



# Staunton District Voice

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 1

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2012



## *Staunton District Leadership Training Day*

**Saturday, January 28, 2012**

**Clifton Middle School**

Low Moor, VA

Exit 21 off I-64 West

Registration 9:30 a.m.

Worship 9:45 a.m.

Workshop 10:00 a.m. - Noon

**Directions to Clifton Middle School:** From the North & East follow I-81 South to I-64 West. Take Exit 21 off of I-64 west. Turn right at the top of the exit on to Selma Low Moor Road. At the next intersection turn right on to Winterberry Ave. Bear right on to Irvine Farm Road. Turn left on to Gleason Dr. Take the next left. The entrance to the school is off the upper parking lot.

### **Workshops**

**Finance and Treasurer**— Rev. Steve Hundley, Roanoke District Superintendent and Member of the Virginia Conference Finance Committee

**Communications: I Love to Tell the Story**—Neill Caldwell, Editor of the Virginia Advocate

**Church Council: More than Leading a Meeting**—Martha Stokes, Director of Leadership and Inclusivity

**United Methodist Women**—Marilynn Blagg, District United Methodist Women's President

**Staff/Pastor Parrish Relations** —Rev. Dr. Mike Houff, Staunton District Superintendent

**Lay Leaders**— Larry Creamer, Staunton District Lay Leader

**Disaster Response** — Col. Calvin Hughes, District United Methodist Men's President

### **REGISTRATION FORM**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Church \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail Registration Form to:**

Staunton District

P.O. Box 1048

Fishersville, VA 22939

Or Email registration to:

[stauntonditric@vaumc.org](mailto:stauntonditric@vaumc.org)

**"We envision faith communities, where all God's people are welcome at table, nurtured and transformed to be Christ to others in the world." (Virginia Conference Vision Statement)**



**FROM OUR DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT:**

First of all a word of thanks to all of you for your many expressions of love and care extended to me and my family upon my father's death on November 14<sup>th</sup>. Those of you who attended the Charge Conferences were especially aware of the journey we were taking following his stroke in July. I am grateful for your calls, visits, cards and prayers at this time of loss and throughout this year. You have formed the foundation of the faith community that sustained us through some difficult and sometimes long hours.

The Hymn of Promise written by Natalie Steeth in 1986 was included as music in the Celebration of Life for both my mother and father this past year. These are the words of the second verse,

“There’s a song in every silence, seeking word and melody; there’s a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me. From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.”



*The Year Awaits*

I include it here as we begin the year 2012 because while it has given comfort in the midst of loss, it really contains words to remind us of the great new possibilities for each of us in our Christian journey. The new year awaits our Christian witness.

*Mike*



**OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY IS EXTENDED TO:**

**The Rev. Dr. Patricia Meadows and her family** at the death of her father, Mr. Malcolm Meadows. Dr. Meadows serves St. John's UMC in Staunton.

**The Family of Mrs. LaVearn Everett;** Mrs. Everett was the widow of the Rev. Roy Everett, former Staunton District Superintendent.

**The Rev. Dr. D. Michael and Mrs. Joy Houff and their family** at the death of his father, Mr. Rollo Houff. Dr. Houff serves as our District Superintendent.

**The Rev. Joshua and Mrs. Amber Davis and their family** at the death of his mother, Mrs. Marilyn Davis. Rev. Davis serves Mt. Zion UMC.

**Mrs. Pam Ragland and her family** at the death of her husband, Mr. Phillip Ragland. Mr. Ragland served Ebenezer UMC.

**Mrs. Theresa Johnson and her family** at the death of her husband, Rev. Charles Johnson. Rev. Johnson previously served Iron Gate Charge.

**The Rev. Terry and Mrs. Beth Clark and their family** at the death of her Aunt, Mrs. Suzanne Carrington. Rev. Clark serves Mint Spring UMC.

**THANK YOU!**

I do want to thank all of you for your cards, prayers, presence, and thoughts at my father's death. It does mean a lot to hear from fellow sojourners along the path of life.

