

THE RICHMOND DISTRICT DISPATCH

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

Cabinet, Provisional Members Provide Tornado Relief

The Cabinet and newly-commissioned clergy came together for a work day in Waverly on July 20. Waverly is one of the three areas that was affected by the February 24 tornadoes.

The work day was dreamed up by one of the members of the Board of Ordained Ministry (BOM) said the Rev. Lindsey Baynham, associate director of The Center for Clergy Excellence, as a way to kick start ministry for the newly-commissioned clergy.

“To see them [district superintendents] working alongside people they have mentored and brought to this point in ministry is really exciting,” said Baynham. “They are mentoring on the spot while they are drilling, hammering and cleaning roofs, and it’s just a really great partnership for our church.”

Dividing into groups, the Cabinet and provisional members worked on five different homes throughout the day with work ranging from power washing, installing new gutters and sheet rocking.

Efforts moved from recovery to relief in Waverly on June 6. Forrest White, Disaster Recovery manager and United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) coordinator for the Virginia Conference, said that teams have now worked on about a half dozen homes in that time.

White said he was pleased that the Cabinet and provisional members helped with relief efforts so they could not only build relationships among themselves but also illustrate that disaster relief can be done by anyone in the church. “No matter if you’re at the largest church in the conference or the smallest church in a charge in the conference, there’s a place for you in this disaster recovery,” said White.

Before their work day on July 20, the provisional members completed VIM training with White and now are fully trained to go back to their churches and lead a mission for short-term missions.

White emphasized that they need a constant flow of funding to help get supplies as well as to keep teams scheduled one behind the other. He also said that prayers were still needed for the survivors and for the teams that serve. He encouraged people who come to serve to meet the survivors, learn about them and be open to the experience. “Serving is a mutual thing,” White said. “Come here and show as disciples that this is what Christ’s love looks like.”

For more information about relief efforts contact Forrest White at <VirginiaUMVIM@gmail.com>.

Article by Madeline Pillow; reprinted with permission from <www.vaumc.org>. ♦



Rev. Marc Brown, top above, and Richmond District superintendent Rev. Pete Moon, center below, joined newly commissioned clergy for a work day.

Welcome Bishop Lewis!

A welcoming service of worship for Bishop Sharma Lewis will be held on Saturday, September 17 at Reveille UMC, 4200 Cary Street Road, Richmond, from 10:30 a.m.-noon.



Bishop Sharma D. Lewis, the first African-American woman elected a bishop in the Southeastern Jurisdiction, has been assigned to lead the Virginia Conference for the next four years. She will begin her term of office on September 1. Lewis was the first bishop elected by the 376 delegates at the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference which met July 13-15 at Lake Junaluska, NC. She is currently serving as District superintendent of the Atlanta-Decatur-Oxford District in the North Georgia Conference. ♦

UM Center Closings

The District Office and the VAUMC Conference Center will close at 1 p.m. September 2 and remain closed through September 5 in observance of the Labor Day Holiday.

The District Office and the Conference Center will close at 1 p.m. on Fridays through Labor Day. Please call before you come to assure that someone is here to greet you. ♦

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Richmond District

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August 2016

Thy Will Be Done

Friends,

We say the words every day if not every week: "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. The words roll from our souls and tongues with the ease of familiarity.

But how do you know the will of God? How do we exercise that will with confidence? We currently live in a divided church on multiple issues. It is probably fair to say that both sides are confident that they are exercising that will as they live and serve. Even in contemporary politics, many would think and some would say that their side holds to the side of God's righteousness.

Though I don't know all the answers, I do know where the trail head lies. I find it in the familiar words attributed to David from Psalm 139. In the Psalm, he recognizes that God knows all, God knows David's words and thoughts. There is no place that he can go that God is not already there. But then, at the very end, in the context of his violent thoughts and searching prayer, he offers words which proclaim the beginning place to searching for God's will:

"Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me and lead me in the way everlasting."--Psalm 139:23-24

In multiple Biblical accounts, we are told that "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." It seems, therefore, that God's will is revealed in the life of those who are humble, those who admit they don't have every answer, and recognize that I am quite capable of getting it wrong. In that humility, the closing prayer is offered, asking God to recognize my frailty, my sin, and my penchant to become a legend in my own mind. This prayer of humility asks God to show me where I am wrong by me so I can get it right by you. Then, let that will work through me in confidence and boldness. But again, that holy boldness is based on knowing my own limitations and in a desire to center everything that I am in this God who has come to us uniquely through the person of Christ and the Holy Spirit.

All this is to say that praying this prayer is routine and easy but getting it right is hard. It is therefore fitting that our Bishop has assigned our Annual Conference and fall Charge Conference theme to "Thy Will Be Done."

Most of you hopefully know by now that every church on the Richmond District will be working on this theme for the coming months. Each Charge Conference will be speaking to the questions of what is God's will for our church, how do we know it, and what are we going to do about it?

