



THE RICHMOND DISTRICT DISPATCH

A Newsletter of The Richmond District • Virginia Conference • The United Methodist Church
May 2016

2016 Annual Conference

The 2016 session of the Virginia Annual Conference will be held June 17-19 at the Berglund Center in Roanoke. Theme of the 2016 Annual Conference is "Thy Will Be Done." The logo was developed by Cathryn Huff, contract graphic designer for the conference Communications office. Learn more at <www.vaumc.org/AC2016>. ♦



Annual Conference Preachers

Bishop Young Jin Cho announced that the preacher for the Saturday evening ordination service will be Bishop Mark Webb from the Upper New York Annual Conference. Preacher for the Saturday morning mission service will be the Rev. Eun Pa Hong from Bupyeong Methodist Church in South Korea. Preacher for the Friday evening memorial service will be the Rev. Myrtle Frances Hatcher. Preacher for the retirement service will be the Rev. Jim Tongue. Annual Conference teacher will be Dr. L. Gregory Jones, Duke Divinity School. ♦

Kits for Conference

Various types of United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) Supply Kits will be collected at the 2016 Virginia Annual Conference session. Kit collection is being conducted to replenish the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) supply. Local churches are encouraged to collect items for any of the most requested UMCOR kits – Bedding, Birthing, Cleaning, Health, Layette, School and Sewing Kits – and bring them to Annual Conference. Please note that Health and School Kits are most needed this year. Please bring the kits in boxes [not bags], labeled and with a count of the items. For kit instructions, go to <<http://www.umcor.org/UMCOR/Relief-Supplies>>. Kits should be taken to the two tractor-trailers at the far end of the Berglund Center Parking lot A. Kits will be received 12-5 p.m. Thursday, June 16; 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday, June 17; and 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Saturday, June 18. ♦

Cash for Kits

Send checks for kits directly to conference treasurer. If you prefer to contribute cash to enable UMCOR to purchase relief kits, you can contribute \$50 for each bedding kit, \$8 for each birthing kit, \$65 for each cleaning kit, \$12 for each health kit, \$45 for each layette kit, \$11 for each school kit, and \$28 for each sewing kit. In addition, UMCOR asks for \$1 per kit (\$1.50 for cleaning buckets) to cover processing and shipping and \$1 for toothpaste for each health kit. Please do NOT bring checks to Annual Conference. All checks, for processing and shipping, for toothpaste and in lieu of providing kits, should be made payable to "Virginia Conference UMC," earmarked for "kits" and mailed to Treasurer, Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 5605, Glen Allen, VA 23058 any time prior to Annual Conference, and no later than August 31. ♦

District AC Orientation

An orientation session for the Richmond District members of the 2016 Virginia Annual Conference will be held on Tuesday, June 7 at 7 p.m. at Good Shepherd UMC, 9155 Hungary Road, Richmond. It is important that clergy, church lay members, and district lay members be present to be briefed on issues coming before the Conference. Notices will be mailed to delegates in the near future. ♦

AC 2016 Special Offering

Bishop Young Jin Cho announced that the 2016 Annual Conference offering goal will be \$150,000 and again focus on both international and Virginia-based mission needs. The offering goal includes:

- ♦ \$50,000 for Methodist Mission in Cambodia;
- ♦ \$25,000 for Methodist Church of Brazil programs with at-risk children;
- ♦ \$25,000 for training laity in United Methodist churches in Mozambique; and
- ♦ \$50,000 to help fund disaster response in the Virginia Conference.

Learn more at <www.vaumc.org/AC2016>. ♦

UM Center Closings

The District Office and the VAUMC Conference Center will close at 1 p.m. May 27 and remain closed through May 30 in observance of the Memorial Day Holiday. ♦

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Richmond District

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May 2016

A Word from the Superintendent

Friends,

One week from today, our United Methodist Church will begin our time of General Conference. There is substantial anticipation and anxiety around what might or might not happen during those eleven days of "Holy Conferencing."

I will soon be leaving to be a delegate, along with many others from Virginia. But I go with a spirit of thanksgiving to you, the clergy and laity of the Richmond District and beyond.

Bill Withers had that great song a number of years ago, "Lean on Me." Though I might be dating myself, the lyrics ring true as I anticipate the journey to Portland. He sang of how "We all need somebody....to lean on."

