

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

## Hurricane Relief from the Virginia Conference UMC

The Rev. Glenn Rowley, conference director of Justice and Missional Excellence, shared thanks this week to the conference for their generous efforts in assembling cleaning buckets in response to the need by hurricane survivors. “Many, many thanks to all of you faithful Virginia United Methodists who made such a compassionate response to the urgent need for cleaning buckets for those suffering from the hurricanes and flooding in Florida, Texas and Louisiana! Some 4,276 cleaning buckets were delivered in two semi-tractor trailer loads to Sager-Brown UMCOR Depot in Louisiana. In addition, several more have been delivered to Culpeper UMC, the new UMCOR collection site here in Virginia, which will be taken to Mission Central UMCOR Depot in Mechanicsville, Pennsylvania. A special thanks to all the volunteers who made the collection possible: United Methodist Men, Conference Disaster Response team members, district office staff, individual volunteers and Virginia Conference office staff,” said Rowley. Bishop Sharma D. Lewis shared a thank you video during the cleaning bucket pick-up at the conference center last week as well.



## ERTs Needed in Florida, Louisiana and Texas

Florida has sent an invitation for Early Response Team (ERT) to help with Irma recovery. Here is the link to sign up: <<https://florida-reg.brtapp.com/hurricaneirmaregistration>>. For information about the Florida Conference go to <[www.flumc.org](http://www.flumc.org)>.

Also don't forget we have two other opportunities as well:

- ◆ The Louisiana Conference is now scheduling trained and badged ERTs for Hurricane Harvey response. Please direct your ERTs to <<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/UMCVolunteerRegistration>>.
- ◆ The Texas Annual Conference is ready to receive volunteer teams to assist with Hurricane Harvey relief. The work consists mainly of cleaning out flooded homes and requires extensive physical labor. We would prefer that at least one member of your team be ERT trained. Teams should bring their own protective gear and tools. All members need proof of Safe Sanctuary training and clear background check from your local United Methodist Church. You will be housed at a host church in the conference. Team leaders can register their team at <[www.txcumc.org/newsdetail/disaster-volunteer-team-registration-9275846](http://www.txcumc.org/newsdetail/disaster-volunteer-team-registration-9275846)>.

R. Kirk Culpepper, Virginia Conference ERT Coordinator, (757) 434-0078

## 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. We are continuing 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](mailto: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 Mission chair at <[larrycochran@vaumc.org](mailto: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 22 and remain closed through November 24 in observance of the Thanksgiving Holiday. ◆

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## Richmond District

The Virginia Conference • United Methodist Church

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October 2017

Friends,

One of my hobbies is working on old cars. There is just something special about an old vehicle that comes to new life after a good bit of hard work and persistence.

In this adventure, however, I consistently face this frustrating challenge: big old rusty frozen bolts. They seem to defy every attempt to remove them. In my early days, I might have tried to squeeze a pair of pliers on those bolts and twist them off as hard as I could. Now I know better. A little pair of pliers does more harm than good. Now, I have learned to pull out my extra-long three-foot wrench. That, with a little heat and oil, offered carefully, will often loosen the bolt without breaking it.

I offer this story simply because it reminds me of the church and world we are living in right now. We are many things, but all of us can agree that we are divided, whether it be about church, politics, or culture. Our division is like this rusty bolt that just won't come off.

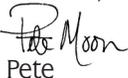
Nowhere is this more evident than in our social media. A cursory read through just a few tweets and Facebook posts reveals that we are wading in the deluge of our division. In the last several years and especially these last weeks, I have received a few emails and other allusions (i.e. complaints) about our pastors' use of Facebook posts and social media in the context of these divisive political subjects. I saw many of those posts and might find agreement in some and disagreement with others.

As I shared with those who brought those concerns to me, I wasn't as concerned with the political stance as I was with the unhealthy use of Facebook. It is important to remember how ineffective it is as church leaders to make these strongly worded Facebook postings. We may feel as though we are making a profound and prophetic stand to deal with the divided culture, but truth is, it is really like putting a cheap pair of pliers on a rusty bolt. There just isn't enough power in it to address or solve the problem. Usually, it just makes it worse.

