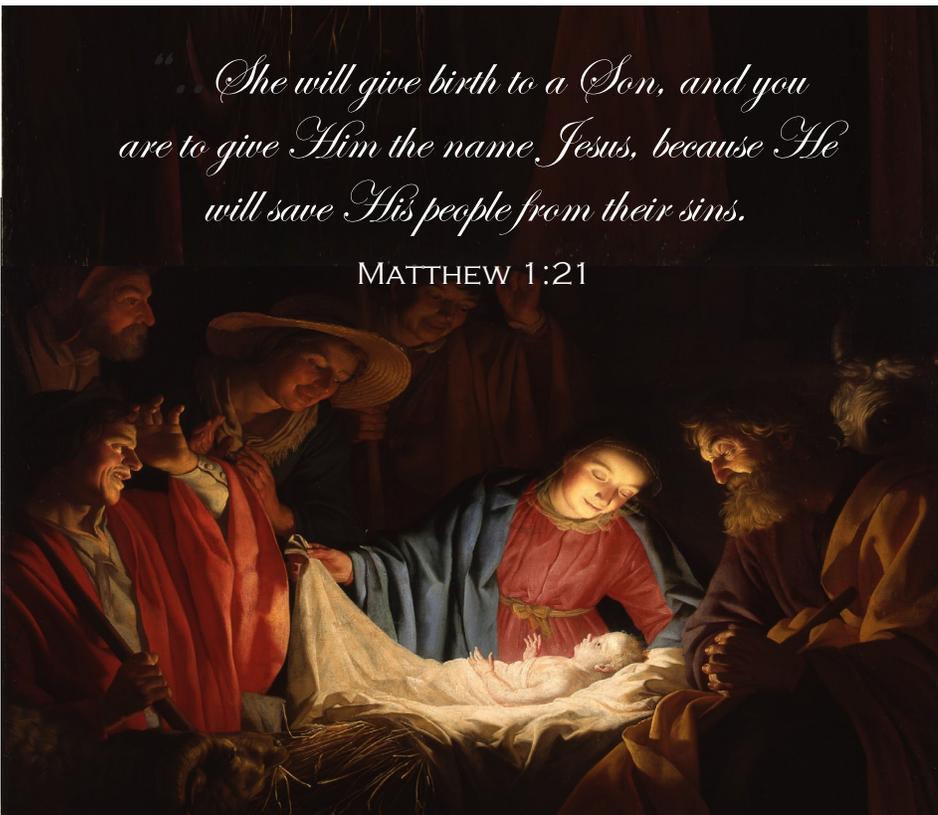


THE RICHMOND DISTRICT DISPATCH

A Newsletter of The Richmond District • Virginia Conference • The United Methodist Church
December 2018



She will give birth to a Son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins.

MATTHEW 1:21

Merry Christmas!

from the Richmond District Office

Peter M. Moon

Susan Mundell Petrey

Maria Maxwell

Cindy Payne Ingroff

District Leadership Training—SPRC, Finance, and Trustees

Our District Conference and Leadership Training Event scheduled for January 13 will follow a new format and will not include breakout workshops. Instead we will have a smaller gathering of three of our highly requested workshops on Sunday, January 27, 2-3:30 p.m. We will meet at the VAUMC Conference Center, 10330 Staples Mill Road, Glen Allen. Pete Moon will lead SPRC, Conference treasurer David Domisse will teach Finance, and District Trustees chair Rev. Bill James, retired, will lead Trustees. Church offices, please email <Richmonddistrict@vaumc.org> with the church name, the names of those attending, and which class they will take, no later than 12 noon, Friday, January 25. ♦

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. Deadline to register is December 7.

UM Center Closings

The District Office and the VAUMC Conference Center will close Friday, December 21 at 1 p.m. and be closed through Wednesday, December 26 in observance of the Christmas holiday and closed January 1 for New Year's Day ♦

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Richmond District

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December 2018

Friends,

Last week, in the Richmond Times Dispatch, there was a fascinating article that described the fact that now, for the first time in a long time, our national life expectancy numbers are starting to decline. For years, we were living longer. But now, mostly due to an increase in suicides and opioid addiction, people in our country, on a whole, are living shorter lives.

