

2011-2012 Appointments



Virginia United Methodist

Advocate

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Call to Action

Here comes the latest plan for
United Methodist revitalization

***"We envision faith communities
where all God's people are
welcomed at table, nurtured
and transformed to be
Christ to others in the world."***

— Virginia Conference Vision Statement

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ON THE COVER: *The face of John Wesley, founder of Methodism, is superimposed on the famous image of Uncle Sam by artist James Montgomery Flagg.*

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'Call' and response



Neill Caldwell
Editor

I must admit: the more I read about the "Call to Action" report, the more confused I am.

At first I thought it was something to be approved at the 2012 General Conference in Tampa. Then as I participated in the April "Leadership Summit" that dealt with the report, it seemed that organizers were trying to build a case for something that had already been ticketed for approval. Now it seems like the report is more of a "guide" for the future that some groups are running with.

What is important to know is that while this is a work in progress, its goals or aims are now the direction we will be moving as we prepare for General Conference next year.

Already some conferences are moving toward changes. Thankfully, the Virginia Conference is already ahead of the curve in most of these areas. The General Commission on Finance and Administration is already developing a Web site for metric reporting of church data <www.vitalsignsumc.org> based on indicators described in "Call to Action." The North Alabama Conference asks its churches to provide statistics weekly to monitor its performance <www.northalabamaumc.org/weeklyreport.asp>. Bishop John Schol of the Baltimore-Washington Conference is heading up the "Vital Congregations" plan from the Council of Bishops and the Connectional Table. The "Interim Operations Team," a group of clergy and laity working to implement the report's recommendations, has been named and is working with church leadership.

Bishop Kammerer answers some key questions about the "Call to Action" report in her column this month on the inside back cover of this edition, but basically it asserts that the status quo of a shrinking and aging denomination is "toxic" and unsustainable.

I am troubled that the plan — as I read it, at least — lacks a theological or even spiritual grounding. It seems more anchored in the corporate world, where trendy buzzwords like "drivers" and "measurables" are thrown around in board rooms every day.

The definitions for "vital congregations" also bother me, because I know small churches can be vital. And there are many churches doing "vital" ministries that do not fit into the pigeonholes that this report creates.

But while I don't agree with everything, there are some good aspects in this report. The next key will be legislative changes that will be needed to shift the goals into concrete actions. The Council of Bishops won't recommend legislation, but the report is "out there" for others to work on. Plus there are seven additional study reports that are independent of the "Call to Action" report, and some are related to the same concerns. (For example, the "Study of Ministry" report is where guaranteed appointments are being addressed.)

The process has pulled out of the station and is moving forward. Let's see where it's headed.

Neill Caldwell

'Call to Action' report calls for more vital churches

The first priority of The United Methodist Church must be a commitment to fostering and sustaining congregational vitality if the denomination is to be effective in its mission, states the final report of the "Call to Action" steering team.

"While there are many examples of effective disciple-making, prophetic witness, and ministries of justice and mercy across the Connection, these efforts do not obviate the effects in the United States and Europe of our increasingly older membership and aging leaders; declines in the numbers of professions of faith, worship attendance, and baptisms; and growing financial burdens accompanied by decreasing revenues," the report states.

"Thus, the adaptive challenge for The United Methodist Church is to redirect the flow of attention, energy, and resources to an intense concentration on fostering and sustaining an increase in the number of vital congregations effective in making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

The steering team proposed the following five recommendations, which

would be mutually interdependent:

1 Beginning in 2011 and continuing for at least 10 years, concentrate on using the drivers of congregational vitality to build effective practices in local churches.

2 Dramatically reform the clergy leadership development, deployment, evaluation, and accountability systems.

3 Measure progress in key performance areas using statistical information to learn and adjust approaches to leadership, policies, and use of human and financial resources.

4 Reform the Council of Bishops, with active bishops assuming responsibility/accountability for improving results in attendance, professions of faith, baptisms, participation in servant/mission ministries, benevolent giving, and lowering the average age of church participants, as well as for establishing a new culture of accountability throughout the church.

5 Consolidate program and administrative agencies and align their work

The cover of the "Call to Action" report.



and resources with church priorities and the commitment to build vital congregations, and reconstitute them with much smaller competency-based boards of directors.

Reliable statistical findings from more than 32,000 congregations show that high-vitality churches consistently share common factors that work together to influence congregational vitality and are characterized by the prevalence of:

- Effective pastoral leadership including inspirational preaching, mentoring laity, and effective management;
- Multiple small groups and programs for children and youth;
- A mix of traditional and contemporary worship services;
- A high percentage of spiritually engaged laity who assume leadership roles.

The reports are available at <www.umc.org/calltoaction>. □

— United Methodist Communications

What is the 'Call to Action' report?

The "Call to Action" challenged a steering committee "to guide our denominational response to the urgent opportunity for further alignment of the mission of the church and the four areas of focus, and to refashion and reposition the church for the 21st century."

The committee was charged with the task of bringing forward "...a plan of action that will lead to reordering the life of the church." Central to that "Call to Action" was the resolve to be guided by the mission of the church ("to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world") and the four areas of focus that have emerged as our way of living into that mission.

The committee was assisted by a consultant, Peter Gerend from the Fuqua School of Business at Duke University.

This critical question has guided the work of the Steering Committee: "Will we passively accept the reality of the continued decline of United Methodism in the United States and Western Europe or with urgency and passion choose to move toward achieving our common mission of making disciples of Jesus in creative, fresh, and bold new ways?"

The committee created a vision of what the church of the future might be: "As United Methodists, we dream of a church with more..."

- accountability to gospel and less conformity to an outdated, bureaucratic system;
- participation with young people and less rhetoric about good intentions;
- ministry with the poor and less with the privileged;
- expectation for growth and less acceptance of status quo;
- engagement with the margins and less traditionalism;
- work on the Four Focus Areas and less on sub-optimal tasks;
- positive expression of our Methodist connection in ecumenical, interfaith families and less autonomy and parochial self-interest;
- dreaming about what will be and less struggling to preserve what was;
- giving to direct ministry and less to administration;
- grace and freedom and fewer rules;
- trust and less cynicism." □

What others around the denomination are



As represented in this familiar image, “John Wesley,” founder of Methodism, is “calling YOU to action.”

“Everyone can agree on vague generalizations. The struggle comes in naming concrete specifics. It is easy to talk about transformation and reform. The pain and glory come in actually doing something, which involves hard choices and painful changes.”

– Bishop Mike Lowry,
Central Texas Conference

“The need for accountability by the church’s leadership – especially the bishops – for results in the life of the church is absolutely crucial for the challenges as we go forward.”

– Neil Alexander, co-chair of the “Call to Action” steering team
and president of the United Methodist Publishing House

“At first glance the ‘Call to Action’ report is absolutely refreshing. It focuses on the vitality of local congregations. The recommendations that are the crux of the report are all about helping local churches do vital ministry. ... What gives me pause is found at the very end. The report suggests that (the Council of Bishops and Connectional Table) endorse an Interim Operations Team to get all this done. Wow, this would be difficult to accomplish in a high trust environment, but will be next to impossible within the low trust reality of the UMC. Sure, it’s a great idea to have a few people actually get something done without having to make sure every constituency of the church is represented, but doesn’t our very Constitution place a premium on inclusivity? ... I would rather trust a group that is representative of the whole church than five people, no matter how expert and full of competency they are.”

