

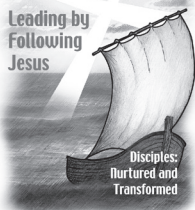
Up front

Today's Schedule

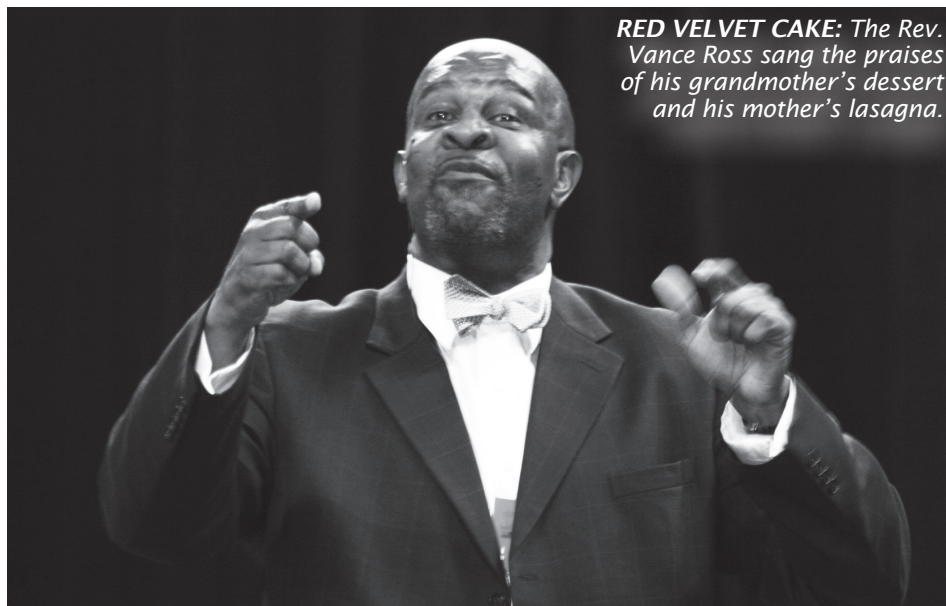
5:30 a.m.	Potato Drop
8:15 a.m.	Singing Our Faith
8:30 a.m.	Bible Study
8:30 a.m.	Stop Hunger Now meal packing
9:15 a.m.	Plenary begins
	Retiree recognition
11 a.m.	Worship
	Voices of Youth
	Dedication of Kits
	Conference Offering
Noon	Recess for lunch
1:45 p.m.	Singing Our Faith
2 p.m.	Teaching plenary
	Redistricting Task Force report
	Resolutions
	Historical Society
5 p.m.	Dinner recess
7 p.m.	Business session
8 p.m.	Time of witness with Jim Gulley

Pulling together

Lay Leader Shirley Cauffman's report gave members an education on crew, the sport of rowing that her grandsons do and do very well. Rowers sit with their backs to the way they're headed while being directed in the right way. "We have a boat to row in and Jesus is our coxswain," she said.



"Our denomination got out of our lane a few years ago. I think we're getting back in our lane," she added, Bishop Kammerer, who joined Cauffman in presenting the report, said we need to "get back in our lanes and be involved in ministries of healing, witness, service and we will be change agents. We will be Christ's hands and feet and we'll offer the good news of believing in Christ."



RED VELVET CAKE: The Rev. Vance Ross sang the praises of his grandmother's dessert and his mother's lasagna.

Respond to God, Ross says

Conference preacher the Rev. Vance Ross preached about authority with, well, authority.

Ross, deputy general secretary for External Connectional Relations and Strategic Initiatives for the United Methodist General Board of Discipleship in Nashville, had many in the crowd on their feet in the powerful closing moments of his sermon. "Authority is calling! Listen to the voice!" he said.

"When authority calls us, there is no place to hide," he began.

Ross related about how he so loved his grandmother's red velvet cake and his mother's lasagna. "I would fill up on both," he said, "and I was getting larger and I was getting tired and sluggish and

I'd want to go lay down. ... I hooked up with something that looked good and smelled good but at the end of the day, it's not good for me."

Unnecessary calls look good, smell good, sound good, even taste good, he said. "God has called you and I to dare to be people who respond to a greater calling."

If you look at the word "follow" in the Greek, it doesn't mean "just come hang out," Ross said. It means to drop what you're doing, cut loose from it. "Simon, Andrew, James and John walked away because there was something different, something unique. God is looking for followers of Jesus. So we must push away from those lesser callings."

Large group for Ordering of Ministry service

The strains of "Go Ye, Go Ye Into the World" concluded Monday night's Service for the Ordering of Ministry, one of the most important parts of any Annual Conference.

