



# THE RICHMOND DISTRICT DISPATCH

A Newsletter of The Richmond District • Virginia Conference • The United Methodist Church  
January 2019

## 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](http://www.richmonddistrictumc.org)> for details

### 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 Domissee will teach Finance, and District Trustees chair Rev. Bill James, retired, will lead Trustees. Church offices, please email <[Richmonddistrict@vaumc.org](mailto: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. ♦

### UM Day at General Assembly

Ever wanted to know how to create real change in our state government? Ever 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.

Join us for a briefing Wednesday, January 30, 7:30 p.m. Briefing at Bon Air UMC, 1645 Buford Rd, North Chesterfield, VA 23235. Then join us Thursday, January 31, 7 a.m.-3 p.m. for a day at the General Assembly.

Register online at <[www.vaumc.org/Events](http://www.vaumc.org/Events)>. To register by phone, contact MaryKaye Cochran at 521-1155. Register until January 11 for \$40. Registration includes information packet with reusable bag, hot breakfast, box lunch (sandwich or salad), parking, transportation to the Capitol grounds, and afternoon program. Questions? Call Rev. Barbara Lewis at (434) 594-6241. Presented by the Board of Church & Society and The United Methodist Women of the Virginia Conference. ♦

### UM Center Closings

The District Office and the VAUMC Conference Center will be closed on Monday, January 21 in observance of Martin Luther King Day. ♦

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## Richmond District

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January 2019

Friends,

This year, I am in profound need of wisdom. I am pretty sure that all of you are right there with me. The ball fell on 2018 and few if any were celebrating the wonder of the past year. Despite the rain soaked crowd at Times Square on New Year's Eve, the collective sense of multiple articles and analyses combined with plain common sense is that 2019 does not hold much promise. You don't have to be a prophet to see that troubles are on the horizon. Our national leadership is in trouble and may not survive the year. Our church is coming upon a definitive season that will decide who we are for decades, if not a century to come.

The characterization is a bit dramatic, and some might say over the top. I am pretty certain, however, that I am not preaching to the choir. I would wager that most of you also see the storm clouds on the horizon.

All of us therefore need wisdom and will likely need it in doses which we have never needed before. As such, I find myself envious of the famous "Proverbs 31 Woman". Most of us meet her at Mother's Day and at funerals, but on this opening week of what looks to be a tumultuous year, I am looking for her wisdom. Particularly, I find the characterization of her life appealing as she can "laugh at the days to come..." (Proverbs 31:25)

There is a challenge here. One of the deep lessons of Proverbs is that this coveted wisdom does not come with a simple download from God. We can't pray for wisdom and expect, with our contemporary culture, that it comes as easily as a Google search. Tim Keller, in his devotional on the book of Proverbs says that wisdom is found in this book of the Bible, but these Proverbs are "like hard candy: If you just bite down on it, you get little out of it and may even get a broken tooth. Instead, you must meditate on it until the sweetness of insight comes." (Tim Keller, "God's Wisdom for Navigating Life", Viking, 2017, Pg.1)

There is our challenge in looking at 2019. We need wisdom, we envy the woman of Proverbs 31, we want to be able to laugh at the days to come. That wisdom does not, however, come in the form our contemporary Amazon/Google instant delivery and download. It only comes with time, focus, meditation, and prayer.

Unfortunately, it gets worse before it gets better. Jesus said, when the storms come, our foundations are revealed: "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock." (Matthew 7:24-25, NRSV)

So let us all seek wisdom and pray that we too may be able to laugh at the days to come. But let us also be realistic. This peace which passes all understanding comes with spiritual depth and not "faith lite." As such, I invite you to join my New Year's prayer for the year: Lord, take me deep. Lord, enable me to be the tree planted by streams of water and not the chaff that the wind blows away. Lord, as we face the challenges of the coming year, give me deep roots and a solid foundation that will equip me and my church to be a fount of wisdom that can indeed laugh at the days, even these days, to come. AMEN

In Christ,

Pete

## Making Your Mission Work Transformational

**W**ant to connect with your church's neighborhood? Looking for ways to engage in more relationship-based mission? The Pace Center, VCU's Wesley Foundation, will be hosting an overview of Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) for the VCU community and would like to open the opportunity to local United Methodist churches. The non-profit Embrace Richmond will provide the overview of ABCD. Over 50 students are expected to attend the overview, the subsequent training session, and then begin working closely with local UMC's who have already adopted the ABCD model, like Belmont and Beulah UMCs. If your church is interested in adopting an ABCD approach that focuses on shifting power and giving dignity, this is a great way to learn more. There are two opportunities to attend the overview Monday, January 28 and Thursday January 31. 4-6:40 p.m. Registration can be found at [www.thepacecenter.com](http://www.thepacecenter.com). Please contact Rev. Katie B. Gooch for more details, [director@thepacecenter.com](mailto:director@thepacecenter.com). ♦

## Women Speak of God

**T**his eight week class will be led by Reveille's Women of Spirit group, Wednesdays, starting January 9, 10-11:30 a.m., in room 210. The class introduces us to the voices of six women who struggled with issues of identity, character, and calling, and who were able to attest to God's living presence amidst their struggles. In this video-based study, Dr. Amy Oden examines how Christian women in different cultures and time periods have written about their faith. To register, visit [www.reveilleumc.org/study](http://www.reveilleumc.org/study). Reveille UMC is located at 4200 Cary Street Road, Richmond. ♦

## Prayers for...

- ♦ Bishop Sharma Lewis who is recovering from December 20 hip replacement surgery.
- ♦ The family of Rev. Henry E. Riley, Jr., retired, who died on December 18.
- ♦ Rev. Todd Smith, Skipwith UMC, who is recovering from December 21 shoulder surgery. ♦



The Richmond District United Methodist Women will host our "Day Apart" on Saturday, January 26, at Richmond Hill, 2209 E. Grace Street, Richmond, VA 23223 from 9 a.m.–3:30 p.m. Join us as Margie Turbyfill leads us in our one-day retreat, a time of fellowship, reflection and study of "Paths to Prayer."