Blessings,  
*Patricia*



**GOT PROJECTS** The Virginia United Methodist Credit Union has a solution. Our **Project Loans** can be used to fund roof repairs, kitchen upgrades, parking lot improvements, heating/ac systems, painting or parsonage repairs. **Project Loans are unsecured, for amounts up to \$50,000 with rates as low as 4.75% APR\***. Call 866-657-0004 for applications and details.

*\*Credit restrictions apply and rates are subject to change. VUMCU is federally insured by the*

*NCUA and is an equal housing lender.*

## FROM OUR DISTRICT PROGRAM DIRECTOR:

Greetings, It seems to me like yesterday when we rang in 2011. Now it is already 2012 can you believe it? The Staunton District has some wonderful opportunities in the coming months. On Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, we will have our district training event. See the front page for information. On Friday, March 2, we will have our annual Laity Banquet. Our speaker for the event will be Bishop Kammerer. The event will be held at the Virginia Horse Center in Lexington. On March 17 the Rev. Tom Berlin will be our teacher/preacher at Main Street UMC in Waynesboro to lead us through a program called Bearing Fruit real ministries with real results. We hope each of our churches will send a team to be a part of this day. In April the District UMW will have A Day Part and the District UMM will host their annual Golf Tournament. We will also have the Lay Academy sometime in the spring. We hope you can join us for many of these events. Please watch the District Voice for more information on these events in the coming months. We also send a lot of information out through our email list. If you would like to get regular updates on what's happening on the district, send Donna ([stauntondistrict.org](http://stauntondistrict.org)) your email address. We do not give out our email list to anyone.



<sup>12</sup> to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up <sup>13</sup> until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Ephesians: 4:12-13

Blessings in the New Year,

*Martha*



## FROM OUR DISTRICT LAY LEADER:

As we enter 2012 I am reminded of Hebrews 10:23-24 - "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works." The author uses the word *us* for Christians ought to have a tender consideration and concern for one another. So let's make 2012 a time of calling upon one another to love God and Christ more.

Don't forget to mark your calendar for Saturday, January 28, 2012, Staunton District Leadership Training Day, at Clifton Middle School, Low Moor, VA and our District Laity Banquet Friday, March 2, 2012, at the Virginia Horse Center, Lexington, VA.

May the Grace of God be with you,

*Larry*



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!** Mrs. Emma (Forest ) Mead, who is one of our District widows, turned 100 on Monday, December 12. If you would like to send her a card, her address is: Mrs. Emma Mead, 21 Woodlee Road, Apt. 322, Staunton, VA 24401.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO MARTHA AND REV. THOMAS REYNOLDS** on the birth of a grandson, David Keith Reynolds, born Thursday, December 15. Martha serves as our District Program Director and Rev. Tom Reynolds serves Epworth UMC.

CONGRATULATIONS



## 30th PAUMCS ANNUAL CONFERENCE April 12-15, 2012 — Richmond, Virginia

The Professional Association of United Methodist Church Secretaries will hold their National Conference in Richmond, April 12-15, 2012. You won't want to miss it. Take part in some exceptional training, enjoy several delightfully informative outings, and share in the fellowship of United Methodist Church secretaries from across the country. We hope that you will plan to arrive on Wednesday, April 11, to take part in our Stop Hunger Now mission opportunity. The brochure and registration form are available at [www.paumcs.org](http://www.paumcs.org).

## FROM THE SCOUTING COORDINATOR:

Season's Greetings to you one and all, in the name of our Great Scout Master and Savior Jesus Christ!



As another year comes to a close, we look back at the previous one with fond remembrance of Scouting's 101<sup>st</sup> year! The fun we had, the friends we made and the things we learned!! WOW!! What a year! We had another successful encampment with the United Methodist Men at VUMAC in Blackstone, though there were considerably less people in attendance this year! There were a lot of new faces and a good time was had by all!!! I would like to personally thank those who work so hard to pull off this event every year and make it such a wonderful experience! A special thanks goes out to Mr. John Allen, Mr. Charles Carpenter, Mr. Martin Shirilla, Mr. Archie "Scott" Fellows, and all of my fellow Scouting Coordinators/ United Methodist Men who made this event possible!!! Kudos to you all!!!

