The Richmond District Dispatch

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

Early Response Team Training

Mission Possible

Opportunities

UM Center Closings

Effective July 1 the District Office and the Conference Center will close at 1 p.m. on Fridays through Labor Day. Please call before you come to assure that someone is here to greet you.

The District Office and the VAUMC Conference Center will close at 1 p.m. on Friday, August 30 and remain closed Monday, September 2 in observance of the Labor Day holiday.

Bishop’s Convocation on Prayer
Saturday, September 21
Trinity UMC
903 Forest Avenue, Richmond 23229

Dr. Terry Tekyl will be the plenary speaker. There will also be small group learning opportunities in the areas of prayer and Wesleyan spiritual disciplines. Both laity and clergy are invited to attend. Registration costs $10 including lunch. The deadline to register is September 13. See <www.vaumc.org/events> for more information or call 521-1133.

District Stewards to Meet

There will be a meeting of the Richmond District Stewards on Thursday, August 22 at 7 p.m. in rooms 120-122 of the Virginia United Methodist Conference Center at 10330 Staples Mill Road in Glen Allen. The purpose of this meeting is to approve the 2019 Richmond District Budget and the distribution of the Apportionments to the District churches. Each church should elect a steward to attend this meeting if a steward has not been previously elected. All clergy are also invited to attend this meeting. For more information call 521-1124.

SAVE THE DATE!

Richmond District Youth Retreat
February 14-16, 2020
Eagle Eyrie

Watch for more information!

Transforming Grace

Registration is now open for the 2019 UMMen’s Spiritual Advance at Baylake UMC in Virginia Beach on September 27-28. Featured speaker is the Rev. Dr. Kevin Watson, author of The Class Meeting and Bible study teacher at the 2019 Virginia Annual Conference. The theme is Transforming Grace. Special rates are available for pastors, early birds, spouses, and, if you attended last year, Bring One Get One (BOGO) for first timers. New this year, church sponsorships are targeted for churches who have never attended the event or those currently with no formal UMMen organization. Open to all churches, the challenge is to line up 12 men to come and receive both a discounted rate and a free event themed T-shirt. A box lunch option is available on Saturday so you may have more fellowship on site with your brothers in Christ. See <http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=pjflbvcab&o eidk=a07egem5c6j289c454o> to register.

Um Center Closings

A Word from the Superintendent

Early Respne Team Training

Mission Possible

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Prayers for...

- Rev. Jonathan Poarch, Beulah associate, on the death of his grandfather, Ronald, on May 17.
- Rev. Jim Noland and wife, Carolyn. She has been diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia.

Friends,

Last March, a tornado blew through Lee County Alabama. Following the blast, a Facebook post went viral with a picture of a devastated home with only a single closet remaining on the foundation. It turns out that this closet was the family’s “prayer closet.” The only thing remaining after the tornado was this place of prayer.

That is a story just begging to be preached, but more importantly, there is a lesson for our church. Billy Graham said “When we come to the end of ourselves we come to the beginning of God.” Within all the struggles of our denomination, on top of the regular challenges of ministry, many of us are living within or approaching that place which Billy Graham described.

Recently, several of us who plan District events had some initial concern that so much of our emphasis throughout the fall was simply on prayer. We typically like to have some variation on our programmatic themes. But now I recognize that this is simply the place to which God is calling us. When so many things go south, the prayer closet remains. So please allow me to remind you of the coming opportunities to build our prayer life this fall.

First, we will be gathering every Tuesday at Reveille Church at 12:30 for a brief time of prayer. We will be praying for the revival and renewal of the people called Methodist in Richmond and beyond. We had originally scheduled this for Richmond Hill in the mornings but the space isn’t available. Reveille has graciously offered us their space and we will be gathering there each week from August 6th until Advent.

Secondly, the Bishop has called for our annual Convocation on Prayer. It will be Saturday September 21st right here in Richmond at Trinity UMC. Dr. Terry Tekyl will be leading us through the day and I believe all of us can profit from that time together.

Finally, on Tuesday October 29th, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sue Nilson Kibbey will be leading a time for both clergy and laity called “Breakthrough Prayer.” I have been a part of this day with her before and have seen how much her leadership on prayer has helped individuals and congregations. We will be sending you more information on this but please save the date.

We can spend a lot of time with the wringing of hands and anxiously searching for the answers to our denominational struggles or we can do something about it. There are many things we can do but all of those things begin in this place of prayer. As I look on this struggling foundation in the storm, I hope and pray you will join me in the prayer closet throughout these opportunities this fall. See you there!

In Christ

Pete

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Early Response Training

Woodlake UMC will host Early Response Training on Saturday October 5 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at a cost of $35 which includes the training, manual, badge, snacks and lunch. Woodlake is located at 15640 Hampton Park Drive, Chesterfield 23832. Registration is limited to 24. Contact Susan Custer at <scuster101@gmail.com> for registration before October 1.

Holy Land Tour

Bishop Sharma D. Lewis invites you to join her on a 10 day Holy Land tour, February 24-March 4, 2020, that will expand your knowledge of the Bible and this sacred land. A journey following in the footsteps of Jesus will change the way you read the Bible, and you will learn why scholars refer to it as the “Fifth Gospel.” The all inclusive cost from Richmond is $3,398. Contact <tomjoyce@vaumc.org> for an information brochure.

Please consider this a personal invitation to be a part of this adventure in faith and join Bishop Lewis in experiencing a once in a lifetime journey as you walk where Jesus walked!

