Centenary Walk-In Ministry

Every Friday since 1980 Centenary UMC, 411 East Grace Street, in downtown Richmond has offered a lunch to anyone walking through the doors in need of food.

The doors open at 10 a.m. for guests to come inside the Fellowship Hall, away from the hot or cold temperatures and inclement weather, for fellowship, coffee and bagels or doughnuts. Someone may sit at the piano and play some tunes, with others singing along. There are usually chess and checker games going on in the corners of the room. In the far end, volunteers with the Bless My Sole Foot-Washing Ministry provide a warm soak, massage, pedicure-care, and clean socks, and usually close the time together with prayer. The pastor, staff, a visiting social worker, and other volunteers are also available for anyone needing to talk and pray. Our guests, usually between 180 and 250 people, are from a variety of places—some are neighbors who live in nearby apartments and public housing; some stay overnight in the shelters available in the area; and many live on the streets.

Lunch is served from noon to 1 p.m. The meal is put together with food that comes from the Central Virginia Food Bank where we are able to purchase staple items at a reasonable cost for the meal preparation. The bulk of the food used for the meals is obtained through the Food Bank’s Virginia Tables Enabler Program in which certain Food Lion and Panera Bread stores provide food that has reached its “sell by” date at no cost. The gleaned food provides wonderful hot meals while using food that would otherwise be thrown away. Each meal has a meat entrée, a starch, a vegetable, a salad, a roll and dessert.

Our church staff provides some support, but the program relies on volunteer coordinators, as well as 16 to 20 other volunteers each week. Many of the volunteers come from other Richmond District churches who commit to sending a team of volunteers every month or every other month. These churches currently include: Asbury (Church Hill) UMC, Beulah UMC, Bon Air UMC, Forest Grove UMC, and Providence UMC. We also hire 7 to 10 part-time people each week (recruited from the guests we serve) for a minimum wage salary to help with the set-up and clean-up of the Fellowship Hall and kitchen.

With every meal we serve, we hope to offer the love of Christ to those who are hungry for food and affirmation that they are indeed valued and loved. For more information about this program contact Ann Davis at 648-8319 or <www.centumc.org>.

Rescheduled District Leadership Training

I want to thank you for your flexibility around our January 8 District Conference and Training Day. As you know, we were unable to meet due to snow and missed out on some great training!

Our Planning Team has met and put together a Plan B. Instead of an extensive, multi-faceted day, we will have a smaller gathering of three of our highly requested workshops.

On Sunday, February 12, we will be offering training for SPRC, Finance, and Trustees. We will meet at the VAUMC Conference Center, 10330 Staples Mill Road, Glen Allen from 1:30 to 3 p.m. I will be teaching SPRC, Conference treasurer David Domisse will teach Finance, and District Trustees chair Rev. Bill James, retired, will lead Trustees. Again, all three will be in the Conference Building.

Church offices, please call 521-1124 with the church name, the names of those attending, and which class they will take, no later than 12 noon, Friday, February 10.

If you are like me, you were looking forward to Ben Campbell and his presentation on the Unhealed History of Richmond. We will be working with Ben to be our speaker at our training in 2018. The date for that will be Sunday, January 7, 2018, with a snow date of Saturday, January 20, 2018.

In Christ
Pete Moon, District superintendent
In Christ,

Pete Moon
Lay Servant Academy

Registration is now open for the Lay Servant Academy in the Virginia Conference. This year's event will be held at Smith Mountain Lake, March 31 - April 2, 2017. Join us in worship, fellowship and learning!

The Lay Servant Academy is about equipping Laity (not clergy) to carry out the mission of the church. Clergy are invited to encourage laity to attend!

All of the courses are open to anyone who would like to take one. Each course is designed to help those serving the local church learn more about leadership, personal faith development, and a deeper understanding of the United Methodist Church. In addition to core classes, creative classes in worship art and music are offered. There are two avenues of recognition and training that go beyond the local church. Courses offered will support those who are seeking to become Certified Lay Servants/Speakers.

For course descriptions, contact information, and registration see <www.vaumc.org/Events>.

UMVIM Training

United Methodist Volunteers in Mission team leader training will be held Saturday, February 25 at Shady Grove UMC, 8209 Shady Grove Road, Mechanicsville, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Cost is $35 per person, which covers a team leader handbook from the Southeastern Jurisdiction and lunch provided by the host church. UMVIM team leader training is required for all first-time team leaders, but all interested persons are welcome to attend whether leading a team or not. Please encourage all age-level leaders within your church or district to attend UMVIM team leader training, not simply adult team leaders. We need to reach more youth and children's mission team leaders with this important training. Register online at <http://vaumc.org/page.aspx?pid=3241>. Contact Forrest White, Virginia Conference UMVIM coordinator with questions at <VirginiaUMVIM@gmail.com>. For more information call 521-1139.

A New Gift You Can Give

We are at the giving time of year. We give and we wish. Try this gift on for size. We have nearly 1,200 churches in our Conference serving over 16,000 youth in Boy Scout programs. While these are impressive numbers the facts are that we have Scouting programs in a very low percentage of our churches.

