

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

## Virginia Conference Welcomes Bishop Sharma Lewis

Hundreds of United Methodists gathered Saturday morning, September 17 at Reville UMC in Richmond, to celebrate the assignment of Bishop Sharma D. Lewis to lead the Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church.

The traditional service was filled with music, liturgy and pageantry to welcome Lewis, the first African-American bishop to serve as religious leader of the 1,169 local churches and 327,647 United Methodists in the Virginia Conference.

The service began with a colorful procession of nearly 200 participants, including clergy wearing robes and red stoles, educational institution presidents wearing academic regalia, participants carrying symbols of the office of bishop and acolytes carrying candles and banners.

Music was provided by choirs from Reville, Wesley Memorial and Trinity UMC's and a harpist. The congregation sang many of Bishop Lewis' favorite hymns including "Here I am, Lord."

Retired Bishop H. Hasbrouck Hughes, Jr. of Williamsburg and retired Bishop Ray W. Chamberlain Jr. of Winchester led the covenant service. Bishop Young Jin Cho, outgoing bishop of the Virginia Conference, also participated.

Leaders from the Virginia Conference presented Bishop Lewis with symbols of episcopal ministry, including a shepherd's staff made especially for her by a member of Reville UMC.

A reception honoring Bishop Lewis and her family was held in the church fellowship hall following the service.

Bishop Lewis, the first African-American woman elected a bishop in the Southeastern Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church, has been assigned to lead the Virginia Conference for the next four years. She began her term of office on September 1.

Lewis will oversee the 1,169 local churches and faith communities and 327,647 United Methodists in the Virginia Conference. She follows Bishop Young Jin Cho who retired after leading the conference for the last four years.

Bishop Lewis was elected a bishop on the first ballot taken by the 376 delegates at the Southeastern Jurisdictional (SEJ) Conference which met July 13-15 in Lake Junaluska, N.C.

"I was called by God and I made myself available, not just to a position, but to follow God's will," said Lewis. "I am excited, and I am really humbled. At 52 years old, I am excited that my next phase of life will be as an episcopal leader. I am humbled by the fact that this is historic."

--reprinted in part from <www.vaumc.org>.



## Grant Requests Due

Each year, we are excited to offer District grants to our churches to enable important congregational ministries. Many of you have participated in these grants in the past and we are excited to continue the opportunity. This year, we are adding a second grant opportunity which our Board of Missions has entitled "Five Talent Grants." This is a very exciting and generous option which we encourage you to review. Note that the application process is different for each grant. If you desire to apply for either grant email <RichmondDistrict@vaumc.org> for the appropriate form. The Five Talent Grant application is described in a separate document. These grants are enabled by the generosity of our congregations and District apportionment giving.

The Board of Missions will be reviewing these applications in mid-November so that funds can be disbursed for 2017. The deadline for these applications is November 15.

If you have any questions, please contact Larry Cochran, Richmond District Board of Communication chair at <larrycochran@vaumc.org>, or the District Office at 521-1124. ♦

### UM Center Closings

The District Office and the VAUMC Conference Center will close at 1 p.m. November 23 and remain closed through November 25 in observance of the Thanksgiving Holiday.

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## Richmond District

The Virginia Conference • United Methodist Church  
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October 2016

### A Word from the Superintendent

Friends,

My Dad was an old school church person and a staunch United Methodist. He was in church every Sunday, filled multiple leadership positions, and was devoted to the church and our mission. He always took an active interest in my ministry work and would often visit the various churches that I pastored.

It is with fondness that I remember one particular enduring comment he made. I was an associate pastor of a larger suburban congregation. The building was old and during his visits, he would gently but consistently remind me that the front doors of the church really needed to be painted. He said that front doors matter, they are one of the first impressions visitors have of the church. To his credit, we did get those doors painted and they really did look better.

But that was almost twenty-five years ago. Today, I find my Dad's concern still relevant and valid but the front doors of the church have changed. No longer do these critical passages lie on the entrance to our church buildings. They are now on our websites.

I don't think it an exaggeration to say that virtually no visitor today comes to a church without checking the website first. Let me underscore that point! Virtually every visitor a church has goes to the website prior to arrival. Your front door is your website. This is the first impression someone has of our churches. How many visitors do we not receive at our congregation because of our out of date or poorly constructed websites?

For example, a year ago Bishop Cho mentioned casually to me that he showed up unannounced at one of the churches on the District. The benediction was being pronounced as he walked in the door. The service time had been changed but had not been updated on the website which the Bishop had trusted. A few weeks ago I went to one of our churches at the website's advertised time only to find the parking lot empty with the exception of another man whom I assume was visiting like me. Both of us were looking to worship but couldn't because the website had not been updated to indicate the change of service time.

Remember, in the eyes of the kingdom, visitors are more important than members. Visitors are more important in God's eyes than the District Superintendent or the Bishop. As Bill Easum used to say, referencing the celebration in the return of The Prodigal Son, "God's already had our party..."