All of us need people and things to lean on. We especially need it as we enter into a potentially decisive time of General Conference. Personally, I lean on the truths of Scripture, such as Psalm 46: even though "the mountains quake with their surging," I can "be still and know that (God) is God." I hold to the truth that this is God's church and our risen Lord loves this church even more than I or we do. The Church was here long before I was and it will be here long after I am gone...no matter what.

But with those truths as a foundation, I find myself leaning hard into what you all did on April 10th. Every church on this District and beyond took some time to pray, pray for our church, our Conference, and our decisions. I need to tell you how comforting, but more importantly, how empowering it is to know how you all prayed for this time. Some of you did prayer vigils, others lifted our Conference up in prayer during worship. There were many other creative ventures.

As I head to Portland this week, but more importantly, as our global church meets next week, we go into this time bathed in the dedicated prayer life of the churches of this District and beyond. I, along with many others in Portland, indeed, our entire church, celebrate this truth. I will be leaning on those prayers and on your love in these weeks to come. Thank you Richmond District for that time of prayer. It matters. And, it makes a difference. I am leaning on every one of those prayers.

In Christ,

Pete

Death and Dying

In conjunction with the sermon series, "On Death: What it Means to Truly Live," Reveille UMC, 4200 Cary Street Road, Richmond, will offer a series of speakers to provide information and guidance on acknowledging, preparing for, and facing death. The Death and Dying speaker series will take place Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m., May 11-25, in the chapel. Scheduled topics:

- ◆ May 11-Planning for Death
 - ◆ May 18-What Happens When You Die
 - ◆ May 25-After the Death of a Loved One
- For more information visit <www.reveilleumc.org/on-death>.◆

UMVIM Training

Team Leader Training is required for all first-time United Methodist Volunteers In Mission (UMVIM) team leaders, but all interested persons are welcome to attend whether leading a team or not. The following training events are currently scheduled:

- ◆ May 7, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., St. Mark's UMC, 11551 Luck's Lane, Midlothian. Team Leader recertification will be held.
 - ◆ May 6, 6-8:00 p.m., St. Mark's UMC, 11551 Luck's Lane, Midlothian.
- Go to <vaumc.org/events>, chose the date, and register online. For more information call 521-1139.◆

Get Away from it All!

The VA PAUMCS (Professional Association of United Methodist Church Secretaries) spring retreat will be held Sunday, May 15-Monday, May 16 at the Blessings Lodge, Camp Overlook, Keezletown. Church administrative professionals suffer stresses not found in secular settings. How do church secretaries maintain their spiritual health while ministering to others? The speaker for the retreat, Dr. Sandy Gramling, is a tenured Associate Professor in Clinical Psychology at Virginia Commonwealth University, where she teaches "Stress and Its Management." Registration information can be found at <vaumc.org/paumcs>.◆

Prayers for...

- ◆ Rev. Mark Ogren, Conference director of Congregational Excellence, on the death of his mother April 26.
- ◆ Bishop R. Kern Eutsler, retired, who is recovering from April 18 surgery for a broken knee suffered in a fall.
- ◆ Rev. Rita Callis, Lakeside UMC, and husband, Charles Caldwell, on the death of his sister, April 7.◆



We are entering a busy period for district, conference and jurisdictional events.

Our Conference Spiritual Life Retreat will be April 29-May 1 at Blackstone. It will be a blessed time but also a sad time as this will be our last event at VUMAC. Our leader, Rev. Kathleen Royston, will lead us in discovering our "Spiritual Slow Food." We will also be collecting items for our National Project, Wesley Community Center in Portsmouth. Registration form is available on our website <www.vaumw.com>.

We're on our way to Charleston, S.C.! Yes, we are traveling to our Southeastern Jurisdictional meeting, June 3-5. 48 women from the Virginia Conference will be attending our jurisdictional meeting. As well as conducting business of electing officers to the National Board, it will be a time of learning about social issues, expanding our spirituality and a time of connecting with our sisters across the southeastern region of our United Methodist Church.

On the Road Again trips will include a trip to UMW Day at Ferrum on June 3-4. Ferrum College was started by United Methodist Women concerned for the educational needs of the young persons in the area. We continue to have representation on the Board and are part owners of the college! This trip will also include a visit to Henry Fork Community Center.

