

Advocate

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WHAT? Everyone Vlogs and up
WHEN? Every Sunday 6-8pm
WHAT? Christian Rock Singalong

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Virginia Advocate

The official magazine of
the Virginia Conference of
The United Methodist Church

FROM THE EDITOR



Neill Caldwell
Editor

Problems solved*

You've seen the numbers... The United Methodist Church in the United States continues to see its membership numbers fall. And yet there are churches out there that continue to grow, grow, grow... Hmmmm. What do they have that we don't have?

Well, if you're a tiny church (like mine) and they're a big church, that list may be a long and depressing one. But there are principles that even the smallest churches can apply to make them more attractive. Here's a sample:

Curb appeal: No one wants to live in a house that's falling down, with a yard that may harbor Jimmy Hoffa. Same thing goes for your church. A small investment in paying a teenager to mow the grass could go a long way in making your space more attractive to that family that moved in down the street.

Welcoming spirit: The vast majority of our congregations consider themselves friendly. And they are, to one another. But to a visitor (I actually like the term "guest" better), that can be a different story. We all need to do a better job in welcoming the stranger, no matter how strange they look (or smell). Make a guest feel like part of the family and he or she will come back. This includes having up-to-date signs and ushers/greeters who are actually good at those jobs.

Outward focus: Ask United Methodists to join hands and form a circle and they will do it the old "Ring-Around-the-Rosie" way, the same way we circle up to say grace. But Leonard Sweet, author, futurist and United Methodist clergy, says we church folks ought to flip around and face the other way, grasping hands with our backs to one another and facing outward. Yes, it's unfamiliar and uncomfortable, but it's what the church should be about. We need to have ministries that make a difference in the community, beyond the walls of the church. Look around, find a need and fill it. This is where the "transformation of the world" part comes in.

Remove barriers: These can be physical – lack of handicapped access, for example – or emotional, such as resistance to anything new.

Worship that means something: Not just going through the motions.

Hope for the future: While I am no expert, I can't imagine the Holy Spirit spending much time in a dead or dying church. The Bible tells us to have a vision of the great things to come. A positive attitude goes a long way. "If you build it, they will come"? Maybe. My little church has no children, but we do have a nursery. We created it a few years ago – in fact the older adults gave up their Sunday school space to make it happen – in hopes that when children do come, and there is a need for a nursery, we have a bright and warm one waiting. ☺

*Not guaranteed in all states.



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Local Church News

Items should be typed (preferably sent via e-mail) or printed legibly, no more than 100 words, and of conference-wide interest. Complete names of individuals, churches and districts should be included. Because of space limitations, the Local Church section prohibits news items related to church members' birthdays (of less than 100 years), wedding anniversaries, receptions for moving and/or retiring pastors, photos of traditional Christmas trees or Easter trees/crosses, and any item over two months old. Color photos are encouraged. Photos returned *only* if submitted with a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Photos included on a space available basis. The editor reserves the right to edit all copy or refuse publication.

Letters

Letters to the Editor are printed on a space-available basis. Letters should be limited to 150 words for space reasons. The Advocate will not print letters addressing a topic beyond two months of the publication of that issue. The Advocate editor reserves the right to edit all letters.

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Above: The Blessing of the Animals service at Mt. Olivet UMC



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COMMENTARY

A plea for unity within The United Methodist Church

By Peter Surran

I ask... that they may all be one... so that the world may believe that you have sent me. - John 17:20-21

For those who were raised Methodist in Virginia, the Blackstone Conference and Retreat Center has a nostalgic quality, as it has often been the site of youth retreats through the years.

I was not raised Methodist, and my first impression of Blackstone was formed under stressful circumstances. I am a provisional deacon, and I first stepped foot in the building the day before provisional interviews, where the Board of

Ordained Ministry determines a candidate's readiness for ministry. I suppose I was not in the right frame of mind to appreciate what, in my view, was simply an old building with memories of a glorious past preventing cradle-Methodists from seeing the peeling paint and smelling the mold.

I have taken several trips to Blackstone since, and each time I have felt my attitude toward the place softening. Even so, I was not prepared for the emotion that began seeping into my consciousness on the most recent visit: downright affection. Perhaps it was the ideal weather conditions we experienced; it was warm and bright, and the Knock-out roses that line the path to the main entrance had just begun to bloom.

Whatever the cause, I surprised myself by writ-

ing only one suggestion on the evaluation at the end of the event: "Don't leave Blackstone," I wrote, "it is a good place." This dash of sentiment had been precipitated by comments by one of the event leaders. When introducing the evaluation, he directed us to move past any suggestions we would like to make about a change of venue. "It's Blackstone," he said, "We get it."

On the drive home, though, I began wondering if my nostalgia might have more to do with comments I heard at the beginning of the retreat and less to do with those I heard at the end. The first conversation I stumbled upon as I arrived on the campus was about the "impending split" in The United Methodist Church over the issue of homosexuality.

Certainly, this topic has gained some heat recently, and bloggers and other writers have spilled lots of ink debating the pros and cons of a schism. What alarmed me about the conversation was not so much the content but the attitude with which the issue was being discussed. Not only was the split presented as if it were a foregone conclusion, but it was being talked about with a defeatist attitude. "Oh well," said the tone of the rhetoric, "it is going to happen and there's nothing we can do about it."

I suddenly felt like someone who had arrived at a great party only to find that it had been going on for a while and was wrapping up.



COMMENTARY

I joined the denomination in 2005, after being raised Roman Catholic and having a brief fling with the Religious Society of Friends. I was attracted by Methodism's ability to maintain a tension between the great things the Catholic Church has within its tradition and the emphasis on the personal experience of God that lies at the heart of Quakerism.

There is within the DNA of the Methodist Church, present from the outset, an adaptability gene that enables it to flex and change as need arises while still being true to its mission of "making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." The UMC is indeed a big tent, and it is specifically suited to survive heavy winds and storms without shredding or blowing away. It is designed to do "theology on the fly," as the needs of the world change and as the Spirit moves the church to address those needs.

One example of how this concept has been in action over the years is in the ordering of ministry. Ask any member of the church, clergy or lay, to explain how the ministry is set up and you will start to hear words like "licensing," "commissioning," "consecrating" and "ordaining." Any verb that is synonymous with being "set apart" for ministry has been commandeered, and a dizzying array of categories has been attached to those verbs, each meant to suit particular needs in the Body of Christ.

If The United Methodist Church is able to expend that much time and energy to work out a ministerial system that meets the needs of the world, why then are we unable or unwilling to spend the time and energy shaping ourselves into a unified body that refuses to break the "connection" under any circumstances? If we pride ourselves on being a "connectional" church, why are we willing to surrender that characteristic at a time when an inability to commit is such a lamented trait of the larger culture?


My colleagues' discussion was prompted by a resolution that is being prepared for presentation at the 2016 General Conference. It calls on the church to practice full inclusion of gay and lesbian people in all aspects of church life, including ordained ministry. I must admit that my own thoughts on the issue are confused and changeable as I take in and consider each new argument. If I were able to vote at the General Conference, which I'm not, I could not say which way I'd go at this point.

There is one resolution, however, about which I would be completely certain: a resolution of unity. If we could somehow resolve that The United Methodist Church would continue to be a united Methodist Church, then I believe we would be giving a truly Christian witness to the world, which surely would love to hear yet another

story of a denomination that called it quits over the issue of homosexuality. My desire, above all else, is that we could make such a resolution before any other discussion takes place.

I don't think that I am naïve. Perhaps we are getting to a point where a split is inevitable and the only thing left to work out is the property distribution, like in an ugly divorce. But our history and polity and commitment to connection give me hope that we might still find a way to do what other groups have been unable to do: stay together, work it out, agree to disagree, mend it, not end it.

Perhaps, then, I was projecting my feelings for The

United Methodist Church, a body that I have unabashedly come to love, onto Blackstone. This building, like the church, has a grand history of changing as needs present. It is big and unwieldy and a bit crumbly in spots. It is also, however, a place where people have met God, and continue to meet God. The Word is preached there, and the sacraments are duly administered, and disciples are made. Might there, then, be something worth saving? 

-The Rev. Peter Surran is Minister of Evangelism at Franktown UMC, Eastern Shore District.

Letters to the Editor are printed on a space-available basis. Letters may be e-mailed to NeillCaldwell@vaumc.org by the first of the month.

Chaplain Needed

Windsor Meade of Williamsburg (a Virginia United Methodist Home) is looking for a Chaplain to provide pastoral presence to the residents, their families and staff. This part-time position (20 hours per week) includes coordinating, planning and presiding over community worship services and providing spiritual counseling. The qualified candidate will have a bachelor's degree and be an ordained minister with training in Christian education and pastoral care. Certification in older adult ministries preferred. Download full job description at: <http://www.vaumc.org/ncfilerepository/Jobs/WindsorMeadeChaplain.pdf>. E-mail resume to wmdcareers@vumh.org.



COMMENTARY

Strategies to transform The United Methodist Church

By Randy Willis

I want to reflect on four specific ways God can use us to bring about transformation in The United Methodist Church.

Engage in prayer and fasting.

Nothing is more important, and necessary, than prayer and fasting. Transformation begins in prayer, prayer that is broken and fervent. As Mark Batterson says in his great book on prayer, *The Circle Maker*, we must pray “as long as it takes”!

I also love what Elaine Robinson suggests: “In the early annual conferences of the Methodist movement (well before any such gargantuan as General Conference emerged), they began the conference ‘after some time spent in prayer.’ I wonder what might happen if we spent the first 24 hours gathered in prayer, silent prayer especially, and listening for God? No politicking or maneuvering allowed! Can we expect holy conferencing to be holy if we haven’t quieted ourselves to listen for God?”

Without prayer and fasting, we will never experience widespread transformation in The United Methodist Church!

Recover our Wesleyan theology.

In his book, *The Recovery of a Contagious Methodist Movement*, George Hunter includes Wesleyan theology as one of the things Methodists must recover in order to become a missional movement again. It’s impossible to understand John Wesley’s vision and the Methodist way without understanding Wesley’s theology. Another good, readable book about Wesleyan theology is *This We Believe* by Bishop William Willimon.

Redevelop Wesleyan small groups.

Hunter mentions small groups as one of the Wesleyan practices that we need to recover. Kevin Watson also calls for the recovery of small groups, or what early Methodists called “class meetings” (see his book, *A Blueprint for Discipleship*). It’s hard to imagine The United Methodist Church being distinctively Wesleyan without an emphasis on small groups for discipleship and “watching over one another in love.”

Practice transformational leadership.

Hunter lists “lay ministry” and “missional Christianity” as practices that must be recovered. Transformational leaders equip (lay) people for the work of ministry (i.e., missional Christianity).


Transformational leaders are especially needed in a

declining institution, but leadership in such a context is challenging. Institutions naturally guard against leaders.

Much has been said in the wake of 2012 General Conference about lack of trust. Included in our lack of trust is fear of leadership. In fact, a lot of our structure is designed to protect the organization from leadership, which is part of the reason the current *Book of Discipline* includes the word “shall” 4,835 times, according to Bishop Robert Schnase. Retired Bishop Timothy Whitaker asks, “Could it be that the Spirit is leading us to confront the lack of trust that exists among us?”

In organizations that need turning around, leaders must be pot-stirrers. They challenge the process.

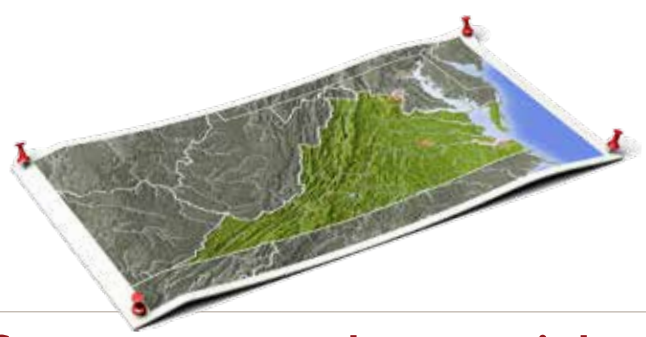
Transformation takes time; it doesn’t happen overnight. Transformational leaders must be patient and persistent. Transformational leaders plant seeds, cultivate the environment, and shape the culture. Over time, God brings about transformation.

I believe transformation of The United Methodist Church is possible. Ultimately, transformation is God’s work. But we must cooperate with what God is doing! 

—The Rev. Randy Willis is pastor at Centre Grove UMC in Clearfield, Penn., Susquehanna Conference.



The United Methodist connection in VIRGINIA



Missionary says Vietnam is ripe for progress on human rights

Even Vietnam, with its hard-line Communist government, is ripe for progress in the area of human rights, new General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM) missionary Dr. Quynh-Hoa Nguyen told seminary students during a recent week-long visit to the Virginia Conference.

Nguyen, who graduated from Claremont Theological Seminary a year ago, has been back in Vietnam teaching and translating materials after spending 15 years in California getting her education. She spoke to Dr. Lynne Caldwell's class at the School of Theology at Virginia Union University in Richmond. She is a professor at Wesley Theological College in Ho Chi Minh City.

She said that she is seeing more and more people willing to speak out for more personal freedom, even though the Vietnamese government is quick to jail those who even hint at a dissenting opinion.

United Methodists in Vietnam are not ready to raise their voices in support, however.

"The Catholic church is much stronger, so they are very involved in that area. The Protestant faith is still somewhat new, so we still belong to the margins. So we remain silent. Still, the struggle for human rights and democracy is increasing."

Protests erupted across

Vietnam last week over China's recent foray into Vietnamese territorial waters, and in several locations turned violent when the mob targeted Chinese-owned businesses. Chinese workers were attacked, and as many as six killed. This week China sent ships in to evacuate thousands of its citizens.

The Communist government became more open to religion in 2007. Buddhism is still the primary religion among the Vietnamese, claiming about 85 percent, and about 8-10 percent of the population is Roman Catholic. The population of Vietnam is close to 89 million.

Protestant congregations are small in Vietnam, basically house churches, Nguyen said. "The United Methodist Church is 'underground' ... The government knows we exist but as long as there is no political threat they leave us alone. We don't have sanctuaries or chapels."

The Vietnamese do put a high value on education. Wesley Theological College has a compound where classes are taught, and both students and faculty have apartments. There is also space for worship.

Vietnam is part of The United Methodist Church's Southeast Asia Mission, which also includes Laos and Thailand. The church is working toward full recognition by the government

of Vietnam.

Nguyen grew up in a Christian home in Da Nang, and her father was a member of the South Vietnamese armed forces. The fall of Saigon in 1975 brought major change to her family, who lost everything, and her father was placed in a "re-education" camp.

She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English at Ho Chi Minh University, a Master of Divinity degree from the United Methodist-related Claremont School of Theology, and a PhD in Religion from Claremont in 2013.

Nguyen said that one of the reasons that she picked The United Methodist Church was because of the denomination's openness to women pastors.

"I come from a culture where women are not ordained," she said. "It was said that the only reason women enrolled at a Bible

school was to find a husband. Now there are more women (enrolled) than men."

Nguyen said that the original decision to come to the United States was very difficult for her.

"At that time, going to the U.S. to live was the dream of everyone in Vietnam," she said. "But going to study theology, and as a woman, was another thing completely. I had a burning desire to learn what God had in store for me, and I thought it would be the best way for me to serve my church in Vietnam."

Dr. Nguyen was officially commissioned at the California-Pacific Annual Conference. 📖

-Neill Caldwell

Dr. Quynh-Hoa Nguyen, a GBGM missionary in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, shares a laugh with students of the Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University in Richmond.



The United Methodist connection in VIRGINIA



Q & A with Denise Honeycutt

By Neill Caldwell

The Rev. Dr. Denise Honeycutt describes her steeple-steep learning curve in moving from the pulpit of St. Matthews United Methodist Church in the Virginia Conference to direct the denomination's disaster response agency, the United Methodist Committee On Relief (UMCOR), as "trying to drink out of a fire hose."

Since starting at UMCOR's Upper West Side, New York City, headquarters in September, Honeycutt and her husband, the Rev. Pat Watkins, have moved from a tiny apartment to a slightly less tiny apartment, and now Watkins also has an office in the "God Box" at 475 Riverside Drive, just one floor below his wife's office.

I recently spent some time with Dr. Honeycutt in her office overlooking the Hudson River talking about her new position:

How do you and Pat like living in New York City?

Honeycutt: I love New York! There's an incredible international diversity of people. It's been a good thing.

We're living in a 550-square-foot apartment! We've had to live more simply. When we got married we planned to live a simple life, but over the years you tend to accumulate a lot of stuff. You have to ask yourself, 'what do you really need?'

Pat will be commissioned at Virginia Annual Conference ... Has been a Church and Community Worker focused on Virginia. Now, through working for the Council of Bishops (and General Secretary Thomas Kemper), he will be a missionary for Care of God's Creation for the whole denomination.

What does the General Secretary for UMCOR do? What's a typical day like?

Of course UMCOR is part of the General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM) and we identify places of collaboration, places where we can connect as we work to alleviate human suffering.

It feels like a good fit for me.

A 'typical' day starts with prayer time, like the daily 'Stand Up' session (at the Virginia Conference Connectional Ministries office) with staff. Prayer undergirds all that we do.

UMCOR is a very proficient relief agency, a humanitarian relief organization but one propelled by our faith and Christian values. We work with partner organizations – I just met with the CEO of UNICEF, for example. Disaster response is our flagship, and we remain very strongly committed to that. But in addition we have a global health unit – Imagine No Malaria is one example of their work – that is looking at how we might better meet the needs of

maternal and child health. When we open a health clinic we create a health board in each location that is all indigenous persons, to determine the medical needs we can respond to. We train rural health care workers in treatment of malaria, HIV/AIDS, childbirth.

UMCOR also has an international development unit that works to transform a community after a disaster strikes. How do you restore water, employment, sustainable agriculture? It's one other way we journey with people for the long term.

Here's one example, the recent cholera outbreak in Democratic Republic of Congo... We got cholera meds there within two weeks. We located the water sources – because it's a water-borne disease – and brought in filters for the wells. For the long-term, we worked with the local churches and government to educate people how to prevent cholera. That's an example of all the units working together in one place,

What have you learned about the agency that maybe you didn't know before?

A lot of people like to say UMCOR is the 'first in and last out.' Well, we're not really the first there. We're not first responders. We look at who is already on the ground, what capacities they have to handle relief work. With

Denise Honeycutt is elected to lead the denomination's relief agency.



The United Methodist connection in VIRGINIA

UMCOR, it's more long-term care.

Meanwhile in the U.S., it's training conference coordinators, training volunteers, having disaster plans in place... the work of UMCOR actually goes on long before a disaster strikes.

The other new thing I've learned about UMCOR is how we leverage church money to receive even more money. For example, we raised \$260,000 for South Sudan. We then went to European Commission, which is concerned with malnourishment and feeding issues. We applied for a grant and said 'we have raised more than a quarter of a million dollars.' They gave us \$1 million. So the United Methodist dollars were multiplied to do even more.

It's great to see all of the projects: building fish ponds, teaching the poorest of the poor to grow and sell melons, or become beekeepers, or grow vegetables in refugee camps. It's great to see these things up close.

I knew UMCOR had a great reputation around the world and with other NGOs. We adhere to international standards. We never discriminate, are never there just for United Methodist victims. We follow very rigorous standards for reporting of our practices and are good stewards of the money we receive, using it the way people ask for it to be used.



How was your experience visiting in the Philippines earlier this year to see UMCOR's ongoing Typhoon Yolanda relief work?

Fortunately we have an UMCOR office there (in the Philippines) so when the typhoon struck, we were able to quickly learn what the needs were. We always try to buy supplies locally to help the ruined economy, so first was food and water. We can't be everything to everybody so we work with partner organizations that are vetted very carefully. Then we get to know the community.

The news media focused on Tacloban, but we went to another smaller community right outside

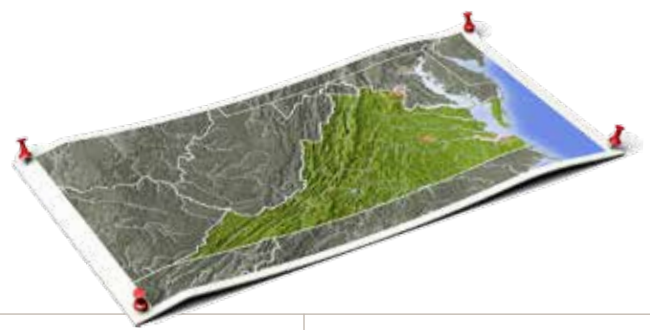
there where there was also great need. We worked with the mayor to try and show that we were going to be with them long-term. The town of Calogcog had about 200 fatalities; there were 300 families there and 220 lost their homes. Seventy percent of the people get their livelihood from harvesting coconuts, and there won't be any coconut crops for a while, so they lost their homes and their work.

(Continued on next page: "Denise Honeycutt")

Dr. Honeycutt (red top) talks with Typhoon Yolanda survivors in the Philippines in January.



The United Methodist connection in VIRGINIA



("Denise Honeycutt," continued from previous page)

When I went in January it was still pretty devastated, really devastation as far as you could see... coconut trees snapped off, a huge barge washed up in the middle of the street, still bodies under the debris in some places, so it smelled horrific. I saw great needs, but also great resilience among the people. They would recognize the UMCOR logo and come up to you. I toured one neighborhood and the mayor's wife held my hand the whole time. She would say 'that used to be where our school was...' You have to recognize people's dignity, even though they've lost everything, and we work to respect that.

Honeycutt (at right) with Bishop Cynthia Fierro Harvey - whom she followed as head of UMCOR - and General Secretary Thomas Kemper of the General Board of Global Ministries at the recent UMW gathering in Louisville.

UMCOR will start a housing project there, using local labor, local engineers, contractors... the homes will be strong enough to stand up to typhoons, and there will be several plans, options for people to choose from. The goal is 220 homes. That's why we have not put out a big call for teams, because we're using the local people to rebuild.

What other trips do you have planned in 2014?

