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 the separate attachment. 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 2019. The deadline for these applications is November 15, 2018.

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

Influence 2018: Worship

Tuesday, October 30
Woodlake UMC, 15640 Hampton Park Drive
Chesterfield VA 23832

Event Registration: $40 per person, Registration Deadline October 22
Team discounts available
(Every 5th person free when registered together)
For more information and to register go to <www.vaumc.org/5talent>

Westview on the James invites you to be a part of our Camper Open Golf Tournament!
The tournament will take place October 29 at Stonehenge Country Club in Midlothian. By participating in this event you will be helping to send underprivileged kids to camp who otherwise would not be able to attend. We have several options for those who would like to participate, whether it be attending the tournament and playing on a team or becoming a sponsor to help us reach our goals. Register and become a part of a team for $100 or create a team for $400. We know not everyone can be available to participate on a team but if you would still like to become a sponsor we would love to have your participation. Register at <www.westviewonthejames.org/camperopen>. Thank you for all your participation and we look forward to seeing you on the green!
October 2018

Friends,

This past Sunday, I had the privilege of preaching at The Hermitage for their celebration of seventy years of ministry with older adults through Pinnacle Living, formerly known as United Methodist Homes. It was a great event. They had displays set up for each decade of ministry. Their fifties decade room even included a live Elvis impersonator singing to all the residents and making their day! I especially appreciated the conversations with residents and leadership. It was clear that great and holy work was happening and that people were excited about being there whether they were residents or staff. James said “Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress…” (James 1:27). There was something true and solid happening in the religion there for which I am thankful.

It was also a gift to be in the midst of our seniors and humbling to listen to them. I had the chance to meet Reverend Warner Crumb. He is the former director of the Hermitage and United Methodist Homes, serving there for twenty-one years. He is now well into his nineties. It was moving to watch him rise from his wheelchair and pray for our gathering and for the people whose care he has enabled by his leadership and ministry in years past.

As I left the building, I passed a display of older cars that had been set up as a part of the celebration. Cars from the forties, fifties, sixties, and seventies were motoring off at the conclusion of the day. I got to thinking about a movie many of us saw in the seventies and eighties: “Star Wars.” There is a famous quote from the wise Yoda about the impetuous and young Luke Skywalker. He says, “This one, a long time have I watched. All his life has he looked away to the future, the horizon. Never his mind on where he was.”

I am not sure anyone at the Hermitage saw that movie but I found the day to be a helpful reminder from our living God. These days, we are appropriately focused on “The Way Forward.” Our eyes do need to be on that place. But as we do, it is also important to not lose perspective on where we are and where we have been. The church has been here a long time. The church will be here long after we are gone. Our seniors remind us of this truth. It is critical to think about where we are going. But we must also remember where we are and let that vision be humbled by where we have been.

In Christ,

Pete

Grief Workshop

Full Circle Grief Center and Reveille UMC are partnering together to offer “Journeying through Grief,” an interactive, educational workshop, with different topics each month. The workshop will be led by a professional counselor who will share educational materials about grief and loss, engage the group in therapeutic activities, and facilitate group discussions. Topics include:

◆ October 16—Coping with Grief at the Holidays
◆ November 20—Families and Grief
◆ December 18—Grief, Growth, Gratitude and Grace

The workshop will meet 5-6:30 p.m. in the church parlor and is open to everyone who may benefit. Reveille UMC is located at 4200 Cary Street Road, Richmond. No registration is required. For details, visit <www.reveilleumc.org/congregational-care>.

2018 Fall Youth Retreats

Register now for the conference middle school and high school retreats offered through the conference Next Generation Ministries office. Deadline for Middle School retreat is November 1 and will be held from November 9-11 at Eagle Eyrie Retreat Center in Lynchburg. High School Retreat deadline is November 20 and will be held from November 30-December 2. Learn more about registration and the event theme at <www.vaumc.org>.

UMFS Welcomes You

Come and learn more about United Methodist Family Services and the work they do in Richmond and across the state. The tour helps bring the agency to life while you walk around the Richmond campus. You also get to learn a bit of fun history, since UMFS continues to operate today on the land where they were founded as an orphanage in 1900. The next tours will be held on Wednesday October 17, 1:30–3 p.m. and Wednesday November 7, 5:30–7 p.m. All are welcome. The tour will start at Walker House on the UMFS campus, 3900 W. Broad Street, Richmond. Please contact Jill Gaynor <jgaynor@umfs.org> or 254-9463 with any questions.

Prayers for...