The article carried the usual analysis, but particularly insightful was the perspective of one social scientist from George Washington University. He basically said that the reason we are living shorter lives now is because as individuals and as a nation, we have lost our hope. We are living in a semi-hopeless state and that state has reduced our life expectancy as Americans.

Most of us are aware enough to recognize at least a ring of truth to the statistics and the analysis. If we were to respond to a survey on how we are doing right now, most of us would not check off the word hopeful as we think about foundational things such as nation, government, and church.

And yet, this is also the season of Advent. It is the time of hope and expectation. How do we bring the weight of the season to bear upon the State of the Union?

I recently found some help. Last week I scanned my bookshelves and recognized a book from awhile back that I had been meaning to read for some years entitled, "A Good and Beautiful God; Falling in Love with the God Jesus Knows" by James Bryan Smith. It has been an inspiring source of hope and encouragement to me.

James Smith studied under Dallas Willard and Richard Foster to put together what he has called "A Curriculum for Christ-likeness." His theory is not complicated. He believes that we become hopeless because we live out of the wrong narratives, specifically, the wrong narratives about God. Those narrative are like tape recordings that play over and over in our minds, rendering harsh images of God and God's ways. And so, in this book, he helps us to embrace a more accurate image of God. In a gentle way, he reminds us that God is good, that God is trustworthy, that God is generous, and the list goes on.

At its best, Advent seeks to do exactly that. Advent reminds us that our God is good, that our God refuses to stand far off and watch us suffer, that our God is for us and that our God has come down to redeem and save us.

This Advent, in a season of divided nation and church, you and I will be tempted to embrace all sorts of narratives. Don't forget the most important ones that this Christmas event reveals. No matter what, our God is good. No matter what, our God is trustworthy. Always, our God is generous, compassionate, and abounding in love. With that voice compassionate, and abounding in love. With that voice playing through our thoughts, hopelessness can and will become and endangered species. This Christmas, let's remember who our God is!

In Christ,


Pete

2019 District Apportionment

The Conference Treasurers Office will include your Richmond District Apportionments on your Conference Apportionment Statement starting with your January 2019 statement. Local church treasurers will no longer need to remit separate checks to the District and to the Conference. One check should be made out to the Virginia United Methodist Conference that includes all apportionments (conference and district). The conference will electronically transfer the funds to the district to ensure the administration, ministries, and missions of the Richmond District are supported. This will relieve the responsibility of the district for the daily processing and accounting for District Apportionments.

This also means that treasurers will be able to use the conference's PayApp website to submit their conference and district apportionment payments. If your church does not already use the PayApp website, please visit <VAUMCPayApp.org> to view online statements and register to start making your apportionment payments online.

Any questions, please contact my office, 521-1109.

Sincerely,
 David Dommissie, Treasurer

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>. ♦

Prayers for...

- ♦ Rev. Derrick Parson, Providence UMC, Chesterfield, who is recovering from vocal cord surgery on November 26.
- ♦ Rev. Larry Cochran, Belmont UMC, who had emergency gall bladder surgery on November 26.
- ♦ The family of Rev. Philip Godwin, Licensed Local pastor, retired, who died October 31.
- ♦ Rev. John Hall, Bethel UMC, on the death of his mother, Sally Easter, on October 19. ♦



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. ◆

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. ◆

Christmas Concert and Open House

Everyone is invited to the annual Christmas concert at Reveille UMC, 4200 Cary Street Road, Richmond, on Sunday, December 9. Come to the open house at 3 p.m. in the welcome center followed by the concert at 4 p.m. in the sanctuary. The inter-generational concert will feature all children's and youth choirs and handbells, the Chancel Choir, and the Reveille Ringers. The concert will culminate with the Chancel Choir's presentation of Benjamin Britten's A Ceremony of Carols, an eclectic choral masterpiece that takes singers and listeners on a musical journey that accentuates the joy and wonder of Christ's birth. Learn more at www.reveilleumc.org/christmas-concert. This program is free and open to the public. ◆