Remember, this upcoming year is promising to be another great one in service to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ through ministering to our youth! Please plan to recognize your troops, packs and crews with a Special Scout Sunday service in February or March! The United Methodist Scout Sunday will be on February 12, 2012. If you would like help in planning a service, please feel free to contact me through the District office in Fishersville or at the S.U.M.S. Initiative, Office on Scouting Ministries at 41 Chestnut Ave. in Craigsville. Also, there will be an introductory meeting for the "God and Family" religious emblems class on March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. We will be meeting at the Hebron Scout hut in Swoope, Virginia. This class will be available to both boys and girls in the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades. They do not have to be a member of the BSA, GSUSA or American Heritage Girls to participate in the class. Any youth ages 9-10 years old are eligible to earn the God and Family religious emblem. For more information on this class, directions to the scout hut or to register, please contact me.

Wishing you and all of your families Peace, Love and Joy this Christmas Season! Merry Christmas and God Bless!!!

With His Blessings and Peace Unto You, Your Scouting Brother in Christ,  
*Andrew L. Workman*, Scouting Coordinator, Staunton District UMC



## FROM THE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN'S PRESIDENT:

Greetings from the UMW Mission Team!

May God continue to bless you all as we begin our work for 2012. The challenge remains supporting our work in the mission field. We have many missionaries, deaconesses, church and community workers and staff in need of our support. We have mission projects around the country and the globe in need of our continued support. For many, we, as UMW, are their soul source. We can see everyday, if we look, the good deeds we are doing, the impact we have on the lives of women, children and youth, making life more tolerable for some, more productive for others and self-sustaining for still others. Read our mission magazines "Response" and "New World Outlook" for stories of the difference our support makes. We will once again hold a class during the District Training, January 28, called "UMW 101". We are looking for those interested in the work we do, those wondering what we do as UMW members, new officers wondering what they need to do. We will address the basics of UMW membership. Come to be refreshed, renewed and encouraged. Bring your questions, answers, problems and ideas. Our calendar includes our Lenten Prayer Breakfast March 24, 9 AM (registration beginning at 8:30) at Ashwood UMC in Hot Springs and Greenville UMC, Greenville. Cost of breakfast is \$6. Please put this on your calendar and join us for an inspiring morning. Other events include Day Apart in April at Randolph Street UMC, Lexington.

Continue to be in prayer for our missionaries and the work they are doing, our District Mission Team, our units and our churches.

Blessings to all,

*Marilyn Blagg* 780 Little Mt Trl Doe Hill, VA 24433 540-396-6127 [marilynblagg@hotmail.com](mailto:marilynblagg@hotmail.com)

## FROM THE UNITED METHODIST MEN'S PRESIDENT:



To all United Methodist Men – I wish to thank you for coming to the banquet and hope you enjoyed yourselves. And “thank you” to those ladies at Central UMC who did the cooking for us. Hope you enjoyed Col. James Park, our speaker; we will be honored to have him at our Tri-District Meeting at Camp Overlook. More information on that will follow. Hope everyone had a safe and Merry Christmas and will have a Happy New Year!

*Calvin Hughes*

### UPCOMING UMM DATES:

- February 11, 9:00 a.m., Asbury UMC (Brownsburg) - UMM Cabinet Meeting - All local Presidents or Representatives are requested to be present.
- March 6-7, Camp Overlook - Staunton District UMM Retreat. Rev. Dr. Michael Houff will be the Speaker for a Men's Lenten Study.
- April 28, Vista Links - UMM Golf Tournament
- May 11-12, Camp Overlook - Tri-District Retreat (Harrisonburg, Staunton and Winchester Districts) - Col. James Park will be the speaker.

## Green Corner



### THE GREEN CORNER: DOT RAVENHORST

No one needs to be reminded that we are entering an intense political season. But what does that have to do with caring for God's earth? It may have a great deal to do with it.

Environmental regulations and laws with regard to use of natural resources are passed by legislators and we as citizens have the opportunity--indeed the responsibility to vote for our representatives and to express our views. While choices are seldom clear cut, staying informed and observing who pays for the information available helps make decisions.

