



# THE RICHMOND DISTRICT DISPATCH



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



## Fresh Expressions Vision Day, Tuesday, March 19, 9:30am-3:30pm, at Shady Grove UMC, Mechanicsville

Clergy and laity are invited to register for the Fresh Expressions Richmond Vision Day sponsored by the VAUMC. Vision Days are a great way to discover more about what it means to be involved in starting fresh expressions of church. The Fresh Expressions movement emerged out of the Anglican and Methodist churches in the United Kingdom in 2004. In 2010, the movement began taking shape in the U.S. A fresh expression works mainly with people who do not attend church, finds culturally appropriate ways of reaching people, aims to form disciples, and intends to become church for the people it reaches in its context. This Vision Day will help you discover how fresh expressions are renewing the church around the world as well as what it means for your church to be mission-shaped. If you are interested in intentionally engaging with the community beyond your church walls as well as learning tools for starting fresh expressions of church in your community, then this Vision Day is for you! Registration is available at <http://www.freshexpressionsus.org/event/VisionDayRichmond> or by visiting [www.freshexpressionsus.org](http://www.freshexpressionsus.org). Questions? Please contact Mark Ogren or MaryKaye Cochran in the Center for Congregational Excellence, 521-1155. ♦

## Goodson Academy of Preaching

Do you know Rev. Mark Miller, Senior pastor of Virginia Beach UMC? Formerly he served at Ebenezer UMC in Stafford for many years. Recently, VBUMC hosted Donald Davis and here is what he has to say, "Donald Davis has mastered his craft. He tells stories that are relatable and powerful, connecting everyday human experiences to something deep and profound. He is both engaging and entertaining as he blends wit and wisdom in a way that communicates effectively. For those of us called to preach the compelling narratives of our Christian Faith, there is much we can learn from Donald Davis."



The Goodson Academy of Preaching invites you to attend "The Power of Storytelling for Preaching," March 27 and 28, at Trinity UMC, Henrico. At this event you can learn how to enrich your preaching through finding the stories inside of you that help to effectively communicate the good news of Jesus Christ.

Want to know more? Go to YouTube "How the Story Transform the Teller" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wgeh4xhSA2Q>. You may register for one day or two days. A 1.0 CEU is available for both days.

Find registration at [www.vaumc.org/Events](http://www.vaumc.org/Events). For more information call (540) 335-5175. ♦

**UM Center Closings**  
The District Office and the VAUMC Conference Center will close at 1 p.m. on Thursday, April 18 and remain closed Friday, April 19 in observance of the Easter holiday. ♦

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## Richmond District

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March 2019

*"We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Thes. 1:2-3)*

Paul says it so much better than I could. Throughout these past months, I have been in prayer for you as leaders of our congregations in the Richmond District. I want to tell you how thankful I am for what all of you are doing. In the midst of our recent General Conference decisions, all of you are doing incredible and outstanding work for such a time as this.

Prior to General Conference, we had multiple gatherings, trainings, and conversations. A thematic phrase erupted in those gatherings:

*"The way forward for our denomination will not occur through General Conference legislation, as important as that is. Instead, the way forward will be led by gifted, prepared, and non-anxious clergy and lay leadership who center on Christ and lead with resultant confidence in the coming UM storms and squalls."*

Since returning from General Conference, I have had the opportunity to listen to many of you and to several of our congregations. There is much hurt, anguish, and anxiety. However, what I have seen just as intensely, if not more, is the quality, depth, and excellent leadership that you have been offering within our current crisis. You have listened, you have learned, and you have worked very hard to be a non-anxious presence in the midst of this season of strife. I simply want to say a profound word of admiration, appreciation, and thanks for your outstanding leadership. When you have that critical conversation with a frustrated parishioner, you are offering this high caliber leadership. When you initiate a conversation to check in on people that you are wondering about that God has put on your heart, you are doing great work. When you step out and ask folks how they are doing, instead of waiting for them to come to you, again, this is Esther kind of leadership for such a time as this.

We will not solve this conflict, anger, and dissension around the recent GC decision anytime soon, but what I do know is that God is using every single one of you to do key and pivotal work in our churches. Thank you for all your preparation. Thank you for paying attention to our people and where they are. Thank you most of all for engaging and doing the hard work, when it is clear that many of you don't align with where the church is right now. It is a fitting demonstration of the conviction within our call to love and serve all our people, no matter where we are on the spectrum. Today and in the days to come, I am and will be, like Paul, thanking God for all of you. You are the best,

In Christ

Pete

## Helping Hands

Helping Hands is a hands-on mission experience for rising 4th-6th graders. We have three host churches this year who invite your church to come and be a part of the fun, worship, and service.