5 Talent Academy

Mark your calendars now and make plans to attend Engage 2019: Community Transformation, November 14 at Woodlake UMC, 15640 Hampton Park Drive, Chesterfield 23832. This training event to empower the local church in the 21st century will feature Jacqueline J. Lewis, senior minister at Middle Collegiate Church, NY, NY; Michael Adam Beck, senior pastor of Wildwood UMC, Wildwood, FL; Andy and Najie Woodworth, co-pastors at Neighborhood Church, Atlanta, GA; and Bishop Ken Carter of the Florida Conference UMC.

Also, clergy are invited to participate in a pre-event, November 13, with Bishop Carter and colleagues. Register now at <www.vaumc.org/5Talent>.

Prayers for...

- Rev. Jonathan Poarch, Beulah associate, on the death of his grandfather, Ronald, on May 17.
- Rev. Jim Noland and wife, Carolyn. She has been diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia.
Mission Possible!

Lakeside UMC will be taking a United Methodist Volunteer In Mission team to Tarboro, NC to participate in a massive hurricane recovery effort presently being undertaken by the North Carolina Conference.

This is a team where NO experience is necessary and where anybody can make a difference in a multi-year effort to provide relief to the thousands of homes affected by several hurricanes over the last few years. Many houses sit damaged and unoccupied waiting for teams to help families adjusting to a new reality. This is where we come in...and they know we are coming.

The dates are Sunday, September 29 to Saturday, October 5. We'll bring commonly used tools while some supplies will be provided to us. Our work will be assigned to us when we arrive and will be based on the capabilities of our team, but ANYONE can help. The cost is $350 and each team member needs to bring their own bedding, towels and personal items. Transportation, food, insurance, supplies and registration are all included. There will be at least one and perhaps two mandatory team meetings.

For more information and/or questions and an application, contact team leader, Kip Robinson, at <Krobin7856@aol.com> or 539-2494. ...Do all the good you can as long as ever you can. ~John Wesley

Mentor's Needed

All God's Children Camp has successfully completed one amazing week of camp. There are still two weeks to go. AGGC serves children with at least one incarcerated parent. AGGC is still in need of seven male mentors for the week of August 11-16 at Chanco on the James. Please call today to volunteer. For more information contact Lori Smith at (571) 245-9591 or <littlelori@gmail.com>.

Youth Ministry Training

Reveille UMC, 4200 Cary Street Road, will be a host site for DYM's (Download Youth Ministry) National Day of Volunteer Youth Ministry Training on Saturday, September 21, 9-11:30 a.m. This video based live training will feature the following topics:

- Ministering to Teenagers through Your Personality and Story--Heather Flies
- Helping Parents Win--Kara Powell
- What All Kids Need From A Caring Volunteer--Chap Clark
- The Heart of a Volunteer--Doug Fields
- New Learnings on the Adolescent Brain--Mark Oestreicher
- Making Disciples That Make Disciples --Karl Romeus
- Practical Help for Hurting Kids--Katie Edwards
- How to Build Relationships When Everyone is Busy--Josh Griffin

The video training program takes place, 9:00-11:30 a.m. with eight TED Talk-style training sessions, discussion breaks, speaker Q & A, prizes, giveaways, and more. After the event, attendees will have access to additional training videos.

The fee to attend is $99 per church, which covers all participants from your church. To register, visit <www.bit.ly/youth-ministry-training>.

For more information about this visit <www.trainmyvolunteers.com> or call 359-6041.

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, Wednesday evenings through 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>.

Richmond District Mini-Mission Encounter

Saturday, September 14, 2019
8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Beulah United Methodist Church
6930 Hopkins Road
Richmond, VA 23234
(804) 275-2325

- What is it? A mini version of the Virginia Conference Mission Encounter. Participants will gain an overview of the Mission Studies. The Mini-Mission Encounter provides an opportunity for men, women, and youth to learn about partnering in God’s global mission and to grow spiritually.

- Who Should Attend? Any United Methodist with a passion for Missions.

- Mission Studies:
  - Spiritual Growth Study: Practicing Resurrection. The Gospel of Mark and Radical Discipleship
  - Study Leader: Rev. Laura Douglass
  - Anniversary Study: Women United for Change: 150 Years in Mission
  - Study Leader: Mrs. Ann Klotz
  - Issue Study: What About Our Money?
  - Study Leader: Rev. David Rash

- Schedule
  - 8:30–9:00 Registration, Continental Breakfast, Displays
  - 9:00-9:30 Program
  - 9:30-2:30 Study Groups
  - 12:30 Depart for Home

- Mission Emphasis: Liberation Veteran Services (formerly Freedom House)

Jointly sponsored by the Richmond District United Methodist Women & Board of Missions

Registration deadline is September 6. Registration information available at <www.richmonddistrictumc.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:

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
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<tr>
<td>8/4</td>
<td>Beth Sholom</td>
<td>A Henderson</td>
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<tr>
<td>8/11</td>
<td>University Park</td>
<td>R Stephens</td>
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<tr>
<td>8/18</td>
<td>Beth Sholom</td>
<td>A Henderson</td>
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<td>8/25</td>
<td>Elmcroft</td>
<td>C Williams</td>
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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 Kezel 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=3135966> to register for these events. Questions? Contact David Bailey <dw.bailey@comcast.net> or 338-3168.

District Opportunities

- August 6–District Call to Prayer Reveille UMC, 521-1124.
- August 7–Listening Well Bible Study, Reveille UMC, 359-6041.
- August 11-16–All God’s Children Camp, Camp Chanco, 571/245-9991.
- August 22–District Stewards, VAUMC, 521-1124.
- September 14–Richmond District Mini-Mission Encounter, Beulah, 222-8480.
- September 21–Bishop’s Convocation on Prayer, Trinity UMC, 521-1133.
- September 27-28–UMMen’s Spiritual Advance, Baylake UMC, 757/839-0790.