I will be at the National Disaster Academy at the Sager Brown Depot in Louisiana, but am also going to Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Zimbabwe and Armenia and Georgia.

There are 300 medical centers in Africa without

electricity, water, even roofs. Our medical board has asked for help in this area. This year we will spend time learning about the needs, and then will be out connecting with our churches, letting them know what we are doing.

UMCOR has a stellar reputation. After Hurricane Katrina, FEMA asked us to take over case management because they knew our reputation. We have 40 staff in New York and larger number of folks in the field. Right now we are in the process of shifting some of the UMCOR offices to become local NGOs so that they can get access to more grant money.

Did your missionary experience help prepare you for this position?

There's a great quote: "If I am faithful today, I can be ready for whatever tomorrow brings." I think the places that God has led me have helped equip me to be in this place. I've had experience in the small church, large church, conference staff, as a GBGM board member and a missionary, at many different levels of our denomination. So it's not just one lens I am looking through. I learned in Nigeria that we (Americans) don't have all the answers. We have to work in partnerships. You have to learn the importance of strategic partnerships. For example, the Ginghamburg (United Methodist) Church wanted to be in a mission that



The United Methodist connection in VIRGINIA

was sustainable over many years, so UMCOR and Ginghamburg partner to do work together in Sudan and South Sudan.

What are your goals?

To continue UMCOR's organizational excellence and good stewardship. We have the mandate of the church to be the mission and ministry to the world. We are an extension of the local church in the world. In fact we wouldn't be here without the local church.

How about some challenges you see?

I love that we can say that 100 percent of any gift goes to whatever place it's intended, thanks to the One Great Hour of Sharing. But that was down last year. Some churches don't even take that offering. So there's a challenge to increase those funds so we can continue to operate.

I see a challenge in the acceleration in the number of disasters around the world. Syria, South Sudan, the Philippines and Central Africa are all Stage 5 United Nations hot spots, and UMCOR is working in all of those places. We're working in Syria and in Jordan trying to create a safe space for Syrian refugee children.

Do you see a connection between environmental issues and the number of disasters?

Yes. Climate change causes conflict, malnutrition, disease... I think it's all interconnected. I see us moving in a more proactive direction because of this, not just responding to disasters. I'd love to see us move the conversation on how can we begin to ask the question of disaster risk reduction. UMCOR is known for high-quality disaster response, but how can we ramp up the training for risk reduction?

What is the main thing the people in the pews ought to know about UMCOR?

First of all, they should be proud of being United Methodist. While the church is broken in so many ways, I catch glimpses of grace: we are making a difference in the world. Second, when they give to UMCOR, 100 percent of that money goes where they want it to go. We take that very seriously. Third, they can stay connected to the work we do, through social media – Facebook, Twitter, our website – or through the Hotline we send out each week. I'd like to ask youth members to be responsible for reading that Hotline every week and let them be responsible for reading in

church each week one place where their United Methodist Church has been at work in the world.

Finally, I know people connect with certain specific projects, but I'd also like to encourage them to think about the "big buckets" that we have: U.S. Disaster, International Disaster, Global Health, Global Development... These funds help us do work in places that never hit the media, like the cholera outbreak in Africa, blizzards in Peru, flooding in Burundi. Through the International Disaster we're able to respond to those areas. And it helps us become more proactive. ☞

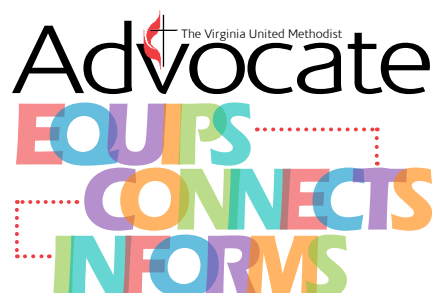
*-Neill Caldwell is editor of the Virginia Advocate.
Learn more about UMCOR's ministry at
www.umcor.org.*

Credit Union CEO to retire

The Virginia United Methodist Credit Union has announced the pending retirement of Carol Mathis, the credit union's Chief Executive Officer, as soon as a replacement is secured. The Rev. Alvin Horton, board chair, said he is saddened by her upcoming departure, "but she is certainly due a well-deserved rest from her 23 years of dedicated service." A job posting is available on the conference website: www.vaumc.org/jobs.

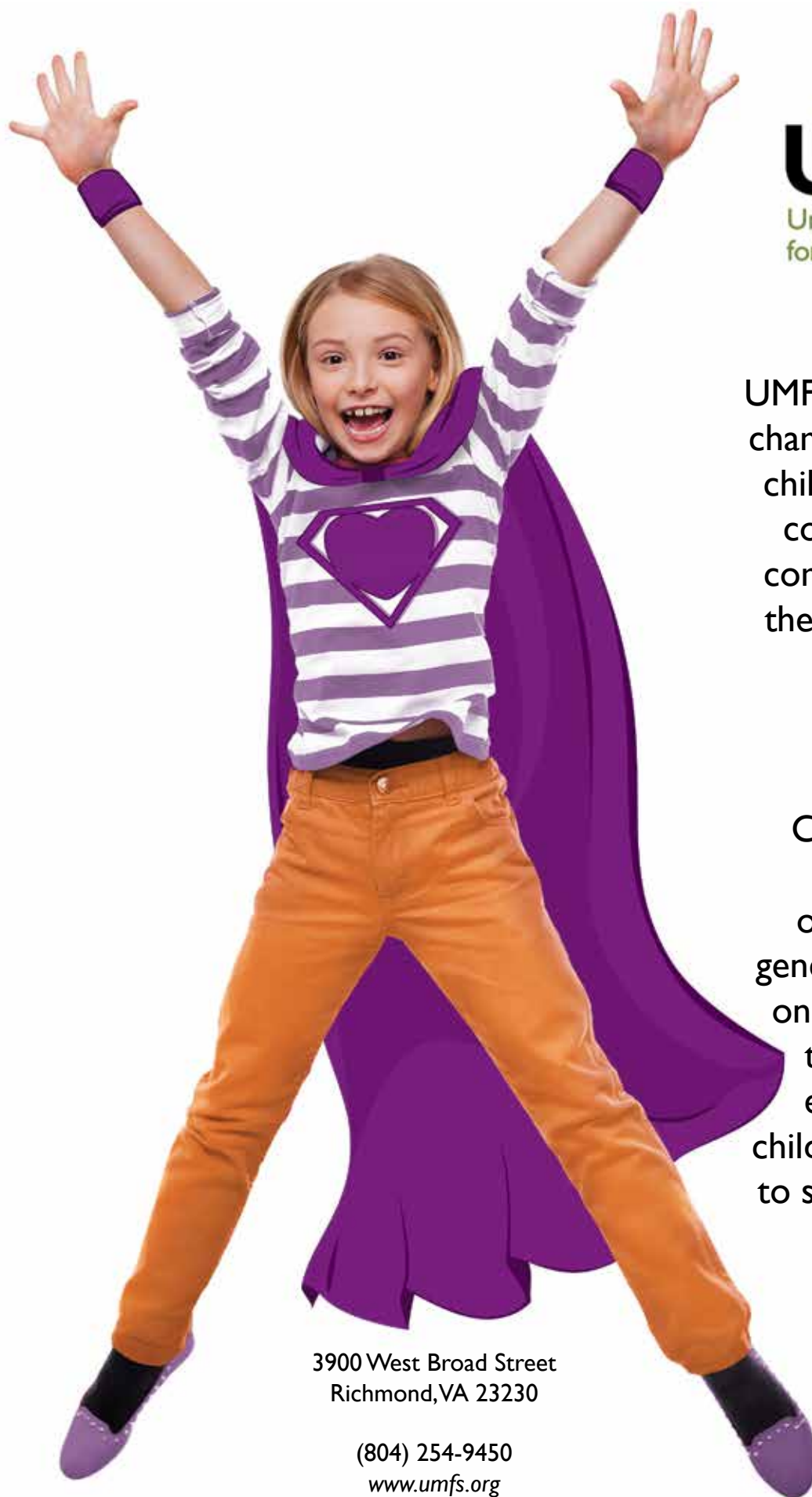


Carol Mathis



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Appointments

CLERGY

KEY

Listings in *italics* are charge names with pastor and churches on the charge listed below the italicized listing. Designations in bold print indicate the first year of appointment. The number in parentheses () indicates the year of current appointment. Ministers other than Elder in Full Connection (FE) in the Virginia Conference are indicated by the following symbols listed after years served:

AF	Affiliate Member
AM	Associate Member
DM	Diaconal Minister
DR	Retired Diaconal Minister
EP	Minister Recog. from other Denom. Serving UM Probation
FD	Deacon in Full Connection
FL	Full-time Local Pastor
LM	Certified Lay Minister (Assigned by district superintendent)
MOD	Minister, Other Denom., Serving Ecumenical Parish
OA	Associate Member, Other Annual Conf.
OD	Deacon Member, Other Annual Conf. or Other Denomination
OE	Elder Member, Other Annual Conf. or Methodist Denom.
OF	Full Member, Other Denom.
OP	Provisional Member, On Loan
OR	Retired FE, Other Conference
PD	Provisional Deacon
PE	Provisional Elder
PL	Part-time Local Pastor
PM	Probationary Member, '92 Disc.
RA	Retired Associate Member
RAF	Retired Affiliate Member
RD	Retired Deacon
RE	Retired Elder
RL	Retired Local Pastor
ROF	Retired, Other Denomination
ROM	Retired, Other Methodist
RP	Retired Probationary/Provisional Member
SY	Lay Supply (Assigned by dist. supt.)
TBS	To Be Supplied

ROLL OF THE FIRST MILE

Church names in red represent congregations that paid 100 percent of their conference and district apportionments last year. Churches in blue paid 101 percent or more. Those in green represent a 10% increase in apportionments paid from the prior year.

ALEXANDRIA DISTRICT

District Superintendent: **Jeffrey P. Mickle** (1)

ALEXANDRIA

Beverly Hills: Sara L. Manner (21)

Del Ray: A. Mark Mrini (8)

Fairlington: Gregory L. Adkins (11)

Associate: Tonya M. Douce (2)

Min. of Congregational Family Life: Christian S. White Jr. (4) FD

Roberts Memorial: Janice Y. Prentace
Commander (3)

Saint Andrew's: Kitan Petreski (9)

Saint James: James E. Henry (23)

Trinity: Phyllis R. Earley (5)

Associate: Matthew J. Benton (4)

Washington Street: Michael A. Lyle (10)

FAIRFAX

Fairfax: Timothy R. Gerde (5)

Associate: Lindsey M. Baynham (3) PE

FAIRFAX COUNTY

Accotink-Cana: **Joo Sup Park** (1) OE

Aldersgate: Dennis W. Perry (13)

Associate: Jason A. Micheli (10)

Associate: **Heather M.H. 'Hedy' Collver**
(1) OE

Annandale: Clarence R. Brown (7)

Associate: Eduardo A. Carrillo (5) FL

Associate for Adult Discipleship: Cynthia D.
Johnson-Oliver (7) OE

Burke: Lawrence W. Buxton (8)

Associate: **Deborah D. Porras** (1)

Dir. Of Mission: Judith G. Fender (14) FD

Cameron: Oliver J. Box (2)

Christ: John C. Speight Jr. (23)

Associate: Monica T. Reynolds (2) PL

Cranford: Lorenzo D. Hill (10)

Franconia: Catharine T. Guest (3)

Lincolnia: **Raymond Max-Jones** (1) OE

Messiah: **Reginald D. Tuck** (1)

Associate: Meghan Roth Clayton (3) PE

Mount Vernon: H. Celeste Heath (11)

New Light: Hyeon Ho Lee (5)

Rising Hope: Keary C. Kincannon (20)

Saint George's: Steven B. Wells (2)

Min. of Music: Joanna S. Dietz (2) FD

Saint John's: Paula P. Werner (2)

Saint Matthew's: **Neil R. Hough** (1)

Associate: **Grace S. Han** (1) PE

Associate of Senior Adults Min. & Visitation:
William E. Moberly (2) PL

Saint Stephen's: **Margaret T. Kutz** (1) RE

Associate: Abigail E. Foerster (2)

Associate: Drew VanDyke Colby (2) PE

Silverbrook: **M. Garey Eakes** (1)

Springfield: Jeffry J. Roberts (3)

Associate: Martha C. Ringenbach (2) PL

Sydenstricker: James D. Thomas (4)

Associate: **Kathy B. Gochenour** (1)

Washington Farm: Philip M. Waltz (2)

Wesley: **Lydia E. Rodriguez Colon** (1)

Woodlawn-Faith: Lyle E. Morton (6)

FAUQUIER COUNTY

Bethel: Julian H. Martin Jr. (15)

Associate: **Andrew M. Hudgins** (1) PL

Orlean: James A. Leamon (11) PL

Warrenton: John S. Chadsey (21)

Associate: **Jiyoon Kim** (1) FL

Wesley Chapel: Jose W. Saldana (2) PL

MANASSAS CITY

Grace: Rudolph E. Tucker (14)

Associate: **Janet P. Salbert** (1)

Min. of Music: C. Milton Rodgers III (14) FD

Saint Thomas: David T. Forrest (5)

Associate: **Edward H. Johnson Jr.** (1)

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY

Asbury: Charles M. Stribula (2) PE

Bethel: Joseph A. Shoop (2)

Buckhall: Linda H. Monroe (4)

Cokesbury: Clyde T. Nelson (2)

Dumfries: Dale E. Gillis (2)

Gainesville: John E. Patterson (18)

Ghana Wesley UM Mission: Emmanuel
Nkrumah (5) PE

Associate: **Akwasi 'John' Obeng** (1) PL

Good Shepherd: R. Levi Stroud Jr. (12)

Associate: Keiko T. Foster (3) PE

Nokesville: James L. Johnson III (2)

Old Bridge: Burton C. Robinson (11)

Associate: Ronald T. Lanman (6) RL

Prince of Peace: Russell T. Urban (2)

Saint Mark's: Kurt D. Ludwig (2) PL

Saint Paul: Larry E. Craddock (3)

Spirit & Life: Matthew A. Meisenhelter (5)

Sudley: Bass M. Mitchell (3)

ARLINGTON DISTRICT

District Superintendent: Catherine G. Abbott (2)

ARLINGTON

Arlington: **Nelson Neil** (1) SY

Associate: **Elizabeth H. Neil** (1) SY

Arlington Forest: L. Michael Southall-Vess (8)

Arlington Temple: Alison G. Rosner (2)

Calloway: **Chenda I. Lee** (1) PE

Calvary: **Mathew G. Smith** (1)

Central: **Sarah Harrison-McQueen** (1)

Cherrydale: Elizabeth A. Foss (4)

Clarendon: **Tracy McNeil Wines** (1)

Community: R. Carl Ripley Jr. (23)
 First Vietnamese-American of Gr. Wash.:
 Hieu D. Phan (2) OP
Mount Olivet: Edward R. Walker (2)
 Associate: **Kathleen R. Royston** (1) PE
 Associate: Jeffrey H. Goodman (3) PL
 Saint Mark's: Michelle M. Kim (2)
 Walker Chapel: James N. Earley II (9)
FAIRFAX COUNTY
Andrew Chapel: Scott D. Hopkins (3)
 Bruen Chapel: Ruth M. Burgess (7)
Centreville: Alan R. Felumlee (9)
 Associate: Marcia K. Huntsman (8) PE
 Associate: Jennifer D. Coffey (5)
 Associate: Thomas G. James (4)
Charles Wesley: **Livingston S. Dore** (1)
 Chesterbrook: R. Eugene Larkin (4) RE
Church of the Good Shepherd: Mark A.
 Burgess (7)
Community of Faith: Robert E. Vaughn Jr. (17)
Culmore: Jung Pyo Hong (9)
Dranesville: William E. Heinzman (3)
Epiphany: Robert B. Lloyd Jr. (3)
First Korean: Sung Ho Chung (11) OE
Floris: Thomas M. Berlin (18)
 Associate: Barbara Miner (9) FL
 Associate: Timothy L. Ward (6) PE
 Associate: Ashley B. Allen (2) PE
 Associate: Julio Serrano-Perez (2) PL
 Associate: **Nadeem Khokhar** (1) FL
 Friendship: James D. Canody (10)
Graham Road: Marable Southall-Vess (7)
Great Falls: Denise M. Childers (2)
Herndon: Gary L. Robbins (2)
 Korean of Greater Washington: Young Bong
 Kim (10)
 Associate: Keon Huh (4) PE
 Associate: Ki Cheon Lee (6)
 Associate: David Ryu (3) FL
 Associate: Eugene Kim (2) OE
 Associate: Kookjin Yun (2) OE
 Minister of Young Adults: Eoi Kyung
 Hwang (2) FD
Oakton: Dawn-Marie Singleton (3)
Pender: Kenneth W. Newsome (14)
 Associate: Kevin D. Havens (3) FL
Saint Luke's: **Aslam Barkat** (1) OR
 Sleepy Hollow: Pamela Clark Egan (12)
 Associate: Jennifer L. Ailstock (10) PL
Smith Chapel: David J. Zuchelli (20)
Trinity: James C. Sprouse (18)
 Associate: Eileen F. Gilmer (2) FL
 Min. of Christian Ed.: Amy L. Crisp (2) PD
 United Christian Parish: Joan L. Bell-Haynes
 (10) MOD
Vale: **Jeffrey J. Haugh** (1)
 The Vine: D. Todd Schlechty (6)
 Wesley: Ray S. Brill Jr. (10)
FALLS CHURCH
 Christ Crossman: M. Mochel Morris (14)
Dulin: M. Davies Kirkland (15)
 Galloway: **James E. Page Jr.** (1) FL

LOUDOUN COUNTY
 Arcola: Christopher E. Riedel (20)
 Associate: Richard B. Dawson (2) RL
 Ashburn Korean: Hyunsik Kang (2) OE
Crossroads: David A. Norman (26)
 Associate: **Candace L. Martin** (1)
 Associate: Flor M. Norris-Hoydilla (6) PL
 Minister of Congregational Nurture: Jean
 M. Hankins (6) FD
Galilee: **Jason B. Duley** (1)
 Associate: Matthew B. Sergeant (8) PE
 Pleasant Valley: Justin S. White (6)
Sterling: C. Randolph Duncan (11)
 Associate: **Marcela M. Jarman** (1) SY
CHARLOTTESVILLE DISTRICT
 District Superintendent: Danny J. Kesner (2)
ALBEMARLE COUNTY
Aldersgate: Scott E. Davis (5)
 Associate: Christopher S. Fuss (11) PL
Batesville: Elizabeth A. Buxton (3) FL
 Batesville, **Bethel, Mt. Olivet**
Binghams: William R. Payne (12) PL
Crozet: **James H. Chandler** (1)
 Youth Minister: Jessica L. Fuller (4.5) FD
Ivy Creek: James W. Thornton Sr. (8)
 Congregational Care and Ministry
 Development: Evelyn Y. Jones (4) LM
 Mount Moriah: John C. Ward Jr. (2) OE
 Restoration: Marc W. Rickabaugh (2)
Southern Albemarle: Bruce N. Lugn (4) PE
 Mt. Zion, **Scottsville**
Trinity (N. Garden): Norman G. Johnson (14) PL
West Albemarle: Benjamin F. Houchens (15) PL
 Browns Cove, **Gentry**
AMHERST COUNTY
Bethany-Sardis: Shin Woo Hong (5) PE
 Bethany, **Sardis**
Mount Pleasant: Judy G. Morris (6) FL
 Mt. Horeb, **Mt. Pleasant, Poplar**
Wesleyan: Nathan R. Colwell (2) SY
CHARLOTTESVILLE
First: Alvin J. Horton (6)
Hinton Avenue: Robert D. Lewis (3)
Wesley Memorial: Edward P. Winkler (4)
CULPEPER COUNTY
Culpeper: J. Randall Orndorff (11)
 Associate: Norma Jean Fellows (6.5) OR
 Associate: Jessica Squires Colwell (2)
East Culpeper: Stanley H. Mulford III (6) PE
 Hopewell, **Richardsville**
Little Fork Circuit: **Kang Uk Lee** (1)
 Jeffersonton, **Oak Shade, Woodland**
FLUVANNA COUNTY
Byrd Chapel: **Neil W. McLaughlin** (1) FL
Cunningham: Thomas E. Frost (6)
Haden Chapel: George E. Gorman (2) AM
 Palmyra: George E. Gorman (2) AM
Salem: Andrew B. Willson (4)
South Fluvanna: Gregory E. Miller (3) PL
 New Bethel, **Seays Chapel, Wesley Chapel**

GREENE COUNTY
Greene: Gordon K. Meriwether III (3) FL
 Mt. Vernon, **South River**
Standardsville: Charles S. Winner (3)
Westover: Norma J. Dean (11) PL
LOUISA COUNTY
Louisa: David R. Palmer (3)
Macedonia: Stephen M. Hall (2) FL
Mineral-Mt. Pleasant: Barbara J. Gross (2) AM
 Mineral, **Mt. Pleasant**
West Louisa: **Judy J. DeBres** (1) OF
 Ebenezer, **Lasley, Mt. Horeb**
 Zion: David C. Lagerveld (2)
MADISON COUNTY
Bethel-Mountain View: James F. Lacy (4) PL
 Bethel, **Mountain View**
Madison: **Elizabeth G. Caudill** (1)
 Madison, **Rose Park**
North Madison: David A. LeFon (2.5)
 Etlan, **Mt. Olivet, Oak Grove**
Rapidan: Alan R. Follett (7) FL
 Bethesda, **Mt. Zion, Walkers**
NELSON COUNTY
Bethany (Norwood): James D. Siddons (4) RE
Bethlehem: Edwin M. Childress (3) FL
Nelson: Debra A. Powell (9)
New Faith: Gregory Payne (9) LM
Rock Spring: Pamela J. Baldwin (5) FL
Rodes: **Lowell D. Petry** (1) FL
ORANGE COUNTY
Gordonsville: Sue Ann Salmon (2)
 Barboursville, **Gordonsville**
Orange Circuit: Jeffrey B. Smith (7)
 Bethlehem, **Salem**
Trinity: Thomas R. Barnard (8)
RAPPAHANNOCK COUNTY
Amissville: Maxine C. Crenshaw (4) PE
Rappahannock: Sara Porter Keeling (4)
 Flint Hill, **Sperryville, Willis Chapel**
DANVILLE DISTRICT
 District Superintendent: Janine W. Howard (4)
DANVILLE
Fairview: Kathleen M.R. Monge (5)
Grace Design: Kameron W. Wilds (4) PL
Moseley Memorial-Stokesland Cooperative
 Parish: **Elizabeth A. Nordan** (1) PL
 Moseley Memorial, **Stokesland**
Mount Vernon: Barry S. Foster (7)
St. Luke's: Tilden W. Bridges (2)
 Trinity: Charles W. Wickham (12)
FLOYD COUNTY
Harris Chapel: Marcus C. Wood (8) PL
FRANKLIN COUNTY
Bethlehem: D. Chris Bennett (6) FL
East Franklin: Judith E. Short (14)
 Crafts, **Penhook**
Epworth: Joshua D. Munnikhuysen (9) FL
Fork Mountain: Bobby R. Shively (8) PL
Franklin: Douglas R. Sasser Jr. (3) PE
 Burnt Chimney, **Flint Hill**

