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## When the 'New' Becomes 'Old'

By the Rev. Alvin J. Horton

Remember when today's 'old' was once yesterday's 'new'? Come on; it wasn't that long ago. As an English major, I was thrilled when typewriters became electric. Who owns one now? And remember all those slide shows you used to show? Where's your projector now? And back then we were wild-eyed futurists when we

encouraged church leaders to record our sermons on cassette tapes to take to shut-ins. "What's a cassette?" our grandchildren ask.

I can remember when "Kum Bah Yah" was new, and using a common cup for Holy Communion was quite bold. Remember when "United" meant something special?

The Apostle Paul was daring to say, "If anyone is in Christ there is a new creation..."



everything old has passed away; see everything has become new!" (II Cor. 5:17)

I think it's important to remind ourselves that 'new' is just a beginning, not the end. When it becomes 'old' we need God to help us find a new 'new.'

## The Kominsky Method A Humorous Look at the 'Golden Years'

By the Rev. Steve Hassmer

The Kominsky Method, a Netflix original, three-season series (2018-2021), is a hilarious look at senior citizens' lives (adjustments after a spouse's death, career regrets, facing body issues, worries if adult children are ok without parents' help, attending many funerals, and their love relationships in "twilight years!")

Michael Douglas (Sandy Kominsky) is a divorced, semi-successful actor now teaching drama, with his own method for acting, relationships, and building an acting career. He's the best friend of his successful



agent Norman Newlander (Alan Arkin) whose wife (Susan Sullivan) is deathly ill.

Kominsky advises Norman how to face the death of a spouse while both men deal hilariously with their own mortality! Both men struggle to have new love relationships, and decide where their lives are going.

Meanwhile, Sandy's ex-wife (Kathleen Turner) and

Norman's former flame (Jane Seymour) bring pathos and hilarious reality-checks to the Kominsky method.

A host of other known actors add their own comedic flair to the series — as children of the two men, as drama students, and as others in the lives of the show's stars (including a performance by one of the best known actors of TV and theater!). I can't wait to watch the next episode, and think you'll get lots of laughs — and food for thought — from The Kominsky Method!

# Story of Virginia Methodism's Earliest Clergywomen Revealed In Marg Kutz' New Book



Marg Kutz



The never-before-told story of pastors Lillian Russell and Mildred Long, the two earliest clergywomen in Virginia Methodism, is now available in paperback and based on years of primary source research by the Rev. Dr. Margaret T. (Marg) Kutz, a retired elder in the Virginia Conference.

**Available from Amazon in paperback and electronically on Kindle, the book details how during the Great Depression, against all odds, petite, teenage Lillian Russell traveled from church to church as a powerful, popular evangelist.** She eventually became pastor of Blandford Methodist Church in

Petersburg where she served for 35 years, forging a path for other women to follow. When others ridiculed and minimized her, she continued to persevere with God's claim on her life. As Marg declares, "Nevertheless, she preached."

Mildred Long, the book's other protagonist, attended six schools of higher education, was interviewed dozens of times, and attended hundreds of meetings, proving her competency time and again to people over, under, and beside her. However, she too persevered and through hurled insults, closed doors, and unfounded doubts, she was

granted the same clergy rights as men, opening another path for other women to follow. In other words, "nevertheless, she preached."

**Amazon's summary invites you to "follow these women through fifty years of service to their God." It claims "you will laugh with them, cry with them, and feel their hurt, rage, faith, exhaustion, and strength. You will be inspired to nevertheless live your own destiny."**

Marg has served local churches since 1974 and in retirement was instrumental in starting a secondary school in South Sudan. She continues to serve as a pastoral coach and church consultant, and lives with her husband in central Virginia.



## In Memoriam

remembering those who have died since our last report *March 2021*

### Retired Clergy

Earl W. Paylor Jr. (7/24/25) RE	April 7, 2021
Daniel L. Garrett (3/4/41) RE	April 25, 2021
David Glen Langston (2/7/42) RE	May 2, 2021
Clyde W. Weaver Jr. (9/23/35) RE	May 5, 2021
Paul A. Beighley (7/27/47) RE	May 9, 2021
Thomas E. Jennings (5/17/34) RE	May 17, 2021
William Dabney Walters (2/14/30) RE	May 20, 2021
Emerson L. Shelton (4/01/37) RL	May 24, 2021
John Charles Dameron (7/25/43) RE	June 22, 2021
Robert E. Maas (5/31/33) RA	June 26, 2021
Garland K. Hines (8/21/47) RE	July 04, 2021
Edwin H. Satterwhite (1/16/28) RE	July 21, 2021
Lee R. Jamison (12/28/25) RE	August 2, 2021
Billy G. Johnson Sr. (10/10/35) RE	August 5, 2021
Cynthia L. Frye (7/26/38) RA	August 13, 2021

### Active Clergy

Leona Gayle Thornberry (9/19/56) FE	June 14, 2021
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### Spouses of Retired Clergy

Gregory Coleman (Rev. Amy Coleman)	June 12, 2021
Frances W. Hardy (Rev. Robert Hardy)	June 22, 2021
Anne S. Minnick (Rev. Jack Minnick)	August 7, 2021

