Virginia Annual Conference 2019
Berglund Center
Roanoke VA

Agenda
Thursday morning, June 20
◆ 8 a.m. -- Registration begins
◆ 10 a.m. -- Laity Session -- Coliseum
◆ 10 a.m. -- Clergy Session -- Performing Arts Theatre
◆ 2 p.m. -- Call to Order -- Coliseum

For more Annual Conference information see <www.vaumc.org/AC2019>.

Laity Session and “Meet the Nominees” Opportunity

The Laity Session on Thursday, June 20 begins at 10 a.m. and concludes at 11 a.m. in the Berglund Center. Immediately following this session there will be an opportunity to meet with General Conference Lay Nominees on the floor of the Berglund Center from 11 a.m. to 12 noon. Alphabetical designations in the four corners of the main floor area will be clearly marked for Nominees to locate themselves according to last names. If individuals wish to speak with Nominees you may use this time. If not, persons are dismissed until the Call to Order at 2 p.m. Nominees will have RED ribbons attached to their name tags for ease of identification.

Kits for Conference

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is currently focusing efforts on Cleaning Kits (aka Flood Buckets), Hygiene Kits, and School Kits. Go to <www.umcmission.org/umcor> to learn more about packing kits.

Collection of the kits will begin Wednesday, June 19, 4-8 p.m. and continue Thursday, June 20, 8 a.m.-7 p.m., and Friday, June 21, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Contact Kit Collection Coordinator, the Rev. Morris Fleischer (Newport-Mt. Olivet UMC/Roanoke District), at (540) 544-7183 or <morrisfleischer@vaumc.org> with any questions. See <www.vaumc.org/AC2019> to learn how to volunteer.

If you prefer to make a financial contribution to enable UMCOR to purchase relief kits, you can contribute $75 for each cleaning kit; $12 for each health kit; and $11 for each school kit. Additionally, UMCOR asks for $1 per kit ($3.00 for cleaning buckets) to cover processing and shipping and $1 for toothpaste for each health kit. Please do NOT bring checks to Annual Conference. All checks (for processing and shipping, for toothpaste, and in lieu of providing kits) should be made payable to “Virginia Conference UMC,” earmarked for “kits” and mailed to Treasurer, Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 5605, Glen Allen, VA, 23058 any time prior to Annual Conference and no later than August 31.

District AC Orientation, June 4, 7 p.m.

An orientation session for the Richmond District members of the 2019 Virginia Annual Conference will be held on Tuesday, June 4 at 7 p.m. at Good Shepherd UMC, 9155 Hungary Road, Richmond. It is important that clergy, church lay members, and district lay members be present to be briefed on issues coming before the Conference. Questions? Call 521-1124.

Annual Conference Offering

The 2019 annual conference mission offering goal has been announced: The offering goal is $150,000 and recipients will be:
◆ Africa University Student Scholarships -- $40,000
◆ Cambodia Pastors Leadership Training -- $40,000
◆ Mozambique Lay Leadership Training -- $20,000
◆ Brazil “Shade and Fresh Water” children’s program -- $20,000
◆ Just Neighbors Matching Funds Grant for Immigrant Legal Counsel in four districts -- $30,000

For more information call 521-1105.

UM Center Closings

The District Office and the VAUMC Conference Center will close at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, July 3 and remain closed Thursday, July 4 in observance of the Independence Day holiday.

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Richmond District

The Virginia Conference • United Methodist Church
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Telephone (804) 521-1124 • Fax (804) 521-1176 • RichmondDistrict@vaumc.org

June 2019

Prayers for...

- Bishop Sharma Lewis, who continues on a six month medical leave following a March 7 hip surgery.
- The family of Barbara Snoddy, former Executive Assistant in the Office of Connectional Ministries (formerly Council on Ministries) who died April 23 at age 93.
- The family of Pete Albert, former director of Westview on the James, who died May 2.
- Rev. G. Tom Brown, Jr., retired, who was hospitalized in May with blood clots in his arms and legs.
- Rev. Joe Klotz, Jr., retired, on the death of his father on May 27.

Friends,

“Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest...” Mark 6:31

I hope and pray that all of you have a well-deserved and restful season of rest and recreation this summer. Down time matters.

