

THE RICHMOND DISTRICT DISPATCH



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

Thy will be done



2016 VIRGINIA 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 UMCOR supply. Please note that Health and School Kits are most needed this year. 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 the conference treasurer. 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 should be made payable to “Virginia Conference UMC,” memo: “kits,” sent to Treasurer, VAUMC, P.O. Box 5605, Glen Allen, VA 23058 no later than August 31.◆

June 7 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. It is important that clergy, church lay members, and district lay members be present to be briefed on issues coming before the Conference. Notices concerning expense reimbursement for District Lay Members have been emailed. Questions? Call 521-1124.◆

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. July 1 and remain closed through July 4 in observance of the Independence Day Holiday.◆

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Richmond District

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June 2016

A Word from the Superintendent

Friends,

In his book "The Power of a Whisper", Bill Hybels, pastor of Willow Creek Church, tells the story of a time when things were the worst. They were working to form a new church, they didn't have a facility, money was tight, staff was unhappy, the congregation was complaining and people were withholding their giving. The dream had seemingly lost its steam. To make it worse, some of it was due to the fact that the young Hybels had made rookie leadership mistakes.

In frustration, Bill was ready to quit. He came home to his apartment, telling his wife he was done. All he could do was pray. He laid face down on the shag carpet, pouring out his heart and sin to God. He was determined he would not stop praying until he had an answer.

Finally, at 5:00 a.m., the answer came. God spoke and said to Bill, "Go to work." That was it. After all the agony, the night long prayer seeking the grace and face of God, the message was simple: "Go to work."

Bill says he did. Sure enough people were still withholding their tithes, angry letters still came in, and the financial reports were still depressing. But day by day, month by month, and year by year, things got on their feet, and today, Willow Creek Church is one of the most influential congregations in the world.

I have reflected upon that story in the aftermath of General Conference. Most of you know the profound prayer that prepared us for that time. We prayed as a District and Conference as we have never prayed before. And yet, in some ways, General Conference was predictable. As in previous gatherings, we protested and maneuvered over issues such as human sexuality. Anger erupted. Prayers followed. People departed for homes and churches exhausted.

And yet, this Conference was very different. Divisive issues were postponed. The Bishops did something they have never done in our history. They are supposed to just preside. Instead, they took on the mantle of leadership and agreed to seek to lead us through this time. For the first time in a long time, people began to find a mustard seed (albeit small) of hope.

To be sure the challenges are still very real. All the same, I found God to be moving in the gathering in a way that I have not seen in four General Conferences. In all the temptation to be cynical, I find this surprising glimmer of hope that I was not expecting to have two weeks after Conference.

And what now? I hear God saying to me and perhaps to all of us the same words he offered to Bill: "Go to work." We have not solved all those issues that divide our church but we still have the risen Christ in our midst, we still have the power of the Holy Spirit, and we are still stewards of these five talents that God has given us called the Church. We can bury those talents or we can get busy with the business of investing and multiplying this church for the kingdom.

We can fuss and fume that nothing happened to our liking at General Conference or we can remember what we have as the Church of Jesus Christ. We can remember, and when we are at our best, we will simply "Go to work."

I will see you at the workplace...

In Christ,

Pete

Fund to Honor Bishop Cho

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. ♦

Prayers for...

- ♦ Rev. Rita Callis, Lakeside UMC, and husband Charles Caldwell who is home following nine days in the hospital in May.
- ♦ Rev. Mark Rooks, Willis UMC, and wife Myrna who is recovering from June 2 reconstructive surgery following breast cancer treatment.
- ♦ Rev. Beanie Kelly and the Shady Grove UMC, Short Pump, family on the death of their Children's Administrator.
- ♦ Rev. Jim Noland, retired, on the death of his wife Mary Anne on May 15.
- ♦ The family of the Rev. Eugene Woolridge, Jr., retired, who died May 1. He served the former Stratford Hills UMC and Trinity UMC, Richmond.
- ♦ The family of the Rev. Pete Falbo, retired, who died April 30. He most recently served Huguenot UMC. ♦



Holy Land Volunteers in Mission Trip

The Virginia Conference Board of Church and Society is sponsoring a Volunteers In Mission trip to Israel and Palestine from January 30 to February 11 in 2017. The trip will provide opportunities for learning, serving and seeing: team members will visit religious sites and United Methodist missions projects. There will also be opportunities to serve at some of those mission projects. Finally, team members will visit and meet with Palestinians, both Christian and Muslim, as well as Israeli Jews. The team will learn more about the struggles of life in Palestine and efforts to create a just and hopeful future.

