



THE CONNECTION

Orlean United Methodist Church



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May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. 2 Peter 1:2

A Message from Rusty Rawson

Pastor Jim and I attended the 229th session of the Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church in mid June. Overall it was an uplifting experience although there were definite high points and a lot of tedium.

One of the major tasks of this conference was the election of delegates from the Virginia Conference for the next general conference of the United Methodist Church which will be held next year (they are held every four years). Separate ballots were held with the clergy electing thirteen clergy representatives and the lay delegates electing thirteen lay delegates. The voting process was clumsy with many ballots required on each side before the full slate of delegates was elected. Making things more difficult was the lack of information as to the views of the candidates for election of which there were nearly 100 on the laity side alone. I believe the candidates should present a brief overview of their philosophy along with the brief biographical sketch that was provided.

Bishop Kammerer was unable to attend the conference as she had been hospitalized with what apparently was a bad reaction to an inoculation. Bishop Timothy Whitaker of Florida, who was previously a district superintendent in Virginia, presided in her place. It was an interesting contrast in styles as he maintained good order but with a more gentle hand than Bishop Kammerer generally uses. There were times, however, when a slightly firmer hand would have been useful. Overall I think he did an excellent job.

Dr. Sam Wells, Dean of the Duke University Chapel was our main speaker for the three worship sessions of the conference. He was an excellent source of thought provoking inspiration. I have to say that the speakers for the conference worship sessions have definitely been a high point of the four conferences I have attended. Thomas Kemper, a native of Germany and the chief executive of the General Board of Global Ministries was our leader for the two Bible study sessions. He also provided inspiring and thought provoking messages.

You all know how much I love the music of the church and I found this year's music to be much better than the two previous years. For one thing we sang mostly in English (with, understandably, some Spanish sprinkled in) rather than some language not spoken by more than five of the more than three thousand delegates. We also sang more hymns that were familiar, although we still seem to be boycotting the old favorites. It is notable that the delegate's response is much better when the hymns are familiar, something of which I wish the bishop would take note. Even the hymns that were not familiar to me were ones that were mostly well received and pleasant musically unlike many we have endured the last three years.

The conference offering totaled \$167,345. 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, and 5,243 birthing kits. They also contributed 9,200 lbs. of canned food. More than 220 volunteers unloaded and bagged 39,000 pounds of potatoes that were delivered to 12 feeding agencies in Virginia and West Virginia.

Resolutions proposed and discussed at this year's conference were increasingly political and sometimes controversial. It is disturbing to me that some of the resolutions are allowed to be presented with virtually no vetting as to what is presented. It is my opinion that the wording of one of the resolutions could have been grounds for a libel suit against the Virginia Conference, an opinion that was

shared to the point that some of the wording was removed before voting on the resolution. Unfortunately the Conference had already published it and voting to remove some of the words cannot take back that fact. We also had at least one resolution on a subject of which both Beth and I have personal knowledge, and it is obvious that minimal, if any, vetting had been done as there were things presented as fact that are totally false. This would have been obvious to anyone with knowledge of the subject. One problem here is that it undermines the church's credibility if anyone actually pays attention when we present these resolutions to legislators, etc. when the items presented as facts are so obviously wrong. They will be less likely to pay attention to us on a subject we really care about if we don't have a good track record of knowing what we are talking about. On a positive note, we ran out of time because of all the voting and the most odious of the resolutions was tabled for further study.

Of course, on a high note, Pastor Jim's reappointment in Orlean was one of the most important and successful actions of the conference.

Tip of the Halo to:

- o **Rusty Rawson** for writing his Annual Conference Column
- o **everyone** who brought refreshments for Brent Vernon
- o **everyone** who contributed to the May 5th Sunday Potluck
- o **St. John's Bells of Praise** for their performance during worship on June 5th; **Kenny Poole** and **Scott Poole** for preparing the sanctuary; **everyone** who contributed to the reception following worship
- o **everyone** who donated money and school supplies for Kits for Conference; **Sharon Stanberry** for making the cloth bags to hold the supplies; **Rusty Rawson** for delivering the kits to Annual Conference. The kindness of the **people of Orlean United Methodist Church** provided enough school supplies to assemble 30 School Kits and enough money to buy 1 Health Kit and cover shipping and handling costs for all kits.
- o **Joan** and **Ken Poole** for their efforts to discourage mice from taking over the kitchen

Food Pantry

During the 3rd quarter, the Food Pantry was able to help 2 households with food, sundry items, and gift cards (for perishable food items). There were no calls for financial assistance. During July through December 2010, eScrip donated \$66.34 to our Food Pantry fund.

Birthdays and Special Occasions

Jeff S.	July 7	Betty & Bob Tschida (anniv.)	Aug. 1
Carol P.	July 9	Amelia H.	Aug. 3
Sandy S.	July 9	Judy G.	Aug. 8
Bobby M.	July 15	Rusty R.	Aug. 21
Elma C.	July 20	Bob B.	Aug. 27
Connie & Bob Dixon (anniv.)	July 23	Eileen & Jim Leamon (anniv.)	Aug. 31
Jim L.	July 25	Betty T.	Aug. 31
Susan & Bill Chaney (anniv.)	July 26	Zachary H.	Sept. 10
Steven M.	July 30	Gus & Elma Constantinides (anniv.)	Sept. 14
Lorraine U.	July 30	Tammy S.	Sept. 15
Joan P.	July 31	Bill C.	Sept 26

Calendar of Events

July 9	Praise and Worship 4:00 pm-6:00 pm at OUMC
July 10	Administrative Council meeting after worship
July 31	Fifth Sunday potluck following worship
Sept. 8	Orlean United Methodist Women meet via e-mail; all women invited to participate
Sept. 22	Ladies Night Out; 6:00 p.m.; place to be announced; all women welcome

Notice

The Orlean United Methodist Women will not be meeting in July and August. We are, however, getting ready to help FISH with their annual drive to collect backpacks with school supplies for low income children in Fauquier County. We hope to receive our list of names during the third week of July which should give everyone enough time for shopping so that the backpacks can be collected at the church by 7 August. If you have any questions, please contact Shaw Moffett.