This has been a rough year. We have wrestled with difficulties in General Conference alongside the typical challenges of church leadership. We have been plagued by multiple commentaries on Facebook and other sources on a nearly daily basis. These things have consumed us and our vital ministries.

But God reminds us that a season or at least a day of rest is still necessary. This very real and contemporary need reminds me of an anecdotal story about Henry Ford and the pioneer electrical inventor Nikola Tesla. It seems that Ford was busy in his plants, cranking out automobiles when one of the generators went out. Production ceased, money was being lost, and a crisis was on the doorstep. Henry Ford wasted no time and called in Tesla himself.

Tesla arrived and inspected the broken generator. He spent a day or two listening to various parts, analyzing multiple elements. Finally, after two or three days, he took a piece of chalk and circled the bad component. It was replaced, the generator was back on line and production resumed.

Henry Ford received a bill for the repair. It was an extraordinary amount for which the famously tight car maker requested an explanation of the various expenses. Though I can’t remember the exact number, Tesla reported that the total bill was something like $10,000. $5 dollars was for the part and $9995 was for knowing which part to replace.

As many stories, it is likely exaggerated but there is yet truth within it. Sometimes the most valuable thing we can add to the conversation is the fruit of reflection and pondering. The problem is that it takes time. When life and denomination goes south, white space for pondering is often the first casualty. As a result, we just throw all sorts of different parts at the problem hoping that something will work.

All this is to say that white space matters for church leaders. There, in the quiet, we find perspective and some level of clarity that rises clearly from the mist of Facebook posts. By all means, take some time this summer. Stare at the waves, stare at a book, or read again the wonder of the Scriptures in reflection and prayer. Maybe, just maybe, like Tesla, we will find the right place to circle when we return from a season of rest and recreation.

Have a great summer and I look forward to seeing many of you at Annual Conference!

In Christ,

Pete
Prayer Vigil for Bishop Lewis

The Board of Discipleship is planning a prayer vigil for Bishop Lewis’ surgery scheduled June 6. It will be a conference wide prayer vigil with individuals and churches sharing a time to pray from 6 p.m. on June 5 through 6 p.m. June 7. The opportunities will be to pray for one hour and a prayer schedule is posted. If you desire a time on the prayer vigil for you and/or your church, please use the sign up Genius to schedule your time at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904044AA8AE2EA46-bishop>. More than one person and/or church can fill the time. We do not know the exact time of her surgery on June 6.

We are asking all persons in the conference to take a moment at 8 a.m. on June 6 and pray the following prayer.

Dear Lord, We know you to be the great physician as we call upon you for healing and restoration of Bishop Sharma Lewis. We pray for a successful surgery, you will be done, for her doctors, nurses and staff. We pray for a quick and successful recovery and healing. We know O Lord, that you alone fill our spirits and that through you all things are possible. Hear our prayer, O Lord. AMEN!

Questions? Email Rev. Don Jamison, chair of the conference Board of Discipleship at <donjamison@vaumc.org>.

Serving God in RVA

Kids Camp: Serving God in RVA will be held June 24-28 at Reveille UMC, 4200 Cary Street Road, Richmond. This summer mission camp is free and open to all children in rising third to sixth grade. Children participate in special mission projects throughout the Richmond region each day. They will also enjoy music, crafts, games, and more! This year’s theme is “God Sent Joseph, God Sends Us.” Register at <www.reveilleumc.org/camps>. Call 359-6041 for more information.

The Bells of Christ Church

Come, hear and experience the rich history and beauty of handbells. One of America’s premier youth handbell choirs, The Bells of Christ Church, hails from historic Christ Church Anglican (1733) in the historic district of Savannah, GA. The choir will be performing their summer tour concert at Reveille UMC at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 5. Ringing on 15 octaves of handbells and chimes, the group has performed in Washington D.C., Colonial Williamsburg, by invitation at the international music festival Spoleto in Charleston and throughout the southeast. The auditioned 12-member bell choir, now in its 20th year, is made up of college and high school students. Their concert includes some of the finest bell repertoire in the genre and includes a history of bells and handbells. Reveille UMC is located at 4200 Cary Street Road, Richmond.