◆ June 26-27 hosted at St. Paul's UMC, Staunton. Contact is Chris Lyle <lyle.chris@gmail.com>.

◆ August 1-2 hosted at Woodlake UMC, Midlothian. Contact is Dianna Foster <dfoster@woodlakeumc.org>.

◆ August 1-2 hosted at Deep Creek UMC, Chesapeake. Contact is Keriann Craig <keriann.craig@deepcreekumc.org>.

Registration information is available at <[www.vaumc.org/Events](http://www.vaumc.org/Events)>.◆

## 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 (Eastern 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.◆

## Prayers for...

◆ Rev. Bill Wash, retired, on the death of his mother, Pauline Wash, on January 31.

◆ The family of Rev. Reggie Potts, retired, who died February 13.

◆ Susan Lynch, widow of Rev. Al Lynch, who is recovering from successful February back surgery.

◆ Bishop Sharma Lewis, who will undergo two additional surgeries due to ongoing complications related to her December 21 hip surgery.◆



**H**appy Birthday to the United Methodist Women who celebrate their 150th year Anniversary on March 23, 2019. May we continue to step out in Faith, Hope and Action and respond to God's call to mission with Women, Children and Youth around the World.

The Richmond District United Methodist Women will hold their Annual Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, April 6 at Shady Grove UMC, 8209 Shady Grove Road, Mechanicsville. Sign in at 8:30 a.m., breakfast and worship at 9 a.m.-11 a.m. Child Care will be provided.

We will welcome Renyetta Banks, Executive Director of Wesley Community Service Center, Portsmouth, who will bring us an update on WCSC as we are "Continuing to Celebrate through Missions."

Pre-registration is needed. The cost is \$8 per person. Make checks payable to: Richmond District UMW, notation "Prayer Breakfast." Mail to Richmond District UMW Treasurer: Rosa Lewis, 829 Old Denny Street Richmond, VA 23231. The registration deadline is Wednesday, March 27.

Our "On the Road in Mission" bus trip to Wesley Community Service Center will be on Thursday, May 9. Watch for trip details to be emailed to units by mid-March.

For questions call 744-3034. ♦

### Tee Up!

**W**esthampton Day School will sponsor a Golf Tournament Fundraiser on Thursday, May 16 at the Richmond Country Club. All proceeds will benefit programs and projects of WDS. Check-in/lunch time begins at 12 noon. Shotgun start is at 1 p.m. Awards will begin at 5 p.m. The cost per golfer is \$135 or \$525 for a foursome which includes cart/green fees, lunch, two beverage tickets, and heavy hor d'oeuvres during awards. Registrations due by May 9. Contact <EDSGold@westhamptondayschool.org> or 282-7459

### Lenten Study for Women

**T**he Women of Spirit invite you to join them for a Lenten study on Amy Oden's book God's Welcome: Hospitality for a Gospel-Hungry World. The study, which begins March 13, explores how hospitality ultimately finds its basis in God and when we welcome others we extend God's welcome. The class will meet at 10 a.m. on Wednesdays, beginning March 13, in room 210, at Reveille UMC, 4200 Cary Street Road, Richmond. Register for the class at <www.reveilleumc.org/study>. ♦

### Geranium Sale

**T**he United Methodist Urban Ministries of Richmond Auxiliary will hold their spring geranium sale to benefit Shalom Farms on Friday, April 5.

Order your plants by calling Ellen Reaves at 229-4277 no later than Monday, April 1. Geraniums come in 4.5 inch pots at \$4.50 each. Colors available are red, salmon, coral, hot pink and white. Orders are taken for specific colors but cannot be guaranteed. Make checks payable to UMUMR and mail to Ellen Reaves, 9500 Pine Shadow Drive, Richmond VA 23238.

Pick up plants Friday, April 5 at Bon Air UMC, 1645 Buford Road, Richmond at 12 noon. ♦

### Rebuilding Together

**R**eveille UMC, 4200 Cary Street Road, Richmond, is working with Rebuilding Together to organize a day of service in the community to help elderly homeowners repair and maintain their homes.

♦When: Saturday, April 27, 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m., with full and half day shifts available.