The Team is being led by the Rev. John Copenhaver and the Rev. Steve Jones, both are certified VIM Team leaders. For more information, contact either leader at <jcopenha@su.edu> or <stevejones@vaumc.org>. ♦

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. ♦

CPR/FirstAid/AED Training Offered

Lebanon UMC, 8492 Peaks Road, Hanover, is offering American Red Cross Certification to ministry staff and volunteers of any local church. Classes are taught by our licensed Instructor and staff member Lisa Beckwith and are a blended learning class utilizing online education and training followed by a practical application session. These classes offer churches the opportunity to have key volunteers and staff certified at 50% of the traditional cost and 50% of the traditional classroom time required. All attendees will be certified in Adult/Infant/Child CPR/First Aid/AED as well as having Anaphylaxis/Epinephrine and Bloodborne Pathogen Endorsements. Contact Lisa Beckwith at <Youth@LebanonUMC.org> to schedule your training. ♦

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/1F2qDBNVze>. ♦

mission encounter



Learning together for the transformation of the world

Opportunity to study current issues impacting society

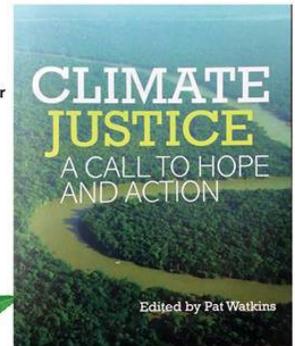
Open to everyone: clergy and laity, men and women, adults and children

CEU available



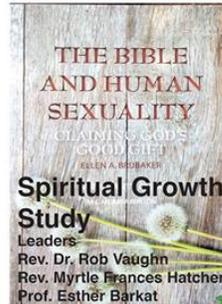
Geographic Study
Latin America
People and Faith
Leader Rev. Dr. Don Edwards

Issue Study
Leaders
Rev. Pat Watkins
Rev. Dottie Yunger
Korean Study Leader
Rev. Eugene Kim



CLIMATE JUSTICE
A CALL TO HOPE AND ACTION

Edited by Pat Watkins



Spiritual Growth Study
Leaders
Rev. Dr. Rob Vaughn
Rev. Myrtle Frances Hatcher
Prof. Esther Barkat



Children's Study
God's Extravagant Garden:
A Children's Study on
Climate Justice
Leader: Judy Fender

Randolph Macon College



Register online
vaumc.org/

MissionEncounter July 29-30, 2016

Early Bird Registration ends June 30

Bishop Memorial to Celebrate 100 Years

Did you know that Bishop Memorial UMC, 3826 Nine Mile Road, Richmond, has been in ministry for 100 years come September 2016? Faithful Christians began meeting in the school house in Glen Echo Park for Sunday school on September 24, 1916 at 3 p.m. In January of 1918 the Sunday school became a Methodist Sunday School. The property for the church was purchased in 1922 and a plan for the building was finalized in early 1924. Construction began in late 1925 with the cornerstone date of 1926.

To commemorate the historic life of this church, all are invited to Bishop Memorial UMC's Homecoming to be held on June 5. District Superintendent Pete Moon will bring the message at 11 a.m. The Finnsbury Minstrel Guild will provide special music. Following the service there will be a covered dish supper in the Social Hall with overflow outdoors, reminiscent of the garden parties the church had many years ago. The current worshipping congregation will provide chicken and beverages for all who attend. Please RSVP to Evelyn Durrett at <efdurrett@gmail.com> or 550-3275 with the number of individuals celebrating with us. ♦