In view of this situation, it is interesting that the Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers (AHAM) met in 2010 with representatives from leading environmental groups and worked together to agree on energy efficiency rules, updating standards with specific targets and specific timetables they know they can meet. This gives the Department of Energy (DOE) a head start on regulations that will result in significant energy savings and money savings for consumers. Dryers will be required to use five percent less energy and clothes washers will have to use up to forty percent less energy. Clothes washers and dish washers will be required to use less water than is currently allowed--up to fifty percent less for clothes washers.

While these rules are not yet binding, the DOE has proposed new standards for refrigerators and freezers that are from that agreement and has indicated it will do so for other appliances. The AHAM believes these new standards will help retain 46,000 U.S. manufacturing jobs as companies retool to produce better insulation, compressors, seals, temperature controls, etc. Only by all working together can we hope to care for God's creation.

## FEBRUARY IS HEART HAVENS MONTH!

“Where will my child live when I am gone?” Heart Havens has been responding to that question since it was asked of a pastor in 1993. We support men and women with intellectual disabilities by building and operating 12 group homes throughout Virginia. This February, help support this mission in your own backyard by donating, volunteering or advocating for Heart Havens ([www.hearthavens.org](http://www.hearthavens.org)).

For more information or if you would like a Heart Havens speaker at your church, please contact us at: 804 237 6097; 1 877 442 8368; [info@hearthavens.org](mailto:info@hearthavens.org);



**DISTRICT AT-LARGE MEMBERS TO THE 2012 ANNUAL CONFERENCE** elected at District Conference on December 4th are: Gage Allen, Youth Delegate, Anna Betlej and Jonathan Greer, Young Adult Delegates, Peggy Beck, Benham Black, Lee Blagg, Earl Cash, Jill Clark, Linda Cornelius, Donald Fretts, David Grimm, Lena Mahone, Robert McCallister, Susan Obaugh, Jennifer Propst, Dorothy Ravenhorst, Martha Reynolds, Kristina Riley, James Sumner, Norma Sumner, Joyce Thompson, Gerald Vaughn and Claudette Wilcher. Our two Reserve Members are: Elizabeth Keyser and Lori Kier-Benson.



Your Help  
Is Needed



### FROM CASA DE AMISTAD: JENNIFER STROTHER

Qué Pasa at Casa de Amistad

We wish to thank all of you for your incredible response to the Thanksgiving Boxes and Christmas Gifts projects of Casa de Amistad. Your generosity brightened the season for many children and their families. But did you know that you can help make a difference in the lives of the homeless, hungry, needy and lonely throughout the year.

Every Saturday a free breakfast kitchen is served at Basic United Methodist by the many churches and organizations involved with Disciple's Kitchen. The doors are opened to feed a warm morning meal to dozens of people of all ages. At the same time, Casa de Amistad opens its Saturday Supply Closet program – providing much-needed household and personal care items to those in attendance. Many organizations conduct food and clothing closets. This program was designed to avoid duplicating those while still meeting the needs of those we encounter through the breakfast. Our supplies are currently dangerously low and we are completely out of many items. Would you consider having a drive within your church and its many circles, classes and groups to address this vital ministry? While a one-time effort on your part will be greatly appreciated, we hope you will also pray about becoming a Saturday Supply Partner. Your church or group would be added to a list of servants willing to hold such drives throughout the year as a need presents itself. You would be contacted on a rotating basis to hold drives to help replenish dwindling supplies.

Here is a list of items that we are in dire need of currently: \*disposable diapers (all sizes), \*mouthwash, \*baby wipe refill packs, \*denture adhesive, \*shampoo, \*denture cleansing tablets, \*deodorant, \*shaving cream, \*tampons, \*laundry soap, \*dish detergent, and \*toilet paper. Please contact Jennifer Strother at 540-946-7958 or [cdajenn@comcast.net](mailto:cdajenn@comcast.net) if you feel led to help with this program. Any questions may be directed there as well.