– The Rev. Tim McClendon,
Columbia (S.C.) district superintendent

“It appears that many United Methodist church leaders like to dress up as corporate CEOs heading for the boardroom to live out the myth of American corporation as savior. Instead of Bibles they now carry under their arms laptops full of spreadsheets with statistics and demographic surveys of potential religious markets. The result? Although the ‘Call to Action’ is based on an expensive analysis performed by an outside consultant, it does nothing more than regurgitate into a PowerPoint presentation the church growth doctrines from the 1960s, the seeker church gospel from the 1990s, and the power of positively thinking about how to build an “onramp” church from Joel Olsteen. Nowhere in the document as a whole, is there any mention of the presence of the Holy Spirit, the preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ, or fidelity to the witness of Scripture and the traditional teaching of the church. None of these are apparently regarded as signs of a vital congregation. Yet without these things our church is living in the fantasyland of a market driven business plan to sell spiritual junk food. ... It measures success without reference to the gospel, and therefore has no grounding in reality.”

– Dr. Robert Hunt, director of Global Theological Education at Perkins School of Theology, Dallas

“When will we get tired of playing the numbers game? We have been misled to believe that the answer to all the problems of The United Methodist Church is more people. We don’t care about who these people are or whether they will benefit from being United Methodists – we just want them to swell our rolls and pay our bills. ... We proclaim to the world that we are shrinking, diminishing, poorly funded, rife with conflict – all excellent messages to attract new members. Many young people see The United Methodist Church as an old maiden aunt who dresses and paints herself up like a teenager – embarrassing at best, pathetic at worst. ... The time has come to reframe and expand our conversation – to rethink our rethinking and critically analyze the actions we are calling the church to address. We seem to have lost our way, and all the defensiveness at the top won’t promote the kind of change necessary for transformation.”

– Dan Dick, director of Connectional Ministries
for the Wisconsin Conference

“The process leading to the ‘Call to Action’ report is the kind of leadership many in our congregations have been longing for. It is difficult for a denomination that meets once every four years (and needs to reach consensus before it can act) to respond to the changes happening as quickly as they do in today’s society both globally and nationally. This process, coming from the bishops and the Connectional Table, has the potential to provide early direction to the agenda of General Conference. The ‘Call to Action’ report is a solid whole that needs to remain intact to be effective. My concern is that it may be diluted in the process of implementation.”

– The Rev. Jim Bushfield, director of Connectional Ministry in the Indiana Conference

are saying about the 'Call to Action' report:

"There was a man named John Wesley who discovered everything the 'Call to Action' had to hire consultants to learn. You need vital preaching and personal engagement to make disciples. You need to cultivate lay leaders and deploy them broadly. You need to provide worship that is vital and powerful. You need to have mission drive your structures. You need accountability. You need to pay attention to fruit. How sad for Mr. Wesley that he did not have a statistical report to wave in front of the people who wanted to throw rocks at him and burn down the Methodist preaching houses. If he'd only had that kind of authority at his side, think of what he might have done!"

– John Meunier, lay member at First UMC Indianapolis, Ind.

"God's preoccupation isn't with how many members are in The United Methodist Church, but with the salvation of the cosmos. God's vision isn't difficult to discern. It's just inconvenient to follow."

– Retired Bishop Ken Carder



Image of John Wesley, Lois Perkins Chapel stained glass window, Southwestern University.

"I honestly cannot think of any other organization in the world that is moving to a 'top-down' system rather than away from it. And yet this move towards centralization is exactly the direction the UMC seems to be heading with the 'Call to Action.' God is found in the struggle for consensus in groups, the diversity of belief and passion that large groups bring. They are unwieldy, they are not uniform, they are slow, they are full of sinful humans, but they are Methodist. And it is exactly that quality which I fear is being lost as we excise difference and consolidate power in the hands of the few. There's trimming that needs to happen to our family Methodist tree, but I don't think cutting off the taproot is the best way to go about it."

– The Rev. Jeremy Smith, *Hacking Christianity* blogger

"These changes will create more doorways to discipleship for you and for those who have yet to walk through our doors, called by God to serve. These changes will support your call to bring the presence of Christ to those in need, in your own community and beyond."

– Mary Brooke Cassad, chair of the Connectional Table for the denomination

"I don't mean to be overly cynical, but (this is) essentially another repackaged version of the same briefings we've been getting for years: bishops and general secretaries from some bureaucratic agency in Nashville gather us all up to tell us that things are in decline, that we need to change, that we have to do things differently, yadda, yadda, yadda. The solution du jour is now that we are going to focus more on "metrics" such as worship attendance to determine 'effectiveness' in ministry. We're supposed to have continuing 'holy conferencing' conversations with each other about how best we can 'move forward' and 'be relevant' in the 21st century. None of this is particularly wrong, it's just that the solutions that are being proposed by the 'Call to Action' are really exercises in missing the point: We're trying to fit Jesus into our structure, rather than altering our structure to fit Jesus and his kingdom. ... Continuing to bang away at metrics and making up task forces isn't the way to change. The only way to change is through the transforming power of Christ. You want to make disciples? You have to be one first."

– The Rev. Bob Kaylor, Park City, Utah

"I love The United Methodist Church. It is my home. But 'nimble, lean, minimal?' Are we talking about the same church? With itinerancy? With bishops appointed for life? I'm sorry, but I don't think that there is anything even a little bit nimble, lean, or minimal about our polity. ... I'm just not optimistic about our capacity for this depth of institutional change."

– The Rev. Sara Olson Dean, Wessington Springs, South Dakota

Appointments

a. 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
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
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
RDM—Retired Diaconal Minister
RE— Retired Elder
RL— Retired Local Pastor
ROC— Retired FE, Other Conference
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 have paid 100 percent of all their conference and district apportionments for 2010. Those underlined have paid 101 percent or more of World Service and Conference Benevolences. Green print = 10% Increase Apportionments Paid + 100% World Service and Conference Benevolences.

ALEXANDRIA DISTRICT

District Superintendent: Kenneth J. Jackson (2)

ALEXANDRIA

Beverly Hills: Sara L. Manner (18)

Del Ray: Mark A. Mrini (5)

Fairlington: Gregory L. Adkins (8)

Associate: Barbara J. Parnell (2) OE

Minister to Older Adults: Michele Manning (8) FD

Roberts Memorial: Patricia A. Jones (12)

Saint Andrew's: Kitan Petreski (6)

Saint James: James E. Henry (20)

Trinity: Phyllis R. Earley (2)

Associate: **Matthew J. Benton** (1) PE

Washington Street: Michael A. Lyle (7)

FAIRFAX

Fairfax: Timothy R. Gerde (2)

Associate: Jason W. Snow (7)

FAIRFAX COUNTY

Accotink: **Robin G. BeMiller** (1) PL

Aldersgate: Dennis W. Perry (10)

Associate: Jason A. Micheli (7)

Annandale: Clarence R. Brown (4)

Associate: Eduardo A. Carrillo (2) FL

Associate: Cynthia D. Johnson-Oliver (4) OE

Associate: Paul Y. Shin (10) ROM

Burke: Lawrence W. Buxton (5)