Gogginsville: **Kathryn C. Budzik** (1) FL
Callaway Cooperative Parish: Jason L. Bryant (3) FL
Highland, New Hope
Oyler's Chapel- Rehoboth Cooperative Parish: Richard L. Barton (4) PE
Oyler's Chapel, Rehoboth
Pleasant Hill: **Gustavo A. Segovia** (1) FL
Red Valley: Joshua S. King (4) PE
Redwood: Bradley S. Dulaney (6)
Minister of Community Outreach: Susan M. Hughes (2) PD
Rocky Mount: Bruce D. Tuttle (4) RE
Dir. of Music Ministries/Organist: Lynn Meeks (19) DM
St. James (Ferrum): Mary S. White (7) RE
West Franklin: BaeSick 'Peter' Choi (2) OE
Bethany, Maple Grove
HENRY COUNTY
Axtion: Anne M. Sisson (7) FL
Beckham, Carroll Memorial, Irisburg
Bassett Memorial: E. Russell Gresham IV (3)
Fieldale: Thomas E. Durrance (5) PE
Anderson Chapel-Granbery: **Timothy V. Satterfield** (1) OE
Anderson Chapel, Granbery
Mount Bethel: Stephen A. Garner (5) FL
Pleasant Grove: Ian J. Hackmann (3) PE
Mount Zion-Ridgeway: **James L. Wilson** (1) OR
Mount Zion, Ridgeway
Smith Memorial: Patricia J. Stover (2)
Stanleytown: **David A. Westmoreland** (1) FL
MARTINSVILLE
Chatham Heights: Marshall L. Banks (4) PL
First: Keith E. Ritchie (3)
Wesley Memorial: Steven W. Greer (5)
PATRICK COUNTY
East Patrick: W. Mark Clayton (11) FL
Concord, **Nettle Ridge**
Fellowship: Monte Mitchell (3) MOD
Meadow: Mark R. Collins (5) PL
Mountain View: Terry F. Martin (10) PL
North Patrick: Sandra L. Wright (5) FL
Ross Harbour, Woolwine
Providence: **Keith L. Vernon** (1) FL
Salem: John B. Franklin (3) FL
Stuart: Thomas B. Shepherd (8)
West Patrick: Tammy P. Franklin (2) PL
Creasey's Chapel, New Hope
PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY
Bethel-Cascade: **Amanda Barbour-Johnston** (1) SY
Bethel, **Cascade**
Brosville: Faith M. Weedling (4)
Calvary-Kerns Mem.: Ralph K. Hawkins (2) OF
Calvary, Kerns Memorial
Concord-Mt. Pleasant Cooperative Parish: Robert W. Ford (2)
Concord, **Mount Pleasant**
Floral Hills: Winston L. Crichlow (2) RE
Harmony: Robert F. Hardy IV (15) FL
Hopewell: **Timothy J. Barth** (1) PL

Mount Olivet: **Jimmy D. Calhoun** (1) SY
Oakland: Jon M. Woodburn (2) FL
Swansonville: Linwood G. Cook (4) RE
Watson Memorial (Chatham): **William Mackey-Wisor** (1) HL (Susquehanna)
Wesley Chapel-Rock Springs: Steven W. Weedling (2) PE
Rock Springs, Wesley Chapel
Whitmell-St. John's Cooperative Parish: Susan M. Hannah (7)
Saint John's, Whitmell

EASTERN SHORE DISTRICT

District Superintendent: **Alexander B. Joyner** (1)
ACCOMACK COUNTY
Atlantic-New Church: Rebecca J. McGee (2) OP
Atlantic, Berea
Belle Haven-Bethel: **Paul Donghwan Oh** (1) FL
Belle Haven, **Bethel**
Bloxom Mission: Gregory L. Duncan (6) PL
Calvary: Elizabeth P. Freund (4) RE
Cashville: JoLynn B. Hart (2) FL
Andrew Chapel, Leatherbury, Riverview
Christ (Chincoteague): Travis L. DeLoach (14)
Craddockville: Robert I. Kelly (3) FL
Drummondtown: Betty D. Marshall (5) RL
Grace (Parksley): Donald A. Jamison (4)
Greenbackville: Derek E. Tomek (5) FL
Signpost, **Union**
Guilford: Verónica G. Barrell (3) PE
Guilford, St. Thomas
Hallwood: James R. Maddox (3) RE
Hornstown: Barbara A. Cousar (3) FL
Deas Chapel, Friendship, St. Mark's
Leemont: Carl E. Perez (5)
Adams, **Metropolitan**
Market Street: **J. Barton Weakley** (1)
Melfa: Glenda T. Turlington (4) PL
New Hope: Barbara L. Parker (2) FL
Evergreen, Harborton, Mears Memorial
Oak Grove: Robert E. Green (2) RL
Oak Hall: Donald L. Blagg (5) FL
Assawoman, Downings
Ocean View: Sallye H. Bowen (10) RE
Onley: Charles W. Parks III (15) AM
Painter-Quinby: **Steve B. Doan** (1) OF
Donna J. Doan (1) OF
Painter-Garrisons, **Smiths Chapel**
Pittsville-Pocomoke-Watts: **W. Maury Enright** (1) PL
Pittsville, Pocomoke, Watts
Saint John's (Atlantic): Gary C. Miller (28) AM
Sanford-Saxis: William C. Jefferson (4) PL
Sanford, **Saxis**
Snead Memorial (Wachapreague): James S. Nock (9) PL
Swain Memorial (Tangier): John E. Flood Sr. (2) FL
Woodberry: Albert L. Crockett (5) RA
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY
Cape Charles-Capeville: Elizabeth A. Lutz (6)
Capeville, Trinity

Cheriton: **Janet C. Allen** (1) FL
Cheriton, **Travis Chapel**
Epworth (Exmore): Mikang Kim (2) PE
Franktown: **Judith G. Worthington** (1)
Min. of Evangelism: Peter Surran (3) PD
Johnsons: Clarence W. Bowen Jr. (16) RE
New Mission: Harold E. White (10) FL

ELIZABETH RIVER DISTRICT

District Superintendent: **M. Wayne Snead** (1)
CHESAPEAKE
Chesapeake Avenue: Timothy R. Earnhardt (2) FL
Covenant: Franklin T. Jennings (14)
Deep Creek: Michael W. Plasters (2)
Good Hope: Mark E. Christian (18)
Great Bridge: Timothy P. Craig (2)
Associate: **Amanda S. Webber** (1) PE
Hickory: Thomas L. Mercer Sr. (26)
Indiana: Frances C. Craig (6) PL
Jolliff: Waverly C. Smith III (11) FL
Assistant to Pastor: **James W. Jones** (1) LM
Messiah: Ellen W. Comstock (5)
Mount Pleasant: Robert M. Pihlcrantz (9) FL
New Creation: David R. Drinkard (7)
Associate: Stephanie L. Kimec (2) PE
Oak Grove: H. Frank Holley (3)
Oaklette: Timothy D. Hazlett (4)
Portlock: Robert G. Robinson (9)
Saint Paul's: Forrest H. Teague Jr. (3)
CURRITUCK COUNTY, NC
Knotts Island: Diana L. Johnson (3) PL
NORFOLK
Aldersgate: Walton C. Forstall II (5)
Christ: Derrek P. Koolman (3)
Epworth: **Luis E. Alderman** (1)
Fairmount Park: Linda S. Young (4) PL
First: **Michael A. Eisenman** (1)
Ghent: Sandra Benton Plasters (2)
Ignite: **Brandon P. Robbins** (1)
Larchmont: Scott M. Rimer (8)
Associate: Sarah R. Wastella (5) PE
McKendree: Michelle D. Louk (10) FL
Miles Memorial: John B. Haynes Sr. (5)
Norfolk: Sherry L. Daniels (9)
Associate: Carolyn J. Graves (4) PL
Norview: W. Joseph Shepherd (12) RE
Park Place: Stephen B. Wall-Smith (4) OE
Saint John's: Brandon L. Gilmore (4)
Wesley Mem.-Zion-Grace: Scott A. Beck (3) PE
Wesley Memorial, Zion-Grace
PORTSMOUTH
Broad Street: Lisa R. Blackmonson (5)
Centenary: **John W. Cole II** (1)
Community-St. Mark: R. Kirk Culpepper (13) FL
Community, Saint Mark
Cottage Place: **Daniel P. Abbott** (1) RE
Monumental: Joseph J. Cailles (4)
Park View: **Roderick L. Clayton** (1) PL
Saint Andrew's: **Jae Woo Park** (1) OE
West End: Lynda D. Moore (3)

SUFFOLK

Beech Grove: Keith D. Moore (5)
Ebenezer: Carl J. LeMon (22)
Associate: Brent M. Seusy (9)
Virginia Korean: Stephen Kwang-hoon Lee (2)
English Pastor: **Bonnie J. Whitehurst** (1) SY
Wesley Chapel: Ileana R. Rosario (6)

VIRGINIA BEACH

Baylake: **George B. Neas** (1) RE
Associate: Deborah S. Clark (8) FL
Bethel: **Barbara J. St. Jean** (1) PL
Charity: Robert J. Robertson III (5)
Community: H. Leroy Seibert (4)
Associate: Christa M. Springstead (4) PE
Courthouse Community: J. Randall McMillen (3)
Associate: Frederick C. Brockhausen III (11) FL
Foundry: Patricia A. Riggs (6)
Francis Asbury: Edward S. Martin Jr. (6)
Haygood: **Tammy L. Estep** (1)
Associate: **Patricia S. Money** (1) PE
Heritage: **Alexander Duncan Jr.** (1) FL
Lynnhaven: Ronald K. Morris (2)
Memorial: **Larry J. Edmonds** (1)
Nimmo: Clark D. Cundiff (8)
Princess Anne Plaza-Resurrection: Angelito G. Samson (15)
Princess Anne Plaza, **Resurrection**
Saint Andrew's: S. Wayne Rickman (2)
Saint Luke's: David L. Cunningham (5)
Salem: William L. McClung Jr. (2)
Sandbridge Community Chapel: Clyde M. DeLoach (3)
Scott Memorial: Vickie R. Seibert (4)
Tabernacle: Jack E. Davis (19)
Thalia: David A. Goodpasture (5)
Minister of Senior Adults: Joan B. Averette (7) LM
The Gathering: Rachel M. Gilmore (6)
Virginia Beach: **Ralph W. Rowley** (1)
Associate: **J. Benson McGlone** (1) PE

FARMVILLE DISTRICT

District Superintendent: Robert J. Parks Jr. (4)

AMELIA COUNTY

Amelia: Dan E. Walker (2) PL
Tabernacle, Trinity
Journey: Michael T. Davis (4) AM
North Amelia: June C. Carpenter (4) PE
Epworth, Jetersville, Salem

APPOMATTOX COUNTY

Memorial: Russell M. Cheatham (5)
Pamplin: Herndon P. Jeffreys III (4)
Centenary, Evergreen, Pamplin, Piney Rdg.

BRUNSWICK COUNTY

Brodnax: Co-Pastor, Paul A. Beighley (3) RE
Co-Pastor: **Pamela G. Pickard** (1) PL
Bethany, Brodnax
Lawrenceville: John R. Jones Sr. (3)
North Brunswick: Benjamin H. Taylor III (2.5) PL
Antioch, Lebanon
Prospect: Kenneth L. Thrasher (8) FL

South Brunswick: **Jennifer Vestal Moore** (1.5) FL
Olive Branch, Rock
West Brunswick: Jennifer L. Fletcher (3) PE
Bethel, Macedonia

BUCKINGHAM COUNTY

Buckingham: **Rebecca L. Trovalli-Cook** (1) FL
Browns Chapel, Hanes Chapel, Rocky Mt.
Dillwyn: Billy E. Swan (8) FL
Bethel, Salem, White Hall
James River: **Robert C. Fuleihan** (1) SY
Arvonja, Centenary, Glenmore
West Buckingham: B. Adam Hall (2) PL
Mt. Tabor, Trinity, Woodland

CHARLOTTE COUNTY

Charlotte: **G. Michael Huffman** (1) FL
Charlotte C.H., Hebron, Lebanon, Mt. Calvary
Keysville: Loretta A. Benninghove (3)
Mt. Carmel-Phenix: Michael W. Teixeira (12) FL
Mt. Carmel, Phenix
New Hope-Southall Memorial: Allan T. Murphy (4) FL
New Hope, Southall Memorial

CUMBERLAND COUNTY

Antioch: **Richard L. Meiser Jr.** (1)
Cumberland: W. Todd Gess (3) FL
Centenary, Hobsons Chapel, Payne Memorial
Oakwood: **Giani Manieri** (1) FL
Thomas Chapel: Richard L. Bucher (9) PL
HALIFAX COUNTY
Cherry Hill: Patricia L. Neilsen (2) RL
East Halifax: **Kerry L. Halbert** (1) OF
Clover, Scottsburg

Glenwood: Jody R. Jessup (2) OR
Glenwood, Olive Branch
Halifax: Randall S. Williams (12) FL
Main Street: Edward F. Rigg (9)
McCanless Memorial: Joe D. Trickey Jr. (2) PL
McKendree-Asbury: **James F. Brown** (1) FL
Asbury, McKendree

Mount Cana: A. Randolph Holmes (10) FL
Mount Laurel: Don R. Pizeck (13)
Shady Grove: Charles W. Townsend (2)
South Halifax: Bonnie G. Pizeck (4) PL
Cedar Grove, Harmony

Union: **S. Tony Johnson** (1.5) SY

LUNENBURG COUNTY

Kenbridge: Timothy A. Beck (7)
Lunenburg: C. Alan Layman (3) PE
Antioch, Williams
Plantersville: Ralph 'Red' L. Moore (11) LM
Victoria: Kyungsuk Cho (3) PE

MECKLENBURG COUNTY

Boydton: Jeffry K. Yoo-Hess (2) FL
Boydton, Easters
Centenary (Chase City): Marsha L. Davis (2) FL
Jamieson Memorial: John A. Bright (2)
LaCrosse-Sardis: **Seung Hae Yoo-Hess** (1) FL
Assistant: **Jerry B. Malone** (1) SY
LaCrosse, Sardis
Lakeland: Michael G. Day (6) FL
Kingswood, Rehoboth

North Mecklenburg: R. Kent Wise (8)
Salem, Shiloh, Zion
Providence-Trinity: Seung Hae Yoo-Hess (2) FL
Assistant: **Jerry B. Malone** (1) SY
Providence, Trinity (South Hill)
Rehoboth: Ralph 'Red' L. Moore (2) LM
South Hill: Laney S. Spigener Jr. (4)
Union Chapel: John E. Conner (2) RE
West Mecklenburg: Randal L. Baisey (8) PL
Ephesus, Fields, Friendship

NOTTOWAY COUNTY

Burkeville: **Lisa S. Meyers** (1) FL
Bethel, Wards Chapel
Crenshaw: Stanley A. Thompson (3)
Crewe: **Christina M.H. Perkins** (1)
East Nottoway: **J. Randall Kiel** (1) PE
Butterwood, Grace, Rocky Hill
Nottoway: John B. Covington (19) PL
Bethel, St. John's
Nottoway-Lunenburg: Michael A. Johnson (2) FL
Laurel Hill, St. Mark's, Thrifts Chapel

PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY

Farmville: Michael P. Kendall (2)
Min. of Discipleship (w/Youth Emphasis):
Lyndsie N.K. Blakely (3) PD
Meherrin: Larry A. Lehman (3) PL
Prince Edward: Nona F. Allen (3) FL
Beulah, Mt. Harmony, Mt. Pleasant
Prospect: George K. Schaefer (2) PL
Olive Branch, Prospect, Smyrna

FREDERICKSBURG DISTRICT

District Superintendent: Theodore Smith (4)

CAROLINE COUNTY

Bethel: Ellen Heatwole (5) FL
Bowling Green: James A. Edwards (4.5) FL
Bowling Green, Shiloh
Caroline: Mark A. Lawrence (2) PL
Mt. Vernon, St. Paul's

Hopewell: Lou Woolner (7) PL
Rehoboth: Linda Driver Ray (5)
Wright's Chapel: Charles Tillapaugh (23)

ESSEX COUNTY

Essex-King & Queen: Wilhemina Sumpter (3)
Lebanon, Providence, Trinity
Tappahannock Memorial: Carla Stearns (3)

FAUQUIER COUNTY

Cedar Run: J. Stephen Little Jr. (4) FL
Trinity, Wesleyan
Grace (Hartwood): Brenda Lee Pusso (5)
Liberty: Barbara H. Jamieson (2) PL
Midland: Barbara H. Jamieson (2) PL
Morrisville: **Elizabeth S. Glass** (1) OE
Mount Horeb: Gayle D. Porias (5) PE
Remington: Walter W. Westbrook (3)
FREDERICKSBURG
Fredericksburg: Brenda J. Biler (2)
Associate: Won Gyu Lee (3)
Pastor of Congreg. Care: Henry H. McCaslin Jr. (2) RL
Hillcrest: Justin L. Williams (5) FL

KING AND QUEEN COUNTY

Mizpah: Betty Jo Sims (9) PL

Shepherds: **Debra A. Straughter** (1) PL

KING GEORGE COUNTY

Dahlgren: Edward H. Johnson (9)

Fletchers Chapel: Michael B. Reaves (3)

Trinity: Susan M. Reaves (3)

KING WILLIAM COUNTY

Epworth: Jonathan B. Baker (3) PL

McKendree: **Chad T. Beck** (1) PL

LANCASTER COUNTY

Asbury: **Jack T. Bailey** (1) PL

Bethel-Emmanuel: **Rachel Gordon**

Plemmons (1) FL

Bethel, **Emmanuel**

Irvington: **A. Ray Massie** (1) PL

Kilmarnock: Penny P. Cory (2)

White Stone: L. Bryan McClain (7)

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY

Bethany (Reedville): Susan F. Brack (4)

Bluff Point: **Jack T. Bailey** (1) PL

Galilee: Charles F. Bates (9)

Heathsville: Rebecca L. Minor (4)

Henderson: Esther N. Agbosu (2) FL

Melrose: Janet F. Grissett (5)

Mila-Wicomico: Donna M. Blythe (7) PL

Mila, **Wicomico**

Northumberland: **Kwon Hong Min** (1) PE

Afton, **Fairfields**

Rehoboth: Donna M. Blythe (3) PL

RICHMOND COUNTY

Richmond: Fred G. Marvel (3)

Calvary, **Hopewell**, **Oakland**

Warsaw: Emily A. Moore (2) PE

SPOTSYLVANIA COUNTY

Eastland: Craig A. Muffley (4)

Peace: **Bradford L. Phillips** (1)

Shady Grove-Olivet: Hae Rin Lawson (3)

Olivet, **Shady Grove**

Tabernacle: Moonsup Paul Song (2)

Wilderness Community: Keith D. Boyette (17)

Zion: Barbara Jacobs (13)

STAFFORD COUNTY

Andrew Chapel: **Gail L. Dietze** (1) PL

Antioch: Christopher Fair (10) PL

Ebenezer: Mark A. Miller (20)

Associate: Christopher M. Bennett (6)

Falmouth: **Robin BeMiller** (1) PL

New Hope: Teresa S. Smith (5)

Regester Chapel: Sung Il Yoo (2)

Saint Matthias: Patsy B. Tony (3)

Salem: **Robin BeMiller** (1) PL

WESTMORELAND COUNTY

Andrew Chapel: Shayne V. Estes (2) PE

Carmel-Coles Point: Reginald G. Rumburg (7) AM

Carmel, **Coles Point**

Colonial Beach: Yunho Eo (4)

Edgewater: Jon B. Davis (2) SY

Ebenezer: Rebecca L. Rumburg (2)

Grace (Oak Grove): **Jesse C. Blythe** (1) SY

Montross: Julie Ann Larch (2)

Lebanon, **Providence**

HARRISONBURG DISTRICT

District Superintendent: Ernest T. 'Tommy' Herndon Jr. (5)

AUGUSTA COUNTY

Annex: Debra C. Copeland (3)

Bethany: Bradley A. McMullen (6)

Crimora: Gayle Thornberry (11) FL

Harrison: I. Cameron Carte (8) PL

Mount Bethel: **Melissa I. Fretwell** (1) PL

Mount Pisgah: John Crawford III (10.5) RE

Congregational Care & Visitation: P. Mardy Marston (4) LM

Mount Zion (Mt. Solon): **Darin M. Buse** (1) SY

New Hope: **E. Thomas Murphy Jr.** (1) RE

Dir. of Discipleship & Spiritual Formation: A. Alan Tuten (5) LM

Min. of Music: Courtney C. Joyner (5) PD

Parnassus: Victoria L. Barb (3) PL

Sangersville: Gary M. Monroe (4) PL

Verona: Robert J. Weeks (4)