### Virginia Annual Conference - The Second Annual Lay Servant Academy 34<sup>th</sup> Edition of Lay Speaker Training, Blackstone Conference and Retreat Center February 24-26, 2012



In addition to the assortment of 18 different choices of the familiar courses found at the Lay Servant Academy, we are offering four new features. 1.) **24 Mini-Courses** in a wide range of specialties and interests that are designed to be appetizers for different topics to be explored by the Laity. Taking 5 classes will count this year towards advanced certification. **Anyone interested can take one or more courses just for the interest in the topic.** Several courses can be explored at the first class and you can stay for the full course. For a full weekend you can take up to six classes. This format will also allow Friday and Saturday or Saturday and Sunday participation only. **Open to anyone interested in one or more topics.** 2.) To encourage participation and be in support of younger families or parents, there will be child care on **site** for infants and toddlers staffed by nearby local churches. Include the request before January 20th. 3.) There will be fewer speakers and general sessions. The increased time realized will be used by **two different music groups playing three times during the weekend.** The increased time will also be utilized for District Meetings during the day rather than the end of a full day of class work. 4.) The **new course "Understanding Men's Ministry"** will be offered for the first time in Virginia as an advanced lay speakers course. And as with all our classes, everyone is invited to attend, not just United Methodist Men. The guidance given in this class is easily transferrable to a person in any leadership role. Open to anyone. This year we will have the high caliber instructors that you have come to expect at the annual training. We also will feature six top staff members from the Conference Office. Also joining us are key staff members and leaders from four national and international organizations. Participating as lecturers and presenters this weekend are also delegates to the Southeastern Jurisdiction and the General Conference. For more information and registration form go to [vaumc.org](http://vaumc.org).

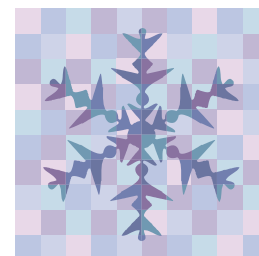


3014 Camp Overlook Lane  
Keezletown, VA 22832

Become a fan on **facebook**



# OVERLOOK OVERVIEW



Jan./Feb. 2012

Overlook Retreat & Camp Ministries, Ron Robey, Director, 540 2MY-CAMP, CampOverlook@gmail.com, CampOverlook.org

## CAMP GRANDS

This is a grand opportunity to invest in the future of our church. Overlook Retreat & Camp Ministries have been effective in helping people of all ages meet God on the mountain. We want to continue this vital ministry for the future generations.

Overlook has acquired 45 additional acres to protect the original facility and provide room to grow for future generations. Work is in progress to remodel all of the original 45 year old buildings. It will take \$250,000 to pay off the expense incurred in this expansion and improvement.

Individuals or families; small groups, or churches can become a Camp Grand by investing in a \$1000 membership through a onetime gift or in installments. Our goal is to raise these funds by January 2013.

Membership forms may be downloaded at [www.campoverlook.org](http://www.campoverlook.org) or you may simply send your gift, with complete contact information to Overlook Retreat & Camp Ministries, 3014 Camp Overlook Ln., Keezletown, VA 22832.

We appreciate our newest groups or individuals to become Camp Grands:

- Betty Phillips
- Leon & Dixie Miller
- Grace United Methodist Women (Middletown)
- Benham & JoAnn Black
- Mt. Crawford United Methodist Church

*Overlook has been designated by our United Methodist Churches to be a place for people to have renewing experiences with God. Getting the word out about the opportunities is always a challenge. We seek to have an Ambassador in every church. If your church does not have one, please consider how you might help and share with your pastor.*

*Start preparing your heart this Lent with*



## Hiding Place

A Contemplative  
Retreat  
February 25-26

Sheila Lloyd, gifted song writer and worship leader will focus your thoughts and meditations, allowing God to shape your heart in new ways.

Brochure or Online Registration at [www.CampOverlook.org](http://www.CampOverlook.org)

**Relax, Release, Renew**

## Men's Emmaus 4th Day Renewal

February 17-18, 2011

For men who have previously participated in the 72 hour "Walk to Emmaus", how have your Fourth Days been? Have you had some "ups" and "downs"? Could you use a little "shot in the arm" to remind you of, and renew you for, following God's call? Most of us do, and this weekend is just for you...and for God!