Our next trip will be a day trip to the Shenandoah Valley on June 29. This will be a full day of learning by visiting various projects supported by UM Women. These include Camp Overlook, The Clothes Closet, RISE, Kingsway Prison and Family Outreach, and Casa de Amistad.

If you are unfamiliar with UMW, either of these trips would be a great opportunity to see what we are about!

For questions call 730-0680 or 747-6493.

Jessie Swann, president,
Richmond District
United Methodist Women

Older Adult Ministries

Older Adult Sunday: Worship resources are posted on the Conference and VUMH websites. Discipleship Ministries has posted their materials for 2016; "Evergreen – Counting the Rings of Faithfulness" is the theme. The May issue of the Virginia United Methodist Advocate includes a letter to the editor written by Suzanne Spencer, chair of Older Adult Council of Virginia Annual Conference that highlights Older Adult Council.

Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Olde Time Revival with Centreville UMC (Arlington District) will be held on October 1. Clarence Brown will preach and Michael Berkley of Woodlake UMC will lead the music. If you have family/friends up that way, please let them know to keep that date for a great revival time.

Annual Conference: Please come to the Older Adult Council display table for your fan. We will have a legacy box on display and photos of an intergenerational sacred circle dance taken on Earth Day. Please sign up for the door prize (book by Missy Buchanan) and enjoy the Virginia United Methodist Homes display next to the OAC display.

If your church has an active Older Adult ministry, I would love to hear from you about your successful programs, photos of events, planned trips. I love hearing from Lakeside UMC and Enon UMC.

Janie Nuttall,
Richmond District representative
VAUMC Older Adult Council
unmjanien@yahoo.com

Elijah Mission Benefit

Reveille UMC, 4200 Cary Street Road, Richmond, is thrilled to offer selections from Elijah, by Felix Mendelssohn. The oratorio depicts events in the life of the Biblical prophet Elijah. This musical gem, composed 170 years ago, will be offered as a joint effort with Trinity UMC on Sunday, May 22, at 7:00 p.m. in Reveille's sanctuary, conducted by Dr. Charles Staples, director of music at Trinity. This is Reveille's annual Mission Benefit Concert, with donations going to Reveille's Swansboro Community Ministries, which supports ministries in Richmond's Swansboro neighborhood such as Dancing Classrooms and Kaleidoscope music camp scholarships. For more information, visit <www.reveilleumc.org> or call 359-6041. ♦



Helping Hands

The Virginia Conference event Helping Hands will be held at Woodlake UMC, 15640 Hampton Park Drive, Chesterfield, July 21-22. This event gives rising 4-6th graders the opportunity to do hands-on missions in the Richmond area. Participants have the option of early registration which includes three on-site mission opportunities or regular registration which includes two on-site mission opportunities. The cost is \$36/person. Email <mcochran@woodlakeumc.org> for more information. ♦

Service of Remembrance

Reveille UMC, 4200 Cary Street Road, Richmond, will hold an Angel Ministry Service of Remembrance on Sunday, May 15, 5 p.m. Pregnancies do not always go as planned. Sometimes they don't even happen at all. You are not alone. On Sunday, May 15, at 4 p.m. Reveille UMC will hold a Service of Remembrance in the chapel. This is a time to acknowledge and face the losses and disappointments in our lives. We will read Scripture, sing hymns, light candles, and pray for one another. It is a time when we seek the Light of God for hope, comfort, and help. After the service, we will hold a reception in the welcome center as a way to continue to bond together as a community and help one another. Whatever loss or disappointment you may have and however long you have borne it, you are invited to join in this service. For more information, visit <www.reveilleumc.org> or call 359-6041. ♦

Attention Communicators

The Virginia Conference Board of Communications is working to establish a group to provide support, promote professional development, and offer continuing education for church communicators within the Virginia Conference. If interested, use the following link to submit your name at <<http://goo.gl/forms/IF2qDBNVze>>. ♦

Lay Servant Schedule

Donna Seward, director, Lay Servant Ministries: <donna_t_seward@yahoo.com>, 897-3309. Richmond District Certified Lay Servants lead worship regularly at the following care centers:

Date	Place	Speaker
5/1	Beth Sholom	A Henderson
5/1	Guardian Place	Bill Pike
5/8	Elmcroft	John Green
5/8	University Park	John Green
5/8	Guardian Place	R Chandler
5/15	Beth Sholom	A Henderson
5/15	Guardian Place	T Keeton
5/22	Elmcroft	G Stephens
5/22	Guardian Place	R Chandler
5/29	Guardian Place	John Green

On Demand LSM Course

Lay Servant Ministries is offering a series of On Demand Learning courses. You may attend the live events 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Virginia United Methodist Center in Glen Allen for free, or pay \$30 to watch online from your own computer during a 90-day period to receive your certification.