Service of Remembrance

A Service of Remembrance will be held in the chapel on Sunday, December 16, 4 p.m. at Reveille UMC, 4200 Cary Street Road, Richmond. Advent and Christmas are often described as the "most joyous time of the year." Yet the days are short and the nights are long. Many of us also face the memories of those no longer with us making it a difficult and lonely time of the year. If you are in need of community, hope, comfort, peace, and healing we invite you to sing hymns, pray, read scripture, hear an informal message, and light candles. After the service, join in a light reception in the welcome center. ◆

Leisure Club Celebration with The Joy Singers

The Leisure Club will welcome The Joy Singers on Tuesday, December 18, 11 a.m. at Reveille UMC, 4200 Cary Street Road, Richmond. The Joy Singers will offer an entertaining holiday program led by Josh Wortham, music director at Chester UMC. A luncheon follows the program, so please bring your favorite side dish or dessert to share. The main dish and beverages are provided. Everyone is welcome at Leisure Club, so please invite a friend or neighbor to come along! Our facilities are accessible. Call 359-6041 for more information. ◆



Bikes for Christ

Hello Richmond District Family and HUMC 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. ◆

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. ◆

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:

Date	Place	Speaker
12/2	Beth Sholom	A Henderson
12/9	University Park	Bessie Owens
12/16	Beth Sholom	A Henderson
12/23	Elmcroft	G Stephens

Available On Demand Training Events:

- ◆ "Laity Leading in Worship" led by the Rev. Nathan Decker
 - ◆ "Leading Prayer" led by the Rev. Norman Ramsey
 - ◆ "United Methodist Church Polity" led by the Rev. Teresa Keezel and the Rev. Andrew Ware
 - ◆ "Spiritual Gifts" led by MaryKaye Cochran
 - ◆ "Preaching" led by the Rev. Jonathan Page of Fieldstone UMC
 - ◆ "UMC Heritage" led by Martha Stokes
- Click <<https://www.eiseverywhere.com/ereg/newreg.php?eventid=313596&>> to register for these events. Questions? Contact David Bailey <dw.bailey@comcast.net> or 338-3168. ◆



Richmond District Youth Retreat

EAGLE EYRIE, LYNCHBURG

FEBRUARY 15-17



Featuring: Justin Hicks, Campus Minister from Longwood & Hampden-Sydney colleges. The weekend will consist of 4 worship services, small group time, youth group time and free time. Each youth group will have a house with several bedrooms a kitchen and a living room useful for fellowship and youth group time. Saturday meals and Sunday breakfast are provided. Weekend cost: \$125 per person. Call Pam Hill, 901-0989, for details.



DISTRICT DISPATCH

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Sharma D. Lewis	Area Bishop
Peter M. Moon	District Superintendent
Susan Petrey	Administrative Assistant, Web Administrator
Maria Maxwell	Coordinator, Next Level Innovations
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.
Bessie Owens	Director, Lay Servant Ministries

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

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

District Opportunities

- ◆ December 7–Bikes for Christ donations due, 648-8031.
- ◆ December 9–Christmas Concert and Open House, Reveille, 359-6041.
- ◆ December 16–Service of Remembrance, Reveille, 359-6041.
- ◆ December 18–Leisure Club Celebration, Reveille, 359-6041.
- ◆ December 18–Grief Workshop, Reveille, 359-6041.
- ◆ January 13, 2019–Richmond District Conference and Leadership Training Event, Woodlake UMC, 521-1124.
- ◆ January 27, 2019–Richmond District Training for SPRC, Finance and Trustees, VA UMC Conference Center, 521-1124.
- ◆ January 30, 2019–UM Day at the General Assembly briefing, 434/594-6241.
- ◆ January 31, 2019–UM Day at the General Assembly, 434/594-6241.
- ◆ February 15-17, 2019–Richmond District Youth Retreat, Eagle Eyrie, 521-1124.
- ◆ February 23-26, 2019–Called General Conference, St. Louis.
- ◆ February 25-March 2, 2019–Everglades-Big Cypress Clergy Retreat, 804/929-2491.
- ◆ June 16-20, 2019–All God's Children Camp–Camp Chanco, 571/245-9591.
- ◆ June 20-22, 2019–Annual Conference, Roanoke.
- ◆ July 28-August 2, 2019–All God's Children Camp–Occohannock on the Bay, 571/245-9591.
- ◆ August 11-16, 2019–All God's Children Camp–Camp Chanco, 571/245-9591. ◆