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> 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>, 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.

INcIDE

A Word from the Superintendent………2
Holy Land Tour…………………………2
Bikes for Christ…………………………3
Opportunities……………………………4
Friends,

Every Thanksgiving, I find myself drifting to this text. Many of you have heard it or preached it before. It is the warning that Moses offers the people of Israel. They are about to head into the Promised Land. Many battles are ahead of them but apparently God’s greatest concern is not around the upcoming battles. The greater concern is around the chosen people’s upcoming wealth and as they receive “cities that they did not build” and “vineyards that they did not plant”. But Moses offers a very simple way to maintain perspective and avoid the dangers of living in the promised land. He says,

“When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the Lord for the good land he has given you. Be careful that you do not forget the Lord your God... You may say to yourself, “My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.” But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth...” (Deut. 6:10,1 7-18)

I am wondering if you remember that great old classic movie with Jimmy Stewart, “Shenandoah”. He plays an older curmudgeon who doesn’t exactly embrace Moses’ guidance. He offers a telling and slightly humorous prayer at the beginning of the movie as the family gathers around the table and he says, “ Lord, We cleared this land. We plowed it, sowed it, and harvested. We cooked the harvest. It wouldn’t be here and we wouldn’t be eatin’ it if we hadn’t done it all ourselves. We worked dog bone hard for every crumb and morsel but we thank you just the same anyway Lord for this food we are about to eat, amen.”

To be fair, after he goes through the trials and tribulations of life in the movie, his prayer around that table changes. But it is all a reminder of how critical and important it is that God’s people stop and say thank you to our God. Blessings are not deserved, and the goodness of God and life can’t be taken for granted, especially in this place of blessing that we now live.

In that vein, I want to take a moment to thank God and you for your incredible work on the Richmond District. We are over halfway through our Charge Conferences and each week, I am reminded of the incredible things you do and are throughout this RVA area. We have celebrated your new efforts in discipleship, the efforts to reach folks through food pantry programs. We have seen the ecumenical efforts. We have celebrated the planting of a satellite campus for Worship and Praise UMC. This list can be multiplied sixty-eight times. Again and again, I have seen your passion to make disciples and to make a difference. That has all happened because of your hard work but more importantly, because of God’s grace. It is a gift to be used by God to make an eternal difference in our community. I am humbled and grateful that God is using all of us for that purpose! Thank you for all you do and I join you in thanking our God for all that has been given to us. We have that unique privilege of serving the kingdom! May you have a blessed and refreshing time of Thanksgiving!

In Christ,

Pete Moon

Advent Celebration

Everyone is invited to an Advent celebration on Sunday, November 19, 12:15 p.m., in the fellowship hall at Reveille UMC, 4200 Cary Street Road, Richmond. Enjoy a wonderful luncheon, then make your own Advent wreath to take home as you rediscover this timeless symbol of the Christmas season. This special activity is for all ages and wreath making supplies will be provided. Please let us know you would like to participate by November 10. There is no charge to attend. Register at <www.bit.ly/advent-celebration-2017>. ◆

Meet Bill Lohmann

Columnist, Bill Lohmann, of the Richmond Times-Dispatch will visit the Reveille UMC Leisure Club, Tuesday, November 21, 11 a.m., in the fellowship hall. Bill will share photos and memories from his second published book, More People, Places, and Pie Around Virginia. Bring a side dish or dessert to share at the luncheon following the program. Reveille’s facilities, 4200 Cary Street Road, Richmond, are accessible. For more information call 359-6041. ◆

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> 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! ◆

Prayers for...

◆ Rev. Dr. Pete Moon and family on the birth of his first grandchild, Lilly Orrigo, born November 1.
◆ Rev. Tom Brown, retired, who is hospitalized at Chippenham following heart bypass surgery.
◆ Rev. Joe Winfree, Corinth (Sandston), who is recovering from a heart procedure on October 12. ◆
The Richmond District UMW will meet for “Officer and Leadership Development Day” on Saturday, November 11, at Chamberlayne Heights UMC, 6100 Chamberlayne Road, Richmond. Registration begins at 9 a.m., and program and training will be held 9:30-11:30. Betsy Davis, recently retired from the Conference UMW executive committee as technology coordinator, will meet with us on using technology and social media effectively to promote the UMW and reach new members. Treasurer’s will meet for instruction. Others will meet in one of three breakout sessions to receive training and small groups can participate. Make any questions about this group with anyone who may benefit. Meetings are scheduled for November 16 and December 21. Reveille UMC is located at 4200 Cary Street Road, Richmond. Call 359-6041 for more information.

**Bikes for Christ**

It’s that time of year again for our “Bikes for Christ Giveaway!” Because of your support we give away hundreds of bikes to needy families every year but we also turned away hundreds of families with sad faces. Every donation of $50 will guarantee that a child will ride away with a brand new bicycle compliments of Walmart. We are asking that our VAUMC Conference Family will give a little love on Christmas Day to these families who may not have anything under the tree. All churches and small groups can participate. Make all checks payable to Worship and Small groups can participate. Make all checks payable to Worship and Praise UMC, 3006 E. Laburnum Avenue, Richmond VA 23223. The giveaway is December 16 at 12 noon. We are asking that all donations be in by Monday, December 4. For more information call 648-8031.

