifference faced by persons doing Christian ministry, and the passive-aggressive behavior of many members of the typical congregation. “Isn’t this why pastors burn out?” Wells asked. He encouraged everyone to not be discouraged by indifference, but to “shake it off” and “see what a God who makes all things new will do.”

In his sermon during the ordination service, Wells said he didn’t want to “spoil” the night of those being ordained, commissioned and licensed, but offered some tough love, at one point asking “are you up for it?”

Wells also preached on division, particularly in congregations. “Many of us resent that wasted time and grieve the waste of emotional energy,” he said. “We can pretend there’s no conflict, but Jesus says not to call it peace if it isn’t.”

At the Ordering of Ministry service, 25 persons were licensed as local pastors, one received as an associate member, 20 were commissioned as provisional members, one was ordained a deacon and 19 ordained as elders. Our own Alan Combs, son of Thomas and Betsy Combs was among those ordained as Elder.

Forty-one retiring clergy were recognized. Together they represented 1,170 years of service.

Conference offerings included \$9,397 for Chaplain Services, \$5,384 for Youth Service Fund, \$31,235 for Kits for Conference, & \$175,932.15 for Conference Offering.

Members passed resolutions on the election of additional lay members, a call to fast and pray, the priority of proclaiming Christ, support of “20/20: Visioning an AIDS-Free World,” peace-making efforts between Palestinians and Israelis, and honoring the 50th anniversary of the founding of Virginia Wesleyan College. They narrowly defeated a resolution affirming the retired bishops’ “Statement of Counsel to the Church,” which urges a change in the Book of Discipline in regard to views on homosexuality and ordination of gays and lesbians.

Membership stands at 335,275, down 3,806 from the previous year. Worship attendance stands at 108,420 down 4,204.

The Conference closed with the annual fixing of the clergy appointments for the next year. Pastor John Briggs will remain at Powhatan UMC this year.

More information about the conference can be found at the conference home page, www.vaumc.org. You can also find information about ordering DVDs of the various sessions.

“Annual Conference 2011,” www.vaumc.org, July 2011

Pastor's Ponderings

"... I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly." John 10:10b

Recently, Norma was going through some old boxes in the attic and came across a real find. It was an audio tape player, and in it was a tape that she recorded to send to her mom and dad after we moved to Huntsville Alabama in 1978. Our daughter Beth was three and she shared a message for the grandparents too. I was struck in many ways hearing the voice of my young wife and precious child. As I considered the memories of times past I was reminded, yet again, of the important and real values of life. After all is said and done, in the end all that really



mattered was the love that was shared and the enduring promises we shared with one another of our God. Many of my fondest memories include times with our church family. Although we were new to town, the church embraced us in so many wonderful ways. I remember the Easter Egg Hunts, Vacation Bible School and most especially seeing Beth go into Miss Margaret's Sunday school class...an 80+ year old who served that class for over 50 years. She had a love and a way with children that could only have been God sent. The richness of having families of all ages and makeup sharing their lives with us and our child still brings a smile to my face. Yes, they are rich and priceless memories.

As you return from vacations and the many activities of the summer, I encourage you to include your church in your plans for fall. The richness of sharing your lives with your family of faith is priceless in all the seasons of our lives. After all is said and done, in the end all that really matters is the love you share with one another and the enduring promises shared of a God that make life rich beyond measure.

Grace and peace to you and yours,

Pastor John

Church Clean Up Day

Saturday, August 6, 2011

Work day begins at 9am

In order to reduce some clutter in storage areas and rooms, we are inviting everyone to a Church Clean Up day to help maximize our space. We can use YOUR help! We particularly need Sunday School teachers and/or group leaders that are familiar with certain rooms / spaces to assist to make sure nothing is mistakenly discarded. Remember...many hands make light work! See you Saturday!

Trustees Committee



Air Conditioning Unit

As you may be aware, especially after the July 17th service, the air conditioning unit for the Sanctuary was not working. We were blessed with components that operated for many years beyond their life expectancy, however, this time it simply cannot be patched back together again. Your trustees and council have made the decision to purchase a new air conditioning unit which will be more efficient and provide comfortable Worship services for many years to come! However, it also comes with a price of \$18,277.00. Any contributions you can make toward offsetting this cost would be greatly appreciated.

Trustees and Council

Annual Conference

Annual Conference approved the re-districting plan proposed by our Bishop and Cabinet. This includes our church now being part of the Richmond District under the leadership of The Reverend Steve Jones, as the District Superintendent. This is a reorganization to reduce the expenses of the conference and should have no visible effect on our church and its ministries. I have asked Rev. Jones to visit with us this summer or early fall. I know he looks forward to meeting us.