Bishop Kammerer preached the sermon for the service, telling the story of a recent trip to a Patient First clinic and an unexpected change to do ministry.

She also recounted Mother Teresa's

struggle with depression which kept her from feeling fully connected to Jesus. "Even Mother Teresa could not always recognize Jesus surrounded her in every moment, both light and dark."

Nineteen persons were ordained Elder, one had orders recognized as Elder, three were ordained Deacon, 38 were licensed for Pastoral Ministry, and 23 were commissioned as Provisional Members.

Denman Award winners include first youth

The annual Harry Denman Evangelism Awards were presented Monday by Patricia Meadows and Brian Sixbey. This year's recipients are: Clergy, **Ron Mateer**; Laity, **Sandra Walters**; and Youth, **Tessa Diehl**.

This is the first year for a Denman Youth Award in the Virginia Conference. Tessa is a member of First UMC in Charlottesville, where she is involved in many mission projects.

Sandra Walters is a member of Exmore UMC in the Eastern Shore District. She launched the Silver Beach ministry, a worship service/class meeting that involves up to 80 people. Walters was not able to attend but members of her church were there to represent her.

The Rev. Ron Mateer is the pastor of First UMC in Martinsville, an impoverished area where many people have lost jobs and moved away, but despite the economic conditions, the church has continued to grow.

Harry Denman was a Methodist lay



FIRST Time: Tessa Diehl stands with The Rev. Ashley Abarca-Mitchell associate pastor at First UMC in Charlottesville.

person from Alabama who served as General Secretary of the Board of Evangelism. The awards were begun in 1981 to honor United Methodist clergy and lay persons in each annual conference who exhibit unusual and outstanding efforts for the work on evangelism.

Conference offering to benefit three ministries

The Annual Conference Offering will be taken today for the benefit of these ministries:

Brazil — For curriculum and teacher training materials for “Shade and Fresh Water” centers and other children’s centers sponsored by the Brazil Methodist Church.

Mozambique — For

education and training for Sunday school teachers, lay preachers and pastors in the United Methodist Church in Mozambique, which is growing rapidly and needs leadership for the hundreds of new United Methodist churches being established throughout this southeastern African nation.

Virginia — For job training programs at Grace Ministries, a community outreach program of the Arlington District that addresses the most pressing material and spiritual needs of low-income immigrants in northern Virginia and empowers immigrants to become community leaders.

Grace Ministries reaches out in a variety of ways

Grace Ministries is a community outreach program serving low-income families living in Northern Virginia by providing emergency food, clothing, household items and diaper distribution and health care information at seven United Methodist churches. It has been a program of the Arlington District since 1999.



GRACE Ministries
of the United Methodist Church

Grace Ministries also provides job training programs for personal care aides, certified nurse aides and for CDL/ESL training for school bus drivers.

Food, clothing and diaper distributions are held monthly at these churches:

- Arlington UMC – Arlington**
- Centreville UMC – Centreville**
- Crossroads UMC – Ashburn**
- Culmore UMC – Falls Church**
- Floris UMC – Herndon**
- Mount Olivet UMC – Arlington**
- St. Stephens UMC – Burke**

Other actions

RESOLUTIONS: Resolution 5, dealing with the formation of a “Bishops’ Foundation” which will combine the funds of the Goodson Foundation, the Stockton Academy for Evangelism and the Pennel Foundation, was approved. Resolution 1, “A Call for 2012 General Board of Pension and Health Benefits-authored Petitions to be Sent to the Annual Conferences,” was approved, with a date change to April 1 instead of March 1. Resolution 2, “A Call to Prayer and Ministry for Military Families,” was amended by the Rev. Helen Casey-Rutland, whose amendment was accepted by Peter Prindle, the author of the resolution. The Rev. Brad McMullen objected to the support of Part 4 of the resolution because they are not liturgical holidays. The Rev. Charles Townsend offered a response to the objection. Resolution 2 was adopted as amended.

LAY LEADER: Shirley Cauffman was re-elected for 2011-2012.

TRUSTEES: During the report of the Conference Trustees Monday morning, the Rev. Steve Hundley made a motion to ask the Trustees to present a report about the episcopal residence to the 2011 Annual Conference. The current episcopal residence in Richmond does not have a master suite on the ground floor, which is stipulated in the Parsonage Guidelines. Both the motion and the Trustees’ report were approved.

INCLUSIVITY REPORT: The Commission on Religion and Race and the Commission on the Status and Role of Women are monitoring all sessions for inclusivity. Here are the statistics for Sunday through Monday afternoon:

Female participation	51%
Male participation	49%
Racial/Ethnic participation	20%
Youth/Young Adult participation	9.6%
Clergy participation	47%
Laity participation	53%