I fully recognize how hard so many of you are working on this and I extend my thanks and encouragement. Please do take the time to look at your website through the eyes of a new person or visitor. Most of us overlook how key it is for evangelism and outreach. It is worth taking the time to get it right because when we do, it makes a kingdom difference. Thanks for all you do!

In Christ,

  
Pete

## Ministry Matters

Rev. Rachel Gene May, pastor of Boulevard UMC in Richmond, wonders if we've been misreading the parable of the "Dishonest Manager" (Luke 16:1-13) all these years. Could we retitle it "The Gracious Manager"?



This sermon is from A Sermon for Every Sunday, a series of lectionary-based video sermons designed for use in worship, Bible study, small groups, Sunday school classes or for individual use.

See the video at <<http://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/7743/managing-the-jesus-way%20>>.◆

## Church Leadership Institute

The Church Leadership Institute (CLI) will be held October 10-12, at the Virginia United Methodist Conference Center, 10330 Staples Mill Road, Glen Allen. CLI will help you discern your ministry style by offering greater clarity in the following areas: ministry competencies, core behaviors, spiritual gifts, affinity groups and place on the apostolic/pastoral continuum. Graduates will learn the basics on how to lead renewal in their congregations. Those feeling called to be a new church planter will have the opportunity to more fully discern that call. The event will be facilitated by Jim Griffith. The event is free to members of the Virginia Conference. 1 CEU is available to clergy for attending. See <<http://www.vaumc.org/cli>> for more information.◆

## Prayers for...

- ◆ Rev. Mike Meloy, retired, who is at home under hospice care for stage 4 liver cancer.
- ◆ Rev. Norman Chattin, retired, and wife Bernice. She was hospitalized in September with pneumonia.
- ◆ Rev. Charlene Beethoven, retired, who was hospitalized in September with a stroke.
- ◆ Rev. Michael Southall-Vess, Central UMC, who was hospitalized in September for potential kidney and liver transplants.◆



### Sacred Circle Dance

A Sacred Circle Dance Workshop will be offered at Reveille UMC, 4200 Cary Street Road, Richmond, on November 5, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., in the church sanctuary.

Sacred Circle Dances are moving meditations that embody and integrate mind, body and spirit. They are simple, gentle dances that have ancient roots in music and dance from around the world. Workshop participants will learn dances that evoke a spiritual dimension leading to harmony and balance.

The workshop is offered free of charge and is open to the public. Tammy Tipton-Nay and Joan S. Tipton will lead the workshop.

To register or for more information, contact <children@reveilleumc.org> or 359-6041. Please register by October 30. ♦

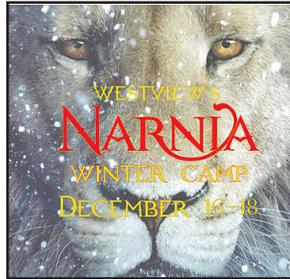
### Abukloi Benefit Concert

The Richmond Men's and Women's Choruses will be performing a benefit concert on Sunday, October 9, 4 p.m. at the Brandermill Church, 4500 Mill Ridge Parkway, Midlothian. Under the direction of Joshua N. Wortham, you will hear a plethora of Broadway hits plus a few other fantastic tunes sung by a group who has performed at Richmond's Grand Illumination, the touring Vietnam Memorial Wall, and America's 400th Anniversary at Jamestown.

The concert benefits Abukloi Inc. You may be aware of the hunger and conflict in the newest nation of the world, South Sudan. Abukloi is a small group of folks from Virginia who are doing amazing things in South Sudan. You will hear about their work and meet one of the Lost Boys of Sudan, Angelo Maker. 100% of the \$10 ticket benefits the people of South Sudan. Come and bring a friend or two! Tickets and information are available by texting or calling 305-6100 or at the door. ♦

### Narnia Winter Camp

Westview on the James' Winter Camp, December 16-18, is focused on helping campers get



into the Christmas spirit. Not the spirit of wanting lots of presents for themselves, but the spirit of giving to others, and receiving the gift of Jesus Christ our Savior. We will learn from C.S. Lewis' The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe, about what it means to have Christmas and how without the birth of Jesus we would have always winter, but never Christmas.

Campers will enter the magical world of Narnia and along the way meet inspiring characters and participate in activities such as canoeing, hiking, making ornaments, wrapping presents, baking cookies, singing carols, playing games and having campfires!

The cost is \$125 per person, ages 7-14. See <http://www.westviewonthejames.org/winter-camp> for more information.