This is because as clergy, we have such better tools and we are trained to use them. We have this massive wrench that actually has the leverage to deal with the stuck issue. It is called relationship and face to face communication. Long ago we learned that we never seek to address a conflict through email. In the same way, issues that divide need to be addressed but they need to be addressed in the church in a holistic and healthy way. We can offer a sermon series where we fairly represent each side and offer discussion opportunities. We have small group discussions where we listen carefully to one another and have the possibility of feedback and clarity. We can voice our disagreements with a commitment to love one another and stay in the conversation. Facebook, despite its' name, doesn't allow us to see real faces. Real church does. There we see actual faces and hear and feel the real stories behind them.

So let me invite all of our clergy and lay leadership to think hard before you post that piece. Go ahead and share your trips and your family photos. Celebrate the great events happening in your church and people. But remember, we will not bring in the kingdom of God by posting our latest passion on Facebook. It is like trying to put pliers on an old rusty bolt. We just make it worse. As the church of Jesus Christ, we have such better tools in our tool box. In this divided culture in which we live, let's roll up our sleeves and pull them out. Who knows, maybe this old car will stop knocking and start running again!

In Christ,

  
Pete

## Cornhole!

Heart Havens is pleased to host our **H**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/>. ♦

## Country Store Bazaar & Bake Sale

October 27, 2017

10:30 AM- 2:30 PM



October 28, 2017

9:30 AM - NOON

Hermitage Richmond



474-1800



Final Sale of the Year December 1, 2017

1600 Westwood Avenue, Richmond  
Questions? Call Nancy Miller, 740-3772.

## Holy Land Tour

**B**ishop 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! ♦



The 45th Annual Meeting of the Virginia Conference UMW will be held Saturday, October 28 at Trinity UMC, 903 Forest Ave, Henrico. The keynote speaker will be Bishop Sharma D. Lewis. Registration for the event will be \$15 and includes lunch. The registration deadline is October 15. If you can arrive on Friday, join us for a music and dance concert, followed by an ice cream social. If you need a hotel room, you can make your own reservation at a local hotel at a special UMW rate. Registration information is available at <[www.vaumw.com/events/annual-meeting/](http://www.vaumw.com/events/annual-meeting/)>. ♦

### Reveille Yard Sale

Everyone is invited to a community yard sale to be held Saturday, October 14, 8 a.m.-noon, at Reveille UMC, 4200 Cary Street Road, Richmond, that also includes donation areas benefiting local non-profits like CARITAS and Habitat for Humanity. A document shredding company will offer complimentary services during the event. Make plans to attend and sign up to have your own yard sale space for only \$25. For more information or space rental, visit <[www.reveilleumc.org/yard-sale](http://www.reveilleumc.org/yard-sale)>. The event benefits Reveille's Youth Mission Fund. Call 359-6041 for details. ♦

### Fall Festival & Trunk or Treat

Bring your family for a safe evening of fall fun Sunday, October 22, 5-6:30 p.m. at Reveille UMC, 4200 Cary Street Road, Richmond. The festivities will begin with a prayer and welcome from lead pastor Doug Forrester, then guests are invited to enjoy games, crafts, a petting zoo, a bounce house, Bible-themed trunk or treating, and live music from The Hullabalooos. Learn more about the event by visiting <[www.reveilleumc.org/fall-festival](http://www.reveilleumc.org/fall-festival)>. Call 359-6041 for details. ♦

### Cooperative/Teaching Parish Ministries Event

A Cooperative/Teaching Parish Ministries Resources Event will be held on Tuesday, October 17 at Chamberlayne Heights UMC, 6100 Chamberlayne Road, Richmond. Don't miss this opportunity to gather, converse and learn from facilitators Danville District Superintendent Janine Howard, Eastern Shore District Superintendent Alex Joyner, and Farmville District Superintendent Bob Parks. Questions may be directed to Bob Parks at <[farmvilleds@vaumc.org](mailto:farmvilleds@vaumc.org)>. Register by October 10 for this free event at <<https://etouches.com/2017parish>>. All pastors serving in parish ministry settings and those interested in serving are welcome. A flyer can be found at <[www.vaumc.org/Event](http://www.vaumc.org/Event)>. ♦

### 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. ♦

### 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 two more locations across the conference, choose the location and date that works for you.