Weyers Cave: Margaret M. Packard (5) FL

HARRISONBURG

Asbury: Stephen D. Hay (2)

Associate: Robert E. Talbott (6) FL

Min. of Music: Laura B. Douglass (15) FD

John Wesley: **Faith E. Evans** (1) PL

Otterbein: **Adam L. Blagg** (1) PE

RISE: Amanda Miller Garber (5)

PAGE COUNTY

Luray: Erich D. Bennett (4)

Page: Laura Whittle Stratton (2) PE

Shenandoah: Stephen R. Creech (18)

Christ, Fields

Shenandoah Circuit: Ellen H. Martin (6) PL

Grove Hill, Oak Grove

Stanley: Richard P. Grendahl (2) FL

ROCKINGHAM COUNTY

Blue Ridge: Kevin C. Poeckert (3) FL

Assistant: John M. Crawford (2) PL

Furnace, Hensley, Jolletts, Mt. Pleasant

Bridgewater: James M. Tongue (4)

Associate: James A. Harris (5) RE

Clover Hill: Stephen E. McMillion (2)

Dayton: Steven L. Bird (12)

Elkton: David T. Reynolds (23)

Evangelical-St. Paul: David F. Vaughan (2)

Assistant: **Sarah Bailey** (1) SY

Evangelical, St. Paul

Fellowship-Linville-Edom: **Marlene A.**

Chandler (1) FL

Edom, Fellowship, Linville

First (Broadway): David R. Burrough (9)

Fulks Run: **Benjamin C. Lalka** (1) FL

Caplingers, Mt. Carmel, Riverside

Grottoes: **Brian E. Posey** (1) PE

Keezletown: T. Joel Robinette (3)

Massanutten: Richard R. Robertson (2) FL

East Point, **Mt. Zion**, St. Peter's, **Trinity**

McGaheysville: James R. Wingert (2)

Mount Clinton: **Andrew Peck-McClain** (1) OE

Mount Crawford: Russell L. Heinrich (3) PE

Mt. Crawford, **Mt. Sidney**

Mount Horeb: Isaac E. Harper (10) PL

Mount Tabor: **Kay Barstow Gentry** (1)

Mountain Valley-Cedar Grove: Valerie W. Ritter (4)

Cedar Grove, Mountain Valley

Port Republic: **James W. Joyner** (1)

St. James (Pleasant Vly): Carrie L. Talbott (2) FL

Singers Glen: **Edward F. Wilkins** (1)

Cherry Grove, Donovan Memorial

Sunset Dr. (Broadway): H. Donald Hawks Jr. (3)

Vision of Hope: David M. Burch (9)

SHENANDOAH COUNTY

Christian Newcomer: Luther Edwin 'Nip' Crites Jr. (6) OE

Christian Newcomer, **Mt. Hebron**

Columbia Furnace-Union Forge: J. Robert Berghuis (8)

Columbia Furnace, **Union Forge**

Edinburg: Robert O. Jones Jr. (3)

St. John's, Wesley Chapel

Fort Valley: Larry Aikens (2) OF

Oak Level, White Chapel

Manor Memorial (New Market): R. Bruce Johnson (5)

Mount Jackson: Michael A. Dettmer (4) PE

Mt. Jackson, Quicksburg

Mt. Olive-Shiloh: **Kathleen W. Haynes** (1)

Mt. Olive, Shiloh

Mount Pleasant: W. Glen Early (9) FL

Associate: F. Darlene Wilkins (3) PL

Hawkinstown, Mt. Clifton, Mt. Hermon, Otterbein Chapel

Shenandoah Valley: Terry L. Hendricks (4) PL

Mt. Zion (Strasburg), Mt. Zion (Woodstock)

Strasburg: **John B. Haynes Jr.** (1)

Toms Brook: Robert M. Throckmorton (4)

Woodstock: Robert N. Hoskins Jr. (2)

JAMES RIVER DISTRICT

District Superintendent: Robin L. Colwell (2)

BRUNSWICK COUNTY

Brunswick: Ruth A. Collins-Dinger (3) RL

Edgerton, **Pelhams**, **Pleasant Grove**

Philadelphia: **R. Shaun Smith** (1) SY

Ebenezer, Matthews Chapel, Philadelphia

CHESTERFIELD COUNTY

Bermuda Hundred: Elizabeth S. Anderson (3)

Bethia: James H. Carey Jr. (17)

Associate: R. Jason Elmore (7) PL

Centenary: Pennie M. Foy (2) PL

Chester: Sylvia S. Meadows (2)

Ettrick: Bobby H. Lamb (5) RA

Hopewell: **Mark D. Richardson** (1)

Ivey Memorial: Nathan A. Decker (2)

Matoaca: Richard S. Gordon (4)

Trinity: Teresa M. Keezel (4)

Wesley Chapel: Michelle E. Lindsey (5)

Woods: Joseph T. Carson III (5)

COLONIAL HEIGHTS

Highland: Dorothy McNeer O'Quinn (3)

Associate: Michael Tolbert (4) FL

Wesley: L. Raymond McGarr (2)

DINWIDDIE COUNTY

Carson: Joseph E. Hammond Jr. (5) AM

Crawford: Thomas F. Lester (11) PL

Kenwood: Mary K. Dadisman (2) PE

Lebanon: John A. Fair (2)

McKenney: Karen Workman (8) FL

Asbury, Mansons, Rocky Run

Mount Olivet: S. Ray Watson (2) SY

Ocran: R. Lawrence House (6)

Twin Grove: **Andrew Ware** (1) FL

Oak Grove, **Smiths Grove**

West Dinwiddie: James G. O'Quinn (2)

Corinth, Trinity, White Oak

EMPORIA

Main Street: A. Bruce Carper (3)

Monumental: Gerald L. Wicker (5) FL

GREENSVILLE COUNTY

Centenary (Jarratt): Linwood E. Daniel (2) RE

Greensville: Joellen M. Simmons (2) FL

Independence, Mt. Pleasant

HOPEWELL

First: **J. Christopher Address** (1)

Wesley: Steven Vornov (2)

PETERSBURG

Petersburg Cooperative Parish: Gretchen O.S. Nelson (2)

Saint Mark's, Washington Street

Trinity: Gerald M. Miller (9) RE

PRINCE GEORGE COUNTY

Blandford: Jacob H. Sahms (7)

Garys: Henry D. Butler (10) RE

Prince George: Gilbert M. Elder (2) FL

Newville, Salem

Salem: Robin C.M. Jones (3) PL

Sycamore: DeWayne A. Duncan (2)

Trinity (Disputanta): **Stephen P. King** (1)

SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY

Boykins: Michael Baugham (8) PL

Boykins, Branchville, Persons

Capron: Nancy A. Palmer (2) FL

Associate: Richard C. Franklin Jr. (2) SY

Capron, Drewryville, Joyner, Vincents Grove

Courtland: **Andrew H. Book** (1)

High Street: John W. Ashley (3)

Newsoms: Darwin G. Edwards (8) PE

Barnes, Newsoms

Trinity Circuit: Rita A. Kanten (5) FL

Grace Memorial, Sebrell

SUFFOLK

Magnolia: **Michael W. Harrington** (1) FL

Main Street: Myrtle F. Hatcher (4)

Oxford: **Glenn Riggs** (1) SY

Providence: Garland K. Hines (5) RE

Somerton: **Kenneth E. Hanson** (1) PL

Whaleyville: John E. Meservey (2) PL

SUSSEX COUNTY

Rocky Hock-Ivor: Clifton D. Fritzinger (5) PL

Ivor, Rocky Hock

Concord: Brian J. Simmons (2) FL

Lebanon: Phyllis S. Piluso (2) RE

Sussex: Norma Jean Townsley (2) FL

Fort Grove, **Sharon**

Wakefield: Curtis Dearman Lucy (2) FL

Waverly: Donna B. Smith (4) FL

SURRY COUNTY

Claremont: **Mary Alice Colwell** (1) SY

Surry: Raymond G. Rowland (25)

Carsley, Dendron, Oak Grove, Surry

LYNCHBURG DISTRICT

District Superintendent: Larry E. Davies (7)

AMHERST COUNTY

Amelon: **Lawrence A. Erbin** (1)

Emmanuel: Nancy Coleman Johnson (2) FL

Monroe: George S. Riggins III (8)

Mt. Tabor-Smyrna: Joyce Austin (7) LM

Mt. Tabor, **Smyrna**

St. James-Beulah Retreat Center: Nathan R.

Colwell (2) SY

APPOMATTOX COUNTY

Appomattox Circuit: Larry F. Mann (4) AM

Mt. Comfort, Trinity

Bethel: Janet C. Burton (3) SY

BEDFORD

Main Street: **Richard H. Ecklund** (1)

BEDFORD COUNTY

Bedford Springs: William Turner Burleigh (7) FL

Forest, Marsh Memorial

Bellevue: H.O. 'Tom' Thomas Jr. (8)

Bethany, Oakland

Bethesda: Susan W. Keen (4) PL

Bethlehem (Moneta): David W. Lord (8)

Big Island-Cove:

Big Island: **TBS**

Cove: **Charles E. Matthews** (1) SY

Center Point-Salem: William R. Clark (3) PL

Center Point, Salem

Ebenezer-Otterville: Mark A. Wilkerson (10) LM

Ebenezer, Otterville

Epworth (Thaxton): Jeane D. Dunkum (2)

Kelly Circuit: Kelvin A. Edwards (3) PL

Hales Ford, New Hope

Mt. Zion: **Mark W. Tucker** (1) PL

Lebanon: Steven D. Parker (5) RA

Mountain View: Steven L. Propst (6)

Otter: Jerry O. Viemeister (3) PL

Ephesus, Nicopolis

Patmos: Riley R. Smith Jr. (4) RE

Peakview: **Erick Landau** (1) SY

Hickory Grove, **Mt. Olivet, Wilsons**

Shiloh: Charles E. Johnson (3) PL

Emmaus-Union: Edward F. Sheehan (2) FL

Emmaus, Union

CAMPBELL COUNTY

Bethany: **Patrick S. Pillow** (1) FL

Bethlehem (Concord): Daniel R. Dibble (5) PL

Brookneal: David P. Edinger (2) FL

Calvary: Michael W. Miller (6) PL

Oxford Furnace: **Kevin M. Holt** (1) OF

Earlys Chapel, Mt. Olivet, Mt. Zion

Indian Hill: **James D. Stevens** (1) OF

Lane Memorial: Alan T. Combs (4)

Mead Memorial: **Jack S. Turner** (1) FL

Mount Hermon: William A. Greer (4) FL

New Bethel: Roger T. Powell (6) PL

New Hope-Sharon: Charlie S. Haley (14) PL

New Hope, **Sharon**

Providence-Whites: **George Jack Davis** (1) FL

Providence, Whites

Rustburg: Sung Woon Yoo (3) PE

Salem: Charles E. Schooler (17) FL

Timberlake: M. Lynne Alley-Grant (2)

Minister to Children: Dawn Compton (4) OD

Twin Lakes: **Byung-Chul Sung** (1) OE

Huddleston, Leesville, Mt. Horeb

Wesleybury: William A. Smith (3) SY

West Campbell: Daniel A. Wray (3) PE

Evington, Lambs

LYNCHBURG

Boonsboro: Ronald A. Litten (4)

Centenary: **R. Douglas Gunsalus** (1)

Chestnut Hill: Becky J. Cloud (6)

Christ's Community Fellowship: Phillip C.

Showers (8) FL

Court Street: A.J. Edwin Clever (2) RE

Fairview: **Robert D. Allen** (1) OR

Forest Road: **Ray A. Buchanan** (1)

Fort Hill: Elizabeth W. Ecklund (2)

Minister of Music and Congregational

Care: Janet D. Hawkins (15) FD

Heritage: William B. Montgomery (4)

Associate: Megan J. Saucier (4)

Jackson Street: Reason A. Chandler (2) FL

Peakland: John N. Vest (2)

Minister of Youth and Education: Jason C.

Stanley (3) FD

Tyreeanna-Salem: James W. Martin (15) RL

Salem, Tyreeanna

PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY

Anderson Memorial: (Gretna): **Sharon L.**

Forbes (1)

Fowler Memorial: **Floyd A. Archie** SY

Bethany-Ebenezer, Mt. Airy

Hurt: Robert J. Thorne (3) RA

Mount Airy: Andrew P. Schulze (2) OE

Providence, Republican Grove, St. Andrew

New Bethel-Motley: Richard A. Daily (2) RE

Motley, New Bethel

Payneton-Siloam: George D. Hatmaker (2) RL

Payneton, Siloam

Smith Mountain: **TBS**

Mt. Zion, New Ridgeway

Zion: Harold E. Thornton (14) RE

RICHMOND DISTRICT

District Superintendent: Steven R. Jones (7)

CHESTERFIELD COUNTY

Asbury Memorial: Benjamin E. Horrocks (3) PE

Beulah: Keith A. Mottley (5)

Associate: William J. Waller (3) PE

Bon Air: William A. Davis Jr. (9)

Associate: **Jennifer L. Day** (1)

Min. of Christian Ed. and Spiritual

Formation: Kelley Lane (3) PD

Brandermill: N. Burton Brooks Jr. (5)

Associate: Edward Kross (3) MOD

Mount Pisgah: Robert E. Cooper (3)

Associate: Anita E. Mays (2) PE

New Life: Michael T. Maxwell (7)

Providence: Mary Beth Blinn (8)

Saint Luke's: Lisa K. Sykes (4)

Saint Mark's: David J. Bonney (9)

Associate: **E. Joseph T. Varner** (1) PE

Sherbourne: Pamela H. Culler (9) PL

Woodlake: Peter M. Moon (13)

Associate: Paul S. Baker (3) PE

Associate: Erin M. Reibel (6) PL

GOOCHLAND COUNTY

Bethel: John R. Hall Sr. (17.5) AM

Corinth: Richard W. 'Dickie' Coffey (3) PL

St. Matthew's: Gordon K. Pruitt (10)

HANOVER COUNTY

Duncan Memorial: David M. Hindman (5)

Associate: Kendra G. Swager (3)

Dunns Chapel: William R. Freeman (3) RE

Enon: **ReNe'e R. Teague** (1)

Forest Grove: Linda E.F. Crabbs (2) PE

Kenwood: Amy E. Pannell (3)

Lebanon: R. Spencer Broce (10)

Mechanicsville: Kerry D. Boggs (15)

Mount Hermon: Keith A. Lauer (6) PL

Mount Hope: **Willard D. Wash** (1) RE

New Song: Chad M. Herndon (7)

Associate: **Mark A. Roscoe** (1) PL

Prospect: **Robert L. Jennings** (1) PL

Saint Peter's: Debra Ruth Lucas (6)

Shady Grove: John J. Kelchner Jr. (5)

Associate: C. Bradley Robins (6) FL

Min. of Discipleship: Cynthia A. Lee (10) FD

Shiloh: **Sarah G. Sealand** (1)

West Hanover: Claudia H. Stallings (12)

Beaverdam, Rouzies Chapel

HENRICO COUNTY

Brookland: Lynne B. Caldwell (7) OE

Chamberlayne Heights: **Jeffrey Y. Harlow** (1)

Christ: **Karen B. Hittel** (1)

Corinth: W. Joseph Winfree (2)

Discovery: James E. Lavender Jr. (32)

East Henrico Cooperative Parish: Lorena E.

Beach (2) FL

Bishop Memorial, Fairmount

Good Shepherd: Steven J. Summers (2)

Min. of Discipleship & Communications:

Lisa M. McGehee (5) FD

Greenwood-Laurel Park: Barbara D. Lewis
(3) PE

Greenwood, Laurel Park

Highland Springs: Douglas E. Crockett (4) OE

Lakeside: Rita A. Callis (4)

Laurel Hill: Norman L. Ramsey III (4)

River Road: Frances T. Cooper (3)

Associate: Daniel Kim (2) FL

Saint Andrew's: Amy Beth Hougland (2)

Shady Grove: David L. Adkins (10)

Associate: **TBS**

Skipwith: **Teresa K. McRoberts** (1)

Trinity: Larry E. Lenow (2)

Associate: M. Thomas Lott (3) PE

Minister of Discipleship: Judith Clegg

Oguich (15) FD

Welborne: F. Elizabeth Givens (3)

Willis: Mark V. Rooks (5) PE

Worship and Praise: Timothy J. Kirven (4) FL

LOUISA COUNTY

Gum Spring: **Lauren E. Lobenhofer** (1)

NEW KENT COUNTY

Providence: **William H. John Jr.** (1)

POWHATAN COUNTY

Powhatan: John T. Hemming (3)

RICHMOND

Asbury (Church Hill): Marilyn A. Heckstall (10)

Belmont: Larry J. Cochran (4) PE

Associate: Julio Serrano-Perez (2) PL

Boulevard: Rachel G. May (3)

Calvary: Susan T. Lynch (2) FL

Centenary: Matthew D. Bates Jr. (4)

Central: Thomas W. Sweat (7)

Emmaus at Stratford Hills: Chul Ki Kim (2)

Min. of Discipleship: Kiok Chang Cho (2) FD

Ginter Park: Dennis Lipke (3) RE

Huguenot: Peter R. Falbo (3) OR

Ramsey Memorial: Deborah Ann Koontz (2)

Associate: Norma E. Aguilar (8) PL

Reveille: **J. Douglas Forrester** (1)

Associate: Katherine B. Anthony (3) PE

Associate: Stephen A. Coleman (5) FL

Walmsley Boulevard: Denise B. Watkins (2) FL

Wesley Memorial: Rodney M. Hunter (29) RE

Westhampton: Christina Haga Turner (6)

Westover Hills: Donna C. Holder (5)

ROANOKE DISTRICT

District Superintendent: Kathleen Overby

Webster (2)

BEDFORD COUNTY

Mays Memorial: **Stephen T. Claris** (1.5) SY

Parrish Chapel: Troy M. White (11) RL

Three Oaks Fellowship: Tina Cox (4.5) PL

BOTETOURT COUNTY

Andrew Chapel: Morris A. Bennett (8.5) RE

Buchanan: W. Douglas Mitchell (2.5) FL

Lithia, Trinity

Eagle Rock: W. Raysor Sandifer (12) PL

Bethel, Eagle Rock, Glen Wilton, Shiloh

Ebenezer: John Preer (4) OR

Fincastle: Sandra A. McMillen (4)

Saint Mark's: Robert D. Lough (2)

CRAIG COUNTY

Foothills: **Rodney Longmire** (1) SY

Hebron, Mt. Pleasant, Pierce Chapel

New Castle: Willie B. Guill Jr. (2)

Bethel, New Castle

FLOYD COUNTY

Floyd Parish: Darren E. Landon (7) FL

Copper Hill, Havens Chapel, Huffville, Stonewall

FRANKLIN COUNTY

Boones Mill: **Warren R. Carswell** (1)

Mount Olivet: Connie Ray Lee Sr. (32) RL

GILES COUNTY

Newport-Mt. Olivet: Morris V. Fleischer (7) FL

Pembroke: Daniel E. Elmore (2)

First, Mt. Lebanon

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Asbury (Christiansburg): George M. Warner Sr. (4)

Belview: Bobbie Jo Henley (3)

Blacksburg: **Joseph D. Carson** (1)

Associate: Christina R. McLain (4)

Associate: Darryl W. McCallum (2) FL

Associate: Kelly A. Shushok (2) PL

Min. of Music: Leigh Anne Taylor (14) FD

Calvary (Christiansburg): Sebert W. Rorrer (13) RE

Crockett Springs: David R. Mucha (2) RE

Fieldstone: **Jonathan J. Page** (1)

Goodwin Memorial: James S. Angle (20) RA

Halls: **Brenda Sternfeld** (1) PL

Lafayette: **L. Wayne Carter** (1) RE

Mt. Elbert: : **Bobbie Jo Henley** (1)

Mt. Tabor: Kenneth D. Farrar (5) PL

Park: **Patricia A. Jones** (1) RE

Prices Fork: **Michael Hill** (1) SY

Saint Paul (Christiansburg): Michael D.