### Widows/Widowers of Deceased Clergy

Jean K. Williams (Rev. Glenn G. Williams)	April 3, 2021
Stella Fritter (Rev. Albert Fritter)	May 5, 2021
Crystal Jay (Rev. Carroll Jay)	May 11, 2021
Doris H. Teeter (Rev. James Higgins)	May 31, 2021
Ruth S. Stanley (Rev. Samuel Stanley)	June 26, 2021
Norma Cleaver (Rev. Lee Bowman)	July 29, 2021

# Retreat Set for October 6-7

This year's annual ARMS Retreat, rescheduled due to the pandemic for **Oct. 6-7 at Eagle Eyrie in Lynchburg**, will focus on the changes taking place in and around The United Methodist Church, especially how retirees and their spouses can find hope in such times. 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). **Deadline for registration is September 24.**

## Retreat Leaders



### Bishop Charlene P. Kammerer

**Bishop Charlene Kammerer** is the former bishop of the Western North Carolina and Virginia Conferences of The United Methodist Church. A graduate of Garrett-Evangelical (M.Div.) and United (D.Min.) theological seminaries, she 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 change.

### 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. Dr. Harry Kennon

**Harry Kennon**, Pastor Emeritus of First United Methodist Church, Charlottesville, will lead an interactive session about finding hope in the midst of the technological, structural, and societal changes that have occurred throughout our lifetimes.

### The Rev. Kenneth C. Horne, Jr.

**Ken Horne**, a retired pastor and co-founder of the Society of St. Andrew, helped form NiteKap, a trio of Bedford musicians who perform an eclectic mix of American folk music. An accomplished guitar, banjo, and harmonica player, Ken will provide an evening of music during the retreat.



### 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 music throughout the retreat as we embrace the reality of changes in our personal lives, the church, and world. Songs of faith, as well as secular songs that uplift the heart and invite us to lean on our Solid Hope, will be an important part of the retreat. Jack and Marianne will also lead a volunteer choir for a special presentation during the closing service of Holy Communion.



Experiencing  
the Power of  
Story and Song

## 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 2021)

**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: Sept. 24, 2021**

**(NO REFUNDS AFTER SEPT. 24)**

**Mail check & completed form to:**

Gale & Harry Kennon, Registrars  
2696 Southern Hills Ct.

North Garden, VA 22959

galegram@aol.com (434) 296-2954





*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**

*To Arms!* Is published on line via RetireeNet, ClergyNet, SpouseNet, and sent to ARMS members upon request.

**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.**

## 57 Clergy included in 2021 Retirement Class

A Service of Retirement was recorded at Reveille United Methodist Church in Richmond on June 17, 2021. The Rev. June Carpenter, pastor of Fieldale-Mount Bethel Cooperative Parish on the Danville District, preached on behalf of the 2021 Retirement Class. Her sermon title was "Retired But Still Serving." There were 57 retirees with a combined service record of 1,224.5 years.

Nona F. Allen, 15.00	Sharon Elaine Eden, 24.00	James A. Leamon, 17.00
Victoria Lynn Barb, 14.00	Gilbert M. Elder, 12.00	Thomas Gordon Lee, 41.00
Donald Bennett, 17.00	Tammy Lynn Estep, 36.75	Curis Dearman Lucy, 15.00
Francis Paul Bertrand, 9.50	Raleigh M. Felton, 2.00	Angel M. Martinez, 10.00
Barry Ronald Blakley, 8.00	Barry Scott Foster, 29.50	Sylvia S. Meadows, 23.00
Sandra L. Boone, 14.00	Clifton D. Fritzinger, 11.00	Jeffrey Paul Mickle, 43.00
Herbert Brynildsen, 27.00	Paul F. Gillespie, 17.00	Craig Alan Muffley, 16.00
Barry Lee Burkholder, 28.00	Kathy B. Gochenour, 30.00	David A. Norman, 39.25
Elizabeth Buxton, 19.00	Rebecca W. Gwaltney, 14.50	James Gordon O'Quinn, 43.00
David Ewell Carl Jr., 48.00	Stephen Dale Hay, 37.00	Pamela G. Pickard, 7.00
June Cathcart Carpenter, 13.00	Ellen S. Heatwole, 14.50	Don Pizzeck, 25.00
Elizabeth Gray Caudill, 20.00	William Earle Heinzman II, 25.00	Roger Thomas Powell, 24.00
John Harris Conway, 5.00	Karen Banning Hittel, 35.00	Robert G. Robinson, 15.00
Barbara Ann Cousar, 9.00	Randy Holmes, 16.25	Janet P. Salbert, 19.00
W. Andre Crummett, 18.00	Garland M. Huffman, 18.00	Vivian M. Lutz, 17.00
Dewayne A. Duncan, 23.00	Susan W. Keen, 11.00	Rhonda Van Dyke, 38.25
William Glen Early, 18.00	Danny James Kesner, 39.00	Phillip M. Waltz, 27.00
Timothy Ray Earnhardt, 30.00	Keary Charles Kincannon, 35.00	Frances Darlene Wilkins, 11.00
Elizabeth Walter Ecklund, 24.00	Peggy Marie Langille, 5.00	Randall S. Williams, 22.00