Associate: Morgan A. Guyton (2) PE

Dir. Of Mission: Judith G. Fender (11) FD

Cameron: David L. Nesselrodt (7)

Cana: Joo Sup Park (4) OE

Christ: John C. Speight Jr. (20)

Cranford: Lorenzo D. Hill (7)

Faith: **TBS**

Franconia: Vernell M. Carter (6)

Immanuel: Deborah L. Austin (5)

Lincolnia: William E. Heinzman (10)

Messiah: Ralph W. Rowley (11)

Associate: Elizabeth S. Anderson (6)

Associate: Kevin A. Anderson (6) PE

Associate: Jose W. Saldana (13) PL

Mount Vernon: H. Celeste Heath (8)

New Light: Hyeon Ho Lee (2)

Rising Hope: Keary C. Kincannon (17)

Coord. Children & Youth Ministries:

Sula S. Tyler (1) LM

Saint George's: Denise M. Childers (5)

Saint John's: William F. Burrough (7)

Saint Matthew's: J. Denise Honeycutt (2)

Associate: **Brian W. Johnson** (1) PE

Saint Stephen's: Jeffrey P. Mickle (5)

Associate: Melissa D. Porter-Miller (5)

Associate: **Roger M. Baker** (1) OE

Silverbrook: Kim Barker-Brugman (6)

Springfield: Larry E. Craddock (5)

Associate: L. Elaine Hall (5) OP

Sydenstricker: **James D. Thomas** (1)

Associate: M. Garey Eakes (2) PE

Washington Farm: Moonsup "Paul" Song (6)

Wesley: Janet P. Salbert (2)

Woodlawn: Lyle E. Morton (3)

FAUQUIER COUNTY

Bethel: Julian H. Martin Jr. (12)

Orlean: James Leamon (8) PL

Warrenton: John Chadsey (18)

Associate: Sarah M. McQueen (5)

Wesley Chapel: **Barbara H. Jamieson** (1) PL

MANASSAS CITY

Grace: Rudolph E. Tucker (11)

Associate: Meredith L. McNabb (5)

Min. of Music: C. Milton Rodgers III (11) FD

Manassas St. Thomas: David T. Forrest (2)

Associate: Matthew G. Smith (5.5)

Associate: Deborah Porras (2) PE

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY

Asbury: **Martha A. Rose** (1) PL

Bethel: **John T. Martin Jr.** (1) RE

Associate: Lemuel E. Pearsall Jr. (6) PE

Buckhall: **Linda H. Monroe** (1)

Cokesbury: Russell T. Urban (9)

Dumfries: R. Douglas Geeting (5)

Gainesville: John E. Patterson (15)

Good Shepherd: R. Levi Stroud Jr. (9)

Nokesville: **Julie A. Larch** (1)

Old Bridge: Burton C. Robinson (8)

Associate: Ronald T. Lanman (3) RL

Prince of Peace: Paula P. Werner (2)

Saint Mark's: James L. Johnson III (4)

Saint Paul: L. Wayne Carter (4)

Associate: Kurt Ludwig (8) PL

Spirit & Life: Matthew A. Meisenhelter (2)

Sudley: Dennis C. Lipke (5)

ARLINGTON DISTRICT

District Superintendent: Young Jin Cho (7)

ARLINGTON

Arlington: Wesley E. Arthur Sr. (2) RE

Associate: Lydia E. Rodriguez Colon (6)

Associate: **Chenda I. Lee** (1) PL

Arlington Forest: L. Michael Southall-Vess (5)

Arlington Temple: Catherine G. Abbott (6)

Calloway: **Sonja Flye Oliver** (1) FL

Calvary: Stephen B. Hassmer (11)

Central: Richard E. Cobb (14)

Cherrydale: **Elizabeth A. Foss** (1)

Clarendon: Eugene F. Thomas (6)

Community: R. Carl Ripley Jr. (20)

First Vietnamese-American of Gr. Wash.:

Tuyet Tran (1) FL

Ghana Wesley UM Mission: Emmanuel

Nkrumah (2) FL

Mount Olivet: Timothy P. Craig (4)
Associate: Kevin D. Havens (2) FL
Associate: **Francis P. Bertrand** (1) PL
Saint Mark's: Stephen K. Lee (7)
Walker Chapel: James N. Earley II (6)

FAIRFAX COUNTY
Andrew Chapel: John B. Morris (10)
Bruen Chapel: Ruth M. Burgess (4)
Centreville: Alan R. Felumlee (6)
Associate: Marcia K. Huntsman (5) PE
Associate: Jennifer D. Coffey (2) PE
Associate: **Thomas G. James** (1) PE
Charles Wesley: Candace L. Martin (5)
Chesterbrook: TBS
Church of the Good Shepherd: Mark A. Burgess (4)
Community of Faith: Robert E. Vaughn Jr. (14)
Culmore: Jung Pyo Hong (6)
Associate: Angel M. Martinez Ortiz (3) PL
Dranesville: Samantha J. Tuttle (2)
Epiphany: Bass M. Mitchell (5)
First Korean: Sung Ho Chung (8) OE
Associate: David D. Chang (2) SY
Floris: Thomas M. Berlin (15)
Associate: Barbara Miner (6) FL
Associate: Timothy L. Ward (3) FL
Friendship: James D. Canody (7)
Graham Road: Marable Southall-Vess (4)
Great Falls: Nancy B. Childress (6)
Herndon: Denise P. Bates (3)
Korean of Greater Washington: Young Bong Kim (7)
Associate: Hyun Sik Kang (5) OE
Associate: **Keon Huh** (1) FL
Associate: Michelle M. Kim (4) PE
Associate: Ki Cheon Lee (3) PE
Associate: Young Sub Cha (3) OE
Oakton: H. Donald Hawks Jr. (4)
Pender: Kenneth W. Newsome (11)
Associate: Daniel E. Elmore (2)
Associate: **Sandra L. Boone** (1)
Saint Luke's: Edgar Miranda (5)
Sleepy Hollow: Pamela Clark Egan (9)
Associate: Jennifer L. Ailstock (7) PL
Smiths Chapel: David J. Zuchelli (17)
Trinity: James C. Sprouse (15)
United Christian Parish: Joan L. Bell-Haynes (7) MOD
Vale: Tracy McNeil Wines (17)
The Vine: D. Todd Schlechty (3)
Wesley: Ray S. Brill Jr. (7)

FALLS CHURCH
Christ Crossman: M. Mochel Morris (11)
Dulin: M. Davies Kirkland (12)
Galloway: Laurice F. Jones-Wilks (3) PE

LOUDOUN COUNTY
Arcola: Christopher E. Riedel (17)
Crossroads: David A. Norman (23)
Associate: James H. Chandler (3)
Associate: Flor M. Norris (3) PL
Minister of Congregational Nurture: Jean M. Hankins (3) FD
Galilee: M. Wayne Snead (16)
Associate: Matthew B. Sergeant (5) FL
Pleasant Valley: Justin S. White (3)
Sterling: C. Randolph Duncan (8)
Minister of Music and Outreach: Joanna S. Dietz (5) FD
Associate: Luz M. Zuleta (2) PL