A wonderful lunch prepared by Richmond Hill will be included in the registration fee of \$25. Forms can be found in the December UMW newsletter, The WORD, or you may register by calling Scotty Doyle, 640-5355. Deadline to register is Saturday, January 12. Limit of 25 people.

Put on your advocacy hats and join the United Methodist Women for the United Methodist Day at the General Assembly on January 31, 2019. See page one of this District Dispatch for details.

Peace,  
Scotty Doyle

## Expert Help for Caregivers

This Dementia Support Group meets at Reveille UMC, 4200 Cary Street Road, Richmond, on the third Thursday of each month, beginning January 17, at 6:30 p.m. in room 206 and is open to the community. Monthly meetings provide an opportunity for caregivers to communicate regularly, exchange coping skills, learn ways to maintain their health, 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 in the community who may benefit. All are welcome. For more information about the Greater Richmond Alzheimer's Association, visit <[www.alz.org/grva](http://www.alz.org/grva)> or call the Alzheimer's Association Helpline at (800) 272-3900. ♦

## 2019 District Apportionments

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](http://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 Domnisse, Treasurer

## 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 Rev. Janine Howard and Rev. Steve Jones. The event is limited to 15 participants; priority will be given to clergy currently serving in local churches. Previous camping experience is not required, participants need to be able to take part in physical outdoor activities. CEU's are available. For further information, contact Steve Jones at <[stevejones@vaumc.org](mailto:stevejones@vaumc.org)>. ♦



## All God's Children Camp 2019

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. Download the mentor application at <[www.vaumc.org/AGC](http://www.vaumc.org/AGC)>, and send it to the address found on the 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](mailto:lttlelori@gmail.com)> or (571)245-9591 for an application or more information. ♦

## Bible Boot Camp

Join us Saturday, February 2, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., as we walk (or run!) through the general content and historical context of the entire Bible, address the barriers that keep many of us from feeling confident about reading scripture, and acquire resources and support for continuing your journey into God's Word. Using resources and techniques grounded in Methodist theology, we will gain knowledge and skills that will help us access and appreciate every book of the Bible as an essential part of God's love story with humankind. The class will be facilitated by Lead Pastor Doug Forrester and Jennifer McCluskey, M.Ed. This seminar is appropriate for all levels of Biblical knowledge and doubt! Cost: \$15 (includes class materials and lunch) To register, visit <[www.reveilleumc.org/study](http://www.reveilleumc.org/study)>. Reveille UMC is located at 4200 Cary Street Road, Richmond. ♦

### 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
1/6	Beth Sholom	A Henderson
1/13	University Park	Bessie Owens
1/20	Beth Sholom	A Henderson
1/27	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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Virginia Conference  
The United Methodist Church  
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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](http://www.richmonddistrictumc.org)

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

### District Opportunities

- ◆ January 9–Women Speak of God, Reveille UMC, 359-6041.
- ◆ January 13–Richmond District Conference and Leadership Training Event, Woodlake UMC, 521-1124.
- ◆ January 17–Dementia Support Group, Reveille UMC, 359-6041.
- ◆ January 26–Richmond District UMW Day Apart, Richmond Hill, 640-5355.
- ◆ January 27–Richmond District Training for SPRC, Finance and Trustees, VA UMC Conference Center, 521-1124.
- ◆ January 28–ABCD Overview, VCU/ Pace Center, 658-4064.
- ◆ January 30–UM Day at the General Assembly briefing, 434/594-6241.
- ◆ January 31–ABCD Overview, VCU/ Pace Center, 658-4064.
- ◆ January 31–UM Day at the General Assembly, 434/594-6241.
- ◆ February 2–Bible Boot Camp, Reveille UMC, 359-6041.
- ◆ February 15-17–Richmond District Youth Retreat, Eagle Eyrie, 521-1124.
- ◆ February 23-26–Called General Conference, St. Louis.
- ◆ February 25-March 2–Everglades-Big Cypress Clergy Retreat, 804/929-2491.
- ◆ May 18–Bishop Lewis' Chat and Chew, Richmond District, 521-1124.
- ◆ June 16-20–All God's Children Camp–Camp Chanco, 571/245-9591.
- ◆ June 19-July 10–Voices of Youth 2019 tour, Poland and Virginia, 757/581-7250.
- ◆ June 20-22–Annual Conference, Roanoke.
- ◆ July 28-August 2–All God's Children Camp–Ocohanock on the Bay, 571/245-9591.
- ◆ August 11-16–All God's Children Camp–Camp Chanco, 571/245-9591. ◆