The retreat will capture some of the elements of your Emmaus walk. There will be three new talks on life in Christian Action by lay men who have previously shared talks on an Emmaus weekend. Spiritual Directors will lead you in creative and inspiring worship, and there will be plenty of music to let your hearts and voices soar. But, most powerful of all, as we fellowship together and spend time in prayer, we will be fellowshiping with God!

The event will start with registration, Friday evening at 5:30pm at Blessings Lodge (Hotel-like rooms with linens provided). Enjoy a delicious dinner before beginning the retreat in earnest. You will be home in time for supper on Saturday evening. \$65 Register Early-\$55

Brochure or Online Registration at [www.CampOverlook.org](http://www.CampOverlook.org)

## Celebrate Your Marriage

Skip the chocolate and flowers this Valentines Day and make an investment in your relationship with God AND your spouse!!

"Celebrate Your Marriage" will be offered the weekend before Valentines Day, **February 10-12, 2012**. Participants stay in the beautiful Blessings Lodge, in a private room, and enjoy the leadership of trained individuals as they guide you through a series of exercises, activities, and worship experiences to help you grow in commitment to God and one another.

\$265.00 per couple includes lodging, Saturday and Sunday meals, and program materials. Arrive at 7:00pm on Friday and the event will conclude Sunday afternoon.

Brochure or Online Registration at [www.CampOverlook.org](http://www.CampOverlook.org)



## Bring your Valentine!

### Confirmation Camp March 30-31, 2012

The new year will bring a new format to confirmation camp using the Credo Confirmation Materials.

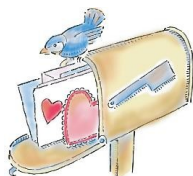
This is an ideal opportunity for youth preparing for church membership to meet with youth across the districts and have a fun but spiritually focusing time. Details for this special camp will be provided to pastors to facilitate their confirmation training program.

# STAUNTON DISTRICT PROGRAM CALENDAR 2012



## JANUARY

- 3-5 Clergy Conferences
- 5 District Board of Missions, 10:00 a.m., District Office
- 7 District UMW Mission Team Meeting, 10:00 a.m., Mint Spring UMC
- 10 District Committee on Ordained Ministry, 9:00 a.m.
- 11-12 Clergy Conferences
- 17-19 Clergy Convocation, VUMAC
- 21 Conference Board of Church and Society, 10:00 a.m., Conference Center
- 24-26 Clergy Conferences
- 28 Leadership Training Day, Clifton Middle School, 9:00-12:00 p.m.
- 29-31 Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, VUMAC



## FEBRUARY

- 1-2 Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, VUMAC
- 2 UMW Day at General Assembly
- 6-9 Cabinet
- 14 District Committee on Ordained Ministry, 9:00 a.m.
- 16 Conference Common Table for Church Vitality, 10:00 a.m., Conference Center
- 21 Clergy and Spouses Meeting, 9:00 a.m.
- 26-29 Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, VUMAC



## MARCH

- 1 Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, VUMAC
- 2 District Laity Banquet, 6:00 p.m., Horse Center in Lexington
- 13 District Committee on Ordained Ministry, 9:00 a.m.
- 17 Tom Berlin teaching Bearing Fruit, Main Street UMC
- 19-22 Cabinet
- 24 UMW Prayer Breakfast, 8:30 a.m., Ashwood UMC and Greenville UMC



## THE STAUNTON DISTRICT VOICE

The Staunton District Office  
26 Orr Drive  
P. O. Box 1048

Fishersville, VA 22939

Phone: 540-932-1055

Email: [stauntondistrict@vaumc.org](mailto:stauntondistrict@vaumc.org)

Web Site: [www.stauntondistrict.org](http://www.stauntondistrict.org)

Charlene Payne Kammerer.....Area Bishop  
D. Michael Houff.....District Superintendent  
Martha Reynolds.....District Program Coordinator  
David Mawyer.....District Treasurer  
Donna Desper.....District Administrative Assistant

**Next Newsletter Deadline: February 20, 2012**

Return Service Requested

**NONPROFIT ORG.  
U. S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 178**