CHARLOTTESVILLE DISTRICT

District Superintendent: Brenda J. Biler (7)

ALBEMARLE COUNTY

Aldersgate: Scott E. Davis (2)
Associate: Christopher Fuss (8) PL
Batesville: Derek P. Koolman (9)
Batesville, Bethel, Mt. Olivet
Binghams: William R. Payne (9) PL
Crozet: J. Douglas Forrester (7)
Youth Minister: Jessica L. Fuller (1.5) FD
Ivy Creek: James W. Thornton Sr. (5)
Congregational Care and Ministry Development: **Evelyn Y. Jones** (1) LM
Mount Moriah: **Won Un** (1)
Southern Albemarle: **Bruce Lugn** (1) FL
Mt. Zion, Scottsville
Trinity (North Garden): Norman Johnson (11) PL
West Albemarle: Ben Houchens (12) PL
Browns Cove, Gentry

AMHERST COUNTY

Bethany-Sardis: Shin Woo Hong (2) FL
Bethany, Sardis
Mount Pleasant: Judy G. Morris (3) FL
Mt. Horeb, Mt. Pleasant
Poplar: David P. Edinger (2) PL
Wesleyan: David P. Edinger (2) PL

CHARLOTTESVILLE

First: Alvin J. Horton (3)
Associate: Ashley Abarca-Mitchell (4) PE
Hinton Avenue: Rosemary G. Welch (3)
Wesley Memorial: **Edward P. Winkler** (1)

CULPEPER COUNTY

Culpeper: J. Randall Orndorff (8)
Associate: Norma Jean Fellows (3.5) ROC
Associate: Nancy A. Palmer (2) PL
East Culpeper: Stanley H. Mulford III (3) PE
Hopewell, Richardsville
Little Fork Circuit: Sharon L. Forbes (4)
Jeffersonton, Oak Shade, Woodland

FLUVANNA COUNTY

Byrd Chapel: Vivian M. Utz (2) FL
Cunningham: Thomas E. Frost (3) PE
Haden Chapel: Sandra Benton Plasters (1.5)
Palmyra: Sandra Benton Plasters (6)
Salem: **Andrew B. Willson** (1) PE
South Fluvanna: Constance A. LeFon (2) PL
New Bethel, Seays Chapel, Wesley Chapel

GREENE COUNTY

Greene: T. William Dyer (2) OF
Mt. Vernon, South River
Stanardsville: Catharine T. Guest (4)
Westover: Norma J. Dean (8) PL

LOUISA COUNTY

Louisa: Robert L. Haley (7)
Macedonia: Linda E.F. Crabbs (3) PE
Mineral-Mt. Pleasant: Bryan K. Buckles (2) PE
Mineral, Mt. Pleasant
West Louisa: William E. Hepler (2) RL
Ebenezer, Lasley, Mt. Horeb
Zion: Michael W. Plasters (6)

MADISON COUNTY

Bethel-Mountain View: **James Lacy** (1) PL
Bethel, Mountain View
Madison: Stephen P. King (4)
Madison, Rose Park
North Madison: Theresa B. Hoffman (2) PE
Etlan, Mt. Olivet, Oak Grove

Rapidan: Alan R. Follett (4) FL

Bethsaida, Mt. Zion, Walkers

NELSON COUNTY

Bethany (Norwood): **James D. Siddons** (1) RE
Bethlehem: Raymond E.G. Rowley (4) FL
Nelson: Debra A. Powell (6)
New Faith: Gregory Payne (6) SY
Rock Spring: Pamela J. Baldwin (2) FL
Rodes: J. Richard McDowell (13)

ORANGE COUNTY

Gordonsville: Deborah A. Koontz (4)
Barboursville, Gordonsville
Orange Circuit: Jeffrey B. Smith (4)
Bethlehem, Salem
Trinity: Thomas R. Barnard (5)

RAPPAHANNOCK COUNTY

Amissville: **Maxine C. Crenshaw** (1) PE
Rappahannock: **Sara Porter Keeling** (1)
Flint Hill, Sperryville, Willis Chapel

DANVILLE DISTRICT

District Superintendent: **Janine W. Howard** (1)

DANVILLE

Fairview: Kathleen M.R. Monge (2)
Grace Design: **Kameron W. Wilds** (1) PL
Kerns Memorial: Robert C. Huffman (5) PL
Moseley Memorial-Stokesland Cooperative Parish: Timothy R. Earnhardt (2) PE
Moseley Memorial, Stokesland
Mount Vernon: Barry S. Foster (4)
St. Luke's: Paul L. Phillips (3)
Trinity: Charles W. Wickham (9)

FLOYD COUNTY

Harris Chapel: Marcus Wood (5) PL

FRANKLIN COUNTY

Bethlehem: D. Chris Bennett (3) FL
East Franklin: Judith E. Short (11)
Crafts, Penhook
Epworth: Joshua Munnikhuyzen (6) FL
Fork Mountain: Bobby Shively (5) PL
Franklin: Burton E. White (4)
Burnt Chimney, Flint Hill
Gogginsville: Mark D. Richardson (3)
Highland: Jason L. Bryant (4) FL
New Hope: Walter K. Hughes Jr. (2) PL
Oyler's Chapel-Rehoboth Cooperative Parish: **Richard L. Barton** (1) PE
Oyler's Chapel, Rehoboth
Pleasant Hill: Elizabeth H. Lazenby (6) FL
Red Valley: **Joshua S. King** (1) FL
Redwood: Bradley S. Dulaney (3)
Rocky Mount: **Bruce D. Tuttle** (1) RE
St. James (Ferrum): Mary S. White (4) RE
West Franklin: Winston L. Crichlow (5) RE
Bethany, Maple Grove

HALIFAX COUNTY

Calvary: R. Ann Davidson (2) RL

HENRY COUNTY

Axton: Anne M. Sisson (4) FL
Beckham, Carroll Mem., Irisburg
Bassett Memorial: Dorian Powell (2) FL
Fieldale: Thomas E. Durrance (2) PE
Granbery: David E. Schill (4) RE
Mount Bethel: Stephen A. Garner (2) FL
Pleasant Grove: Michael A. Eisenman (7) PE
Ridgeway: Elizabeth W. McLemore (2)
Smith Memorial: Tilden W. Bridges (4)

Stanleytown: Kenneth E. Cleveland (4) FL

MARTINSVILLE

Chatham Heights: **Marshall L. Banks** (1) PL

First: Ronald W. Mateer (12)

Wesley Memorial: Steven W. Greer (2)

PATRICK COUNTY

Meadow: Mark R. Collins (2) PL

Mt. Zion: **Keith L. Vernon** (1) PL

Mountain View: Terry F. Martin (7) PL

North Patrick: Sandra L. Wright (2) FL

Ross Harbour, Woolwine

Patrick:

Co-pastor: W. Mark Clayton (8) FL

Co-pastor: J. Michael Hundley (6) FL

Concord, Creasey's Chapel, **Nettle Ridge,** New Hope

Providence: David A. Westmoreland (10) FL

Salem: James H. Fry III (2) FL

Stuart: Thomas B. Shepherd (5)

PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY

Anderson Chapel: R. Lee Yancey (2) SY

Bethel/Cascade: Richard W. Hayward (3) LM

Bethel, Cascade

Brosville: **Faith M. Weedling** (1)

Concord: **Robert W. Ford** (1)

Harmony: Robert F. Hardy IV (12) FL

Hopewell: E. Russell Gresham IV (2)

Mount Olivet: James D. Stevens (2) OF

Floral Hills-Mount Pleasant: **Christy**

Gresham (1) PL

Floral Hills, Mt. Pleasant

Oakland: **Robert E. Green** (1) FL

Swansonville: **Linwood G. Cook** (1) RE

Watson Memorial (Chatham): Kay Barstow Gentry (2)

Wesley Chapel-Rock Springs: **Steven W.**

Weedling (1) FL

Rock Springs, Wesley Chapel

Whitmell-St. John's Cooperative Parish: Susan M. Hannah (4)

Saint John's, Whitmell

EASTERN SHORE DISTRICT

District Superintendent: Tammy L. Estep (3)

ACCOMACK COUNTY

Atlantic-New Church: **Christy R. Spurlock** (1) FL

Atlantic, Berea

Belle Haven-Bethel: Judith G. Worthington (4)

Belle Haven, Bethel

Bloxom Mission: Gregory L. Duncan (3) PL

Calvary: **Elizabeth P. Freund** (1) RE

Cashville: Jon M. Woodburn (5) FL

Andrew Chapel, Leatherbury, **Riverview**

Christ (Chincoteague): Travis L. DeLoach (11)

Craddockville: Bobbie Jo Henley (2) PE

Drummondtown: Betty D. Marshall (2) RL

Grace (Parksley): **Donald A. Jamison** (1)

Greenbackville: Derek E. Tomek (2) FL

Signpost, Union

Guilford: Melody P. Tanner (3) PE

Guilford, St. Thomas

Hallwood: Jonathan D. Tanner (2) SY

Horntown: **TBS**

Deas Chapel, Friendship, **St. Mark's**

Leemont: Carl E. Perez (2)

Adams, Metropolitan

Market Street: Robert M. Chapman (3)

Melfa: **Glenda T. Turlington** (1) PL

New Hope: Suzanne F. Schmid (2) FL

Evergreen, Harborton, Mears Memorial

Oak Grove: Sandra G. Benson (4) PL

Oak Hall: Donald L. Blagg (2) FL

Assawoman, Downings

Ocean View: Sallye H. Bowen (7) RE

Onley: Charles W. Parks III (12) AM

Painter-Quinby: Rebecca W. McGee (2) OP

Painter-Garrisons, Smiths Chapel

Pittsville-Pocomoke-Wattsville: W. Maury

Enright (28) SY

Pittsville, Pocomoke, Wattsville

Saint John's (Atlantic): Gary C. Miller (25) AM

Sanford-Saxis: **William C. Jefferson** (1) PL

Sanford, Saxis

Snead Memorial (Wachapreague): James S.

Nock (6) PL

Swain Mem. (Tangier): Patricia J. Stover (3)

Woodberry: Albert L. Crockett (2) RA

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY

Cape Charles-Capeville: Elizabeth A. Lutz (3)

Capeville, Trinity

Cheriton: Lynda D. Moore (3) PE

Cheriton, Travis Chapel

Epworth (Exmore): L. Raymond McGarr (4)

Franktown: Alexander B. Joyner (7)

Associate: Peter Surran (3) PL

Johnsons: Clarence W. Bowen Jr. (13) RE

New Mission: Harold E. White (7) FL

ELIZABETH RIVER DISTRICT

District Superintendent: Bradford L. Phillips (4)

CHESAPEAKE

Chesapeake Avenue: **Haden D. Conrad** (1) FL

Covenant: Franklin T. Jennings (11)

Deep Creek: Jonathan L. Bennett (4)

Good Hope: Mark E. Christian (15)

Great Bridge: Danny J. Kesner (7)

Associate: Janet C.C. Allen (2) FL

Hickory: Thomas L. Mercer Sr. (23)

Indiana: Frances C. Craig (3) PL

Jolliff: Waverly C. Smith III (8) FL

Messiah: Ellen W. Comstock (2)

Mount Pleasant: Robert M. Pihlcrantz (6) FL

New Creation: David R. Drinkard (4)

Aldersgate Associate: **Eric C. Song** (1) PE

Grace Harbor Associate: Marc W.

Rickabaugh (2) PE

Oak Grove: J. Randall McMillen (12)

Oaklette: **Timothy D. Hazlett** (1)

Portlock: Robert G. Robinson (6)

Saint Paul's: Finley O. Jones (11)

CURRITUCK COUNTY, NC

Knotts Island: Lawrence S. Brayton (2) FL

NORFOLK

Aldersgate: Walton C. Forstall II (2)

Christ: Daniel P. Abbott (8)

Colonial Avenue: Jannette V. Clavez (2) FL

Epworth: **Priscilla Gay Hall** (1)

Fairmount Park: **Linda S. Young** (1) PL

First: John F. Shappell (5)

Ghent: William L. McClung Jr. (8)

Larchmont: Scott M. Rimer (5)

Associate: Sarah R. Wastella (2) PL

McKendree: Michelle D. Louk (7) FL

Miles Memorial: John B. Haynes Sr. (2)

Norfolk: Sherry L. Daniels (6)

Associate: **Carolyn J. Graves** (1) PL

Norview: W. Joseph Shepherd (9)

Park Place: **Stephen B. Wall-Smith** (1) OE

Saint John's: **Brandon L. Gilmore** (1) PE

Wesley Memorial/Zion-Grace: A. Bruce

Carper (2)

Wesley Memorial, Zion-Grace

SUFFOLK

Beech Grove: Keith D. Moore (2)

Ebenezer: Carl J. LeMon (19)

Associate: Brent M. Seusy (6)

Virginia Korean: Chul Ki Kim (7)

Associate: Ho Hyun Cho (2) PL

English Pastor: **Lisa S. Meyers** (1) PL

Wesley Chapel: Ileana R. Rosario (3)

PORTSMOUTH

Asbury-Cradock: Karen Whitehurst (16) PL

Broad Street: Lisa R. Blackmonson (2) PE

Centenary: George B. Neas (3)

Associate: Elizabeth A. Nordan (2) PL

Community: Mike Putnam (10) PL

Cottage Place: Lynne Hundley (12)

Monumental: **Joseph J. Cailles** (1)

The Bridge Associate: Forrest H. Teague Jr. (7)

Park View: Raymond H. Edmonds Jr. (2.5) RE

Saint Andrew's: Michael B. Reaves (4)

Saint Mark: Kirk Culpepper (10) PL

West End: Cheryl L. Simmons (2)

VIRGINIA BEACH

Asbury: John W. Haynes (22) RL

Baylake: James R. Driscoll (2)

Associate: Deborah S. Clark (5) FL

Bethel: Thomas L. Strohecker (9) PL

Charity: Robert J. Robertson III (2)

Community: **H. Leroy Seibert** (1)

Associate: **Christa J. Mercer** (1) FL

Courthouse Community: Frances T. Cooper (12)

Associate: Frederick C. Brockhausen III (8) PL

Foundry: Patricia A. Riggs (3)

Francis Asbury: Edward S. Martin Jr. (3)

