CONGREGATIONAL LEADERSHIP IN DIFFICULT TIMES

WITH REV. DR. SUSAN BEAUMONT

Richmond District
Virginia United Methodist Church
District Conference and Leadership Training Event
Sunday, January 13, 2019
2-5:30 p.m.
Woodlake UMC
15640 Hampton Park Drive
Chesterfield VA 23832
See <www.richmonddistrictumc.org> for details

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

Bikes for Christ
Hello Richmond District Family and UMC Conference. It’s that time of year again when we begin to prepare for our Bikes for Christ giveaway. Each year we try to giveaway hundreds of bicycles to needy families. The only way this is possible is through donations from our local churches, brothers, sisters, and small groups. Can you imagine a child with a brand new bike for the first time? We are asking graciously for our beloved conference to help.

All proceeds need to be in by December 7. We are claiming the first Sunday in December as Bikes for Christ Day. Send all donations/checks to: Worship and Praise UMC, 3006 East Laburnum Avenue, Richmond VA 23223.
For more information call Worship and Praise at 648-8031.

UM Center Closings
The District Office and the VAUMC Conference Center will close November 21 at 1 p.m. and be closed on Thursday and Friday, November 22-23 in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.

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Richmond District
The Virginia Conference • United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 5806 • Glen Allen, Virginia 23058
Telephone (804) 521-1124 • Fax (804) 521-1175 • RichmondDistrict@vaumc.org

November 2018

“We ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters…”
2 Thessalonians 1:3

Friends,

When I was in the local church, I always appreciated comments I would sometimes receive from new members who became more engaged in the life of the church. It might be after a season away, or a time of reduced attendance. As they became more active, they would often say, “I never knew all the things that happened behind the scenes…” They were accustomed to arriving Sunday morning where everything just happened.

The story is of course not atypical. One of the truths of Christian ministry and a life of discipleship, is that many, many things are done behind the scenes. There is typically a lot more to the story. Clergy and lay leaders are at work in ways underneath the meeting, the event, the service, the discipleship, the mission trip, the youth event, doing things that few people will ever notice or even get on their radar.

We get it. This is the nature of spiritual leadership and not a one of us serves for the purpose of receiving credit or glory. At our best, we are like the servants Jesus described who said, “we are unworthy servants, we have only done our duty…” (Luke 17:10)

But I do hope and pray that as we come to a season of thanksgiving, you will hear a word of thanks for all that you do. So much of what is done in your ministry is done quietly, unseen by the crowds. However, the kingdom significance of what you do is not measured by the applause and public recognition. What you do matters. As I gather around my table this Thanksgiving, please know that I will be thanking God for all of the people of this district, for all the great work that is accomplished, all the late night visits and hospital stops, all hastily done home preparations so that you can take care of a parishioner, all the late nights fixing a meal for someone in need, all the arrangements for a weekend of worship, all the tracking down of permission slips for a youth mission trip, all the quietly made provisions so that a funeral could be held in decency and honor, the shoveling of a sidewalk so people can worship safely in the cold and ice...

You know better than I that the list could go on...way on. The point is simply to say thank you for that part of your ministry that occurs behind the curtain. Kingdom ministry can’t happen without your efforts even though those efforts may seem unnoticed. God, however, does see it and this Thanksgiving please know that like the Apostle Paul, I am giving thanks for all of you!

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:

- 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>.

Scam and Fraud Prevention

Join the Reveille UMC Leisure Club, Tuesday, November 20, 11:30, in the Fellowship Hall, to learn more about how you can protect yourself from scams and fraud with special guest Tom Veasey with the Better Business Bureau. Bring your favorite side dish or dessert to share at the luncheon following the program. The main dish and beverages are provided. Details at <www.reveilleumc.org/leisure-club>. The event takes place at Reveille UMC, 4200 Cary Street Road, Richmond. Call 359-6041, ext. 111, for more information.

Prayers for...

- The family of Rev. Carl Cosslett, retired, former pastor of St. Mark's ('75), who died September 30.
- Rev. Margie Turbyfill, retired, on successful shoulder replacement surgery on October 11.
- The family of Rev. Rita Callis, medical leave, who died of pancreatic cancer on October 5.
- Nick Ruxton, Conference videographer, on the death of his grandfather, on October 30.
The District UMW would like to invite you to attend:

- November 10—Richmond District UMW Leadership and Development Training, Lebanon UMC, Hanover.
- For more information call president, Scotty Doyle, 640-5355.◆

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>.◆

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. CEU's are available to participants. For further information, contact Steve Jones at <stevejones@vaumc.org>.◆

All God’s Children Camp 2019

Lori Smith, director of All God’s Children Camp, shared her excitement that already the first camper application has been received for 2019. “We are so excited for another great summer of camp, and it promises to be a great experience for both our campers and our mentors.”

What is All God’s Children Camp? Children, ages 7 to 12, with an incarcerated mother or father, spend a week at camp, participating in activities such as boating, swimming, hiking, archery, music, crafts, Bible study, and conflict resolution. Partnering with Virginia United Methodist camps, All God’s Children Camp provides a week of sanctuary for children who face so many challenges in their lives: economic poverty; temporary living conditions; loneliness; low self-esteem; violence; and drugs.