POWHATAN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MINISTRY TEAM

Deadline for September Messenger is Tuesday, August 16

PASTOR JOHN BRIGGS | PastorJohn@powhatanumc.us

SANDRA LOWE, ADMINISTRATOR | church@powhatanumc.us

ALLISON STOWERS, Music & ARTS DIRECTOR | musicdirector@powhatanumc.us

MALENE UTELY, YOUTH DIRECTOR AND CHILDREN'S COORDINATOR | childrencoordinator@powhatanumc.us

MELANIE PELOKE | webservant@powhatanumc.us

SHARON BALTIMORE, PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR | **HARVEY PAQUETTE, EVENT FACILITIES OVERSEER**

2253 Rosson Road, Powhatan 23139 | (804) 598-4438
WEBSITE: www.powhatanumc.us | EMAIL: church@powhatan.umc.us

PRESCHOOL NEWS

There is just one more chance to attend Summer Fun Camp. 'Colonial



Kids Adventure Camp' will be held Aug. 8-11 from 9:30-1. Plans are underway for candle making, tin punch and churning butter for pancakes made the old fashioned way! There will be lots of opportunities to play the games of long ago like hoops, hop scotch and marbles. Every camper will have a chance to sew a marble bag to keep! Just like all of our camps there will be a water day, too. We have enjoyed getting to know some of our church member's children and grandchildren who do not usually attend our preschool and are hoping to meet even more before the summer is over.

Please let your friends and neighbors know that we DO have openings in our preschool for the fall. Classes are available for children ages 2 to 5. Depending on their age, children may attend 2,3,4 or 5 days a week. Normal hours are 9 to 12 but Extended Days are offered 3 to 4 days a week so that children may stay until 2:30. Our registration form is available on line by going to the church website and clicking the Preschool link or call the preschool office (598-6090) and registration information can be mailed. We are really looking to get the word out in the community about our GREAT program and are hoping that you will help!



Dear PUMC family
The story of my call to ordained ministry began with my baptism at Powhatan UMC. That is why it means so much to me to receive such a generous and beautiful gift from you all in the stole I received after my ordination. Your support, love and prayers helped me to discover my vocation, and for that I cannot thank you enough.
Sincerely, Alan Combs



*From your
church family
at PUMC
June 17, 2011*

Thank You

Dear PUMC

Thank you so much for awarding me the \$500 Omar Ball Scholarship. I really appreciate it and this money will definitely help me with all the college expenses at Radford University. This church has had a great impact on my life and opened me to many great experiences through youth group and other programs. I look forward to seeing everyone over holiday breaks. Thanks again!

Love, Emily Howland

Dear Powhatan UMC

Thank you for the wonderful lunch that you served to us on our way to Conference. It meant so much to see all your smiling faces after a long day on the road. My husband and I were part of the sag drivers for the Holy Rollers. May the Lord richly bless all of you and thanks for making an eternal difference.

Your brother & sister in Christ, Tony & Kim Moyers

Buildings & Grounds

A big thank you to Sylvia and Hank Tibbs for the donation of 7 holly trees for the church. These have been planted along the entrance drive way to the church, between the Crepe Myrtles and the Japanese maple tree. I also wish to thank Frank Armstead who helped me plant them and to Anthony Able who supplied the mulch for them. These trees will add beauty to the entrance and appearance of the church for many years to come.

Dear PUMC family,

It is hard for me to express how greatly appreciative I am for all of the guidance and support you have offered me over the years. I am deeply thankful for the scholarship that was awarded to me as well as for the prayer shawl. The things I have learned throughout the years at church whether from sermons or from Sunday school, will prove to be crucial to my success in the next few years and even throughout the rest of my life.

Thank you again and god bless.

Tyler Anderton

To date we have sent off approximately 8 boxes to folks serving in the military overseas. The congregation was very generous, and a few of us will work over the summer to make good use of those donations and see that more goodie boxes are sent out!

Joanne Anderton, Lay Leader



FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

MNC

Will meet, 7:00p.m., Mon., August 22, at the home of Marie Forden. Dessert hostess is Frances Wiatt.

Patti Woods:

New address for people to send cards to.

Smiley's Adult Home
Attention Patti Wood
2816 Anderson highway
Powhatan, Va. 23139

Dana Netherland is one of our nursery coordinators and she had hip replacement surgery in June. She is doing well and still in rehab and her mobility is still a work in progress. Please continue to pray for her healing and if you wish to send a card her address is 4855 Powhatan Lakes Road.

THE CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

Next meeting is August 1. All ladies are welcome. The meeting will begin at 10:30 with refreshments at 10 AM Please come to help plan our items for sale at the Day in the Country. Money we make goes to missions.

UMCOR KIT

School items are on sale now at Wal-Mart and other stores. We need 3 spiral notebooks of ruled paper per kit, blunt tip scissors, 1 large eraser (2 inch) and a box of 24 crayons. We are always short of spiral ruled paper (70 sheets) and now you can buy them for 15 to 17 cents each. Look for the bargains and stock up. Put them in the purple box near the mailboxes.



**SAVE THIS DATE!!
DAY IN THE COUNTRY
OCTOBER 15, 2011
FROM 10AM—3PM**



DAY IN THE COUNTRY 2011

Mark your calendars to celebrate a Day in the Country on October 15, 2011 !!!