Haygood: Charles A. Shumate (5)

Associate: Mary Dadisman (2) PE

Heritage: Kathleen W. Haynes (4)

Lynnhaven: Ralph G. Satter (5)

Memorial: John W. Cole II (11)

Nimmo: Clark Cundiff (5)

Princess Anne Plaza-Resurrection: Angelito G. Samson (12)

Princess Anne Plaza, Resurrection

Saint Andrew's: Robert E. Cooper (3)

Associate: **Jonathan J. Page** (1) PE

Faith Community Nurse: Donna L. Buzzard (5) LM

Saint Luke's: David L. Cunningham (2) PE

Salem: Penny D. Cory (4)

Sandbridge Community Chapel: H. Frank

Holley (8)

Scott Memorial: **Vickie G. Seibert** (1)

Tabernacle: Jack E. Davis (16)

Thalia: David A. Goodpasture (2)

Minister of Evangelism & Visitation: Joan

B. Averette (4) LM

The Gathering: Rachel Gilmore (3) PE

Virginia Beach: Ted E. David (5)

Associate: Edward H. Johnson Jr. (5)

FARMVILLE DISTRICT

District Superintendent: **Robert J. Parks Jr.** (1)

AMELIA COUNTY

Amelia: Timothy Todd Smith (2)

Tabernacle, Trinity

Journey: **Michael T. Davis** (1) AM

North Amelia: **June C. Carpenter** (1) FL

Epworth, Jetersville, Salem

APPOMATTOX COUNTY

Memorial: Russell M. Cheatham (2)

Pamplin: **Herndon P. Jeffreys III** (1)

Associate: **B. Adam Hall** (1) SY

Centenary, Evergreen, Pamplin, Piney Rdg.

BRUNSWICK COUNTY

Brodnax: **Bertram F. Duckwall** (1) PL

Bethany, Brodnax

Lawrenceville: Seonyoung Kim (2)

North Brunswick: John A. Fair (2)

Antioch, Lebanon, Rocky Run

Prospect: Kenneth L. Thrasher (5) FL

South Brunswick: Elizabeth A. Buxton (4) FL

Olive Branch, Rock

West Brunswick: Carol P. Mann (5) FL

Bethel, Macedonia

BUCKINGHAM COUNTY

Buckingham: Veronica G. Barrell (3) PE

Browns Chapel, Hanes Chapel, Rocky Mt.

Dillwyn: Billy E. Swan (5) FL

Bethel, Salem, White Hall

James River: **Brant K. Hays** (1)

Arvonnia, Centenary, Glenmore

West Buckingham: Donald E. Moore (8) FL

Mt. Tabor, Trinity, Woodland

CHARLOTTE COUNTY

Charlotte: John Randall Kiel (2) FL

Charlotte Court House, Hebron, Lebanon, Mt. Calvary

Keysville: Robert H. Woodfin II (7)

Mt. Carmel-Phenix: Michael W. Teixeira (9) FL

Mt. Carmel, Phenix

New Hope-Southall Memorial: **Allan T.**

Murphy (1) FL

New Hope, Southall Memorial

CUMBERLAND COUNTY

Cumberland: Won Gyu Lee (5)

Associate: Robert L. Jennings (6) PL

Associate: **Larry A. Lehman** (1) PL

Antioch, Centenary, Hobson's Chapel, Payne Memorial

Oakwood: **Kang Uk Lee** (1) PE

Thomas Chapel: Richard L. Bucher (6) PL

HALIFAX COUNTY

Cherry Hill: Barbara L. Parker (4) PL

East Halifax: Douglas R. Sasser Jr. (3) PE

Clover, Scottsburg

Glenwood: Robert H. Woodfin Sr. (7) RE

Glenwood, Olive Branch

Halifax: Randall S. Williams (9) FL

Main Street: Edward F. Rigg (6)

McCanless Memorial: Vera Ann Norton (5) RE

McKendree-Asbury: **Patricia L. Neilsen** (1) FL

Asbury, McKendree

Mount Cana: A. Randolph Holmes (7) FL

Mount Laurel: Don R. Pizeck (10)

Shady Grove: George E. Gorman (4) AM

South Halifax: **Joe D. Trickey Jr.** (1) SY

Cedar Grove, Harmony

Union: **Mary V. Tharpe** (1) PL

LUNENBURG COUNTY

Kenbridge: Timothy A. Beck (4)

Lunenburg: Andrew H. Book (3) PE

Antioch, Williams

Plantersville: Ralph "Red" L. Moore (8) LM

Victoria: Loretta A. Benninghove (8)

MECKLENBURG COUNTY

Boydton: Richard P. Grendahl (9) PE

Boydton, Easters, Rehoboth

Centenary (Chase City): Jeffery P. Clemens

(7) FL

Jameson Memorial: Dale E. Gillis (2)

LaCrosse-Sardis: Giani Manieri (3) FL

LaCrosse, Sardis

Lakeland: Michael G. Day (3) FL

Kingswood, Rehoboth

North Mecklenburg: R. Kent Wise (5) PE

Pleasant Grove, Salem, Shiloh, Zion

Providence-Trinity: **Michael A. Johnson** (1) SY

Providence, Trinity (South Hill)

South Hill: **LANEY S. Spigener Jr.** (1)

Union Chapel: William J. Tanner (9) LM

West Mecklenburg: Randal L. Baisey (5) FL

Ephesus, Fields, Friendship

NOTTOWAY COUNTY

Burkeville: James F. Brown (3) FL

Bethel, Wards Chapel

Crenshaw: Scott D. Hopkins (5)

Crewe: John S. Brenneke (6) AM

East Nottoway: Linda H. Lowe (3) PE

Butterwood, Grace, Rocky Hill

Nottoway: John B. Covington (16) PL

Bethel, St. John's

Nottoway-Lunenburg: **Martha L. Spigener** (1)

Laurel Hill, St. Mark's, Thrifts Chapel

PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY

Farmville: Sylvia S. Meadows (5)

Associate: Paul S. Baker (3) PL

Meherrin: Ruth A. Collins-Dinger (7) PL

Prince Edward: Scott A. Beck (2) PE

Beulah, Mt. Harmony, Mt. Pleasant

Prospect: John E. Flood Sr. (2) PL

Olive Branch, Prospect, Smyrna

FREDERICKSBURG DISTRICT

District Superintendent: **Theodore Smith** (1)

CAROLINE COUNTY

Bethel: Ellen Heatwole (2) FL

Bowling Green: James A. Edwards (1.5) FL

Bowling Green, Shiloh

Caroline: Mark A. Lawrence (2) SY

Mt. Vernon, St. Paul's

Hopewell: Lou Woolner (4) PL

Rehoboth: Linda Driver Ray (2)

Wrights Chapel: Charles Tillapaugh (20)

ESSEX COUNTY

Essex-King & Queen: Thomas Wayne Crosby (3) PE

Lebanon, Providence, Trinity

Tappahannock Memorial: John W. Ashley (4)

FAUQUIER COUNTY

Cedar Run: **J. Stephen Little Jr.** (1) FL

Trinity, Wesleyan

Grace (Hartwood): Brenda Lee Pusso (2)

Liberty: Oliver J. Box (3)

