



conference center
retreat center
meeting space



**SAVE THIS
DATE!
DECEMBER 6
2009**

**EVENING AT
BLACKSTONE**



**The Brethren-Male
Vocalists Christian
Ensemble**

**Check out our
new Website
vumac.org for
information on
registration.**

**Many thanks to
Betsey Davis of
Amelia
Courthouse for
her hard work on
this event.**

Executive Director's Desk

The Assembly Center and its staff are gearing up for the start of the busy fall season with many United Methodist events. The United Methodist Women have their annual meeting October 23-25th The UMM Spiritual Life Retreat is scheduled for November 6-9. Registrations for that event are being taken at the Assembly Center.

One of the highlights of this summer was Camp Rainbow . The campers are such special people and they teach us so much about unconditional love. We all had a great time sharing ourselves with the campers and their very dedicated buddies. UMW School of Christian Mission in July was such a success that the weekend session has been extended by one day next year. That session will begin on Thursday night instead of Friday night. There is so much good material it is hard to take it all in two days. Pencil the School in now for July 22-25, 2010 for the weekend session and July 26-July 29 for the week session.

I often wonder why we wait to register for a workshop or meeting until the last minute. I am the worlds worst procrastinator. Just ask my husband. I often wait until the deadline (or sometimes past the deadline) to send my money. Then I wonder why I can't take the class I want or the class gets cancelled. Or worse yet, when I arrive I don't have a name tag and I have to wear one I wrote out myself. I have horrible handwriting. As the Executive Director I get phone calls asking why a class or meeting that is scheduled here has been cancelled. This usually happens sometimes within a day or two (sometimes an hour) after a class or meeting has been cancelled. I try as diplomatically as I can to ask the individual why they waited so long to register. Many times I hear that they just received the information or finally could clear their schedule which are all good reasons. I thought it might just be a Methodist thing but it happens to every group at one time or another.

Blackstone Capital Campaign—Growing Faith

Virginia Jewett Watson, Campaign Coordinator

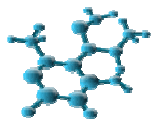
Rev. Denise Bates, VUMAC Chair



The Growing Faith Campaign continues to gather steam despite the economic turn down. In June, Board Chair, Rev. Denise Bates, delivered a very moving presentation to Annual Conference in Norfolk. Our new video, which can be seen on youtube and our own vumac.org web site, documents the importance of VUMAC in the Christian development of many people throughout the region. Also in June, we had a very successful Blackstone College Alumnae weekend. We presented a Proclamation honoring Dr. Waverly Cole for his many years of dedication to Blackstone and the community.

Many small group events have been organized in different communities to help spread the work of the Growing Faith Campaign. Also look for us at the District Conference and training days this fall. For more information contact Cammie Armstrong or Virginia Watson about the plans to revitalize and expand Blackstone: the Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center. Virginia Watson's contact number is 434-298-7116. We would love to come to your church and present a program.

Seminar for Science, Theology and Ethics –Oct 13-14-VUMAC



Fiction of the 20th century gave birth to many imaginary robots.

Today at the

dawn of the 21st century, those imaginings are becoming reality. Here in Virginia and around the world, robots are now being used for medical and elder care. No longer just science fictional imaginings, engineers and futurists see the roles of robots growing and expanding to include more medical and elder care, child care and even in making our scientific discoveries for us. Some futurists envision a

post-human future where the human form will incorporate nonliving technology for the purpose of enhanced health, human potential, and longevity. Robotics, artificial intelligence, and nanotechnologies all are progressing at a rapid rate.

As with all technologies, there are possibilities of both great promise and peril. What are the ethical considerations? How might these technologies impact the human condition and human community?

Please join your friends from around the Conference and beyond at the 2009 Seminar for

Science, Theology & Ethics to learn more and discuss the role of Christians in shaping the 21st community.

To learn more about this program, including costs and registration, please visit the seminars web site at www.theseminarva.org or call Blackstone at 434-292-5308
Jennifer Shield-Dean of Seminar



DATES TO REMEMBER

Oct. 5 & 6-Petersburg District Clergy

Oct. 7-8-ARMS Retreat Woodlake

Oct. 9-11-UMW

Oct. 13 & 14-Seminar for Science, Theology and Ethics

Oct 19-21-Probationers/ Mentors Retreat Order of Elders

Oct. 23-25-UMW Annual Meeting

Oct. 25-27-Order of Elders

Nov. 6-8-UMM and Scouts

November 20-22-Hanover Area UMC Youth Retreat

December 6-Evening at Blackstone

IRA Contributions Encouraged

Under current legislation, persons 70 1/2 or older may make a direct contribution from a traditional IRA to your local church or other United Methodist Agency or institution without having to pay federal income taxes on that withdrawal. The contribution must come directly from the custodian of your IRA. It is not treated as income to you and, therefore, is not counted as a charitable Deduction.

However, you avoid having to pay the federal income tax on that withdrawal. This is an excellent opportunity, particularly for persons now receiving a required minimum distribution from an IRA. There is a limit of \$100,000 per person. Information is available from the United Methodist Foundation at 1-800-768-6040 ext. 120 or 122. Or email foundation@vaumc.org
Reprinted from the Virginia

There is an urgent need for a passenger van, preferably one that can seat at least 12.

**Call Cammie Armstrong
434-292-5308**

Other news

HOME COMING-

The Blackstone College for Girls held their homecoming reunion on Saturday, June 27th. Many of the graduates made their way back to the Assembly Center to experience fellowship and honor the scholarship recipients.

Lee Johnson has made plans to retire from the Assembly Center following our Evening at Blackstone event in December. If

you would like to attend a farewell reception in his honor, please give Cyndi a call 434-292-5308. Staff news-Ande the Clown-aka **Carol Sanger** held clown ministry classes for Kaleidoscope Camp in August. She also gave a program on being green. **Cyndi Schnell** graduated in March from Leadership Nottoway. This program cosponsored by the Blackstone and Nottoway Chamber of Com-

merce, involves workshops and a final project. She learned much about local and state government and spent a day at the General Assembly. Two other VUMAC staffers, **Diane Cain and Bessie Wilkins** completed the class in 2007.



**Peace pole in meditation garden
Photo by Betsey Davis**

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**The VUMAC Board
of Directors and Staff
wish to thank all of
our Annual Fund Do-
nors for their support
during this last year.**

**New Annual Fund
Materials will be
mailed out shortly.**

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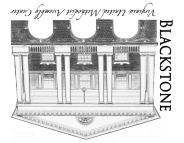
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Blackstone-The Virginia United
 Methodist Assembly Center
 707 Fourth St.
 Blackstone, Virginia 23824



*Evening at Blackstone
 Information enclosed*

The VUMAC Board of Directors welcomes it's newest youth member. **Charlie Harless** is seventeen years old and is a member of Red Valley UMC in the Danville District. He is a senior at Franklin County High School and also attends the Roanoke valley Governors School. He grew up in the United Methodist Church and has been very active in the youth program since he entered middle school. He is currently the President of both the local youth group at Red Valley and the Danville District Youth Council. He has been involved on the conference level for the last five years and in August was voted President of the Youth Conference Council for the next year.

This summer he finished his Eagle Scout Project and is waiting for the Board of Review. He enjoys being outside and any type of board, skateboarding, snowboarding, wakeboarding and surfing. His family likes to travel and they have explored a lot of the Caribbean and Central America. His future plan include going to a loarge university and majoring in Biology (premed) along with Religious studies. He hopes to go to medical school and become and emergency doctor.