This year, I will be personally attending all 57 conferences simply because this matters but also because I am so excited to listen to your spiritual work on this subject. All too often we get it wrong. We decide what we want to do and then we ask (perhaps plead) with God to bless it. But in these coming months, we are asking each of you to do it the right way. Let's ask God for what God is blessing, and then move into that place. Speaking as one who has done it the wrong way many times, I look forward to listening to your discernment and the subsequent great things that God will do because you took the time to humbly yield yourselves and your congregations to God.

I look forward to speaking to you more about this at our meetings in the coming weeks but thank you in advance for joining me in humbling ourselves and seeking this so often elusive will of God!

In Christ,


 Pete



VIRGINIA
UNITED METHODIST
 CREDIT UNION

P.O.Box 9798, Henrico, Virginia 23228

Here's Some Good News For College Students...

The Virginia United Methodist Credit Union (VUMCU) is offering SnapLoan, an educational line of credit available to help with the funding gap once scholarships, subsidized federal student loans and college savings accounts have been exhausted.

It's structured as a low fixed rate Line of Credit

- ◆ Only one application-no need to reapply each year
 - ◆ No annual FAFSA required
 - ◆ Quick and easy one page application
 - ◆ Complete flexibility to draw the money whenever you see fit (subject to annual limits)
 - ◆ Funds can be used for any educational related expense-even study abroad
 - ◆ Borrowers may need a co-signer if not otherwise qualified
- 5.45% APR Fixed Rate* (Attending any Accredited College or University).
 4.95% APR Fixed Rate* (Attending Seminary or a Virginia Methodist Affiliated College).

Visit <www.virginiasnaloan.com> or call 672-0200 for details or to apply online.

*All loans are subject to approval and credit restrictions apply. Must be a VUMCU member to apply.◆

Prayers for...

- ◆ Rev. Hugh T. Harris, retired, and family on the death of his mother, Mary Ellen Harris on July 26.
- ◆ Rev. Rita Callis, Lakeside UMC, who is recovering from July 25 surgery.
- ◆ Rev. Anne B. "Beanie" Kelly, associate at Shady Grove UMC, Short Pump, who is recovering from bronchitis and gall bladder surgery in July.
- ◆ Rev. Bill Davis, former pastor of Bon Air UMC, and family on the death of his daughter, Anne, on July 13.◆



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>. ♦

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:

♦ August 27, Mountain View UMC, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., 1077 Viewpoint Lane, Forest.

♦ September 24, Warwick Memorial UMC, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., 8 Hoopes Rd, Newport News.

♦ October 8, Vision of Hope UMC, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., 1723 Port Republic Road, Harrisonburg.

Go to <vaumc.org/events>, chose the date, and register online. For more information call 521-1139. ♦

District Stewards to Meet

There will be a meeting of the Richmond District Stewards on Thursday, August 4 at 7 p.m. in rooms 120-122 of the Virginia United Methodist Conference Center at 10330 Staples Mill Road in Glen Allen. The purpose of this meeting is to approve the 2017 Richmond District Budget and the distribution of the Apportionments to the District churches. Each church should elect a Steward to attend this meeting if a Steward has not been previously elected. All clergy are also invited to attend this meeting. For more information call 521-1124. ♦

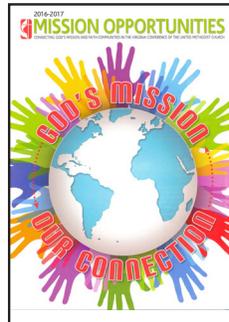
Mission Opportunities

Jesus tells us to feed the hungry, welcome the stranger, provide clothing and shelter to the poor, care for the sick and visit those in prison. While it would be wonderful if we could reach out personally to everyone who needs our help, we know that's impossible. But when we join other members of our congregation, other churches in the Virginia Conference, and United Methodists around the world, we can spread the love of Jesus Christ, even to places we can't go.

The 2016-2017 Mission Opportunities booklet, a guide to apportionments, second-mile giving, missionaries and mission projects is now available. Contact the District Office; 521-1124 to arrange to pick up yours. ♦

Mission Footprint 5K

On Saturday, September 10, the sixth annual Mission Footprint 5K run/walk and kids' fun run will be held at Trinity UMC, 903 Forest Avenue, Henrico. Additional information and a registration link can be found at <http://trinityumc.net/>. Proceeds from the event will benefit CARITAS, Crossover Ministries, and the Micah Initiative. Don't forget, the coveted Mission Footprint 5K Golden Foot trophy will be awarded to the congregation that registers the most participants. Regardless of the trophy winner, you are encouraged to come out in support of CARITAS, Crossover Ministries, and the Micah Initiative. For more information call 288-6056. ♦



FORE the Kids

golf tournament

Join United Methodist Family Services on Friday, October 14 at Royal New Kent, 10100 Kentland Trail, Providence Forge, for the 2016 "Fore the Kids" golf tournament to benefit the UMFS Children's Greatest Needs Fund. What is the Children's Greatest Needs Fund? All too frequently, children in foster care with UMFS have been taken from an unsafe or abusive home. They come to UMFS with only the clothes they have on. In these emergency situations, UMFS needs to be able to help the child and immediately provide some basic necessities. Please help empower these children by donating to UMFS's Children's Greatest Needs fund. For more information or to register for the tournament go to <www.umfs.org/golf/> or call (855)367-8637. ♦



Virginia Chapter
Professional Association of
United Methodist Church Secretaries

Person-to-Person

Wednesday, November 2
9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Virginia United Methodist Center
10330 Staples Mill Road
Glen Allen, VA 23058

This session will explore tools for living the abundant life we were designed for through developing healthy, loving relationships with God, self, and others. Based on key lessons from Sharon Hanna's book, Person-to-Person: Positive Relationships Don't Just Happen, topics will include building self-esteem, wellness, open communication, career success, and developing positive relationships. Our greatest love relationship, with God, will be woven throughout each topic.

