



# THE RICHMOND DISTRICT DISPATCH

A Newsletter of The Richmond District • Virginia Conference • The United Methodist Church  
September 2017

## Hurricane Harvey Response

Everyone,

I hope this finds you well and blessed.

I watched along with you the heartbreaking images of destruction from Texas, as well as the images of resiliency and hope as neighbor helped neighbor, often without regard to their own safety.

I had e-mails waiting for me this morning, August 31, from some within the Virginia Conference interested in sending teams to serve in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey, possibly as soon as next week. Please know that as of today only the Rio Texas Conference has asked for certified Early Response Team (ERT) members to come help with cleanup (in Corpus Christi).

If you have an ERT team with current badges and want to register to serve in Corpus Christi, go to <<https://riotexas.org/ert-volunteer-team-registration>>. ERT trained individuals/small groups not part of a team should register at <<https://riotexas.org/ert-individual-and-small-group-signup>>.

Here is a link to a page on the Virginia Conference website, with important information related to responding to Harvey: <[https://vaumc.org/pages/news/2017vanews/2017vanews\\_harveyaftermath](https://vaumc.org/pages/news/2017vanews/2017vanews_harveyaftermath)>.

Here is a link to a video from Catherine Earl, Director of U.S. Disaster Response and Partner Relations for UMCOR: <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=01rYS-z9oik>>.

During my days on staff at Trinity UMC, Richmond, I was blessed to lead 15 teams to help in the aftermath of natural disasters, including twice to Texas after Hurricane Ike. So, I would never discourage you from traveling great distances to show Christian Love in Action (I John 3:18) to survivors who have lost so much in the storms.

However, please do not under any circumstances self-deploy. Doing so can put a greater strain on people and systems, already overwhelmed by the challenges before them.

Wait for the invitation to come and serve.

And pray.

The people of Texas are going to need us for years to come.

Finally, even as we look for ways to help those affected by Harvey, let us not forget two things: the Virginia Conference continues in tornado recovery in Evergreen and Hurricane Matthew recovery in Virginia Beach; and there are three months left in the Atlantic hurricane season, with forecasters keeping a watchful eye on Hurricane Irma, which has the potential to become a powerful hurricane in the days to come.

If I can be of help to you, as you discern how God is calling you to serve survivors of natural disaster, please don't hesitate to call on me.

Our challenge is big. God is bigger.

We're in this together and, best of all, God is with us!

Forrest White

Long-term Recovery Manager and UVMIM Coordinator  
The Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church  
Richmond, Virginia  
cell: (804) 938-1026



## Cleaning Bucket Collection

The Virginia Conference is collecting Cleaning Buckets for shipment to Texas in response to the Hurricane Harvey flooding. Churches may bring filled buckets to the Virginia United Methodist Center, 10330 Staples Mill Rd, Glen Allen, VA 23060. Drop off deadline is 4 p.m., Wednesday, September 20.

This is an emergent need and the depots must be replenished ASAP as there are other hurricanes already in the Atlantic.

To download a list of Cleaning Bucket contents go to: <<http://www.umcor.org/UMCOR/Relief-Supplies/Relief-Supply-Kits/Cleaning>>.

The Virginia Conference United Methodist Men and Conference Disaster Response Team appreciate your cooperation and compassionate response!

Contact Glenn Rowley at 521-1143 for more information. ♦

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## Richmond District

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September 2017

Friends,

*I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh." (Ezekiel 36:26)*

What a couple of weeks this has been. If you are like me, you wake up each morning to see what is happening in South Texas. The flood waters keep rising. As you know, we United Methodists seek to serve for the long term and will be working on this throughout the coming years, after the headlines are gone. Let me encourage you to join me in seeking ways to enter into these waters but also plan to be there after they have receded.