Midland: Charles M. Stribula (4) PL

Morrisville: Hae Rin Lawson (5)

Mount Horeb: Gayle D. Poria (2) PE

Remington: Charles Stacy (6)

FREDERICKSBURG

Fredericksburg: Larry E. Lenow (12)

Associate: Nancy Compher (6.5)

Minister of Congregational Care: Amy Lenow (12) FD

Hillcrest: Justin L. Williams (2) FL

KING AND QUEEN COUNTY

Mizpah: Betty Jo Sims (6) PL

Shepherds: **Robert L. Hauck** (1) RE

KING GEORGE COUNTY

Dahlgren: Edward H. Johnson (6)

Fletchers Chapel: Elfie Finn-McKenzie (6)

Trinity: Michael D. Finn-McKenzie (6)

KING WILLIAM COUNTY

Epworth: William P. Walker (2) PE

McKendree: James L. Porter (4) PL

LANCASTER COUNTY

Asbury: A. Ray Massie (4) PL

Bethel-Emmanuel: Robert O. Jones Jr. (8)

Bethel, Emmanuel

Irvington: Donna Bowen (2)

Kilmarnock: Deborah T. Marion (8.5)

White Stone: L. Bryan McClain (4)

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY

Bethany (Reedville): **Susan F. Brack** (1)

Bluff Point: A. Ray Massie (4) PL

Galilee: Charles F. Bates (6)

Heathsville: **Rebecca L. Minor** (1)

Henderson: Lou Ann Frederick (2)

Melrose: Janet F. Grissett (2)

Mila-Wicomico: Donna M. Blythe (4) PL

Mila, Wicomico

Northumberland: John Robert Jones Sr. (3)

Afton, Fairfields

Rehoboth: Ralph W. Carrington Jr. (4) SY

RICHMOND COUNTY

Richmond: Elizabeth von Trapp Walker (6)

Calvary, Hopewell, Oakland

Warsaw: **Jeane D. Dunkum** (1)

SPOTSYLVANIA COUNTY

Eastland/New Season: **Craig A. Muffley** (1) PE

Eastland, New Season

Peace: W. David Erickson Jr. (7)

Shady Grove-Oliver: Fred G. Marvel (4)

Olivet, Shady Grove

Tabernacle: Stephen D. Hay (12)

Wilderness Community: Keith D. Boyette (14)

Zion: Barbara Jacobs (10)

STAFFORD COUNTY

Andrew Chapel: ReNe'e Teague (6)

Antioch: Christopher Fair (7) PL

Ebenezer: Mark A. Miller (17)

Associate: Christopher M. Bennett (3)

Associate: Elizabeth S. Glass (2) OE

Falmouth: Gail L. Dietze (3) PL

New Hope: Teresa S. Smith (2)

Register Chapel: **Robert A. Almy** (1)

Saint Matthias: Walter W. Westbrook (2)

Salem: Gail L. Dietze (5) PL

WESTMORELAND COUNTY

Andrew Chapel-Edgewater: **Shayne V. Estes** (1) PE

Andrew Chapel, Edgewater

Carmel-Coles Point: Reginald G. Rumburg (4) AM
Carmel, Coles Point
Colonial Beach: **Yunho Eo** (1)
Ebenezer: DeWayne A. Duncan (3)
Grace (Oak Grove): **Thomas E. Jennings** (1) RE
Montross: John C. Ward Jr. (4) FL
Grant, Lebanon, Providence

HARRISONBURG DISTRICT

District Superintendent: Ernest T. "Tommy" Herndon Jr. (2)

AUGUSTA COUNTY

Annex: Russell L. Heinrich (11) PE
Bethany: Bradley A. McMullen (3)
Crimora: Gayle Thornberry (8) FL
Harrison: I. Cameron Carte (5) PL
Mount Bethel: Neil W. McLaughlin (2) PL
Mount Pisgah: John Crawford III (7.5) RE
 Congregational Care & Visitation:
P. Mardy Marston (1) LM
New Hope: R. Douglas Gunsalus (11)
 Dir. of Discipleship & Spiritual Formation:
 A. Alan Tuten (2) LM
 Min. of Music: Courtney C. Joyner (2) PD
Parnassus: D. Glen Langston (3) RE
Sangersville: **Gary M. Monroe** (1) PL
Verona: **Robert J. Weeks** (1)
Weyers Cave: Margaret M. Packard (2) PE

HARRISONBURG

Asbury: Kathleen Overby Webster (2)
 Associate: Robert E. Talbott (3) FL
 Min. of Music: Laura B. Douglass (12) FD
Cedar Grove: Don L. Shull (8) RA
John Wesley: Wilma H. White (4) PL
Otterbein: L. James Grogan Jr. (4)
 RISE: Amanda Miller Garber (2)

PAGE COUNTY

Luray: **Erich D. Bennett** (1)
Page: Sarah L.K. Calvert (2)
Shenandoah: Stephen R. Creech (15)
Christ, Fields

Shenandoah Circuit: Ellen H. Martin (3) PL
Grove Hill, Oak Grove
Stanley: James R. Wingert (6)

ROCKINGHAM COUNTY

Blue Ridge: Nona Allen (6) FL
 Assistant: **Kevin Poeckert** (1) SY
Furnace, Hensley, Jolletts, Mt. Pleasant
Bridgewater: **James M. Tongue** (1)
 Associate: James A. Harris (2) RE
Clover Hill: Robert N. Hoskins Jr. (10.25)
Dayton: Steven L. Bird (9)
Elkton: David T. Reynolds (20)
Evangelical: Robert W. Smith Jr. (3)
Fellowship-Linville-Edom: Brian E. Posey (3) FL

Edom, Fellowship, Linville
First (Broadway): David R. Burrough (6)
Fulks Run: T. Joel Robinette (7)
Caplingers, Mt. Carmel, Riverside
Grottoes: Barbara J. Gross (3) AM
Keezletown: Dawn-Marie Singleton (7)
Massanutten: Carrie Talbott (6) FL
 East Point, Mt. Zion, **St. Peter's, Trinity**
McGaheysville: David C. Lagerveld (6)
Mount Clinton: James W. Joyner (2)

Mount Crawford: Helen M. Zottoli (8)
Mt. Crawford, Mt. Sidney
Mount Horeb: Isaac Harper (7) PL
Mount Tabor: Michael T. Frank (4)
Mountain Valley: Valerie W. Ritter (1)
Ottobine: F. Darlene Wilkins (2) PL
Port Republic: David R. Palmer (4)
 Associate: Marlene A. Chandler (2) PL
St. James (Pleasant Valley): Charlene I. Landes (4) FL
St. Paul: June K. Clark (3) OE
Singers Glen: James O. Radford (3)
Cherry Grove, Donovan Memorial
Sunset Dr. (Broadway): **James A. Mahaffey** (1)
Vision of Hope: David M. Burch (6)