Copeland (5)

Trinity (Christiansburg): Russell Shepherd (3) PL

Wesley Memorial: **Charles W. DeHart** (1) RL

White Memorial: Herbert C. Williams Jr. (7)

ROANOKE

Fairview: Donald W. Baldwin (6) FL

Grace: E. Eugene Jones (10) RE

Greene Memorial: Gary E. Heaton (2)

Huntington Court: Jeffrey D. Wilson (5)

Raleigh Court: Milton E. Marks (4)

Saint Paul: Carroll C. Carter (4)

South Roanoke: L. Stanley Wright Jr. (6)

Southview: **David V. Ford** (1)

Trinity: William C. Logan (11) RE

West End: Ralph Harris Jr. (2)

Windsor Hills: Thomas G. Lee (10)

Woodlawn: **John B. Snyder** (1)

ROANOKE COUNTY

Bonsack: Timothy F. Tate (7)

Youth Minister: Timothy Craft (2) PD

Catawba Circuit: Melanie D. Franklin (7) PL

Catawba, McDonalds Mill, Shiloh

Cave Spring: Jonathan L. Bennett (2)

Associate: Joanna M. Paysour (3) PE

Lawrence Memorial: Terry A. Ross (4.5) PL

Locust Grove: Benjamin F. Lockhart Jr. (6) PL

Mount Pleasant: Robert G. Stutes (2) OE
Northview: Joseph H. Klotz Jr. (4)
Rockingham Court: Craig C. Newman (5)
Thrasher Memorial: Walter B. Failles Jr. (4)
Associate: Jaeyong Song (2) PE

SALEM

Calvary (Salem): Timothy W. Gearheart (7) FL
Central: Kristin M. Holbrook (5)
First: Stephen G. Bray (5)
Associate: Jeffrey L. Dorsey (18)

STAUNTON DISTRICT

District Superintendent: David J. Rochford III (2)

ALLEGHANY COUNTY

Alleghany: Shannon Cox (2) SY
Callaghan: James R. Rodden (6)
Fletcher Chapel, Hoke Chapel
Epworth: Daniel K. Purdom Jr. (2) FL
Iron Gate: Lester W. Kennedy III (5) FL
Iron Gate, Longdale, Walton Mem.
Mountain Valley: Christina Bowen (1) SY
Mt. Pleasant-S. Covington: Charles H. Cole Jr. (4) PE
Mt. Pleasant, South Covington
Potts Valley: David C. Brown (13) FL
Humphrey's, Persinger Mem., Pinnell

AUGUSTA COUNTY

Bethlehem-Jollivue: Janet C. Knott (4) AM
Bethlehem, Jollivue
Calvary: Douglas B. Paysour (4)
Associate: Nancy M. Vaughan (1) FL
Fishersville: Larry Jent (6)
Associate: Ryan Oswald (4) FL
Glossbrenner: Erin Geoffrion (1) FL
Greenville: Kevin W. Haynes (11)
Lyndhurst-Oak Hill: Michael W. Pettry (4) FL
Lyndhurst, Oak Hill
McKinley: Donald L. Long (15) RE
Mint Spring: Terry L. Clark (6)
Rankin: Charles E. Carroll (7) ROM
Associate: David Coffey (2) SY
Saint James: Edward S. Barnett (2)
St. Paul's-Goshen: Mary Pysell (1) SY
Goshen, St. Paul's (Craigsville)
Sherando: Sarah Payne (1) PL
Stonewall-West View: Peter Geoffrion (2) PL
Stonewall, West View
West Augusta: W. Robert Nash (2) SY
West Staunton: Scott W. Beach (1) SY
Asbury, Community, Lawson

BATH COUNTY

Bath: Lorrie Aikens (3) FL
Burnsville, Eden, Starr-Bolar, Va. Chapel
Hot Springs: Vivian M. Utz (1) FL
Ashwood, Emory

BOTETOURT COUNTY

Mount Olivet: Doris T. Hedrick (3) PL

BUENA VISTA

Saint John's: Ji Hoon Choi (7)
People United in Christ: Danta Thompson (1) SY

CLIFTON FORGE

Central: J. Lynn Wright (1) FL

COVINGTON

Christ: Michael L. Snider (10) RE
Granbery Memorial: James M. Smith (2)
Mt. Carmel: Douglas E. Hollenbeck (13) FL
Parrish Court: Deborah D. Washer (2) FL
HIGHLAND COUNTY
Blue Grass: W. Andre Crummett (15) FL
Blue Grass, Hightown
McDowell: David R. Boger (14) RE
Doe Hill, McDowell, McKendree, Totten
Monterey: Bobbi Jo Gardner (1) SY
Asbury, Green Hill, Monterey

LEXINGTON

Randolph Street: Louis H. Caddell (2.5) RE
Trinity: Norman Tippens (5)

ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY

Beth Horon: Kenneth T. Decker Jr. (4) FL
Colliertown: James A. Bollinger (2.5) FL
Colliertown, Mt. Horeb
Ebenezer-Marvin: R. Michael Long (1) SY
Ebenezer, Marvin
Fairfield: Elizabeth von Trapp Walker (3)
Emory, Fairfield
Rockbridge: Lucy Jackson Hughes (1) RL
Elliott's Hill, Mt. Zion, Wesley Chapel

STAUNTON

Central: Won Un (2)
Cherryvale: Clayton W. Payne (1) FL
Christ: Sarah D. Locke (1) PE
Marquis Memorial: Robert W. Sharp (5)
Saint John's: Taylor C. Mertins (2) PE
Saint Paul's: T. Bryson Smith (1)
Staunton-Grottoes: John Benson (2) SY
Augusta Street, Mt. Moriah, Mt. Tabor
WAYNESBORO
Basic: Donald Gibson (11) PE
Glovier Memorial: Ryan M. Schaeffer (1) PE
Main Street: W. Clay Knick (1)
Certified Lay Minister: Harold E. Baldwin Jr. (10) LM
Pleasant View: Eric Strother (2) SY
St. Mark's-Wayne Hills: William D. Bearden (7) FL
St. Mark's, Wayne Hills

WINCHESTER DISTRICT

District Superintendent: Lawrence R. Thompson Jr. (5)

CLARKE COUNTY

Boyce-White Post-Millwood: John T. Martin Jr. (2) RE
Boyce, Millwood, White Post
Crums: Hyo J. Lee (9)
Duncan Mem. (Berryville): J. Jeffrey Butcher (1)
Marvin Chapel: Kenneth K. Patrick (12) RE
Paris Mountain: Karen D. M. Adams (10) PL
Mt. Carmel, Providence Chapel
FAUQUIER COUNTY
Cool Spring: Janet L. Martin (6) RL
Linden-Markham: Penny L. Matheson (2) FL
Linden, Markham
Marshall-Middleburg: Leah A. DeLong (1)
Marshall, Middleburg

Rectortown: Charles N. Moore (1) RE
St. Mark's: Ralph H. Crabill (2) RE
FREDERICK COUNTY
Brucetown: Yun Chol Kim (4) PE
Burnt Factory: C. Steven Melester (9) FL
Cedar Grove: Thomas W. Crosby (3)
Little Mountain, Mt. Pleasant, Pleasant Vly.
Emmanuel: Paulo C. Da Silva (2)
Fairview-Refuge: John E. Lock (9)
Fairview, Refuge
Francis Asbury: Anthony A. Wadsworth (2) RE
Chestnut Grove, Howard Chapel
Gainesboro: Sandra A. Nottingham (2) RE
Grace (Middletown): Thomas H. Keithley (5)
Greenwood-Montague Avenue: Andy L. Brock (2) PE
Greenwood, Montague Avenue
Kernstown: Aaron W. Fitch (1)
Macedonia: Michel Q. Mayton (1)
Mt. Bethelview: Victor R. Gomez (4)
Mt. Olive, Old Bethel
North Frederick: Thomas W. Reynolds (2) FL
Rest, White Hall
Pleasant View: Haley E. Mills (1) FL
Mt. Pleasant-Lamps, Mountain View
Redland: Melissa D. Porter-Miller (2)
Relief-Hites: J. Richard McDowell (1)
Hites Chapel, Relief
Round Hill: Penny L. Wilson Jr. (2)
Shockeysville: TBS
Stephens City: Robert W. Gochenour (1)
Welltown: Wayne C. Moore (1)
Wesley Chapel-Pine Grove: Philip H. Brumback (1) PL
Pine Grove, Wesley Chapel

LOUDOUN COUNTY

Bethany (Purcellville): Michael D. Finn-McKenzie (3)
Evergreen: F.W. Giessler II (16)
Harmony (Hamilton): Stephen T. Vineyard (6)
Leesburg: James N. Wishmyer (8)
Minister of Administration: Wayne R. Reynolds (7) LM
Loudoun: J. Robert Schoeman (4) PE
Aldie, Unison, Upperville
Lovettsville: Eugenie Finn-McKenzie (3)
Bethel, Mt. Pleasant
Mt. Olivet: Lee J. Crosby (7) FL
Mt. Zion (Leesburg): Melbourne H. Bailey (6) RE
Purcellville Circuit: Alphonso L. Irving (8) FL
Austin Grove, Grace Annex, Powells Grove
Rehoboth: Carl M. Chapman (3) PL
Round Hill: Jeffrey A. Witt (14)
Short Hill: Marcellus H. Jagoe IV (1) SY
Ebenezer, Hillsboro
West Loudoun: Wesley S. Corber (4) PL
Bluemont, Roszell Chapel
Willisville-Hamilton Cooperative Parish: Reginald A. Early (10) FL
Mt. Zion (Hamilton), Willisville Chapel

WARREN COUNTY

Bethel: Robert Moore (10) RE
Front Royal: Denise P. Bates (2)
Howellsville: Francis P. Bertrand (3) PL
John Wesley: Mary L. Marshall (2) RL
Reliance-Ridings Chapel: **Linda H. Lowe** (1)
Reliance, Ridings Chapel
Riverton: **C. Marc Roberson** (1)
Warren: Sherry L. Waddell (2) FL
Asbury, Bennetts Chapel, Limeton

WINCHESTER

Amor Y Paz, Iglesia Metodista Unidas:
Victor R. Gomez (1)
Braddock Street: G. Kirk Nave (3)
Associate: J. Adam Sowder (2)
First: William M. White (6)
John Mann: **Laetitia Schoeman** (1) SY
Market Street: Eric C. Song (2)
Wesley: **R. Douglas Geeting** (1)

YORK RIVER DISTRICT

District Superintendent: **Seonyoung Kim** (1)

CHARLES CITY COUNTY

Memorial: Darcey G. Johnson (6)

GLOUCESTER COUNTY

Bellamy: Kenneth Stephen Waclo (6)
Bethany (Gloucester Pt.): Deborah T. Marion (2)
Bethlehem: Carol I. Bookwalter (2.5) RE
Gloucester-Mathews: **Paul F. Gillespie** (1) FL
Locust Grove, Mt. Zion
New Hope: Brian D. Siegle (6)
Salem-Olive Branch: Rita L. Staul (12)
Olive Branch, Salem
Singleton: Calvin J. Griffin (5.5)
Susanna Wesley: J. Garrett Livermon (6)

HAMPTON

Bethany: Arthur Rajanayakam (11)
East Hampton: Edward Merry (11) PL
First (Fox Hill): Brian Sixbey (5)
First (Hampton): Michael L. Nelson (5)
Fox Hill Central: **Eric J. Vaudt** (1) PE
Kecoughtan: **Jennifer A. Mercer** (1) FL
Aldersgate, Central
Phoebus: Robert E. Rough (4) PL
Saint James: Dwight A. Hughes (5)
Saint Mark's: **Gay Brown Hall** (1)
Wallace Memorial: Kevin C. Stefano (3) PE
Wesley: Jason W. Snow (3)

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY

Benns: Orville H. Burton (7)
Bethany: **Michael T. Frank** (1)
Oak Grove-Riverview: Leon C. Basham Jr. (14) PL
Oak Grove, Riverview
Trinity: Jeffery Lee Cannon (4)

Associate: **Andrew S. Ens** (1) PE

Uzzell: Rebecca W. Gwaltney (3) PL

Woodland: **Amanda H. Newman** (1) FL

JAMES CITY COUNTY

Mount Vernon: David E. Craig (11) AM
New Town: **J. Michael Derflinger** (1)
Wellspring: Edward A. Hopkins (5)

KING & QUEEN COUNTY

Shackelfords Chapel: Charles J. McHose (5) RE

KING WILLIAM COUNTY

West Point: Melody P. Tanner (3)

MATHEWS COUNTY

Bethel-St. Matthew: **Ralph G. Satter** (1) RE
Bethel, St. Matthew
Beulah-St. Paul: Delia M. Parrish (4)
Beulah, St. Paul

Central: Suzanne D. Gibson (6)

Mathews Chapel: **Leslie G. Goode** (1.5) RL

Salem: **Brian W. Johnson** (1)

West Mathews: **Jeongin Kim** (1) OE

Emmanuel, Grace-Providence

MIDDLESEX COUNTY

Clarksbury: **Kenneth E. Cleveland** (1) FL

Lower Church: Barry L. Burkholder (4)

Middlesex: Geraldine R. Burkholder (4) FL

Forest Chapel, Old Church

Urbanna: Hyung Il Moon (4)

NEW KENT COUNTY

New Kent: Lawrence S. Brayton (3) FL

Pamunkey, Tabernacle

NEWPORT NEWS

Asbury: Myles Pierson (7) RE

Chestnut Memorial: **Robert M. Chapman** (1)

Christ: Thomas G. Tipton (3)

First: Robert L. Haley (3)

Grace: Steven D. Barbary (2) PE

Holy Cross International: Yoon Seok Choi (5) OE

Trinity: **Valerie V. Duncan** (1) PL

Parkview: Timothy M. Porter (3) PL

Warwick Memorial:

Co-Pastor: Regina Anderson-Cloud (2)

Co-Pastor: Bert Cloud (2)

POQUOSON

Tabernacle: Barry R. Throckmorton (2)

Trinity: Charles R. Stacy (3)

WILLIAMSBURG

Williamsburg: Matthew W. Jones (5)

Associate: Kirsten 'Kay' Barré (2) OE

Min. of Congregational Care: Helen Casey-Rutland (2)

YORK COUNTY

Crooks Memorial: Lisa A. Barbary (2)

Providence: C. Douglas Akers (5)

Saint Luke's: Douglas D. Gestwick (9)

Associate: Clara P. Gestwick (9)

Zion: **David C. Magruder** (1) PE

EXTENSION MINISTRIES AND OTHER APPOINTMENTS

ALEXANDRIA DISTRICT

Mi Sook Ahn (FL)—Chaplain, Montgomery Hospice (Trinity)

Barker-Brugman, Kimberly A.—Soul Story Ministries (Sydenstricker UMC)

Herbert Brynildsen (FD)—Bi-District Program Coordinator (Secondary appointment: St. Matthew's)

Timothy M. Farabaugh—President/CEO of Glenwood Park, Inc., Princeton, WV (Fairlington)

Morgan Guyton (PE)—Director, NOLA Wesley Foundation, Tulane and Loyola Universities (Burke)

Judith T. Hall (FD)—Pastoral Counselor, Pastoral Counseling of Northern VA (Secondary appointment: St. Matthew's)

J. Denise Honeycutt—Deputy General Secretary, UMCOR, GBGM (St. Matthew's)

Lucretia Hurley-Browning—Director, Juniper Tree Pastoral Counseling Center and Chaplain, Joan Karnell Cancer Center, Philadelphia (Aldersgate)

Amy Dawn Johnson—Staff Chaplain, INOVA Fairfax Hospital (St. Thomas)

Karla M. Kincannon—Director of Field Education and of Vocational Formation and Church Leadership, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary (Rising Hope)

David F. McAllister-Wilson—President, Wesley Seminary (St. Matthew's)

Drema McAllister-Wilson—On loan: Minister of Congregational Care, Metropolitan Memorial UMC, Baltimore-Washington Conference (St. Matthew's)

Pamela G. Meeuwissen (PL)—Chaplain/Spiritual Care Counselor, Mary Washington Hospice (Christ)

Marianne K. Nassef—Chaplain, US Air Force (Fairlington)

James A. Noseworthy—Vice President for Administration, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary (Rising Hope)

Lemuel E. Pearsall Jr.—Chaplain, US Army (Good Shepherd)

R. Kendall Soulen—Professor of Systematic Theology, Wesley Seminary (Annandale)

Ann On-Lin Tang—Chaplain, US Army (Messiah)

J. Pat Watkins—Ministry with God's Renewed Creation, Missionary, General Board of Global Ministries (St. Matthew's)

Susan E. Willhauck (FD)—Associate Professor of Pastoral Theology, Atlantic School of Theology (Secondary Appt.: St. Matthew's)

ARLINGTON DISTRICT

Sandra L. Boone—On loan: Water's Edge UMC, Baltimore-Washington Conference (Pender)

Sarah L. K. Calvert—Bi-District Coordinator for Church Revitalization and Leadership Development (Floris)

Tammie E. Crews—Brigade Chaplain, US Army (The Vine)

Melissa R. Dunlap—Bi-District Coordinator for Church Development (The Vine)

Kotosha Seals Griffin (PE)—On Loan: Pastor, St. Matthews UMC, Metairie, Louisiana Conference (Galloway)

Paul A. Hanak—International Dir., Ambassadors for Christ International (Pender)

Gary L. Hulme—President/CEO and Pastoral Counselor, Pastoral Counseling of Northern VA (Mount Olivet)

Sangkeun Kim—Professor of Mission Studies, Theology Department, Yonsei University, Korea (Korean UMC Greater Washington)

James M. Melson—Director, The Cornelius Corps (Crossroads)

Edgar Miranda—Elementary Principal, Anglo-American School of Sofia, Bulgaria (Saint Luke's)

Mark A. Montgomery—Minister Director of United College Ministries in Northern Virginia (Floris)

Paul A. Nixon—New Church Development Strategist, GBOB and CEO, Epicenter Group (Arlington Temple)

Martha M. Real (FD)—Executive Director, GRACE Ministries of The UMC (Floris)

Charles K. Tran—On loan: Pastor, Vietnamese Fellowship, San Jose, CA, Cal-Nev Conference (First Vietnamese)

CHARLOTTESVILLE DISTRICT

Christopher R. Donald—College Chaplain and Director of Religious Life, Millsaps College (Crozet)

Barry Penn Hollar—Professor of Religion and Philosophy, Shenandoah U. (Madison)

Deborah E. Lewis—Director & Campus Minister, Wesley Foundation, UVA (Wesley Memorial)

Janice M. Rivero—University Relations Director, Stop Hunger Now (Wesley Memorial)

Thomas W. Sherrod—Director of Pastoral Care, Iredell Hospital, Statesville, N.C. (Mt. View)

Rochelle A. Shoemaker—Director, Rochelle, Inc. (Wesley Memorial)

Adam James White—Chaplain, Director of Service Learning, and Religion Dept. Chair, Virginia Episcopal School (Wesley Memorial)

DANVILLE DISTRICT

Brenda L. Rose—Pastoral Counselor, Chrysalis Counseling and Consultation Center, Inc. (Smith Memorial)

EASTERN SHORE DISTRICT

Brenda Lee Laws (FD)—Mental Health Support Specialist, Eastern Shore Community Services Board (Secondary appointment: Horntown)

Peter Surran (PD)—Fire Medic and Chaplain, Accomack County Fire Dept. (Secondary Appt.: Franktown)

ELIZABETH RIVER DISTRICT

Frank P. Decker—Vice-President, Member Care and Development, Mission Society for UMs (Community, Portsmouth)

James R. Driscoll—Deputy Command Chaplain of the U.S. Central Command, US Army (Baylake)

Joseph T. Eldridge—University Chaplain, American University (Epworth)

Pamela J. Gable—On loan: Pastor, Moga-dore UMC, E. Ohio Conference (Great Bridge)

William T. Greer Jr.—Pres., Virginia Wesleyan College (Larchmont)

Anne West Kesner (PD)—Chaplain, The Children's Hospital of The King's Daughters (Secondary Appt: New Creation)

Joel M. LeMon—Associate Prof. of Old Testament, Candler School of Theology, Emory University (Ebenezer)

Charles E. Rowley—Chaplain, U.S. Navy (New Creation)

Gregory B. West—Chaplain, Virginia Wesleyan College (Ebenezer)

FARMVILLE DISTRICT

Charles F. Baber Jr. (FD)—On loan: Minister to Youth and Families, Highland UMC, Raleigh, North Carolina Conference (Oakwood)

George H. Donigian—On loan: Pastor, New Hope UMC, Anderson, SC, South Carolina Conference (Jamieson Memorial)

Richard L. Meiser Jr.—Campus Minister/Director, Wesley Foundation, Longwood and Hampden-Sydney (Antioch)

T. McKennon Shea—Major Gifts Officer, Duke Divinity School (Farmville)

FREDERICKSBURG DISTRICT

Robert A. Almy—Director, ChurchIngenuity.Com and Interim Campus Minister, University of Mary Washington (Fredericksburg)

Jarvis Bailey (PL)—Fredericksburg District Program Director (Irvington)

Teresa Signer Smith—Director, New Pathways Ministries (New Hope)

HARRISONBURG DISTRICT

Benjamin D. Burks—Executive Director, Virginia Baptist Homes (Asbury)

Julie Ann Haushalter—Director, Lavender Center for Education and Retreats (Vision of Hope)

Charles F. Reynolds—Exec. Dir., Virginia Conference Wellness Ministries, Ltd. (Verona)

Paul Ritter (PL)—Correctional Chaplain, Augusta Correctional Center, Chaplain Service Prison Ministry of VA, Inc., (Mountain Valley)

JAMES RIVER DISTRICT

Kevin A. Anderson (PD)—Special Education Teacher, Marguerite Christian Elementary School (Secondary Appt.: Bermuda Hundred)

Delano Douglas (FL)—Director, United Campus Ministries, VSU (Highland)

Dwala J. Ferrell—Chief Executive Officer, Pathways-VA, Inc. (Oak Grove)

J. Stanley Hargraves—Registrar, Union Presbyterian Seminary (Chester)

Robin C.M. Jones (FL)—Director of the Spiritual Care Program, Jackson-Feild Homes (Salem)

James G. O'Quinn—James River District Director of Congregational Excellence (West Dinwiddie)

Timothy Todd Smith—Counselor, Pathways-VA, Inc. (Bethia)

P. Michael Watts—Dir., Shalom Homes, Pathways-VA, Inc. (Oak Grove)

John D. White (FD)—Autism Teacher, Chesterfield County Schools (Secondary appointment: Trinity/Chesterfield)

LYNCHBURG DISTRICT

Ashley Abarca-Mitchell—On loan: Associate Pastor, Nolensville First UMC, Tennessee Conference (Main Street, Bedford)
Dori Baker—Dir. of Spiritual Life/Chaplain, Sweet Briar College, and Research Fellow, Forum for Theological Exploration (Lane Memorial)
Ray A. Buchanan—Founder and International President, Stop Hunger Now, Inc. (Bedford Circuit)

RICHMOND DISTRICT

Marc D. Brown—Director of Connectional Ministries, Virginia Conference (Trinity)
David E. Carl Jr.—Ex. Dir. of Spiritual Care & Education, Carolinas Health Care System, Charlotte, NC and On loan: Pastor, Big Spring UMC, WNC Conference (River Rd.)
James G. Daniely—Director/Campus Minister, Pace - Wesley Foundation, VCU (Asbury Memorial)
Roger C. Dowdy (FD)—Director, CROSS-PATHS Ministries (Secondary appointment: Good Shepherd)
Allen E. Gunther Jr.—Battalion Command Chaplain, US Army (Skipwith)
Lynda W. Harding—Clinic Manager/Chaplain, Crossover Healthcare Ministry (New Song)
M. Jan Holton—Assistant Prof. of Pastoral Care and Counseling, Yale Divinity School (Reveille)
Stephen C. Hundley—On loan: Executive Director of Connectional Ministries, Cal-Pac Conference (Corinth)
Virginia A. Lee (FD)—Associate Professor of Christian Education and Dir. of Deacon Studies, Garrett-Evangelical Seminary (Charge Conference: Reveille)
Amy V. Lenow (FD)—Pastoral Counselor, VIPCARE (Secondary Appt.: Trinity)
Meredith L. McNabb—Director, Center for Clergy Excellence, Virginia Conference
Mark V. Ogren—Dir. Of Congregational Excellence, Virginia Conference (Duncan Memorial)
Jinwook Oh (PD)—Director/Minister, Milal Mission (Shady Grove Short Pump)
Derrick Parson—Director of Ministries with Young People, VA Conference (Reveille)
Nancy Robinson (FD)—Continuing Education Coordinator, Sierra Leone, Missionary, General Board of Global Ministries (Secondary: Lakeside)
Kathryn F. Talley—Deputy Exec. Dir., VA Supportive Housing (Centenary)