♦ 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/SLCTConnecting2017>>.

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. ♦

### Dillard Forum

The Dillard Forum, to be held at Trinity UMC, 903 Forest Avenue, Henrico beginning on Sunday, October 23, welcomes Dr. G. Sujin Pak. Dr. Pak has served



Dr. G. Sujin Pak

as Associate Dean of Academic Programs at Duke Divinity School from 2012-15 and is a faculty member in the history of Christianity at Duke Divinity School since 2008. She specializes in the history of Christianity in late medieval and early modern Europe. Dr. Pak is an active lay preacher and Bible study leader in the United Methodist Church and the daughter of United Methodist missionaries to South Korea. Dr. Pak's teaching, research and writing focus upon the theology of the Protestant reformers, the Protestant Reformation and the Jews, women and the Reformation, the history of biblical interpretation, and more recently, views and uses of prophecy in the early modern era.

The schedule for the event:

- ♦ Sunday, October 22, 9:30 a.m., "The Telos of Scripture and Literal Sense"
  - ♦ 7 p.m., "The Perspicuity of Scripture, Justification by Faith Alone, and the Role of the Church"
  - ♦ Monday, October 23. 12:00 p.m. – lunch in Trinity Hall, "The Top Ten Changes or Contributions of the Protestant Reformation"
  - ♦ 7 p.m., "Scripture, Prophecy, and the Priesthood of All Believers"
- For more information call 288-6056. ♦

### NEXTGEN—Called 2017

Virginia Conference Youth Retreats  
@ Eagle Eyrie

Middle School Retreat—November 10-12  
High School Retreat—December 1-3

Speaker—Brock Morgan  
Music—360 Collective  
Missions—Learning—Fun

Learn more and register at  
<[www.vaumc.org/Events](http://www.vaumc.org/Events)>

### 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
10/1	Beth Sholom	A Henderson
10/8	Elmcroft	Bob Stephens
10/8	University Park	Bessie Owens
10/15	Beth Sholom	A Henderson
10/22	Elmcroft	RA Gauthier

### Lay Servant Training

- ◆ Lynchburg District, October 20-21, at Chestnut Hill UMC, Lynchburg, Basic and Advanced classes.
  - ◆ Staunton District, October 21, at Fishersville UMC, 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

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The United Methodist Church  
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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

- ◆ 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–Yard Sale, Reveille UMC, 359-6041.
- ◆ October 14–Connecting...to God, Each Other and the Community, Wesley Grace UMC, Norfolk, 521-1155.
- ◆ October 17–Cooperative/Teaching Parish Ministries Event, Chamberlayne Heights UMC, 434/392-4687.
- ◆ October 19–5 Talent Academy, Woodlake UMC, 521-1156.
- ◆ October 20-21–Lynchburg District, Lay Servant Training, Chestnut Hill UMC, Lynchburg, 521-1154.
- ◆ October 22–Fall Festival, Reveille UMC, 359-6041.
- ◆ October 23-24–FDillard Forum, Trinity UMC, 288-6056.
- ◆ October 27–Bazaar & Bake Sale, Hermitage Richmond, 740-3772.
- ◆ 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 10-12–VAUMC Middle School Retreat, Eagle Eyrie, 521-1139.
- ◆ November 11–UMW District Leadership and Development Day, Chamberlayne Heights UMC, Richmond, 218-0627.
- ◆ November 15–Deadline for Richmond District Board of Mission Grant requests, 521-1124.
- ◆ December 1-3–VAUMC High School Retreat, Eagle Eyrie, 521-1139.
- ◆ February 16-March 7, 2018–Holy Land Tour with Bishop Lewis, 521-1103.
- ◆ June 16-18, 2018–Annual Conference, Hampton Roads Convention Center, Hampton, 521-1134.◆