Find more information and a registration form at <www.vaumc.org/paumcs>. ♦

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
8/7	Beth Sholom	A Henderson
8/7	Guardian Place	TBA
8/14	Elmcroft	R Stephens
8/14	University Park	Bessie Owens
8/14	Guardian Place	TBA
8/21	Beth Sholom	A Henderson
8/21	Guardian Place	T Keeton
8/28	Elmcroft	TBA
8/28	Guardian Place	TBA

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:

- ◆ September 24- "UMC Heritage" led by Martha Stokes.
- ◆ October 8- "Preaching" led by the Rev. Jonathan Page of Fieldstone UMC. Call 521-1153 for details. ◆



EQUIPPING PEOPLE FOR MINISTRY OUTSIDE THE WALLS OF THE CHURCH

Tuesday, October 4, 2016 | 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM*

*Please plan to arrive by 8:30 AM for registration, the event will begin promptly at 9.

Church doesn't stop on Sunday mornings and it doesn't happen only in our church buildings. Vital Congregations are full of people who live out their faith each day in their workplaces, homes, schools, communities, etc. This event is designed to help participants equip the people of their congregations to be the church in the world.

11 Locations

DANVILLE:
First UMC, Martinsville

EASTERN SHORE:
Adams UMC

FARMVILLE:
South Hill UMC

LYNCHBURG:
Peakland, UMC

NORTHERN VA:
Ebenezer UMC (Live Site)

RICHMOND:
Woodlake UMC

ROANOKE:
Thrasher Memorial UMC

SHENANDOAH VALLEY:
Bridgewater UMC

TIDEWATER:
Francis Asbury UMC

WINCHESTER:
Macedonia UMC

YORK RIVER:
St. Luke's UMC

WHO SHOULD COME?

This event is designed for those who want learn and help others learn how to live out their faith in daily life. Bring those from your congregation who do Mission, Christian Education, and anyone ready to deepen their daily practice of Christian Living.

CEU: .5 Lunch Provided

EVENT COST: \$ 35/PERSON
Registration Deadline **9/19**

EARLY BIRD: \$ 25/PERSON
Must register by **8/31**

GROUP PRICING:
Team pricing discounts are available..

REGISTER: vaumc.org/5Talent

Learn More:
vaumc.org/5talent



Andy Crouch is the executive editor of *Christianity Today* and author of several books including: *Strong and Weak: Embracing a Life of Love, Risk and True Flourishing*, *Playing God: Redeeming the Gift of Power*, and *Culture Making: Recovering Our Creative Calling*.



DISTRICT DISPATCH

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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

- ◆ August 4–District Stewards Meeting, VAUMC Center, 521-1124.
- ◆ August 6–12–Camp Rainbow, Holiday Inn Petersburg North–Fort Lee, 521-1153.
- ◆ August 27–UMVIM Team Leader Training, Mountain View UMC, Forest, 521-1139.
- ◆ September 10–Mission Footprint 5K, Trinity UMC, 288-6056.
- ◆ September 17–Welcome Reception for Bishop Lewis, Reveille UMC, 521-1124.
- ◆ September 24–UMVIM Team Leader Training, Warwick Memorial UMC, Newport News, 521-1139.
- ◆ September 24–UMVIM Team Leader Recertification, Newport News, 521-1139.
- ◆ September 24–On Demand LSM Course, UMC Heritage, 521-1153.
- ◆ October 4–5 Talent Academy, Woodlake UMC, 521-1155.
- ◆ September 24–On Demand LSM Course, Preaching, 521-1153.
- ◆ October 8–UMVIM Team Leader Training, Vision of Hope UMC, Harrisonburg, 521-1139.
- ◆ October 10–12–Church Leadership Institute (CLI), VAUMC Center, 521-1155.
- ◆ October 11–Preaching the Advent Season: Sermon Preparation for the Busy Preacher, Location TBD, 521-1134.
- ◆ October 12–13–ARMS Retreat, Eagle Eyrie, Lynchburg, 521-1131.
- ◆ October 14–UMFS Fore the Kids Golf Tournament, Royal New Kent, (855)367-8637.
- ◆ November 2–VA PAUMCS Fall Event, Person-to-Person, VAUMC Center, 521-1124.
- ◆ January 8, 2017-Richmond District Conference and Leadership Training Event, Reveille UMC, 521-1124.
- ◆ January 30-February 11–UMVIM Holy Land Tour, 929-2491. ◆