◆ Mrs. Doris Teeter, widow of the Rev. James T. Higgins, who had a successful heart procedure at Chippenham on September 12.
For the 40th year the Virginia Conference United Methodist Men (UMM) will host a Spiritual Weekend, October 26-27, this time at Baylake UMC in Virginia Beach, October 26-27. The theme will be “Go! and make Disciples” and featured speaker will be Bishop James Swanson from the Mississippi Conference. As part of revamping the weekend, changes include making the event open to families and spouses, bringing in nationally renowned speakers and offering special rates. For more information about United Methodist Men in the Virginia Conference, please contact Andrew Kissell, president, at (757) 839-0790 or Andrew.Kissell@aecom.com.

Everglades–Big Cypress Clergy Retreat in February

Clergy are invited to participate in a unique outdoor learning and reflection event that will take place in southern Florida in February 2019. This event will be an opportunity to experience and learn about the changing ecosystems of the Everglades National Park and the Big Cypress National Preserve, and to reflect upon possible parallels to the changes in church and other cultural systems. The event will be active and experiential; clergy will camp, hike, and kayak in addition to learning and reflection. This event will take place Monday, February 25 through Saturday, March 2, and is being organized by two Virginia Conference clergy, Janine Howard and Steve Jones. The event is limited to 15 participants; priority will be given to clergy currently serving in local churches. Previous camping, etc. is not required, but participants need to be able to take part in physical outdoor activities. CEUs are available to participants. For further information, contact Steve Jones at <stevejones@vaumc.org>.

Help High-Risk Children - UMFS 2018 Offering

United Methodist Family Services has treasured our church partnerships since our founding in 1900. Churches have partnered with us as unwavering champions for high-risk children and families, providing dedicated volunteers, much needed prayers, and critical donations. UMFS is the Virginia Conference designated offering in December. The money raised through the offering provides critical support to our ministries in Richmond and across the state. This year we are creating bulletin inserts and offering envelopes to assist you with the offering. You can order them online at <www.UMFS.org/church>, or contact Brenda Foster <bfoster@umfs.org> or (804) 254-9450 by October 15 to let us know how many inserts and envelopes you would like. Thank you for your support!

Dementia Caregiver Support

This Reveille UMC support group is open to everyone and supports dementia caregivers and discusses issues surrounding Alzheimer’s diseases and related dementias. The group meets on third Thursdays and meets this month on October 18 at 6:30 p.m. in room 209. No registration is required to join the group. Reveille UMC is located at 4200 Cary Street Road, Richmond. For more information, visit <www.reveilleumc.org/congregational-care>.
**Lay Servant Schedule**

Bessie Owens, director, Lay Servant Ministries: <obessie10@yahoo.com>, 745-5372. 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>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10/7</td>
<td>Beth Sholom</td>
<td>A Henderson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/14</td>
<td>University Park</td>
<td>B Stephens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/21</td>
<td>Beth Sholom</td>
<td>A Henderson</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/28</td>
<td>ElmCroft</td>
<td>G Stephens</td>
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**District Training**

Friday, November 2, 6:15 p.m.—10:15 p.m., and Saturday, November 3, 8 a.m.—5 p.m. at Willis UMC, 8360 Willis Church Road, Richmond.

- Lay Servant Ministries Basic Course, led by Rev. John Hall
- Leading in Prayer, led by Dann Ladd
- Planning Worship, led by Tianna Durbin

Lunch and snacks are provided by the Ladies at Willis UMC.

For registration information call 333-6402 or email <cawms@comcast.net>.

**District Opportunities**

- October 14–19—Virginia Five-Day Academy for Spiritual Formation, Roslyn Retreat Center, Richmond, 703/281-5506.
- October 16—Grief Worship, Reveille, 359-6041.
- October 17—UMFS Campus Tour, 254-9463.
- October 18—Dementia Caregiver Support, Reveille, 359-6041.
- October 21—Fall Festival Trunk or Treat, Reveille, 359-6041.
- October 26–27—UMMen Retreat, Baylake UMC, Virginia Beach, 757/839-0790.
- October 29–Westvew on the James, Camper Open Gold Tournament at Stonehenge Country Club, 437-470.
- October 30–5 Talent Academy, Woodlake UMC, 521-1155.
- October 31—VA PAUMCS Fall Event, VAUMC Center, 521-1124.
- November 2—Richmond District Lay Servant Training, Willis UMC, 333-6402.
- November 9–11—Conference Fall Middle School Youth Retreat, Eagle Eyrie, 521-11521-1139.
- November 10—Richmond District UMW Leadership and Development Training, Lebanon UMC, 640-5355.
- November 15—Richmond District Board of Mission Grant application deadline, 521-1124.
- November 20—Grief Worship, Reveille, 359-6041.
- November 30–December 2—Conference Fall Middle School Youth Retreat, Eagle Eyrie, 521-11521-1139.
- February 15–17, 2019—Richmond District Youth Retreat, Eagle Eyrie, 521-1124.
- February 23–26, 2019—Called General Conference, St. Louis.