These floods have appropriately engulfed the news cycles, but we continue to deal with the tragic events in Charlottesville. This past week I had the opportunity to participate in two premier aftermath occasions. The first was the funeral of Jay Cullen, a State Trooper and one of the helicopter pilots killed in Charlottesville during the events of that tumultuous Saturday. I also joined several hundred pastors and church leaders around the Maggie Walker statue in downtown Richmond as we offered a unified voice against racism. Many of you signed the document that was a part of that effort. If you haven't signed it here is the link: <https://www.richmondpastorsstatement.org/>.

In all of this, I find that there is a temptation. It is easy to assume that if we have signed a statement or sent a check, that we have fulfilled our justice quota and that we are good to go.

There is of course nothing wrong with signing a statement or sending a check and I encourage you to continue to do it. But our faith forces a gut check. Am I doing what I do for me? Am I doing it so that I can feel good about myself and my actions? Or am I doing it to make an actual difference for the kingdom?

Here, I am reminded that what we do as United Methodists really does go to the heart of the matter. We are here to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

If you are participating in our year-long through the Bible reading with the Bishop, you may know that we are entering into the book of Ezekiel. For months, we have been working through what seems hopelessness for God's people. But then God makes a promise, that he will replace our hearts of stone with a heart of flesh.

As disciples, we recognize that this has occurred through the person and work of Jesus Christ. Like the nation of Israel, we are stubborn, hard hearted sinners. Like Israel, we all go astray. In grace, God has redeemed us, changed us, and through the cross, has put us on the path of the soft heart.

If God can do that, this same God can also change these hard rock hearts of racism that have dominated our souls, our city and our country for so long. Perhaps if we give ourselves to becoming disciples of Jesus Christ with hearts that seek first his kingdom and righteousness, those same hearts will become softer vehicles of grace that will ultimately multiply into and break apart these rock hard places of racism.

I will continue to preach and proclaim against this evil of racism. But proclamation, as essential as it is, will not alone heal our land. For this, we need the balm of Gilead, the person of Jesus Christ, the One who can actually take our hearts of stone and make them into disciple shaped hearts of flesh.

In Christ,  
  
 Pete



### Financial Peace University

Financial Peace University (FPU) is a nine-week, life-changing program that empowers and teaches you how to make the right money decisions to achieve your financial goals and God's plan for your life. The course includes practical lessons on eliminating debt, building wealth, giving like never before, and much, much more! Through video teaching, class discussions, and interactive small groups, FPU presents biblical, practical steps to get from where you are to where you've dreamed you could be.

The class meets Thursdays September 21 through November 16, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Good Shepherd UMC, 9155 Hungary Road, Henrico, and is designed for individuals, couples and/or families. The cost is \$93 per household. Free childcare for infants through 5th grade will be provided (weekly registration is required for childcare).

This life-changing class is being facilitated by Good Shepherd member John Fuller. John is the Executive Director of the Virginia United Methodist Conference Pensions and Benefits office.

Register at <https://www.daveramsey.com/fpu/classes/1044937>. For more information, contact [lisamcgehee@vaumc.org](mailto:lisamcgehee@vaumc.org). ♦

### Prayers for...

- ♦ The family of Rev. Phillips K. Foote, retired, who died August 30.
- ♦ The family of Rev. Frank "Joe" Mitchell, retired, who passed away July 25.
- ♦ The family of Mathilde L. Sheffield, widow of Rev. Wesley Sheffield, who died August 12 ♦



The Richmond District United Methodist Women will hold their Annual Meeting on Saturday, September 23, at Asbury UMC (Church Hill), 324 N. 29th Street, Richmond. Registration will begin at 9:30 a.m. with the meeting 10:15–11:45 a.m. Nancy Walsh, our Conference Coordinator of Membership and Nurture will be our guest speaker.

Marilyn and Jane will be having the 2017-2018 books available for sale, along with some Program books and Prayer Calendars. Our morning offering will be going to The Prescription Produce Plan sponsored through Shalom Farms. Analise Adams, Program Director, and Sara Higgins, Development Director, of Shalom Farms will be giving a short description of this special program that many benefit from in the Asbury area.