♦Who: 40-50 volunteers are needed. If you are age 10 or older, you can help work on our neighbors' homes. Helpers under the age of 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Participants under 18 years old need a parent's signature on the liability waiver to participate.

♦Where: The worksites will be located at 2112 2nd Avenue and 2412 3rd Avenue, Richmond.

To learn more and register for a shift, visit <www.reveilleumc.org/rebuildingtogether.> Call 359-6041 for more information. ♦



## convergence

### Convergence

**C**onvergence: Where Faith and Science Meet is a 9-day program (June 22-30) that allows rising 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students to come to Randolph-Macon's campus in Ashland and learn about the intersection of science and Christian faith. They will dive deeper into their religious beliefs, deeper into the study of science, and will meet other high school students and Randolph-Macon College student leaders with those same interests. There will be time in the classroom and outdoor experiences throughout the region. The cost to participate is only \$250 for this 9-day program. Upon high school graduation, if a Convergence participant chooses to attend Randolph-Macon College, they will receive a \$1,000 annual scholarship for each year they participated in Convergence.

Visit <http://convergence.rmc.edu/> to nominate a participant and to fill out the nomination form. The Convergence staff will contact your nominee with further information. You may also find the participant's application at this site. For questions contact <convergence@rmc.edu> or 752-8712. ♦

### Join a UMFS Campus Tour

**C**ome and learn more about United Methodist Family Services and the work they do in Richmond and across Virginia. 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 Friday, March 22, 10-1:30 a.m. and Wednesday April 17, 5:30-7 p.m. All are welcome. The tour will start at Walker House on the UMFS campus, 3900 W. Broad Street in Richmond. Please contact Jill Gaynor at <jgaynor@umfs.org> or 254-9463 with any questions. ♦

## 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
3/3	Beth Sholom	A Henderson
3/10	University Park	Bessie Owens
3/17	Beth Sholom	A Henderson
3/24	Elmcroft	R Stephens

## Richmond District Lay Servant Training

The Richmond District Lay Servant

Committee will hold a training event Friday, May 3-Saturday, May 4 at the Virginia United Methodist Conference Center, 10330 Staples Mill Road in Glen Allen. Plans are to have four classes available plus opening welcome, snack breaks, and lunch on Saturday. Watch this space for more details or call Carolyn Williams at 399-6612. ♦



## Large Church Training Event Leading the Church in a Changing Environment

featuring Bishop Ken Carter  
and break-out workshops

### Saturday, March 30

9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Woodlake UMC

15640 Hampton Park Drive, Chesterfield VA 23832

See <[www.vaumc.org/Events](http://www.vaumc.org/Events)> for more information  
and to register online.



## DISTRICT DISPATCH

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The United Methodist Church  
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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

- ◆ March 13–Women of the Spirit, Reveille, 359-6041.
- ◆ March 19–Fresh Expressions Vision Day, Shady Grove UMC, Mechanicsville, 521-1155.
- ◆ March 22–UMFS Campus Tour, UMFS, 254-9463.
- ◆ March 27–28–Goodson Academy of Preaching, Trinity UMC, 540/335-5175.
- ◆ March 30–Large Church Training Event, Woodlake UMC, 521-1155.
- ◆ April 5–UMUMR Geranium Sale, Bon Air UMC, 229-4277.
- ◆ April 6–District UMW Prayer Breakfast, Shady Grove UMC, Mechanicsville, 744-3034.
- ◆ April 17–UMFS Campus Tour, UMFS, 254-9463.
- ◆ April 27–Rebuilding Together, Reveille UMC, 359-6041.
- ◆ May 3–4–Richmond District Lay Servant Training, VAUMC, 399-6612.
- ◆ May 16–Westhampton Day School Golf Tournament, Richmond Country Club, 282-7459.
- ◆ May 18–Bishop Lewis' Chat and Chew, Richmond District, 521-1124.
- ◆ June 4–Richmond District Annual Conference Orientation, location TBA, 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.
- ◆ June 22–30–Convergence, Randolph-Macon College, 752-8712.
- ◆ June 26–27–Helping Hands, St. Paul's, Staunton, (540) 932-1055.
- ◆ July 28–August 2–All God's Children Camp–Occohannock on the Bay, 571/245-9591.
- ◆ August 1–2–Helping Hands, Woodlake UMC, Midlothian, (540) 932-1055.
- ◆ August 1–2–Helping Hands, Deep Creek UMC, Chesapeake, (540) 932-1055.
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