Michelle Renee Thorne (PE)—On loan: Pastor in charge, Community UMC, Annapolis Southern Region, Baltimore-Washington Conference (Asbury Memorial)
Joseph Torrence (FD)—Minister to Youth and Church Relations, UMFS (Secondary: St. Matthew's)
Dorothee Tripodi (PE)—Assoc. Dir. of Supervised Ministry and Vocational Planning, Union Presbyterian Seminary (Westover Hills)
Michael L. Whaley—On loan: Associate Pastor of Missions/ Membership, Davidson UMC, WNC Conference (Woodlake)

ROANOKE DISTRICT

Stephen Darr—Campus Minister Dir., Community College Ministries (Blacksburg)
Bret-Ashton G. Gresham—Director/Campus Minister, Wesley Foundation at VA Tech (Blacksburg)
Jeffrey C. Pugh—Professor of Religious Studies, Elon (South Roanoke)

STAUNTON DISTRICT

Kenneth A. Beals—Assistant Professor, Mary Baldwin College (Central)

WINCHESTER DISTRICT

B. Justin Allen—Dean of Spiritual Life and Director of The Institute for Church Professions, Shenandoah University (Braddock Street)
Rhonda VanDyke Colby—Vice-President for Student Life, Shenandoah University (Braddock Street)
Joshua R. Orndorff (PE)—Chaplain, Randolph-Macon Academy (Riverton)
Sara E. Pugh—On loan: Pastor, Coweta First UMC, Muskogee District, OK Conference (Braddock Street)
Cynthia I. Zirlott (FD)—Protestant Chaplain, United Campus Ministry, Frostburg State University (Secondary appt.: Frostburg UMC; Charge Conference: First)

YORK RIVER DISTRICT

Koren B. Robins (PE)—Registrar, Duke Divinity School (Williamsburg)

DEACONESS & HOME MISSIONER

ALEXANDRIA DISTRICT

Brenda Romenius (D)—Director of Christian Education, Saint John's UMC (Saint John's)

DANVILLE DISTRICT

Elizabeth 'Lisa' Nichols (D)—Exec. Dir./ Church and Community Worker, Henry Fork Service Center (Redwood)

ELIZABETH RIVER DISTRICT

Laarni S. Bibay (DC)—Children Health Advocate/Medical Mission Project Coordinator, Tidewater Pediatrics, Portsmouth (Resurrection)
Haniel Garibay (HM)—Cross Cultural Common Witness Coordinator, Methodist Federation for Social Action (Resurrection)
Olma Eleanor Olay-May (DC)—Multi-Ministry Director, Resurrection UMC (Resurrection)
Anselma 'Emma' Samson (DC)—Coordinator for Leadership Development for Church and Community, Resurrection UMC (Resurrection)

FARMVILLE DISTRICT

Diane W. Hassell (DC)—Leave of Absence

FREDERICKSBURG DISTRICT

Susan Lewandowski (D)—GED Instructor, Rappahannock Area Regional Adult Education (Fredericksburg)

LYNCHBURG DISTRICT

Ann Farris (D)—Family Leave of Absence (Fairview)

FULL HOUSE?





Despite all you've seen and heard about declining numbers, some congregations in the Virginia Conference are growing (and managing to pay 100 percent of their apportionments). Here's what several are doing to attract guests and develop disciples. And remember, thou shalt steal these best practices.

Braddock Street UMC keeps church 'Simple'

After doing group work around the book "Simple Church," members of Braddock Street UMC in downtown Winchester formed a new vision statement which focused energy on mission to make disciples in worship, small groups and mission. We have made an effort to share that vision with the congregation and the community via a new website, new logo, Facebook, direct mail, etc. By focusing our energy, we can offer quality worship experiences, meaningful small groups and a plethora of opportunities to serve our community in Christ's name. Our church has a long history of serving those in need in our community. Our mission efforts are the ministry that our new members say means the most to them.

- The Rev. Kirk Nave

Vacation Bible School at Burke UMC. Bottom right, part of the Burke runners club.



Burke UMC continues to share vision of excellence

Burke UMC has been intentional in keeping focus on the written Vision Statement of the church. While the wording itself isn't necessarily unique, our vision is aligned with and reinforced by the 5 Talent Academy and the book *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*. We keep that Vision Statement in front of us – on church bulletins, walls, meeting agendas, staff e-mails – and teach it to new members. Sometimes we recite it in worship. We share our expectations for what that vision looks like in regular discipleship, so that new members are clear about the direction, values and expectations of the congregation.

We believe in the idea that “Excellence Communicates Christ.” We try to go deeper into excellence instead of broader into activity. This means we don't have a particular program that should cause other churches to say, “that's what we should do!” Instead, we try to do the basics of vital congregational life with creativity, flair, attention to excellence – and always a sense of humor.

We aim to:

- ❖ teach and reinforce the nature of hospitality for the entire church;
- ❖ cultivate visitors and offer multiple opportunities for engaging in the church's mission;
- ❖ celebrate often;
- ❖ think creatively about how to blend church practices into public life; for example, we have sponsored an Open Mic night at a local yogurt shop, and offered the imposition of ashes at the local commuter rail station;
- ❖ communicate well, especially through social media, short videos, attractive signage and our website;
- ❖ make worship more “child-friendly” with bulletin revisions, activity buckets, sermon games and family tips;
- ❖ emphasize hands-on mission work for all ages, so that children and families experience the joy of service from an early age;
- ❖ furnish classrooms and meeting rooms with creative themes, colors, art and furniture.

We certainly will add special events, classes, opportunities and celebrations into our regular schedule. But Burke UMC simply tries to do the basics of any faithful church of Jesus Christ – and to do them with a passion for excellence. Excellence communicates Christ.

-The Rev. Larry Buxton



Pastor Randy Orndorff (far left) leads the "Starting Point" class at Culpeper UMC.



Coffee talk introduces newcomers to Culpeper

In a large church it is sometimes difficult to feel at home and like you belong. One way we try to break down the walls between visitors and the staff is by having "Coffee with the Pastors." People who attend Culpeper UMC are given the opportunity quarterly to attend this get-to-know-you event. People can sign up ahead of time and can also show up the day of the event.

"Coffee with the Pastors" happens right after the last worship service. The pastors sit down with people who are interested in getting to know the pastors and learning more about the church. This event makes it possible for the pastors of a large church to have a good amount of face time with people who are new to the church. This time would not exist otherwise. During the two-hour session, pastors and participants get to know each other over lunch with time for lots of questions. Then the next hour is spent talking about all the different aspects of mission and ministry in the church. Finally, the participants are invited to ask questions and to attend a small group called "Start-

ing Point," which starts the next week. This is an immediate way to get connected.

Many of the participants of "Coffee with the Pastors" end up taking "Starting Point," a three-week class about the mission and ministry of The United Methodist Church, Culpeper UMC and what it means to embody membership in this local church. At the end of this class participants are invited to join the church, pending a meeting with the pastor. Also we plan our seasonal Advent, Lent, fall and spring small groups to coincide with this time period, so right after "Starting Point" ends a new small group begins the next week. This process has really helped people grow in their faith because it creates a structure for them to get connected in a way that is inviting and not assertive. It also helps them to meet people who are in the same transitional place that they are.

These new relationships last far beyond the bounds of the class. For instance, two of our "Starting Point" graduates have combined their passion for mission and are in the process of planning a mission trip to Cuba.

This disciple-making process is vital to the life of the church and gives people a place to enter the church no matter what background they are coming from.

-The Rev. Jessie Squires Colwell, Associate Pastor



Ebenezer works hard to make people feel welcome

At Ebenezer UMC in Stafford, we believe the following best practices contribute to our growth and ability to pay 100 percent of our apportionments:

- ❖ **Excellent worship.** Critically evaluating worship experiences to ensure worship is relevant to our community and is so meaningful that people want to invite others to church. We offer both traditional and contemporary worship and have pastors who work very hard to connect biblical truth to the challenges and realities of life.
- ❖ **First impressions and follow up.** We have a team of people who work hard to make sure that the first impressions on Sunday morning are positive and inviting. Our parking lot ushers, greeters, connection desk and café all work together synergistically to create a welcoming environment. We follow up with e-mails and phone calls to first-time guests and first-time givers. We also have a "Connections Director" dedicated to ensuring people get involved in the life of the church.
- ❖ **Commitment to learning:** We invest time and money in continuing education, especially focused on learning from other churches that are bearing fruit. Whether that is attending a conference or reading a book or participating in a webinar, we seek out ideas and inspiration that help us learn and improve.
- ❖ **Financial generosity.** We strive to create a strong culture of financial generosity by preaching on stewardship, learning about stewardship practices of successful non-profit organizations, and using Dave Ramsey's *Financial Peace University* to help people become wise in the area of personal finance. Our senior pastor takes seriously his role as the primary vision caster and "resource raiser" of the church.
- ❖ **Prayer ministry.** We have an active prayer ministry and encourage our members to make prayer an important part of their personal spiritual disciplines.

-Robin Bennett



New contemporary service boosts First UMC in Salem

First UMC's most notable growth has taken place since the inception of our 8:45 a.m. "Genesis" worship service, which began three years ago. It is one of three worship services that are offered each Sunday at FUMC. Genesis is typically characterized as a "contemporary service" or "non-traditional." The general difference is found in the type of room we meet in. We meet in the Fellowship Hall, which has no carpet, no pews, no stained glass windows, does contain comfortable chairs, a large stage that holds a full band, a large screen for videos/announcements, etc.

The atmosphere is somewhat casual; you will not see many suits or ties. We believe folks respond positively when they are comfortable and "come as you are" and makes them feel more at home.

Our praise band is made up of a dozen or more people with musical gifts and abilities to play many different types of instruments. Along with our singers, the band provides more contemporary music along with traditional cherished hymns.

Genesis is led by two associate pastors of the church, who provide two different "flavors" of preaching style. Probably one of the most effective qualities about this service is that it allows opportunity to try "new things" – videos, drama, dance, testimonies, guest speakers, etc. – and it all seems very normal. It's still very much a Methodist service in that we utilize liturgy, Holy Communion, Baptism, observing the seasons of Lent and Advent.

The Genesis worship service has brought many families into the church. We are seeing lives transformed and hearts restored as we try to be the church, the family of God, with open hearts, open minds and open doors.

-Bobby Pickle, minister for Congregational Care & Senior Adults

Variety of factors make Mount Olivet appealing

Website: When we ask visitors how they first learned of Mount Olivet, many say that it was by viewing the church's website.

Traditional Worship: The liturgy and music each Sunday combine with the sermon to proclaim a single message, and the congregation sings the hymns and reads the liturgy with enthusiasm.

Christian Growth:

❖ Church leaders several years ago reviewed the demographics of the congregation and found that the most prominent age groups were children under the age of 10 and adults in their early 40s. With this understanding, the Church Council created a full-time staff position for ministry to children and families.



- ❖ As a "green church," caring for God's creation is integrated into worship, education and missions.
- ❖ Clergy and lay leaders encourage each member to discern his or her call to ministry. Ten persons during the past five years have responded to the call to full-time Christian service.

Missions:

- ❖ Mount Olivet during 2013 sent four teams of youths and adults on week-long mission trips to places of need in the eastern United States and El Salvador.
- ❖ On the third Saturday of each month, Mount Olivet invites those in need in our community to come to the church for a health check-up, music, a hot meal, groceries, clothing and toiletries. Around 175 volunteers from the congregation and community prepare for and serve between 200 and 300 guests each month.

Generosity: The church in 2013 spent 22 percent of its income for missions.

-Jim Dake

Redland UMC works to grow together as a family

What is it that makes Redland UMC a growing church? It would be easy to list all our programs, such as the Outreach Center, music, missions, small groups, worship services that hold one's attention, and of course a young and dynamic pastor. Our Vision Statement encompasses growth – "Redland desires to be a warm, friendly and open church whose purpose is to grow as a family, grow in Christ and share God's love through ministry to the community and the world."

We believe that it is the spirit with which we try to live out this vision that is apparent to visitors and members alike and which sets us apart. We are encouraged to commit to daily prayer for our church, community and the world. Newcomers are invited from the onset to become part of a small group enabling them to feel a true belonging in our spiritual family. Churchgoers are often asked to participate in the worship service so they feel like contributors rather than receivers. Our sermons are uplifting and inspirational – the message is well remembered for days after the services. We laugh a lot, we greet one another with smiles and hugs; no one sits alone.

In striving to "grow as a family," our Redland church family shares much the same love, respect and concern that our individual families have for each other. None of this is artificial; it is all from the heart empowered by the Holy Spirit. Know your vision, live that vision and wonderful things can happen!

-Jim Ford, Administrative Council Co-Chair





Shady Grove is intentional about sharing good news

For Shady Grove UMC in Mechanicsville, there is no one particular program or ministry to which we can attribute all of the growth and vitality of recent months. God has been at work in amazing ways, filling our church with a spirit of intentionality. We have been intentional across our ministries in how we share the good news of Christ. We have developed intentional ministries for welcoming first-time guests, helping new and prospective members get integrated into the life of the church, providing mission and small group opportunities in which all persons can participate and involving persons of all ages in worship. We have been intentional in utilizing new technologies to enhance our ministries while, at the same time, emphasizing the importance of personal contact with all who come into our midst.

We are continuing to look for new ways of being intentional about going beyond our walls in mission and hospitality, striving to find ways to be Christ's hands and feet. We are experiencing God's Holy Spirit present within our church, inspiring and encouraging us to try new ideas.

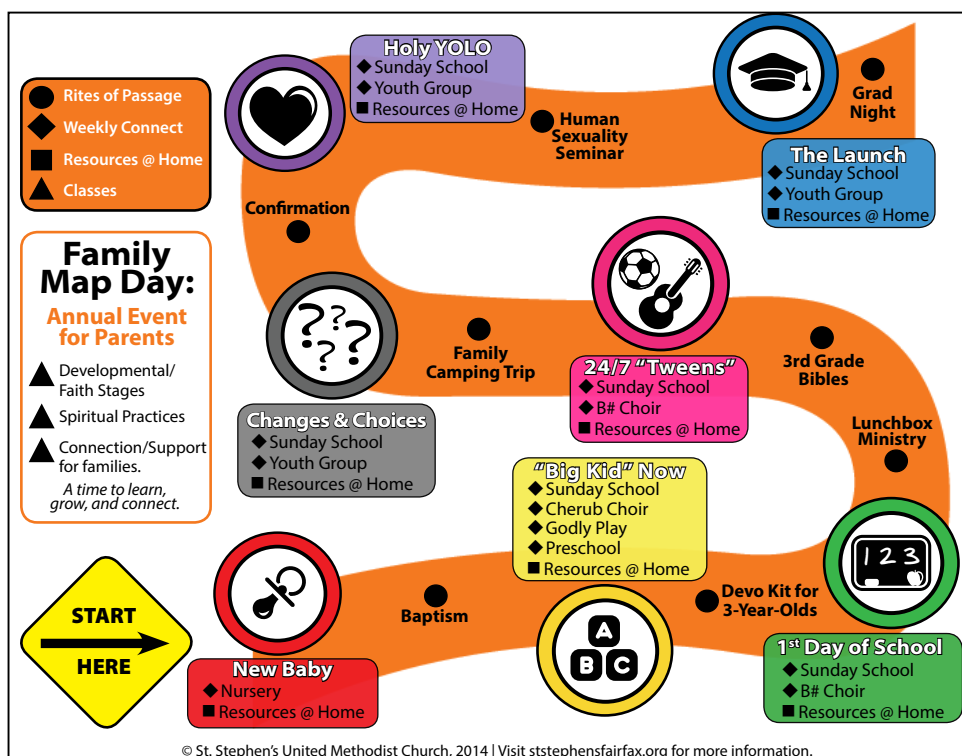
Many of our ministries have developed through trial and error, but our intentional efforts to welcome, to worship and to serve are generating excitement and enthusiasm in our church and community!

-The Rev. Brad Robbins, associate pastor

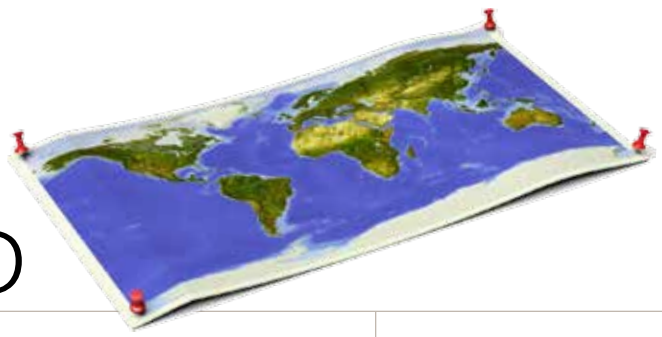
'Family Map' points the way for growth at St. Stephen's

At St. Stephen's we have taken a good hard look at all of the systems behind our growth to make sure they are in place and as healthy as possible. For example, we realized several years ago that our children's discipleship system was not as clear to new parents as it could be and that there were some significant gaps at key milestones within the lives of children and youths that the church could and should address. This led to the entire church discerning through Scripture, prayer, discussion, training and reflection on how we could work together to address these gaps. The outcome was the "Family Map," (below) which we shared with the community at our Christmas Eve services. The outcome of communicating a clear and comprehensive discipleship system to parents with children and teenagers has led to consistent growth. Every Sunday since sharing the "Family Map" we have seen anywhere from two to 10 visitors in worship, as well as growth in the various mid-week programs outlined within the "Family Map" that support children, youths and parents. Consequently, we have also seen growth in new members among families with children, as well as other life stages (young adults, young married couples without children, retired persons, etc.).

-The Rev. Abi Foerster



Religious news from around the NATION & WORLD



Same-gender debate rekindles schism talk

By Kathy Gilbert and
Heather Hahn

The latest talk of “an amicable split” along progressive and conservative lines is not new for The United Methodist Church.

Russell Richey documents the church’s historic divisions in a 1999 book, “Questions for the Twenty First Century Church.” The Rev. Robert Williams, top executive of the Commission on Archives and History, recommends Richey’s chapter “Is Division a New Threat to the Denomination?” as one of the best essays on historic schisms within Methodism.

“Division and culture wars have been a constant feature of Methodist denominational life. ... Conventional wisdom has a short memory,” Richey, dean emeritus of Candler School of Theology and author of several books on the history of The United Methodist Church, concluded at the end of that chapter.

When Richey’s book debuted, Jimmy Creech, a pastor in the Nebraska Conference had just been stripped of his credentials after being convicted of officiating at a same-gender ceremony. At that time, there were dire predictions that the church would split along conservative and liberal lines.

Discussions of division at

the 2004 General Conference, the denomination’s lawmaking body, led to the passage of a unity resolution.

But while talk of division isn’t new, the stress level does seem high. Much has been happening related to church unity and the struggle over church teaching on homosexuality.

Here is a survey of recent developments:

Eight bishops “finding our way”

Into the fray come eight bishops from across the theological spectrum with a new book from Abingdon Press: “Finding Our Way: Love and Law in The United Methodist Church.” Like the church members they lead, the bishops have differing perspectives on the divisions within the denomination, and they suggest different ways forward. None of the bishops proposes the disintegration of the denomination.

Retired Bishop Rueben Job and Neil Alexander, president and publisher of the United Methodist Publishing House, served as editors of the 115-page volume of essays.

“Perhaps the result of the current turbulence and division over a range of issues will lead to schism,” Job and Alexander said. “We hope not and do not see how drawing lines in the sand and choosing sides represents the best of our

calling or our promise as the church of Jesus Christ.”

Pastors calling for amicable split

In late May, a group of 80 United Methodist pastors and theologians in a press release suggested just that – an amicable split of the denomination – saying differences over homosexuality and other issues are irreconcilable.

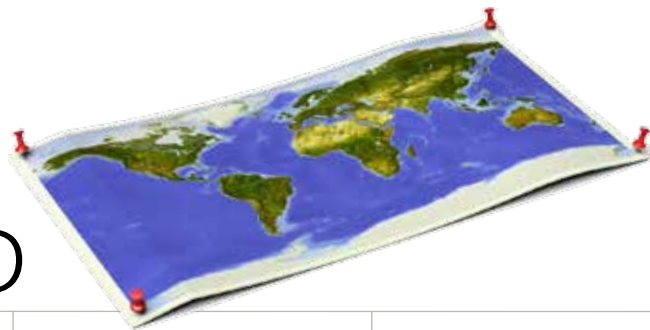
The group makes clear its support for the church’s current official positions on homosexuality, including that marriage should only be between a man and a woman, but says its disagreements with “progressives” go further, including to whether the Bible is the infallible word of God.

On May 7, a group of more than 50 San Antonio area pastors released a similar statement, saying

(Continued on next page, “Schism”)



Religious news from around the NATION & WORLD



("Schism," continued from previous page)

the depth of division runs deeper than the disagreement about what the *Book of Discipline* says about homosexuality.

"In truth, we are divided over much more than human sexual ethics. We are divided over the authority and role of Scripture, the nature and person of Jesus Christ, and the meaning of our commitment to classic Wesleyan holiness. Traditional Methodists are finding it increasingly difficult to support a denomination that seems incapable of faithfully living out a commitment to these foundational beliefs," said the Rev. Leslie Tomlinson, pastor of Lutie Watkins Memorial UMC, Llano, Texas, in a statement released by the group.