Please Note: due to limited parking carpooling is recommend for everyone.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you and having you honored for your work in your UMW units this past year. In addition, our Candleburning and Deceased Members Service will take place during this Annual gathering.

In His Service,  
Scotty Doyle, president  
Richmond District UMW

## Cornhole!

Heart Havens is pleased to host our Very first Cornhole Tournament fundraiser this fall! Join us on Saturday, October 7 at Chester UMC, 12132 Percival Street, Chester, for a day of fun competition, friends, prizes and more. To participate in the tournament is \$30 for a team of two. However, please feel free to come even if you don't want to play! We'll have a silent auction, lunch, a bake sale, and residents from the Richmond Heart Havens homes will be there having a good time as well.

Registration and more information about this fun event is available at <http://www.hearthavens.org/get-involved/news/first-annual-heart-havens-cornhole-tournament/>. ♦

## Connecting...to God, Each Other and the Community

The Small Congregation Leadership Team invites small church clergy and laity to a day of learning, conversation and discussion. The Event will take place in three locations across the conference, choose the location and date that works for you.

- ♦ September 26, Mint Spring UMC, Staunton 53 Mint Spring Circle.
- ♦ October 14, Wesley Grace UMC, Norfolk 288 E. Little Creek Road.
- ♦ November 4, Chestnut Hill UMC, Lynchburg 4660 Fort Avenue.

10 a.m.-3 p.m. ~ Lunch Provided.

0.5 CEU ~ \$25.00/person.

Group discounts available.

Registration will begin at 9:30 a.m.

Register at <https://www.vaumc.org/SCLTConnecting2017>.

The featured presenter is David Canada, a retired Elder in the Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. Learn more at [vaumc.org](http://vaumc.org). Please be sure to specify your location and date. Contact the Center for Congregational Excellence for more information, 521-1155. ♦

## Holy Land Tour

Bishop Sharma D. Lewis invites you to join her on a 10 day Holy Land tour, February 26-March 7, 2018, that will expand your knowledge of the Bible and this sacred land. A journey following in the footsteps of Jesus will change the way you read the Bible, and you will learn why scholars refer to it as the "Fifth Gospel." The all inclusive cost from Richmond is \$3,398. Contact [tomjoyce@vaumc.org](mailto:tomjoyce@vaumc.org) for an information brochure.

Please consider this a personal invitation to be a part of this adventure in faith and join Bishop Lewis in experiencing a once in a lifetime journey as you walk where Jesus walked! ♦

## CROP Walk

The Church World Service 47th Annual Richmond CROP Hunger Walk will be held Sunday, October 29, beginning and ending at St. John's UCC on Stuart Circle. Registration begins at 1:00 p.m. and the walk begins at 2:00. Visit <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/richmondva> for details, to register as a team or individual, and to raise funds online. ♦



At their National Conference in Chicago in May the Professional Association of United Methodist Church Secretaries voted to change their name to the Professional Administrators of the United Methodist Connectional Structure, thereby broadening their vision while retaining their acronym, PAUMCS.

Your VA PAUMCS invites you to their fall event: Experience Your Conference Connection 2017, Wednesday, October 11, 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Virginia United Methodist Center 10330 Staples Mill Road, Glen Allen, VA 23058.

David Dommissie, Virginia Conference treasurer, will cover the annual statistical data required for end of year tables. This includes changes in membership, ethnic diversity, small group participation, community outreach, etc. Also included are assets and liabilities, income and expenses. He will provide line by line detail for you to take back to your church.

Find registration information at [www.vaumc.org/paumcs](http://www.vaumc.org/paumcs). ♦

## The Goodson Academy of Preaching

announces:

### Stir up the Gift: Fan into Flame the Gift of God

A one-day preaching event with

#### Dr. Teresa Fry Brown

Bandy Professor of Preaching  
Candler School of Theology

#### Tuesday, October 3

9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Aldersgate UMC

1500 East Rio Road, Charlottesville

Cost: \$35.00 or

\$45.00 after September 1.

Register at <https://www.eiseverywhere.com/goodsonacademy>.