**Dodgeball**

You are invited to the 4th Annual Ramsey UMC Youth Dodgeball Tournament. This tournament was started in 2014, with the goal of introducing our youth to other youth groups in the area. We typically have 7-8 churches (with 80-90 people) participating. Ramsey Memorial is located at 5900 Hull Street, Richmond. Our date for the tournament is Sunday, January 14, at 3 p.m. We start game-play after all registered teams have arrived. The games usually wrap up by 7 p.m., at which time we have a pizza dinner.

Only currently enrolled middle and high schoolers can register as players, and during a game there are 6 players from your team on the court. If you have less than 6 youth, you can borrow players from another team (this is no big deal, it happens every year). If you have 7-12 youth, then we recommend you register as one team and rotate your players for every game. If you have 13+ youth then we recommend you register as 2 separate teams.

The registration cost is $5 per player. This provides a pizza dinner and a big gold cup trophy for the winners. Chaperones, parents, or siblings who attend do not need to register.

We divide our gymnasium into two separate playing courts, so that we can have 2 games being played simultaneously; however, if we have extra participants this year then we will add a 3rd playing court in our Fellowship Hall. Due to having more than one game played at once, we ask that the leaders assist with refereeing their own teams (please bring a whistle).

The registration forms are due 1 week prior to the event; however, the sooner you can send them in the better! Contact Sarah Forti at 276-4628 or admin@ramseymemorial.org for questions, forms and waivers.

**Alzheimer’s Support Group**

This new group meets on the third Thursday of each month, 6:30 p.m., in the Reveille UMC church parlor and is open to all dementia caregivers in the community. The group discusses issues surrounding Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias. Meetings are led by the Alzheimer’s Association and provide an opportunity to communicate regularly for mutual support and to exchange coping skills with one another. The group also focuses on how caregivers can maintain their own health and well-being, and enhance their ability to care for dementia patients. No registration is required to join the support group. Please share information about this group with anyone who may benefit. Meetings are scheduled for November 16 and December 21. Reveille UMC is located at 4200 Cary Street Road, Richmond. Call 359-6041 for more information.

---

**NEXTGEN—Called 2017**

Virginia Conference Youth Retreats @ Eagle Eye

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>
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>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11/5</td>
<td>Beth Sholom</td>
<td>A Henderson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/12</td>
<td>Elmcroft</td>
<td>G Stephens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/12</td>
<td>University Park</td>
<td>Bessie Owens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/19</td>
<td>Beth Sholom</td>
<td>A Henderson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/26</td>
<td>Elmcroft</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Lay Servant Training Academy 2018
The Lay Servant Academy will be held March 2-4, 2018 at the beautiful W.E. Skelton 4-H Center on Smith Mountain Lake. See <https://www.vaumc.org/LayServantTraining> for details and registration information.

Plans underway for United Methodist Day at General Assembly 2018
Ever wanted to know how to create real change in our state government? Or wanted to know more about real issues facing our legislature? United Methodist Day at the General Assembly is the place for you! This is our opportunity to help faith communities become empowered to serve as missionaries of justice, as well as the more traditional missionaries of mercy. This yearly event will be held Thursday, February 1 from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Due to construction at capitol square this year and the relocation of the General Assembly Building, space will be more limited this year. Registration for event will be open soon. A briefing will be held Wednesday, January 31 at Bon Air UMC in North Chesterfield at 7:30 p.m. Questions may be directed to the Rev. Barbara Lewis at <BarbaraLewis@vaumc.org> or (434) 594-6241. Find more information at <www.vaumc.org/Events>.

On Line Safe Sanctuaries
Prepare for your children and youth programs with this five-day online workshop for congregations that don't have a Safe Sanctuary policy or whose policy is outdated, needs revision, doesn't meet the needs of current ministries, etc. Participants will learn why congregations should have an up-to-date policy, what the policy includes generally and specifically, and how to get a policy written, approved, and implemented – or edited.

Because this is an intensive workshop, participants will need to be involved on the site every day to receive a completion certificate. Plan on reading two documents, posting a response to one question, and posting responses to at least two other participants every day – a minimum of an hour a day.

You are required to read Safe Sanctuaries: Reducing the Risk of Abuse in the Church for Children and Youth, by Joy Thornburg Melton, as a part of this course. This course is eligible for 0.5 CEU. Learn more and register at <www.beadisciple.com/on-line-christian-course-schedule/>.

District Opportunities

- 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 15—Deadline for Richmond District Board of Mission Grant requests, 521-1124.
- November 16—Alzheimer's Support Group, Reveille UMC, 359-6041.
- November 19—Advent Celebration, Reveille UMC, 359-6041.
- November 21—Meet Bill Lohmann, Reveille UMC, 359-6041.
- December 1-3—VAUMC High School Retreat, Eagle Eyrie, 521-1139.
- December 2—UMW District Advent Service, Skipwith UMC, 218-0627.
- January 7—District Conference and Leadership Training Event, Reveille UMC, 521-1124.
- January 14—Dodgebal Tournament, Ramsey Memorial UMC, 276-4628.
- February 1, United Methodist Day at General Assembly, Bon Air UMC, 434/594-6241.
- February 16-March 7, 2018—Holy Land Tour with Bishop Lewis, 521-1103.
- March 2-4, 2018—Lay Servant Academy, W.E. Skelton 4-H Center, 521-1153.
- June 16-18, 2018—Annual Conference, Hampton Roads Convention Center, Hampton, 521-1134.

We're on the web at: www.richmonddistrictumc.org

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