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
6/5	Beth Sholom	A Henderson
6/5	Guardian Place	Bill Pike
6/12	Elmcroft	John Green
6/12	University Park	Bessie Owens
6/12	Guardian Place	R Chandler
6/19	Beth Sholom	A Henderson
6/19	Guardian Place	T Keeton
6/26	Elmcroft	G Stephens
6/26	Guardian Place	R Chandler

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. ◆

Handbell Concert

The Wesley Bell Ringers of Christ UMC in Salt Lake City will perform at Mt. Pisgah UMC, 1100 Mt. Pisgah Drive, Midlothian, on Wednesday, June 15 at 7:30 p.m. The concert will feature 17 teenaged ringers playing more than 150 handbells and handchimes. The previous 50 summer tours have taken the choir to all 50 states and most of the Canadian provinces. The choir has performed as the featured choir at numerous handbell festivals around the United States. Performances with The Mormon Tabernacle Choir and The Utah Symphony Orchestra have been repeated honors over the choir's history. Call 794-5856 for details. ◆

Food Trucks, Narnia Study on Wednesdays at Reveille

Reveille UMC, 4200 Cary Street Road, Richmond, will extend its Wonderful Wednesday series into summer, with opportunities to "eat, pray, and learn" each week. Food trucks will be at the church each Wednesday, June 1- August 31, 5-8:00 p.m. At 6:45 p.m. an intimate, candlelit worship service will be offered in the chapel. On June 22, Reveille will begin a study of C. S. Lewis' Chronicles of Narnia. Each Wednesday at 7:30 p.m., the church will explore a book in the series, screen one of the movies, or offer a related activity. The program is offered free of charge and no registration is required. Come for one part of the evening or all three. Child care is available for ages four and under, 6:30-9:00 p.m. For more information, visit <www.reveilleumc.org/wednesday> or call 359-6041. ◆

UMVIM Request for Volunteers & Teams

Ginter Park UMC, 1010 W. Laburnum Avenue, Richmond, is raising a community garden to provide fresh produce through their weekly food pantry. They have cleared and developed 6,000 square feet and need your help. Youth Mission Groups, Adult Mission Teams or individuals are encouraged to come for a day, weekend or week. United Methodist Urban Ministries of Richmond's Shalom Farms personnel can be scheduled to provide a presentation during your stay. Ginter Park UMC is also renovating an early 1900's house on the corner of their property. The first floor is home to Shalom Farms. The second and third floor renovation is under way. When completed it will house other Non-Profit Ministries.

Call 262-8651 to schedule your mission trip. ◆



DISTRICT DISPATCH

Richmond District
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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

- ◆ June 5–Bishop Memorial UMC, 100 Year Celebration, 550-3275.
- ◆ June 7–Richmond District Annual Conference Orientation, Good Shepherd UMC, 521-1124.
- ◆ June 11–UMVIM Team Leader Training, Central UMC, Staunton, 521-1139.
- ◆ June 11–UMVIM Team Leader Recertification, Central UMC, Staunton, 521-1139.
- ◆ June 15–Handbell Concert, Mt. Pisgah UMC, 794-5856.
- ◆ June 17-19–VAUMC Annual Conference, Roanoke.
- ◆ June 29–UMW 'On the Road Again in Mission Express', Camp Overlook, 730-0680.
- ◆ July 9–On Demand LSM Course, Spiritual Gifts, 521-1153.
- ◆ July 9-30–Voices of Youth Tour, 521-1139.
- ◆ July 13-15–Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference, Lake Junaluska, 521-1134.
- ◆ July 16–UMVIM Team Leader Training, Matthias UMC, Fredericksburg, 521-1139.
- ◆ July 16–UMVIM Team Leader Recertification, Matthias UMC, Fredericksburg, 521-1139.
- ◆ July 21-22–Helping Hands, Woodlake UMC, 521-1135.
- ◆ July 22-23–2 Days 2 Serve, Youth Examine God's Call, Randolph-Macon College, 521-1126.
- ◆ July 23–From Strength to Strength Small Church Training, Chamberlayne Heights UMC, 521-1155.
- ◆ July 29-30–Mission Encounter, Randolph Macon College, 521-1139.
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ January 30-February 11–UMVIM Holy Land Tour, 929-2491. ◆