See the flyer at [www.vaumc.org](http://www.vaumc.org) for more information.

.5 CEU will be available.

## 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
9/3	Beth Sholom	A Henderson
9/10	Elmcroft	G Stephens
9/10	University Park	Bob Stephens
9/17	Beth Sholom	A Henderson
9/24	Elmcroft	TBD

## Lay Servant Training

- ◆ Rappahannock River District, September 15 - 16, at Register Chapel UMC, Stafford, Basic and Advanced classes
- ◆ Lynchburg District, October 20-21, at Chestnut Hill UMC, Lynchburg, Basic and Advanced classes.
- ◆ James River District, October 27-28, at High Street UMC, Courtland, Basic and Advanced classes.

See <<https://www.vaumc.org/LayServantTraining>> for details and registration information. ◆



## How to Structure Your Church for Evangelism

Featuring: *Jacob Armstrong*

**Thursday, October 19, 2017/ 9:00-3:00PM\***

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

*How to Structure Your Church for Evangelism* will explore key principles for evangelism in the local church including, crafting a vision that fits your mission field, rethinking worship and leadership development and structure.

To be held at 10 locations around the VAUMC, including

### Woodlake UMC

15640 Hampton Park Drive  
Chesterfield VA 23832

#### WHO SHOULD COME?

Everyone who has a heart and desire for reaching people who feel disconnected to God. Bring a team from your church who want to learn about and participate in adaptive change.  
CEU: .5 Lunch Provided

**Event Cost: \$35/PERSON**

Registration deadline: **10/6**

**Early Bird: \$25/PERSON**

Must Register by: **9/14**

**Group Pricing:**

Team pricing discounts are available

**REGISTER: [vaumc.org/5talent](http://vaumc.org/5talent)**



## DISTRICT DISPATCH

Richmond District  
Virginia Conference  
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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
Scotty Doyle	District President, UMW
Sonny Rea	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

- ◆ September 9–UMW Mini-Mission Encounter, River Road UMC, 744-3034.
- ◆ September 15–16–Rappahannock River District, Lay Servant Training, Register Chapel UMC, Stafford, 521-1154.
- ◆ September 15–16–Conference UMW Young Women's Event, Camp Overlook, 640-5355.
- ◆ September 21–November 16–Financial Peace University, Good Shepherd UMC, 5270-7613.
- ◆ September 23–Richmond UMW Annual Meeting, Asbury UMC (Church Hill), 218-0627.
- ◆ September 26–Connecting...to God, Each Other and the Community, Mint Spring UMC, Staunton, 521-1155.
- ◆ October 3–Goodson Academy of Preaching, Aldersgate UMC, Charlottesville, 521-1134.
- ◆ October 7–Heart Havens Cornhole Tournament, Chester UMC, Chester, 237-6097.
- ◆ October 11–VA PAUMCS, Experience Your Conference Connection, VAUMC Center, 521-1124.
- ◆ October 14–Connecting...to God, Each Other and the Community, Wesley Grace UMC, Norfolk, 521-1155.
- ◆ October 19–5 Talent Academy, Woodlake UMC, 521-1156.
- ◆ October 20–21–Lynchburg District, Lay Servant Training, Chestnut Hill UMC, Lynchburg, 521-1154.
- ◆ October 27–28–James River District, Lay Servant Training, High Street UMC, Courtland, 521-1154.
- ◆ October 27–28–Conference UMW 45th Annual Meeting, Trinity UMW, Richmond, 640-5355.
- ◆ October 29–Richmond CROP Walk, St. John's UCC, Stuart Circle, 240-3423.
- ◆ November 4–Connecting...to God, Each Other and the Community, Chestnut Hill UMC, Lynchburg, 521-1155.
- ◆ November 11–UMW District Leadership and Development Day, Chamberlayne Heights UMC, Richmond, 218-0627.
- ◆ February 16–March 7, 2018–Holy Land Tour with Bishop Lewis, 521-1103. ◆