Our 2019 dates are here. Please check them out below and then pray about becoming one of the 90 mentors we will need to make this summer possible. After that, download the mentor application and completely fill it out and send it to the address on the application form.

- June 16-20 @ Camp Chanco on the James (Richmond area)
- July 28-August 2 @ Occohannock on the Bay (Easter Shore)
- August 11-16 @ Camp Chanco on the James (Richmond area)

Please contact Lori Smith at lttlelori@gmail.com or 571-245-9591 for an application or more information.◆

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 consistently in need of regular white crew socks of all sizes for men. If you are able to donate socks to Centenary, please bring them by the office at 411 E. Grace Street. Our phone number is 648-8319. Thank you for your help with this special ministry.◆

Socks Needed at Centenary

Centenary UMC, 411 E. Grace Street, Richmond, participates in a Downtown Ministry Walk-In Lunch Program on Fridays to feed the homeless. We are fortunate to also include a Foot Washing Ministry for our lunch guests at Centenary. We are consistently in need of regular white crew socks of all sizes for men. If you are able to donate socks to Centenary, please bring them by the office at 411 E. Grace Street. Our phone number is 648-8319. Thank you for your help with this special ministry.◆

Have Fun & Support UMFS

Join UMFS on Saturday, November 17 for the Nutzy’s Rotary Funn Run & Block Party in Richmond’s Scott’s Addition neighborhood. UMFS is the lead beneficiary of the event this year. The 5K run/walk starts at 11 a.m. and the block party starts at 11:30 with food trucks, local breweries, live music, games and kids activities. Visit <www.nutzyrotaryfunnrun.com> to register. Call Jill Gaynor, 254-9463, for more information about UMFS.◆

United Methodist Student Day

On United Methodist Student Day, November 25, congregations will gather to support students as they prepare for a life that unites faith and knowledge. The gifts on this churchwide Special Sunday provide scholarships for diligent United Methodist students in local congregations just like yours. For more information see <http://www.umcgiving.org/pastors/resources>.◆

Voices of Youth 2019

There is a place for you on Voices of Youth 2019. Apply now for “How Sweet the Sound” tour of Poland and Virginia, June 19-July 10, 2019. The cost is $2,700 per person all inclusive pricing. For further information, contact Mary Letson, (757)581-7250 or <voicesofyouth@vaumc.org>. See our website <www.voicesofyouth-va.com>.◆
Candidacy Summits

The Candidacy Summit is an overnight event for anyone (18 or older and out of high school) who is interested in learning more about pursuing ministry leadership in the Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church (VAUMC). (There are separate events for high school students who are interested in pursing ministry leadership.)

The purpose of the Candidacy Summit is to provide opportunities for vocational discernment, connection with others who are exploring God’s call in their lives, and deeper understanding about the VAUMC journey towards certified, licensed and ordained ministry.

Two Candidacy Summits are offered each year, one in July and one in January, and participation in one Candidacy Summit is required before one can become a certified candidate for ministry (or before one can become a licensed local pastor) in the VAUMC. For details on location and schedule, and to register, click the link at the top of the page --please note that those who wish to be licensed as a local pastor should participate in a Candidacy Summit prior to the Annual Conference in which they would hope to be licensed.

Most of the cost of the event is covered by apportioned connectional giving from Virginia congregations through the Board of Ordained Ministry, but there is a registration fee for participants to help with meals and lodging.

We’re looking forward to welcoming all those interested in ministry to explore their calling with peers and learn more about how God might be calling them to serve in The United Methodist Church.

Click <www.vaumc.org/CandidacySummit> for details and registration information.

District Opportunities

- November 7–UMFS Tours, 254-9463.
- November 9–11–Conference Fall Middle School Youth Retreat, Eagle Eyrie, 521-11521-1139.
- November 15–Richmond District Board of Mission Grant application deadline, 521-1124.
- November 17–Nutzy’s Rotary Funn Run to benefit UMFS, 254-9463.
- November 20–Scan and Fraud Prevention, Revelle, 359-6041.
- November 20–Grief Worship, Revelle, 359-6041.
- November 25–United Methodist Student Day, 521-1135.
- November 30–December 2–Conference Fall Middle School Youth Retreat, Eagle Eyrie, 521-11521-1139.
- December 7–Bikes for Christ donations due, 648-8031.
- December 18–Grief Worship, Revelle, 359-6041.
- February 15-17, 2019–Richmond District Youth Retreat, Eagle Eyrie, 521-1124.
- February 23-26, 2019–Called General Conference, St. Louis.
- June 16-20, 2019–All God’s Children Camp–Camp Chanco, 571/245-9591.
- June 20-22, 2019–Annual Conference, Roanoke.
- August 11-16, 2019–All God’s Children Camp–Camp Chanco, 571/245-9591.

We’re on the web at:

www.richmonddistrictumc.org

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