In April, Good News, an unofficial United Methodist renewal group, said the "widespread disregard" of the church's ban on same-sex unions and a lack of enforcement by bishops has made the denomination's situation "untenable."

Bishops take stands

Retired Bishop Melvin Talbert became the first United Methodist bishop to publically officiate at a same-sex wedding on Oct. 26, 2013, in Birmingham, Ala. He did so after receiving requests not to perform the wedding from presiding Birmingham Area Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett and the executive committee of the United Methodist

Council of Bishops.

Formal complaints were filed against Talbert March 13, alleging, "he has violated the sacred trust of his office." The complaint is before the Western Jurisdiction College of Bishops from which Talbert retired. Church law requires that complaints against bishops be heard in the jurisdiction where the bishop is a member.

In March, United Methodist leaders reached a "just resolution" without trial in a complaint against the Rev. Thomas Ogletree, a retired United Methodist seminary dean in the New York Conference who officiated at his son's wedding. New York's Bishop Martin McLee also called for "the cessation of church trials."

Two months later, McLee dismissed charges against the Rev. Sara Thompson Tweedy, a New York Conference elder accused of being "a self-avowed practicing lesbian."

Two pastors under complaint for officiating at same-sex unions in the Pacific Northwest Conference, the Rev. Cheryl Fear, pastor of Garden Street UMC in Bellingham, Wash., and the Rev. Gordon Hutchins, pastor of The Bridge, a United Methodist church in Tacoma, Wash., were given a 24-hour suspension without pay by Bishop Grant Hagiya, Greater Northwest Area, in February.

Other bishops plan to respond differently when clergy officiate at same-sex

unions. In a January sermon titled "Unity of the Spirit in the Bond of Peace," Great Plains Area Bishop Scott Jones told a gathering of Kansas and Nebraska clergy that if 100 pastors perform same-gender unions, "Then there will be 100 suspensions from ministry during the supervisory response followed by 100 trials."

Recent trial grabbed headlines

Frank Schaefer, a former United Methodist pastor, was stripped of his clergy credentials by a church trial Nov. 19, 2013. Schaefer was found guilty of violating church law when he officiated at the marriage of his gay son. He was also found guilty of disobedience to the order and discipline of the denomination.

Schaefer filed an appeal that will be heard June 20 by the Northeastern Jurisdiction Committee on Appeals.

He has been traveling across the connection speaking at United Methodist churches since his trial. He does not advocate splitting the church but does support changes to church law that will allow pastors to officiate at all weddings of people in their congregations.

Though not calling for a split in the church, several United Methodist churches, conferences and unofficial organizations have made public declarations that they cannot follow church law as currently stated.

The California-Nevada

Conference declared the month of May a "Season of Love" that included the marriage of Kira Rabut Azzam and Nikki Salde at Wesley United Methodist Church in San Jose, Calif., in the presence of their family and church members. The National Japanese American United Methodist Caucus of The United Methodist Church released a statement after the wedding saying it stands in solidarity with the Wesley congregation.

First United Methodist Church in Oneonta, N.Y., recently announced it would withhold 40 percent of its remaining apportionment from the Upper New York Conference in 2014 and 100 percent beginning in 2015. Church leaders stated the withholding of funds would continue until The United Methodist Church removes "discriminatory language from the *Book of Discipline* and grants LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) people all rights and privileges accorded to heterosexual people, specifically ordination and marriage."

Love Prevails, an unofficial United Methodist group advocating for change in The United Methodist Church's policies on LGBT people, has issued a call for United Methodists to stop or reduce financial giving to their local churches and instead send support to organizations working for full inclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and



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questioning people.

Two United Methodist churches in the Rocky Mountain Conference placed advertisements in two publications in January stating their support of marriage equality and willingness to offer space for same-sex gender ceremonies and clergy willing to perform the ceremonies.

Public discussions

The Connectional Table, a United Methodist body that coordinates ministry and resources, began a series of three public discussions on human sexuality. At the conclusion of the first meeting April 29, the body agreed to propose changes in the Discipline that negatively affect the LGBT community. Proposals will be considered at the next meeting of the Connectional Table prior to presentation to the 2016 United Methodist General Conference. General Conference meets every four years and is the only body that can make changes to church law.

The question at the center of the Connectional Table's first dialogue on human sexuality was: Can The United Methodist Church

sustain deep disagreements regarding human sexuality and still remain in unity?

The complaint process is still ongoing against at least three clergy for officiating at same-sex unions. They include the Rev. Stephen Heiss, a pastor in the Upper New York Conference; the Rev. William McElvaney, a retired United Methodist pastor and former seminary president in the North Texas Conference; and Talbert. Often the manner in which the complaints are handled is confidential.

It's meeting time

Meanwhile, United Methodists in Africa, Europe, the Philippines and the United States are holding regional meetings, called annual conferences.

During the gatherings, clergy and laity elected by local churches will consider, among other business, resolutions on various issues.

In 2013, 15 conferences rejected the denomination's stance on gay rights and same-sex marriage. The Western Jurisdiction has affirmed its own pro-gay rights statement, "We Will Not Be Silent!" every year since its adoption in 2000.

Which way now?

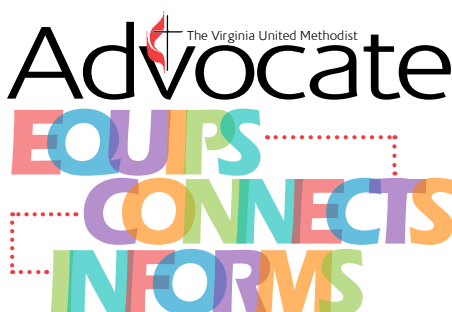
At the end of "Finding our Way," Bishop Job calls on United Methodists to humble themselves and trust God. He proposes three steps between now and the 2016 General Conference.

- ❖ Stop the "propaganda war," recognizing "every person as a dearly loved child of God."
- ❖ Declare a moratorium on celebrations and trials regarding same-gender unions.
- ❖ Begin a practice of prayer and discernment, leaving personal preference aside to seek only God's direction.

If United Methodists truly engage in "deep and discerning prayer," Job predicts great things.

"Our life together will then be so attractive," Job writes, "that multitudes will be drawn to us and want to join us because they see what they themselves want to experience." ☞

-Kathy Gilbert and Heather Hahn are reporters for United Methodist News Service. Linda Bloom and Sam Hodges contributed to this report.



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The United Methodist connection in VIRGINIA



Church art exhibit in Newport News focuses on representations of transformation

By Nicole Paitsel

"The beauty of art is that it opens up ways and categories that we don't always use to think about who we are and who God is."

The Rev. Bert Cloud looks at his photo submission to the art exhibit at Warwick Memorial UMC in Newport News. Photo by Nicole Paitsel, The Daily Press

One might expect to find representations of crosses, Jesus and lambs at a church-sponsored Easter art exhibit. But at Warwick Memorial UMC in Newport News, the messages of Eastertime, God's love and human transformation are represented in an altogether different way. "Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world," said Bert Cloud, pastor of Warwick Memorial.

"So we asked members to reflect on what a transformed world would look like. And the beauty of art is that it opens up ways and categories that we don't always use to think about who we are and

who God is."

Cloud, who is himself an art lover, came up with the idea of a special exhibit to celebrate Easter after discovering that many in his congregation were artists in some form. His call for artwork was met with nearly 50 submissions that now adorn the white cinderblock walls of the church's hallways.

Artists of all ages participated in the exhibit, submitting paintings, pottery, drawings, photographs and mixed media pieces. Some were so inspired by the artwork and its theme that they submitted their own pieces on the night of the artists' reception, Cloud said.

One of the first things that Cloud pointed out to visitors is that most of the artwork isn't "church-y."

Cloud, who calls himself an amateur photographer, submitted three photographs of his own, representing different aspects of the transformation theme.

"Christians view Easter as the ultimate moment of transformation," he said. "The power of sin and death are defeated by the eternal love and grace of God. We say that the resurrection of Jesus radically changed everything. In the Biblical book 2 Corinthians 5:17-18, Paul says that because of Christ people can become part of God's new creation. 'The old has gone,' he says, 'the new is here!'"

In his photograph of baby robins, the image

of the baby birds calling ceaselessly for their mother struck him as a natural image of God and God's children. The ripples in the water of his lilies scene represented life and movement and the change from winter to spring.

"This photo of my daughter was captured at the end of a long day in a state park," he said. "We were tired, but this was a moment of pure joy. It was life at the end of the day."

Cloud said, for him, watching visitors bring their own interpretations to the artwork has been rewarding. He intentionally left off titles for his photographs, because he wanted viewers to bring an understanding of the theme from their own experience.

"To take these theological ideas and put them in a broader context helps us make those connections between the church and life," Cloud said. "It's one thing to talk about (biblical ideas), but to create art and experience (those ideas) opens up some amazing doors." 🍷

-Nicole Paitsel writes for the Daily Press in Newport News.



The United Methodist connection in VIRGINIA

How one Roanoke church created a prayer retreat for the district

By Liz Mortlock

Last summer, just a few weeks after retiring as an active United Methodist pastor, I received a call from Sarah Pero, leader of the prayer ministry at Raleigh Court UMC in Roanoke. "Our church is planning a prayer retreat called 'Conversations with God.' Would you be our keynote speaker?"

A few days later I called Sarah back. "I need to say no," I said. "I'm no Moses. I know I am a pastor, but I just don't think I am profoundly spiritual enough to give you the compelling and transformative inspiration to carry the day."

Sarah was calm. "Why don't you just come to our first meeting. I am sure the Spirit will lead us."

How could I say no? We were not alone.

I am happy to report that Sarah and her team, in partnership with the Holy Spirit, prevailed. After months of meeting and planning, Raleigh Court hosted its "Conversations with God" day of prayer and workshops on prayer on Feb. 22, led by mostly laity and a couple of clergy. Fifty men and women from Raleigh Court UMC and around the Roanoke District drew closer to God during this wonderful day.

How did it happen? Pastor Milton Marks of Raleigh Court came up with the idea of a prayer retreat,

and Pero offered to shepherd the planning and the day.

At the first planning meeting, the team almost immediately realized they didn't need or want a keynote speaker with exceptional spiritual gifts. Instead we began to see that within the group, and within the church, were lay people, clergy and staff, each of whom had a particular experience and understanding of an aspect of prayer.

Concerned about "silo"

ministries, or individual churches doing great things just for their own congregations, we made the choice that the retreat would be offered to everyone in the district. We prepared a colorful flyer, mailed it electronically to all Roanoke District pastors and many of our friends, put it in the district newsletter and gave it out to people we met and to other churches we visited. This bore fruit. Some 52 people pre-registered.

The day was planned to

be at Camp Alta Mons, but snow blocked our path. So we moved to Plan B – the church's Memorial Hall. The day before the retreat the team gathered to turn the large room into welcoming space. Next to the lectern was a braided rug, a rocking chair and an afghan, constant visual reminders of quiet, prayer and reflection. Instead of lining chairs up formal charge-conference style, we scattered them around the room in a casual way – classroom chairs mixed in with arm chairs. Almost all were covered with quilts or afghans. On the walls were big hand-painted paper banners reading "Come Holy Spirit, Come." That was our prayer.

Everyone was welcomed at the door with a prepared name tag, pen and a "map." The "map" of the day's journey was a packet with the agenda for the day and handout sheets in order for each speaker, with extra space for writing reflections and prayers during and after each session.

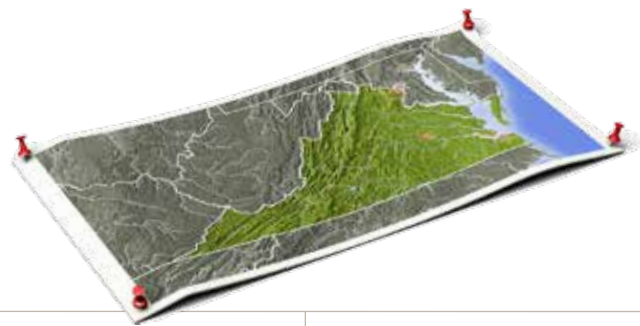
Participants browsed tables of Christian books from a team member's personal collection. Donations of \$5 per book added up to \$260 raised to benefit the Methodist Church in Haiti, where a conference team, including two of the retreat participants, would be serving in early March.



Participants create prayer beads.

(Continued on page 45, "Prayer retreat")

The United Methodist connection in VIRGINIA



Work team in Haiti hits 'The Wall'

By Liz Mortlock

Our Virginia United Methodist Volunteer In Mission (UMVIM) team to Haiti first saw "The Wall" on March 6. More accurately, I should say that on that date we first passed by this high wall. None of us actually noticed the wall, for it was completely undifferentiated from thousands of other such walls in Haiti – cinderblock, chipped-paint walls protecting homes, schools, businesses and churches in a land where poverty is rampant.

But by March 11, no one – ourselves or the Haitian community who lived near the wall – ignored it. It had become a source of community pride and delight, and a symbol of friendship

across race and culture.

If you wanted to see "The Wall" for yourself, you could fly, as we did, from Washington to Miami, then take another hour-and-a-half flight on to Port au Prince, the bustling, congested capital city. Looking out the window you could see tall buildings still split down the middle, vestiges of the horrific 2010 earthquake. Though reported numbers vary, some say as many as 220,000 were killed, and tens of thousands are buried in a vast, bleak mass grave alongside the road.

From Port Au Prince, you go along the coast to the small port where you board a local ferry to the island of La Gonave. On arrival at Anse-à-Galets you would head for the Methodist church and school compound. You'd traverse a dried up river bed full of refuse, plastic bags and clutter. You'd

see little stands made with a few items for sale – a bar of soap, some toothpaste. And then, you would arrive at "The Wall," a 67-foot long wall that stands at the entrance to the Methodist compound.

Every day children in school uniforms, shiny shoes, hair ribbons and bright smiles enter the gate through "The Wall" to attend the Charles Wesley School. The literacy rate in Haiti is about 53 percent. Some 90 percent of the 15,000 elementary schools are non-public, run by communities, NGOs and religious organizations such as the Methodist Church. When school here is out of session, you see the children in their play clothes and dusty, sandaled feet.

Not all children are bright as new pennies. A child may look at your water bottle and say, "I am thirsty." Another child with a doleful look may say, "I don't feel well." Why not? Because he hasn't had anything to eat. Running water and daily meals are luxuries well beyond the means of many Haitians.

My 12 teammates and I joined this community under the leadership of the Rev. Sam NeSmith, a United Methodist pastor and former district superintendent. The conventional implications of the word "retired" do not apply to Sam. He is well into his 70s and this was his 99th mission trip, having led recent trips also to Cambodia and Russia. He has taken on the responsibility for our

The Rev Sam NeSmith (far left) and the UMVIM team stand together in front of 'The Wall' at the Methodist compound in the Haitian village of Anse-à-Galets. Opposite page, artist Mary Beth Lee poses with with locals in front of her creation.



The United Methodist connection in VIRGINIA

travel, work and well-being in Haiti, having led trips to Haiti in the past, as well as leading recent trips to Cambodia, Russia and Tangier Island.

Rev. NeSmith's view of our mission is that we are there to support the Methodist Church community at Anse-à-Galets in a way that matches our individual gifts, some of which we may plan to make use of (by bringing Christian education supplies and building supplies, for example), and some of which we may only discover on arrival.

Almost immediately, four 20-year-old young women on our team discover their mission. Under the leadership of Mary Beth Lee, an artist and student at Virginia Western Community College, they work to scrape and then paint a giant mural on the Methodist compound's wall. On her first trip to Haiti, Mary Beth has quickly responded to its beauty – water, sunsets, flowers and rainbows. She designs all this on "The Wall." With the help of her three new American friends as well as some local Haitians, they cover the wall with a work of art that shines brightly in the community.

It is so splendid that a local politician shows up, asking the Methodist pastor if he can paint a political slogan on the wall. The politician knows a good thing when he sees it! The answer is, of course, "No." This work of public art is a gift to the community, free of

any strings. Mary Beth and her fellow college students, Kasey Jones, Jessie Fisher and Sonja Lowe, worked on the wall in the hot sun, with people from the whole community talking, helping and enjoying the creativity. Mary Beth says, "I feel like all language and culture differences have melted away. We are just one."

Others of our team discover how best to use our ministry gifts too. A retired businessman, a city government official, a Virginia farmer and two pastors work with wood, sand, stone and concrete to build steps to the second floor of the church, which is a work in progress. Although the church is covered with construction dust and debris during our week there, church members using old brooms sweep it clean for the very important highlight of the week, a four-hour Sunday worship service with five choirs. Although the walls are not yet smooth and the church is lit at night by a single bulb running off a generator, the church is active and alive throughout weekday evenings with youth groups, choir practices, a talented praise band and Bible study.

We are not serving alone. Using funds we have all brought from very generous contributions from our individual churches – raised from mission budgets, dinners, book sales, etc. – we are able to fund not only the purchase of the building supplies but also employment for 20 hardworking



Haitians of the community. Another 10 or 15 church and community members volunteer to help as well. It is a beehive of shared endeavor.

Some in our group lead Vacation Bible School, acting out the story of Noah using delightful animal masks created for our mission by the youth group of Fort Hill UMC in Lynchburg. The "show" is such a success that the children present it in worship again that Sunday.

Some in our group create huge banners that are hung in the new church sanctuary – one with the Creole words for "I am walking in the footsteps of Jesus." That banner is covered with multi-colored footprints of the children who swarm to be with our team in the courtyard each day. Before dipping their feet in the paint they get caring foot washes from two women from our team – retired from the medical world and from the phone company – who convey a special touch

of loving care.

One of our team, Rev. J.D. Daniely, director of the Wesley Foundation at VCU, pays some pastoral calls in the homes of church members. John Morse, a member of New Hope UMC, presents an acoustic guitar to one of the church's music team that brings so much vitality to worship and youth gatherings. Otterbein UMC in Harrisonburg has sent school bags and soccer balls.

As for me, I am thrilled that my winter investment in studying 30 audio lessons in Haitian Creole have paid off. I am able to have simple conversations, and even to sit with children crowded around to read stories out of a "101 Pi Bel Istwa Nan Bibla," a colorfully-illustrated book of "101 Favorite Stories from the Bible." Later I meet Sharon Harbottle, a British Christian educator and missionary based at the Methodist Guest House in Port au

(Continued on page 41: "Haiti")

EQUIPPING FOR MINISTRY



Two ideas for connecting with your community this summer

By Jeremy Steele

Summer is a great time to do some out-of-the-box outreach. Here are a couple of great ideas to inspire you to try something new to connect with your community:

Mega Kids Camp

Cornerstone UMC,
Caledonia, Mich.

Several years ago, the people at Cornerstone decided to do something different with Vacation Bible School. Rather than buying expensive curriculum and teaching the Bible with felt boards, they decided to use art and sports.

Each child who comes chooses an art or sport such as soccer, photography, treasure hunting (that's right – maps and shovels and the whole thing!) or dancing. Over the next four nights from 6-8:30 p.m., they experience the Bible and the body of Christ through that medium.

After opening worship and Bible story time, each child joins an art or sport group and plays, paints or digs. During the sports and art time, they stop a couple of times for discussion to re-engage with the story and have a snack.

Volunteer recruitment is different, too. BethAnn Fernandez says they recruit “coaches” to plan and lead the sports or art activities as well as small-group leaders for groups of 12 during discussion times.

The number of children attending has risen, and a group of adults who typically did not volunteer provides leadership. During camp, many of those adults discovered a passion for children's ministry and are now among the weekly ministry volunteers.

Fernandez' advice is to start small with three or four options and build from there, recruiting more volunteers along the way.

Celebrate Jesus!

First UMC, Stuart, Fla.

The people at First UMC in Stuart, Fla., decided to reach out through water bottles and hamburgers. During a week of activities to “Celebrate Jesus,” they

went into the community each day bearing a different gift.

They delivered pizzas to parents picking up children at a daycare, they distributed water to people at the beach. They accompanied each gift with an invitation to a block party at the church. At the end of the week, the congregation opened the gates to the church grounds and an event to share Christ's love and experience God's prevenient grace. The event featured inflatables, live music from church musicians and free hamburgers. All over the grounds were signs offering another gift. Each said, “We're praying for you.”

The people of Stuart First UMC discovered that reaching out did not require a hard sell. All it took was love and grace – and a little food. 🍷

Jeremy Steele is the Next Generation pastor at Christ UMC in Mobile, Ala., and a regular columnist for The United Methodist Reporter.



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LOCAL CHURCH NEWS



▲ **The Richmond District United Methodist Women's** "On the Road Again in Mission" team recently traveled to the Wesley Community Service Center in Portsmouth to learn about the many programs provided by the ministry and to provide work for the facility and grounds. The group painted two decks, weeded flower beds and borders, cleaned inside the building, counted and sorted many Campbell's Soup labels and shared lunch with the center staff. On the way home the group stopped at Memorial UMC in Charles City, where the United Methodist Women there served dinner.



▲ The children of **Bethany UMC in Forest**, along with their pastor, the Rev. Tom Thomas, presented a check for \$2,800 to Nancy Strachen, Bedford missionary founder of the Rwandan "HUGS" Foundation. The children collected donations during the Lenten season to purchase 280 rabbits for families in Rwanda, an African country rebuilding after more than 800,000 citizens were killed in

a 1995 genocide. Each rabbit, along with a cage and training on rabbit care, will cost \$10. Since 2011, the children have raised enough money to buy 56 goats, 65 pigs and 267 chickens. Strachen gave each child a necklace with a rabbit-shaped bell to remind them to pray for children and families in Rwanda.