Visit <http://www.westviewonthejames.org/> for a prompt to join Westview's monthly newsletter. ♦



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>. ♦



**Impact your Community With a Foundation Grant**

*Funding these strategic initiatives through the Virginia Conference can meet immediate needs and expand ministries, programs and activities that can have a broader impact.*

**www.vaumfgifts.org - Grants  
804.521.1121**

**GRANT APPLICATION DEADLINE NOV. 1**

### 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
10/2	Beth Sholom	TBA
10/2	Guardian Place	TBA
10/9	Elmcroft	TBA
10/9	University Park	TBA
10/9	Guardian Place	TBA
10/16	Beth Sholom	TBA
10/16	Guardian Place	TBA
10/23	Elmcroft	TBA

### Lay Servant Training

- ◆ October 14-15, Amelon UMC, Madison Heights, Basic and Advanced courses.
  - ◆ October 14-15, High Street UMC, Courtland, Basic and Advanced courses.
  - ◆ October 15, St. Paul's UMC, Staunton, Leading Worship, UMC Polity, Ministry with Boomers & Beyond.
  - ◆ October 21-22, Regester Chapel UMC, Stafford, Basic and Advanced courses.
  - ◆ October 28-29, Messiah UMC, Springfield, Basic and Advanced courses.
- See <<http://www.vaumc.org/LayServantTraining>> for details and registration information. ◆



**summit:** (n) the highest attainable level of achievement. a meeting or conference between leaders and heads of organizations

Join fellow small church clergy and laity for the **Small Church Summit:** a day of learning, conversation, and discernment. We will continue to focus on asset-based ministry as we help participants build on the strengths of their particular congregation.

**Saturday, October 22, 2016**  
 from 9:30 AM-3:00 PM  
 6 Locations | \$25/person (lunch included) | 0.5 CEU

#### Event Sites:

- Providence UMC (Richmond-Live Site)\*
- Riverton UMC (Winchester)
- Monumental UMC (Elizabeth River)
- Dayton UMC (Harrisonburg)
- Fieldale UMC (Danville)
- Grace UMC, Parksley (Eastern Shore)

\*Lynne Caldwell will be speaking live from the Richmond location. All other locations will attend via livestream.

#### Psalm 84:6-8 (NRSV)

6 As they go through the valley of Baca they make it a place of springs; the early rain also covers it with pools.

7 They go from strength to strength; the God of gods will be seen in Zion.

8 O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob! Selah

**New Bishop Sharma Lewis will be with us in Richmond for worship!**

**Register: [VAUMC.org/Small-Church-Summit](http://VAUMC.org/Small-Church-Summit)**  
**BY OCTOBER 10, 2016**

Contact the Center for Congregational Excellence for more information.  
 (804) 521-1100 | [kimjohnson@vaumc.org](mailto:kimjohnson@vaumc.org) | [pathickman@vaumc.org](mailto:pathickman@vaumc.org)

This training features **Rev. Dr. Lynne B. Caldwell**. Lynne is a native of Black Mountain, North Carolina, an Elder in the Western North Carolina Conference since 1992, and has been "on-loan" to the Virginia Conference since 2008 where she serves as Pastor of Brookland United Methodist Church, Richmond, and is a member of the faculty for Practical Theology at The Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology.



## DISTRICT DISPATCH

Richmond District  
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Sharma D. Lewis	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](http://www.richmonddistrictumc.org)

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

### District Opportunities

- ◆ October 8–UMVIM Team Leader Training, Vision of Hope UMC, Harrisonburg, 521-1139.
- ◆ October 9–Abukloi Benefit Concert, Brandermill UMC, 305-6100.
- ◆ October 10-12–Church Leadership Institute (CLI), VAUMC Center, 521-1155.
- ◆ October 12-13–ARMS Retreat, Eagle Eyrie, Lynchburg, 521-1131.
- ◆ October 14–UMFS Fore the Kids Golf Tournament, Royal New Kent, (855)367-8637.
- ◆ October 14-15–Lay Servant Training, Amelon UMC, Madison Heights, 521-1153.
- ◆ October 14-15–Lay Servant Training, High Street UMC, Courtland, 521-1153.
- ◆ October 5–Lay Servant Training, St. Paul's UMC, Staunton, 521-1153.
- ◆ October 21-22–Lay Servant Training, Regester Chapel UMC, Stafford, 521-1153.
- ◆ October 22–Small Church Summit, Providence UMC, Chesterfield, 521-1155.
- ◆ October 28-29--Lay Servant Training, Messiah UMC, Springfield, 521-1153.
- ◆ November 2–VA PAUMCS Fall Event, Person-to-Person, VAUMC Center, 521-1124.
- ◆ November 5–Sacred Circle Dance, Reveille UMC, 359-6041.
- ◆ November 15–Richmond District Board of Mission Grant applications due, 521-1124.
- ◆ December 16-18–Narnia Winter Camp, Westview on the James, 457-4210.
- ◆ January 8, 2017-Richmond District Conference and Leadership Training Event, Reveille UMC, 521-1124.
- ◆ January 30-February 11–UMVIM Holy Land Tour, 929-2491.
- ◆ February 17-19–Richmond District Youth Retreat, Eagle Eyrie, 382-8659. ◆