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Embracing Change

By the Rev. Alvin J. Horton

I was born in 1952. You don't have to be a mathematician to calculate how far over the hill I've traveled.

Elizabeth II became Queen of England that year, and "Singing in the Rain" premiered in Radio City Music Hall. An average gallon of gasoline was 20 cents and a first-class postage stamp was only 3 cents. There were only 48 states in the United States, and The United Methodist Church was still 16 years away from its birth.

Needless to say, there have been a lot of changes in our world since then. As a toddler I lived with my grandparents in a house that had electricity but running water only in the kitchen. We kept a jar of water on the counter so we could prime the hand pump that brought water from the well below.

We used an outhouse during the day and chamber pots at night. But the highlight of the week was always sitting as a family

around the round-screened television every Sunday night and watching the Ed Sullivan Show together.

Little did anyone know how different the world would be 70 years later: smart phones more powerful than the computers that helped land astronauts on the moon, cars running solely on electricity, Sunday School classes allowing class members to join in prayer and study halfway around the world. And social media? Who could have imagined how powerful it would become in shaping attitudes, forging new social bonds, and influencing political and religious culture?

Whatever we might think of change, I'm afraid it's here to stay. Change is about the only thing that doesn't change.

We can bemoan our empty pews, condemn culture's competing influences, and point our fingers in a myriad of directions as we blame the changes in our religious life on the countless temptations that surround us. Or we can

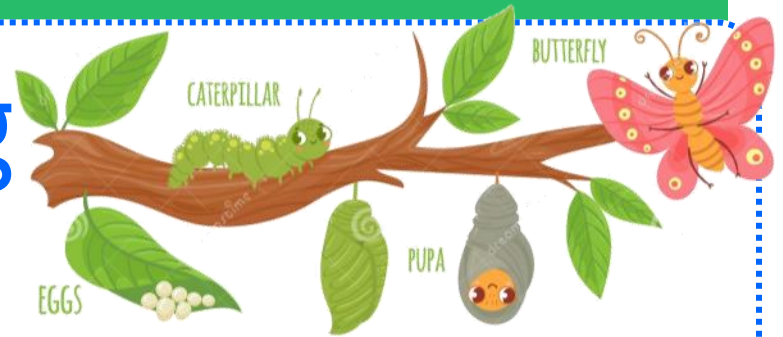
embrace the changes as new ways to embrace a new world.

Centuries ago, John saw the vision of a new Heaven and Earth shaped by God; and he put his vision in writing: "See, I am making all things new" (*Revelation 21:5 nrsv*). He wasn't running away from change; he was embracing it.

One of my favorite hymns, "Hymn of Promise," says it all:

**In the bulb, there is a flower
In the seed, an apple tree
In cocoons, a hidden promise
Butterflies will soon be free
In the cold and snow of winter
There's a spring that waits
to be
Unrevealed until its season
Something God alone can see.**

You see, change is much like faith. It calls us to believe in something we can't see. It calls us to hope for the fulfillment of a promise. Who can guess at the beauty of a winged creature that might just fly out of our deepest, darkest cocoon? If you think about it, embracing change just might be a way to embrace God.



ARMS Retreat Set for Oct. 12-13

Oct. Retreat to focus on finding hope in a changing world

The 2022 ARMS Retreat, set for **Oct. 12-13 at Eagle Eyrie in Lynchburg**, will focus on the many changes taking place in and around The United Methodist Church, especially how retirees and their spouses can find hope in such circumstances.

The retreat's theme, "Solid Hope in Changing Times: Experiencing the Power of Story and Song," will be centered around the Scripture, **"For you, O Lord, are my hope, my trust, O Lord, from my youth." (Psalm 71:5).**

Bishop Charlene Kammerer, former bishop of the Western North Carolina and Virginia Conferences,

will reflect on the changes that are occurring within the denomination and share her perspective on how we can find hope in the midst of these changes.

The Rev. Kenneth C. Horne, Jr. (Ken), along with his Bedford trio, NiteKAP, will present an evening of music during the two-day event, which will also include time for fellowship, worship, and a presentation by John Fuller, Executive Director of Virginia United Methodist Pensions, Inc. Additional presenters are listed on page 3 of this newsletter.