Upcoming on demand training events:

- ◆ July 9 - "Spiritual Gifts" led by MaryKaye Cochran
 - ◆ August 27 - "Preaching" led by Doug Forrester
 - ◆ September 24- "UMC Heritage" led by Martha Stokes
- Call 521-1153 for details. ◆

Contributions honoring Bishop Cho to fund Spiritual Leadership Training



Bishop Young Jin Cho will retire from active ministry on August 31 of this year, after having served four years as the episcopal leader of the Virginia Conference. To honor his service, the conference Committee on Episcopacy is inviting Virginia United Methodists to make contributions to the Bishops Foundation endowment to fund training and leadership development for clergy and laity in the area of "Spiritual Leadership."

"In the four years he has been leading our conference, Bishop Cho has consistently emphasized the need for increased prayer and a commitment to spiritual disciplines," said Shirley Cauffman, Committee on Episcopacy

chair, "so it seems appropriate to honor him by continuing an emphasis on spiritual disciplines through the work of the Bishops Foundation."

To make a donation to honor Bishop Cho, visit < http://vaumc.org/pages/news/2016vanews/2016vanews_bishopchodonationsnews> to use a credit card. Or, send a check payable to "Virginia United Methodist Conference," earmarked for "Bishop Cho donation," to Treasurer, Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 5605, Glen Allen, VA 23058. ◆



DISTRICT DISPATCH

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Young Jin Cho	Area Bishop
Peter M. Moon	District Superintendent
Susan Petrey	Administrative Assistant, Web Administrator
Cindy Payne-Ingroff	District Treasurer
Ron White	District Lay Leader
Jesse Swann	District President, UMW
Claude Stocky	District President, UMM
Bill Chaffin	District Ministry of Scouting Coord.
Donna Seward	Director, Lay Servant Ministries

We're on the web at:
www.richmonddistrictumc.org

The DEADLINE for the NEXT ISSUE is the 15th of the month.

District Opportunities

- ◆ May 1–Children's Musical, Reveille UMC, 359-6041.
- ◆ May 6–UMVIM Team Leader Recertification, St. Mark's, 521-1139.
- ◆ May 7–UMVIM Leader Training, St. Mark's, 521-1139.
- ◆ May 11-25–Death and Dying, Reveille UMC, 359-6041.
- ◆ May 15–Service of Remembrance, Reveille UMC, 359-6041.
- ◆ May 15-16–VA PAUMCS Spring Retreat, Camp Overlook, 521-1124.
- ◆ May 21–Historical Society Trip to Tangier Island, 521-1132.
- ◆ May 22-27–Five-Day Academy for Spiritual Formation, Roslyn Retreat Center, Richmond, 897-4060.
- ◆ May 22–Elijah Mission Benefit, Reveille UMC, 359-6041.
- ◆ June 3-4–District UMW 'On the Road Again in Mission Express', Ferrum College, 730-0680.
- ◆ June 3-5–Jurisdictional UMW Meeting, Charleston, SC, 730-0680.
- ◆ June 7–Richmond District Annual Conference Orientation, Good Shepherd UMC, 521-1124.
- ◆ June 29–UMW 'On the Road Again in Mission Express', Camp Overlook, 730-0680.
- ◆ June 17-19–VAUMC Annual Conference, Roanoke.
- ◆ July 9–On Demand LSM Course, Spiritual Gifts, 521-1153.
- ◆ July 9-30–Voices of Youth Tour, 521-1139.
- ◆ July 21-22–Helping Hands, Woodlake UMC, 521-1135.
- ◆ August 1-5–Kaleidoscope, TBA, 397-0203.
- ◆ August 27–On Demand LSM Course, Preaching, 521-1153.
- ◆ September 24–On Demand LSM Course, UMC Heritage, 521-1153. ◆