Traditionally one of the largest and most anticipated events for Powhatan United Methodist Church, our Day in the Country is a fun family event offering food, crafts, entertainment and more! It is also a great witness opportunity for our church to reach out to our community and offer a Christian home to our neighbors and friends.

It is wonderful opportunity to spread the word of our mission activities locally, in other

states and abroad, as well as fund our mission work and outreach projects!!!

PLEASE – Be sure to start saving your items for the yard sale which generates a LARGE portion of our mission/outreach funding. We are cleaning all storage areas during August and September so please DO NOT bring your items until about one week before the Day in the Country. We don't want anything to be accidentally discarded. Thanks!



FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Committee continues to monitor our offerings in conjunction with our expenses through the second quarter of the budget year.

As of June 30, 2011, "half way through the budget year ", the church's financial records report the following:

<u>2011</u>	<u>1st Qt(Jan-Mar)</u>	<u>2nd Qt(Apr-June)</u>	<u>YTD Total</u>	<u>Budget Projection through June 30.</u>
Tithes & Offerings	\$78,293	\$70,681	\$144,974	\$144,577
Other Income:				
Sunday School Offering	\$370	\$357	\$727	\$612
Building Use	\$1,275	\$1,793	\$3,068	\$2,825
Parsonage Rent	\$1,300	\$1,800	\$3,100	\$2,250
Pre-School	\$3,000		\$3,000	\$3,869
Total Revenue Received	\$84,238	\$74,631	\$158,869	\$154,133
Total Expenses Paid	\$76,813	\$71,342	\$148,155	\$156,612

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at 272-0648 or bettybowman@verizon.net

Final 4th Sundaes



August 28th with Just Us



***Free Concert!**
***Ice Cream!**

Invite Your Friends and Neighbors!

**DEADLINE FOR SEPTEMBER MESSENGER
IS TUESDAY, AUGUST 16**

THE MESSENGER

Please send all submissions to
PUMCnews@hotmail.com

*Please send text submissions as
MSWorks or Rich Text when possible

*Photo submissions welcome!

*Custom ad or graphics requests welcome!



Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry is keeping busy this summer. We invite anyone who is interested to join us.

First of all, we are combining with the Ruritans in a project which provides children's blankets to local law enforcement officers to comfort children in stressful and frightening situations. We had some extra in our stash for the first donation but will need more in the future. If you would like to do a smaller project for the summer, why not consider knitting, crocheting or quilting a child's blanket. It will be a blessing to a child in need.

Second, mark your calendars for Sunday, August 28. We are teaming up with the Dorcas Ministry to serve the ice cream at the August 4th Sundae Event. Come join us for music and fun.

And finally, our quarterly meeting will be on Saturday, August 20 from 9 am to noon in the commons.

Come with your current Prayer Shawl ministry project or idea and we will get to work on it. If you would just like to come and socialize or brush up on your skills, you can do that too. Bring a pot luck breakfast dish to share. If you hate to cook and would like to bring paper plates, napkins or beverages, just let us know.

If you have any questions, please call Jane Rager at 598-3205 or e-mail at yogiscave@aol.com.



THREE WAYS TO PRAISE!!!!

It is time to welcome back our choir from their summer break, and we also welcome any new voices to join us! We have three different opportunities to participate in our Music Ministry:

The Voices of Victory

Our choir meets on Wednesdays at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary. We need men, women, and teens! There is no age limit, and no experience is necessary, but be prepared to laugh, make new friends, and forget the stress of your day! We rotate singing at the 8:30am and the 11:00am services each week.

Christmas Cantata

All are welcome to join us in our Christmas Cantata, an exciting Christmas musical we will present in December. For those who wish to sing but are unable to commit to every Sunday, this is perfect for you! We rehearse from 7:00pm to 7:45pm on Wednesdays in the Sanctuary. No experience necessary!

Who-So-Ever-Will Choir

As our Voices of Victory alternate between our Sunday morning services, we often have an opening for special music, and that is why we developed this choir. There are no rehearsals! During the offering I simply ask for anyone to come forward to sing a familiar hymn that I will hand out. Join us next time!

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me 651-5488

Allison Stowers

Children's Church continues to meet each Sunday during the 11 o'clock service. All children ages 4-10 are invited to attend. Parents we could use you too to volunteer to lead Children's Church about once every two months. Please feel free to call me if you have any questions at 347-7913.



KIDS WITH PURPOSE

August 28th--Sunday We will be joining the youth to go to Windy Hill right after church. We will meet in the CLC right after church for pizza and devotions before we go to Windy Hill please bring money for Windy Hill. Parents, I need chaperones and drivers. Please let me know one way or the other whether you are going or not, I need a head count.

YOUTH--Sunday 28th--Windy Hill--We will be joining the Kids With Purpose and meet right after church for pizza and devotions. Please bring your money for Windy Hill.

WESTVIEW ON THE JAMES CONFIRMEES Remember that you will complete your confirmation on August 27 from 9-3 at the church, lunch will be furnished

As this newsletter goes to press we are counting down the days to our Shake It Up Vacation Bible School. Please stay tuned for more information about our exciting week.