Registration fees are \$60 per person (double occupancy) and

Solid Hope in Changing Times

Experiencing
the Power of
Story and Song

A Retreat for Retired
Ministers & Spouses

Oct. 12-13, 2022

Eagle Eyrie
Retreat Center

1 Eagle Eyrie Drive
Lynchburg, VA 24503
(434) 384-2211
www.eagleeyrie.org

\$80 per person (Single occupancy). First time retreaters - such as new retirees, their spouses, and anyone who has not attended before - can attend at half price.

Don't delay in signing up.
Deadline for registration is Oct. 1.

In Memoriam



Remembering those who have died since our last report in March 2022

Retired Clergy

Charles W. Hubbard Jr. (8/19/33) RE	March 29, 2022
Richard N. Galbreath (12/16/34) RA	April 24, 2022
Kathleen A. Work (8/25/47) RE	April 27, 2022
Harold Hicks Sr. (9/7/34) RE	April 30, 2022
J. David Pratt (10/12/41) RE	May 20, 2022
Jeanetta Benedict (2/21/37) RD	June 07, 2022
William E. Hogge (8/24/32) RE	June 27, 2022
George T. Insley (5/15/41) RE	June 27, 2022
David H. Smith (4/5/30) RE	June 27, 2022
Linwood E. Daniel (6/29/29) RE	Aug. 8, 2022
Robert F. Justis (6/17/50) RE	Aug. 11, 2022
Gregory Dean Pittman (11/4/48) RL	Aug. 16, 2022
Elinor R. Dalton (8/26/37) RE	Aug. 19, 2022
Harry B. Jones (7/12/31) RE	Aug. 20, 2022

Clergy Spouses

Wesley E. Dunkum (Rev. Jeane Dunkum)	May 3, 2022
Judith R. Williams (Rev. Gene Williams)	June 13, 2022

Active Clergy

Leona Gayle Thornberry (9/19/56) FE	June 14, 2021
Terry K. Eum (4/11/84) FL	Sept. 13, 2021
Jeffry Roberts (11/29/59) FE	Sept. 21, 2021
William R. Payne (12/29/57) PL	Oct. 17, 2021
Janet F. Grissett (12/07/62) FE	Nov. 4, 2021
Richard C. Franklin (11/24/50) PLP	June 15, 2022
Dale E. Gillis (3/3/59) FE	July 28, 2022

Clergy Surviving Spouses

Mildred Riley (Rev. Henry Riley)	April 1, 2022
Judy C. Hough (Osborne Hough)	April 6, 2022
Stella Couch (Rev. Robert E. Couch)	May 10, 2022
Kate Angle (Rev. James Angle)	May 13, 2022
Elizabeth J. Wright (Rev. William A. Wright)	May 25, 2022
Doris D. Ferguson (Rev. William S. Ferguson)	June 27, 2022
Patricia Huffman (Rev. Garland Huffman)	July 15, 2022
Katie Jester (Rev. William A. Jester)	July 22, 2022
W. Lieu Lewis (Rev. David Lewis)	July 26, 2022
Virginia C. Shelton (Rev. Garry Shelton)	Aug. 22, 2022

— Retreat Leaders —

Bishop Charlene P. Kammerer



Bishop Charlene Kammerer is the former bishop of the Western North Carolina and Va. Conferences of The United Methodist Church. A graduate of Garrett-Evangelical (M.Div.) and United (D.Min.) theological seminaries, she will share her perspective on the changes that are occurring within the denomination and how we can find hope in the midst of all of these changes.

John W. Fuller

John Fuller is exec. director of Virginia United Methodist Pensions, Inc. (VUMPI) and a regular at our ARMS retreats. He will report on our healthcare and pensions programs, especially as they may be affected by possible changes in the denomination.



The Rev. Alvin J. Horton and Rev. Dr. Harry Kennon



Al Horton and **Harry Kennon**, both retired pastors, will lead an interactive session about where we can find hope in the wake of the pandemic and in the midst of the many technological, structural, and societal changes that have occurred throughout our lifetimes.

Ken Horne & the NiteKAP Folk Band

Ken Horne is a retired pastor and co-founder of the Society of St. Andrew. In retirement, he helped form NiteKAP, a trio of Bedford musicians who perform an eclectic mix of American folk music. The trio - **Ken, Allison Johnson, & Paul Brockman** - will provide an evening of music during the retreat that will be entertaining, inspiring, and always a lot of fun.