Each of us know that having a Christian around our youth helps build that young man into a fine man himself. This is one of the major plans we wish to create where they do not exist and strengthen where they are already present. I have heard in many places that we already have good leaders in our Scouting units. True. I have also heard it said that we don’t have youth in our church so what can we do with Scouts? True.

Each of you are strong, Christian men and women. Our Scouting units could certainly use you and your skills and talents. If your church doesn’t have youth then have a program that will bring them in. What a gift you could offer!

So, as with programs in your local church, “we can’t do it without you.” I would ask you to do two things. Pray about your involvement with youth coming in your church. Then, let your Scouts know you will help them or contact me and tell me where you may be led to serve. Contact your Scouts, Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts. Offer the gift of service! The Outdoor Code is ‘Leave No Trace’, to leave God’s nature the same or better than you found it. I suggest you ‘Leave a Trace’. Let the youth coming in your House of Worship see who you are and the God you serve. Let's forge a joint venture. I look forward to hearing from many, many of you. You can reach me at bcumcsa@juno.com.

Bless you!

Bill Chaffin, coordinator
District Ministry of Scouting

Trinity Quartet in Concert

Saturday, February 11 at 6 p.m.

Centenary UMC, 411 East Grace Street, Richmond, is proud to present the wonderful music of the Trinity Quartet, a Southern Gospel group from North Carolina. The concert is free; a love offering will be taken during the concert. There is free parking available behind the church on the corner of Franklin and 4th Streets. For questions contact Ann Davis, director of Membership Development, at 608-8319 or <cent.davis@verizon.net>.

District Youth Retreat 2017

I am very excited to announce that the theme for the district youth retreat of 2017 is “Forgiveness.” Our weekend will revolve around giving AND receiving forgiveness. The staff and I are working toward finalizing speakers and bands, but God has laid this aspect of His character on our hearts, so we are assured He will make His presence known. Please join us in praying for this weekend.

The information:
◆ When: February 17-19, 2017
◆ Where: Eagle Eyrie
◆ Cost: $120 due by January 31, 2017 ($125 if received after January 31)
◆ T-shirts can be pre-ordered for $12
◆ If you are a smaller church who struggles to find chaperones, we may be able to partner you with another church.

Please do not hesitate to call with any questions.

Robert Smith
District Youth director
382-8659
**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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2/5</td>
<td>Beth Sholom A</td>
<td>A Henderson</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/12</td>
<td>Elmcroft G</td>
<td>G Stephens</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/12</td>
<td>University Park</td>
<td>Bessie Owens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/19</td>
<td>Beth Sholom A</td>
<td>A Henderson</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/26</td>
<td>Elmcroft B</td>
<td>B Stephens</td>
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**A Place of Discovery for Women**

Saturday, February 11
10 a.m. – 12 noon
Chamberlayne Heights UMC
6100 Chamberlayne Road, Richmond

You are invited to a time of conversation about your experience as a Christian woman in light of recent political atmosphere and justice issues. Light refreshments will be served. Bring a bag lunch and plan to stay for an additional time of fellowship and discussion with Commission on the Status and Role of Women, Virginia Annual Conference. To register, e-mail marydadisman@vaumc.org or call 733-7349.

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**“Defying Gravity”: Breaking Free from the Culture of More**

Saturday, March 18, 9 a.m. -3 p.m.
Woodlake UMC, 15640 Hampton Park Drive, Chesterfield

Please plan to arrive by 8:30 a.m. for Registration, the event will begin promptly at 9.

Defying Gravity explores what is required to sustain a vibrant life, what we need versus what we want, and what we can do to avoid being pulled into the orbit of materialism.

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**District Opportunities**

- **February 11**– Richmond District UMW Hearts for Justice Tea, 640-5355.
- **February 11**– Trinity Quartet in Concert, Centenary UMC, 608-8319.
- **February 11**– A Place of Discovery for Women, Chamberlayne Heights UMC, 733-7349.
- **February 12**– Richmond District Leadership Training, VAUMC Center, 521-1124.
- **February 17-19**– Richmond District Youth Retreat, Eagle Eyrie, 382-8659.
- **February 25**– Race and Reconciliation Conversation, Belmont UMC, 275-6336.
- **February 25**– District UMMen Breakfast, VAUMC Center, 746-7586.
- **February 25**– UMVIM Team Leader Training, Shady Grove UMC, Mechanicsville, 521-1126.
- **March 3-4**– Clergy Spouse Retreat, Richmond Hill, 521-1126.
- **March 5-4**– The Screwtape Letters Lenten Bible Study, Reveille UMC, 359-6041.
- **March 18-5** Talent Academy, Defying Gravity: Breaking Free from the Culture of More, Woodlake UMC, 521-1155.
- **March 25**– Conference UMMen Visioning Event, VAUMC Center, 521-1139.
- **March 31-April 2**– Lay Servant Academy, Smith Mountain Lake, 521-1153.
- **April 1**– Bishop’s Convocation on Prayer, Trinity UMC, 521-1134.
- **April 22**– District UMW On the Road in Mission Day Trip to Wesley Community Service Center, Portsmouth, 218-0627.
- **May 1**– Youth Theology Institute, Shenandoah University, (540) 535-3546.
- **May 8–2017** Ministers’ Convocation, Wyndham Hotel and Conference Center, Glen Allen, 521-1126.