▲ For the annual mission trip from **Main Street UMC, Farmville District**, 11 church members went to Harrisonburg to work on home repairs for Rebuilding Together. The mission team worked on three homes, removing damaged concrete siding and replac-

ing it with vinyl siding, repairing a leaky roof, building a handicap ramp, repairing a handicapped accessible bathroom, electrical fixtures and an existing ramp. The church also donated \$500 to Rebuilding Together for project costs. Team members included Gene and Cynthia Haugh, Thelma Crowder, Bob Duffer, Joy Duffer, Jeremy Duffer, Karen Robertson, Scott Phillips, Ebie Hines and Ed and Susan Rigg. Previous mission teams have worked in Mississippi, South Carolina, Georgia and other sites in Virginia.



▲ Many hands made light work at **Sydenstricker UMC's** "Change the World" event on May 18 in Springfield. With the help of children, youths and adults, more than 500 UMCOR birthing kits were assembled for distribution around the world.

On May 13, **Old Bridge UMC in Woodbridge, Alexandria District**, was honored by the Salvation Army National Capital Area Command with the Community Partners Award for the Prince William County Salvation Army Area. Old Bridge and the Salvation Army have partnered for more than two years to distribute fresh produce and other food to the area needy on the fourth Thursday of each month. This continuing effort has become a monthly event and



feeds several hundred families. And for a number of years, members of the church have been ringing bells for the Salvation Army during the Christmas season. Pictured, Dave Andrusko of Old Bridge UMC (left) receives the 2013 Community Partners Award for the Prince William County Salvation Army Area from the National Capital Area Commander Maj. Lewis Reckline and Associate Area Commander Maj. Jacquelyn Reckline. ▲



▲ The Skateboard Group of **Woodlake UMC, Richmond District**, held a drive to collect used and new skateboards to send to a skate ministry in Guatemala where many kids are sharing three boards. Pictured are a few members of the Woodlake skate ministry with several of the donated boards. What a difference these will make! To God be the glory!

▼ The Rev. Doug Sasser at **Burnt Chimney UMC in Wirtz** and the Rev. Kelvin Edwards Sr. of the **Kelly Charge (New Hope and Halesford UMCs) (Lynchburg District)** have been participating in a pulpit exchange in which the pastor and congregation of one church travel to the other where that pastor preaches. Fellowship time and lunch follow the services. The churches have also been supporting each other in ministry opportunities, especially in stocking food pantries in the area. Pictured, Rev. Edwards preaching at Burnt Chimney.



The Ann Douglas Scholarship Committee of United Methodist Women of **High Street UMC in Courtland** presented a \$750 scholarship to William H. Sloan, a first year Master of Divinity student at Candler School of Theology in Atlanta. He is a lifelong member of Bermuda Hundred UMC and is pursuing candidacy certification in the Virginia Conference through the James River District.

In April, five United Methodist churches came together for a Maundy Thursday service: **New Hope, Halesford, Emmaus and Union from the Lynchburg District, and Parrish Chapel of the Roanoke District**. The service included Holy Communion



and washing of feet, and was the first time most in the congregations had experienced a foot washing service. Pictured, the Rev. Kelvin Edwards Sr. of **Kelly Charge UMC** washes the Rev. Mickey White's feet ▲

("Haiti," continued from page 37)

Prince. She is delighted to see the Bible story books, as they are in short supply. On my return home I order more copies, delivered by Pastor Steve Meles-ter of Burnt Factory UMC. Three cheers for Methodist connectionalism!

And as we leave Anse-à-Galets we make one final visit to "The Wall" at the front of the church. It is not our wall but the community's wall, bright and hope-filled, a welcome entrance to the Methodist church and school that are arks of safety and blessing in the community. Even in the dim pre-dawn light, The Wall's brightness and hopefulness seem to glow, and we know that bright spirit continues to remain in a community of faith that is so vital and significant in Haiti, a place of joy and sorrow, suffering and hope. Thanks be to God. ☞

-The Rev. Liz Mortlock is a retired pastor living in Roanoke

Devotions from International Lesson Series

LIVING THE WORD



Dr. Berkley E. Ashby is the Lay Leader at Epworth UMC, Eastern Shore District. He is a newly certified Lay Servant and volunteers in the After-School Program at Epworth one day a week. He has been an educator, teacher, guidance counselor, principal, assistant superintendent and director of faculty support. He has taught graduate courses for Old Dominion University and Salisbury University. He graduated from East Carolina University with a BS in Business Education and has a Masters Degree in Guidance and a PhD. in Administration and Supervision from Old Dominion University. He has been married for 45 years to his wife Maxine and they have two married children and four grandchildren.

July 6, 2014
Your body is a temple
I Corinthians 6:12- 20

Apostle Paul compared our body to a temple. We have the freedom to do whatever we want, but not all our freedoms are good for us. Paul's focus is related to the right ways and higher purposes for which God intends the human body to be used. Freedom in Christ does not mean we can do anything we desire.

In the Apostle's Creed, we say, "believe in the resurrection of the body." With this in mind we believe there is a connection between the present body and the future life. What we do with our bodies is of utmost importance to God.

Paul reminded the Corinthians that their bodies are members of Christ. Therefore, if they are united with the Lord, they should never unite their bodies with a prostitute. Paul stated there is no such act as "casual sex."

In today's society the term "casual sex" seems to be a reality when we turn on our TVs, watch movies and read periodicals. With this concept in mind, what are we saying and practicing with this "casual sex" act in our modern society? The real question is what are we showing our present generation and future generation's regarding moral standards.

In Corinthians 6:15 Paul reminded the church of three very important questions:

- ❖ **Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ?**
- ❖ **Do you not know that whoever is united to a prostitute becomes one body with her?**
- ❖ **Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit with you?**

It appears that the concerns expressed by Paul are some of the same concerns we have today. Paul reminded the Christians that they were purchased with a price, the cost of Jesus' death upon the cross.

Being a disciple of Jesus means not only caring about our spiritual welfare and the spiritual welfare of others, but also caring for our physical health and the material well-being of others.

A poster by I.D. Douglas states, "Where our bread is concerned, it is a material matter. Where our neighbor's bread it is a spiritual

matter." Living as Christians is neither just a spiritual matter nor is it just a physical matter. For disciples of Jesus the physical and spiritual cannot be separated. One imparts the other in wholeness of our lives and our witness, and both matter to God.

Are you physically protecting your temple in order that you will be able to serve and glorify God in the future?

July 13, 2014
Love isn't puffed up
I Corinthians 8

Paul cautioned the faithful to behave in ways that would not cause others to falter in their faith.

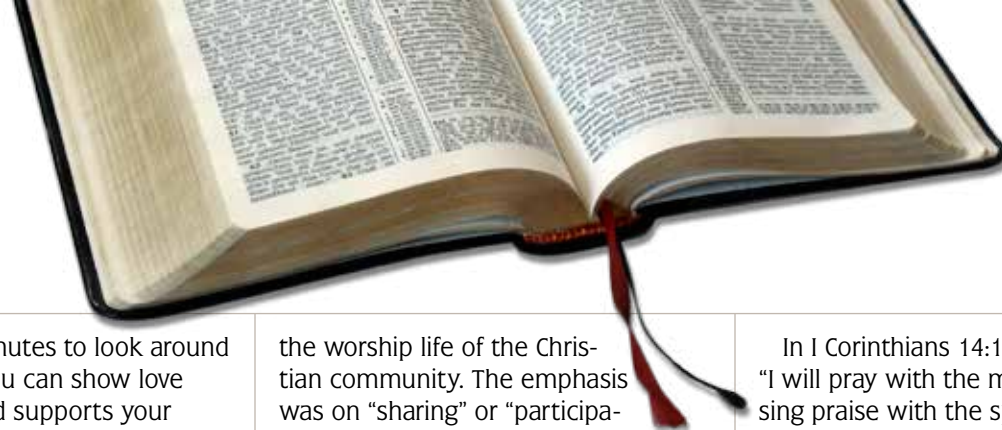
Several years ago there was a popular television show called "The Weakest Link." In a very intense setting, several contestants competed with one another to give correct answers to questions that were asked of them in rapid fire. At the end of each segment of the show the players were given the opportunity to evaluate one another and vote off the person who, in that particular segment, they believed to be the "weakest link."

This was a typical example of "winners" pitted against "losers," where the strongest survive and the spoils go to the victor. We are familiar with this concept because we see it at work in our competitive dog-eat-dog society.

In contrast to the "weakest link," the Christian ethic that Paul endorsed in Corinthians 8 is just the opposite. The "weakest link" in the human chain of the Christian community is not to be voted off, but rather that person is to be shown special love and encouragement and built up.

Paul warned that our love and concerns for others should not be puffed up. He stated that knowledge is puffed up, but love builds up. There is a vast difference between being puffed up and built up.

These concepts of being puffed up or built up become real challenges for you and me as we go about our daily walk in our faith. It is quite easy for us to use "I," but it becomes more difficult and often more time consuming and more dedicated on our part to use the word "you" or "them." We are here by God's grace to serve others – God has already been gracious to us by giving Jesus for our salvation.



Take a few minutes to look around and see where you can show love that builds up and supports your neighbors both near and far. The opportunities are there to do good – we have to accept the challenge to make a difference.

What are you doing as you go forth to do good for your church, your family and your community?

July 20, 2014

Standing tall!

Corinthians 10:12-22

One day we are standing tall thinking we can handle anything that comes our way. Then suddenly we are surprised by an event (an illness, loss of a job, a financial setback) and we suddenly find ourselves emotionally crippled and vulnerable.

Paul's message in Corinthians 10:12-13 is this: God's people do not have magical protective guard around them to shield them from life's dark moments. Trials and tests strike people of faith just as often as anyone else. Paul reminded us that no testing or temptation confronts us that is not common to everyone.

In the final analysis it's not what happens to us that matters, but rather how we respond to what happens to us. The best advice given by Paul was to flee away from false idols. Yes, run from false idols into the arms of God.

God's arms are always open and ready to receive us. Whether faced with an overwhelming temptation or something that tests our faith, the best response is to acknowledge that we cannot handle it on our own. We need the help of brothers and sisters in our community of faith. Most importantly we need to rely on God's strength, always trusting in God's faithfulness to sustain and deliver us.

Paul wrote passionately about the importance of the Lord's Supper in

the worship life of the Christian community. The emphasis was on "sharing" or "participation" by believers in the blood and body of Christ. Paul's theology of the Lord's Supper was his basis of the pronouncement in Corinthians 10:21 that "you cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons."

Is the Christian faith inclusive or exclusive? The answer is "yes" as it is both. Jesus was always tearing down walls and inviting "outsiders into the kingdom of God and talking about loving our enemies. Paul followed in the footsteps of the Lord by practicing inclusiveness. Then, as recorded in Corinthians 10:14-22, Paul seemed to be preaching exclusiveness when he absolutely forbade Christians from participating in certain worship practices of pagan religions.

Paul was known as the apostle of the Gentiles, always pushing his Jewish/Christian colleagues to open their minds and hearts to welcome Gentiles (outsiders) into the church. Do we represent that Christian example of love and concern that leads persons to the true God who opens arms to us when we face temptation?

July 27, 2014

Spirit and mind in worship

I Corinthians 14:13-26

Is worship a balance of mind and spirit? The Wesley brothers in their long and vital ministry sought to preach and sing a balanced gospel, one that emphasized both faith and works and which spoke to both heart and mind. This also was Paul's intention in his ministry as he encouraged the Corinthians to think carefully about their worship and not let there be a disproportionate focus on the spiritual dimension; to ignore the intellectual or to overemphasize the gift of tongues and underplay the importance of the gift of prophecy.


In I Corinthians 14:15 Paul wrote "I will pray with the mind also, I will sing praise with the spirit, but I will sing praise with the mind also."

We are whole persons who, to fulfill God's intentions for us, need to integrate the spiritual, physical, mental and emotional dimensions of our lives. Our western society tends to approach in a more compartmentalized fashion instead of looking at the whole picture. In today's society some persons heavily emphasize their physical well-being by exercising daily through long periods of exercises while ignoring their spiritual and intellectual needs. Others get so caught up in their search for spiritual fulfillment spending most of their spare time studying the Bible, praying and attending to religious matters that they neglect their physical health, not paying attention to proper diet and exercise.

In reality there is a need for balance in our lives because that is how God made us. Remember that Jesus said the greatest commandment is this, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind and with all your strength' (Mark 12:30.)

There is such a need for balance in today's churches. Paul emphasized that we are to properly edify and build up all who seek to be a part of the body of Christ. We all have different needs and different ways of expressing our faith.

Paul realized the need to pray and praise God with both spirit and mind. God speaks through both heart and head, and we cannot be a fully mature Christian if we focus on one at the expense of the other.

Are your heart and mind both part of your worship? 

CLERGY & DIACONAL



Deaths



The Rev. Roger C. Balcom, of Virginia Beach, died May 28, 2014. A native of Nebraska, Balcom lived most of his life in the Washington, D.C., area. He graduated from American University and Wesley Theological Seminary. He served The United Methodist Church for more than 30 years, pastoring several churches in Northern Virginia: Hillsboro, William Waters, Riverton, Pleasant Valley and Galilee. After his last pastorate, Balcom served as a Senior Social Worker for Loudoun County Social Services. After retiring, he became an active member of Arcola UMC, where he enjoyed singing with the Fabulous Last Note Choir. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Carolyn, five children and seven grandchildren.



The Rev. Dr. Sandra Kruschwitz Hamilton, 64, of Glen Allen, died May 31, 2014. An elder in full connection in the Virginia Conference, Hamilton served as a pastoral counselor

and faculty member at the Virginia Institute of Pastoral Care (VIPCare). Partnering with VIPCare staff and her student, Dr. Jean-Emile Ngue' of Yaounde, Cameroon, she helped found The African Counseling Center. She earned her undergraduate degree at the University of Texas at El Paso, a Masters in Christian Education from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Garrett-Evangelical Theological seminary. Hamilton is survived by her husband, the Rev. Dr. John Hamilton; and son, Jim Hamilton, both of Richmond. A memorial service was held at Trinity UMC.

Eva Vines Eutsler, 91, of Mechanicsville, died May 25, 2014. She was the wife of **Bishop R. Kern Eutsler**. A memorial service was held at Reveille UMC.

Mildred Louise McKinney Lambdin, 94, of Danville, formerly of Lynchburg, died May 9, 2014. She was the wife of the late **Rev. Alvin Kenneth Lambdin Jr.**

Joy Oder, widow of **Rev. Thomas Oder**, died June 1, 2014.

Births

Twin grandchildren were born May 19, 2014, to the **Rev. Joe Winfree**, pastor at Corinth UMC, Richmond District, and his wife **Patti Parker and Riley** were born to **Mark and Jennifer Winfree Hultz** of Knoxville, Tenn.



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Artwork by Brian Pichardo, a 2nd grader at the HFSC Afterschool and summer programs

("Prayer Retreat" continued from page 35)

After coffee and homemade pastries, each speaker spoke faithfully, seriously and humorously from their lives and learning about an aspect of prayer that was most meaningful to them. Each talk was about 20 minutes with about 10 minutes for prayer and reflection. New sessions were introduced with the pianist playing the musical cue "Lord, listen to your children praying."

We heard about prayer and prayed individually. Everyone was invited to move their chairs into clusters of four to share their prayers and to be prayed for. Then we moved the chairs into two large circles around the Communion table. Individuals read quotes from the day's speakers that brought back the richness of what we had heard. Pastor Marks led Communion. In closing there was another heartfelt song: "Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me."

The following day, during worship at Raleigh Court UMC, some of the participants spoke of how inspiring the day was, and how they had drawn closer to God and been strengthened in their own prayer life.

I am glad I said "yes" to last summer's invitation. At the retreat my new brothers and sisters in Christ shared from their hearts and souls. Each one gave us knowledge, courage and the desire to draw closer to God in prayer. So, now, if you feel the invitation of the Spirit to shape and create just such a day in your church or district, we hope you will say yes. The Spirit is sure to guide you. 

-The Rev. Liz Mortlock is retired in Roanoke.

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FROM THE BISHOP



**May the Grace and Peace
of our Lord be with you.**

I write this article with deep gratitude to our Lord and to all of you. When you receive this Advocate, it will be the last day of our 2014 Annual Conference. By the grace of God and all of your prayers and support, I think Annual Conference went very well. I am deeply grateful to many people, including the members of the Annual Conference Planning Team, the staff of the Virginia Conference Center and the people who worked very hard on the stage and behind the scene to make this gathering meaningful and successful. Many thanks to God and to all of you!

Last year in my Episcopal Address, I shared with you four focus areas of my ministry. With great joy I would like to report the following progress:

All Things New- Equipping Vital Congregations (ATN- EVC)

❖ The Steering Team continued to meet and work for the systemic implementation of the ATN- EVC.

❖ The Data Automation Team did their task, and the conference website has been updated.

❖ The Discipleship Circles Design Team developed the model that consists

of clergy and laity and passed the baton to the Implementation Team. Two beta groups were formed and have begun their journey.

❖ The Prayer Team continues to meet monthly and prays for the renewal and revival of our churches.

❖ To transform our clergy leadership, the Virginia Clergy Leadership Program was created, and 20 clergy in the first cohort group began their 18-month journey last February and finished two 3-day sessions.

❖ Last October, 39 clergy joined the Pilgrimage for Spiritual Renewal to Korea, and another trip is scheduled this October.

Strengthening Spiritual Foundation of Mission and Ministries

❖ More than 200 congregations responded to the invitation to spiritual discipline and signed to become a Prayer Covenant Congregation.

❖ About 400 people gathered and prayed together at the second Bishop's Convocation on Prayer.

❖ The Board of Discipleship designed three regional gatherings as a follow-up to the Prayer Convocation.

❖ I set May 25 as a conference-wide Day of Prayer for the renewal and revival of the churches.

❖ If Annual Conference approves, we will launch an episcopal initiative, "Imagine No Malaria," as one way of spiritual disciplines.

Developing New Faith Communities

❖ To develop the leadership for new faith communities, every fall we will host a New Church Leadership Institute.

❖ The Church Development Team has been working with Dr. Lovett Weems to identify the geographic areas where we should concentrate our efforts over the next 5 years in light of anticipated growth.

❖ During this conference year two new faith communities were started and three new faith communities are currently in preparation.

Nurturing the Culture of Cooperation and Coordination

❖ A Task Force was organized and has been working to develop a long-term financial strategy for the conference.

❖ A meeting was held of chairs/presidents of conference boards and agencies to get to know each other better and to share a balcony view of conference mission and ministries.

❖ Based upon the decision in our last Annual Conference, we clarified the mission of the Virginia Conference. Equipping local churches for ministry and connecting the churches to God's mission beyond the local church has been and remains the key of our mission.

I think our conference is on the right track, and I thank God for God's guidance. We need to continue to fan the flame of prayer that we may more radically open ourselves to God and humbly seek and obey the will of God. As General Conference approaches, the entire United Methodist Church will face many challenges and difficult situations. Without deep prayer we will never be able to deal with these situations. If we do not humbly open ourselves to God and seek God's guidance, I do not think we can overcome the challenges we will face.

So, although our 2014 Annual Conference is over, we should not stop praying for the renewal and revival of our churches. We need more fervent and deeper prayer for the future of our churches. Let us not forget what John Wesley said: "God does nothing apart from prayer."

One personal note is that I am going to take a renewal leave from July 21 to Aug. 31 to reflect upon my two years of ministry as bishop and to prepare for the second half of my ministry. If you will keep on praying for me, I will deeply appreciate that. I also ask you to pray for the churches that will receive new pastors and for the pastors who have received new appointments. May the Lord continue to bless all of our churches. 🌹

In our Lord,

ONE LAST WORD



Tweets heard 'round the conference

Morgan Guyton @MAGuyton

Conservatives and progressives need each other the way that every jazz improvisation needs a bass line and a soloist.

Patti Money @pattimoney

Here's an idea for a fun reality TV show: "Packing By Non-Linear Thinkers." We just use our own little system!

Keith Elgin @keithelgin

Out of all the embarrassing things the Redskins have done, there's a good chance that this [#RedskinsPride](#) idea is THE worst. Hard to believe.

Zach Roberts @zachsays

Status update from my dad: He's feeling good. But would feel better if he had some Little Debbies.

Andrew Hudgins @andrew_hudgins

Licensing school charter bus trip! Time to pop in the annual conference 2013 highlights

Rev. Sarah Wastella @SarahWastella

With all this rancor and divisiveness in the Church right now, we could use a little hope & a lot of love. We are united in Christ by faith.

Carly Sawyer @Carly_Horse12

Browsing seminary websites while watching The Bachelorette. Normal Monday night.

TOP teens talk to a homeless man in Monroe Park in Richmond.



Latest "Teens Opposing Poverty" effort helps the poor start micro-businesses

Kevin's efforts to find a full-time job after serving five years in prison on a bank robbery charge have borne little fruit. He discovered that his felony conviction was really a life sentence, making him ineligible for many jobs. Recently he lost the only part-time job he could secure and is once again living in a homeless shelter.

After hearing dozens of stories like Kevin's, Teens Opposing Poverty (TOP), a Virginia Advance Special that trains youth how to reach out to the poor, set out to find a way for the poor to earn a living wage even if they can't find a job.

The program is called "TOPwerx."

TOPwerx, which begins its pilot program this summer, will train its students to join the ranks of thousands of people around the world who make a living selling in venues such as Amazon and eBay. TOP staff selected "The Proven Amazon Course" as the foundation for the TOPwerx curriculum, citing it as the only training that met their requirements.

"The program we chose had to

meet strict criteria," said Steve Jennings, TOP's executive director. "It had to produce a quick and reliable income, be something a high school dropout could do, and it had to be supported by a community of people who were already successful at working the business. We have thoroughly tested this model and have proven that it works."

Jim Cockrum, originator of the "Proven Amazon Course," agrees that selling through Amazon is a viable business model for the homeless. "I'm thrilled to partner with TOP and their vision of ending poverty by helping establish entrepreneurs in business," he said.

The TOPwerx curriculum will help students develop an entrepreneur's mindset, master the necessary technology and learn the administrative aspects of running a business. Youth volunteers will participate in the technology training and other aspects of the course.

For more information on TOPwerx and TOP, visit the website [TeensOpposingPoverty.org](#).

100 Years & Counting...

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