The Rev. Dr. Jack Martin & Marianne



Jack Martin, a retired pastor with special interest in mission and music, along with his **wife Marianne**, will weave the magic of music throughout the retreat as we embrace the reality of changes in our personal lives, the church, and the world. Great songs of our faith that continue to invite us to lean on our Solid Hope as well as singing of secular songs that speak to, and uplift, the heart will be part of the retreat. A volunteer choir will also rehearse for a special presentation during our closing service of Holy Communion.

REGISTRATION

Minister's Name: _____

Name tag should read: _____

Spouse: _____

Spouse name tag should read: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Preferred Phone: (_____) _____

Email: _____

Special physical needs: _____



Make checks payable to:
Virginia Conference UMC
(ARMS Retreat 2022)

Fee: \$60 per person (double occupancy)
\$80 per person (single occupancy)

First Time Retreaters:
1/2 off or \$30 (double); \$40 (single)

Scholarships available
Contact Registrar

Deadline for Registration: Oct. 1, 2022
(NO REFUNDS AFTER OCT. 1)

Mail check & completed form to:
Gale & Harry Kennon, Registrars
2696 Southern Hills Ct.
North Garden, VA 22959
galegram@aol.com (434) 296-2954

2022 ARMS Leadership Team

Co-Presidents: Steve & Susan Hassmer
Co-Vice Presidents: Keith & Linda Mottley
Secretary: Larry & Judy Mann
Treasurer: Susan Brack
Sunshine Correspondent: Susan Hassmer
Newsletter Editor: Alvin J. Horton
Co-Past Presidents: John & Cathy Price
Retreat Coordinators:
Diane Galbreath & Alexis Fathbruckner



Return Address:
1200 Pulliam Street
North Chesterfield, VA 23235

Board of Pensions & Health Benefits

Virginia Annual Conference

P.O. Box 5606

Glen Allen, Virginia 23058

Phone: 800-768-1100

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Want to support ARMS?

Send suggested donation of \$10 per person to:

Rev. Susan Brack,
Treasurer
128 Glenwood Cir.
South Hill, VA
23970

Make check payable to "Virginia Conference UMC" with "ARMS donation" in memo line.

Well done, good and faithful servants!

The 2022 Clergy Retirement Class has a combined service record of 1,154.5 years

The Rev. Dr. Clarence Brown preached, and 42 men and women joined the ranks of retired clergy, on Friday afternoon, June 17, during the Virginia Conference's annual recognition of those who have or will retire this year. Together, their ministries represent no less than 1,154.5 years of service.

Sandra C. Bottoms* 17.0	John Jones Sr. 27.0	Douglas Beam Paysour 38.0
Clarence Rutherford Brown Jr. 30.5	Laurice F. Jones-Wilks 8.0	Robert Carl Ripley Jr. 41.0
David Michael Burch 40.0	William Clay Knick 35.0	Valerie W. Ritter* 21.5
Helen Elizabeth Casey-Rutland 22.5	Elizabeth L. Labella Foster 10.0	Robert John Robertson III 18.0
Robert Malvin Chapman II 41.0	Amy V. Lenow 16.0	Burton Clark Robinson 31.0
James G. Daniely 25.0	Larry Earl Lenow 37.0	Edward F. Sheehan 9.0
Stephen E. Darr 44.0	John E. Lock 27.0	John Carlton Speight Jr. 39.0
Walter B. Failes Jr. 38.0	David W. Lord 39.0	Barbara J. St. Jean 8.0
Alan R. Follett 20.0	Edward Swindell Martin Jr. 37.0	Sandra Cutright Stanley 32.0
Suzanne Denise Gibson 18.0	Steven Edward McMillion 33.0	John Noel Vest 45.0
Robert Ben Hadley-Goggin* 32.25	Gary Craig Miller 31.0	Sherry Lynn Waddell 18.0
Susan Christine Milam Hannah 40.25	Mark Allen Miller 38.0	Robert Judd Weeks 24.0
Gerald C. Headley* 10.25	Bass Michael Mitchell* 27.25	Judith Worthington 18.0
Marilyn Armstead Heckstall 22.0	Nancy Palmer 12.0	
Lorenzo Dow Hill 34.0		

**Ad-Interim*