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 Tyle <tyle.chris@gmail.com>.
- August 1-2 hosted at Woodlake UMC, Middletown. 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>.

Listening Well Bible Study

Women of all ages, including high school students, are invited to take an in-depth look at the Biblical stories of seven women, including Eve, Sarah, Rachel, Miriam, Hannah, Ruth, and Esther. The reading will include Bible narratives, articles, and books written by women scholars and critics. Please join us, June 26-August 7, for dinner before the class each week, 5:45 p.m., at Ellwood Thompson’s in Carytown. Discussion will begin at 7 p.m. in Reveille’s welcome center, 4200 Cary Street Road, Richmond. To register, visit <www.reveilleumc.org/study>.

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

This award-winning musical by Andrew Lloyd Webber is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year and Reveille UMC’s youth are bringing it to you in July! Make plans now to attend performances, July 11 or 12, 7 p.m., or July 13, 2 p.m., in Reveille’s sanctuary, 4200 Cary Street Road, Richmond. Performances are free and open to the public. Please invite your friends and family to attend! Learn more at <www.reveilleumc.org/music-events>. Call 359-6041 for more information.

Fresh Expressions

The Richmond and James River Districts, along with the Virginia Conference, are sponsoring a Fresh Expressions Roundtable on Saturday, June 8, 9 a.m.-12 noon, at Bon Air UMC, 1645 Buford Road, North Chesterfield. This event is FREE to individuals who attend and is an opportunity for churches who plan to pursue a Fresh Expression to ask in-depth questions about the fresh expression process and to envision the implications of fresh expressions for their congregation and community. This is a follow-up to a Fresh Expressions Vision Day, however, attendance at a prior Vision Day event is not required. If you are looking to take the next step in launching a fresh expression, this Roundtable is for you! Please visit <www.vaumc.org/events> to register. Questions? Contact Mark Ogren, director of Congregational Excellence, 521-1155.
Mission Encounter 2019

Learning Together for Transformation of the World

Friday, Saturday & Sunday, July 26-28
Smith Mountain Lake 4-H Center, Wirtz VA
See <www.vaumc.org/MissionEncounter> for registration information

Lay Servant Academy

Lay Servants are to serve the local church or charge in any way in which their witness or leadership and service inspires the laity to deeper commitment to Christ and more effective discipleship. The Lay Servant Academy is designed for all laity, not just lay servants. Courses are designed to support those seeking to become Certified Lay Servants and Certified Lay Speakers.

The 2019 Lay Servant Academy will be held August 2-4 at Randolph-Macon College in Ashland. For a brochure and/or registration go to www.vaumc.org/events.

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:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
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<tr>
<td>6/2</td>
<td>Beth Sholom</td>
<td>A Henderson</td>
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<tr>
<td>6/9</td>
<td>University Park</td>
<td>Bessie Owens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/16</td>
<td>Beth Sholom</td>
<td>A Henderson</td>
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<tr>
<td>6/23</td>
<td>ElmCroft</td>
<td>B Stephens</td>
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District Opportunities

◆ June 4–Richmond District Annual Conference Orientation, Good Shepherd UMC, 521-1124.
◆ June 5–Bells of Christ Church, Reveille UMC, 359-6041.
◆ June 6–Prayer Vigil for Bishop Lewis, 703/472-7100.
◆ June 8–Westview at Panera near Broad Street, 457-4210.
◆ June 8–Fresh Expressions Roundtable, Bon Air UMC, 521-1155.
◆ June 8–Westview at Chipotle near Broad & Gaskins 457-4210.
◆ June 16-20–All God's Children Camp, Camp Chanco, 571/245-9591.
◆ June 20-22–Annual Conference, Roanoke.
◆ June 22-30–Convergence, Randolph-Macon College, 752-8712.
◆ June 24-28–Serving God in RVA, Reveille UMC, 359-6041.
◆ June 26-August 7–Listening Well, Reveille UMC, 359-6041.
◆ July 6-13–Highland Support Project, Guatemala, 752-7374.
◆ 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.
◆ August 2-4–Lay Servnt Academy, Randolph-Macon College, 521-1155.
◆ August 11-16–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.