SHENANDOAH COUNTY

Christian Newcomer: Luther Edwin "Nip" Crites Jr. (3) OE
Christian Newcomer, Mt. Hebron
Columbia Furnace-Union Forge: J. Robert Berghuis (5)
Columbia Furnace, Union Forge
Edinburg: Stephen E. McMillion (4)
St. John's, Wesley Chapel
Fort Valley: Sherry L. Waddell (8) PL
Oak Level, White Chapel
Manor Memorial (New Market): R. Bruce Johnson (2)
Mount Jackson: **Michael A. Dettmer** (1) PE
Mt. Jackson, Quicksburg
Mt. Olive-Shiloh: **Edward F. Wilkins** (1)
Mt. Olive, Shiloh
Mount Pleasant: W. Glen Early (6) FL
 Associate: Victoria L. Barb (5) PL
Hawkinstown, Mt. Clifton, Mt. Hermon, Otterbein Chapel
Shenandoah Valley: Terry L. Hendricks (1) PL
 Mt. Zion (Strasburg), Mt. Zion (Woodstock)
Strasburg: **P. Douglas Martin** (1)
Toms Brook: **Robert M. Throckmorton** (1)
Woodstock: David A. Rash (3)

LYNCHBURG DISTRICT

District Superintendent: Larry E. Davies (4)

AMHERST COUNTY

Amelon: Paulo Cesar Da Silva (3)
Emmanuel: **Lisa A. Barbery** (1) PE
Monroe: George S. Riggins III (5)
Mt. Tabor-Smyrna: Joyce Austin (4) LM
Mt. Tabor, Smyrna
St. James-Beulah Retreat Center: Nancy C. Johnson (2) SY

APPOMATTOX COUNTY

Appomattox Circuit:
 Mt. Comfort, Trinity: **Larry F. Mann** (1) AM
Bethel: Randy F. Mills (5) LM

BEDFORD

Main Street: **J. Barton Weakley** (1)

BEDFORD COUNTY

Bellevue: H.O. "Tom" Thomas Jr. (5)
Bethany, Oakland
Bethesda: Tammy Parker Franklin (10) PL
Bethlehem (Moneta): David W. Lord (5)
Big Island-Cove:
 Big Island: Shirley R. Mercer (6) RL
Cove: Susan W. Keen (2) PL
Center Point-Salem: George J. Davis Jr. (6) PL
Center Point, Salem

Ebenezer-Otterville: Mark A. Wilkerson (7) LM
Ebenezer, Otterville
Emmaus: William P. Greer (7) FL
Epworth (Thaxton): Joseph A. Shoop (5)
Forest: William Turner Burleigh (4) FL
Huddleston-Mt. Horeb: David R. Bayse (12) OE
 Huddleston, Mt. Horeb

Kelly Circuit:

Court St., **Hales Ford, New Hope**: Kelvin A. Edwards (6) SY
 Mt. Zion: Mark W. Tucker (2) SY
Mountain View: Steven L. Propst (3)
Otter: Michael L. Casey (3) PL
Ephesus, Nicopolis
Patmos: **Riley R. Smith Jr.** (1) RE
Peaksview: J. Steve Turner (7) FL
Hickory Grove, Mt. Olivet, Wilsons
Shiloh: Robert A. Merkle (8) PL
 Union: Glenn B. Dawson (2) SY
Walnut Grove: Robert W. Auxier (2) PL

CAMPBELL COUNTY

Bethany: **Steven D. Barbery** (1) PE
Bethany, Earlys Chapel, Indian Hill
Bethlehem (Concord): Daniel R. Dibble (2) PL
Brookneal: **Brian J. Simmons** (1) FL
Calvary: Michael W. Miller (3) PL
Lane Memorial: Alan T. Combs (1)
Lebanon: Steven D. Parker (2) RA
Leesville: Jerry O. Viemeister (5) PL
Mead Memorial: George D. Hatmaker (9) FL
Mount Hermon: William A. Greer (1) FL
Mt. Zion: James E. Galford (4) PL
New Bethel: Roger Powell (3) PL
New Hope-Sharon: Charlie S. Haley (11) PL
New Hope, Sharon
Providence-Whites: Paul Gillespie (8) FL
Providence, Whites
Rustburg: Elizabeth W. Ecklund (6)
Salem: Charles E. Schooler (14) FL
Timberlake: Robin L. Colwell (4)
 Associate: **Charles E. Johnson Jr.** (1) PL
 Minister to Children: **Dawn Compton** (1) OD
Trinity (Altavista): **Robert J. Thorne** (1) RA
Wesleyburg: Joyce Maddox (2) PL
West Campbell: John B. Franklin (6) FL
Evington, Lambs

LYNCHBURG

Boonsboro: **Ronald A. Litten** (1)
Centenary: Richard H. Ecklund (6)
Chestnut Hill: Becky J. Cloud (3)
 Christ's Community Fellowship: Phillip C. Showers (5) FL
Court Street: C. Douglas Pillow (2) RE
Fairview: Reason Chandler (2) FL
Forest Road: John H. Kinnard (6) OF
Fort Hill: Philip M. Waltz (3)
 Min. of Music and Visitation: Janet Hawkins (12) FD
Heritage: William B. Montgomery (1)
 Associate: **Megan J. Saucier** (1) PE
Jackson Street: Alexander Duncan (2) FL
Marsh Memorial: C. Randall Harlow (4)
Peakland: A.J. Edwin Clever (2)
 Associate: Rachel Gene May (3) PE
Tyreeanna-Salem: James E. Martin (12) PL
 Salem, **Tyreeanna**
PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY
Anderson Mem. (Gretna): John B. Snyder (6)

Fowler Memorial: Patricia Figueroa (7) OE
 Bethany-Ebenezer, **Mt. Airy**
Hurt: Bonnie G. Pizzeck (3) PE
Mount Airy: **Marsha L. Davis** (1) PL
 Providence, **Republican Grove**, **St. Andrew**
New Bethel-Motley: Mary M. Jones (3) FL
 Motley, **New Bethel**
Payneton-Siloam: George K. Schaefer (4) PL
 Payneton, **Siloam**
Smith Mountain: Quentin Lawson (2) OE
 Mt. Zion, **New Ridgeway**
Zion: Harold E. Thornton (11) RE

JAMES RIVER DISTRICT

District Superintendent: John N. Vest (7)

BRUNSWICK COUNTY

Brunswick: Barbara D. Lewis (2) PE
 Edgerton, Pelhams, **Pleasant Grove**
Philadelphia: Sung Woon Yoo (4) PE
 Ebenezer, **Matthews Chapel**, **Philadelphia**

CHESTERFIELD COUNTY

Bermuda Hundred: Janice Y. Prentace (6)
Bethia: James H. Carey Jr. (14)
 Associate: R. Jason Elmore (4) PL
Centenary: **Linwood E. Daniel** (1) RE
 Chester: Margaret T. Kutz (9)
Ettrick: Bobby H. Lamb (2) RA
Hopewell: J. Christopher Andress (4)
 Ivey Memorial: Richard J. Geoghegan Jr. (2)
Matoaca: **Richard S. Gordon** (1)
Trinity: **Teresa M. Keezel** (1)
Wesley Chapel: Michelle E. Lindsey (2)
 Woods: Joseph T. Carson III (2)

COLONIAL HEIGHTS

Highland: Keith E. Ritchie (7)
 Associate: **Michael Tolbert** (1) FL
Wesley: Deborah R.B. Fair (2)

DINWIDDIE COUNTY

Carson: Joseph E. Hammond Jr. (2) AM
Crawford: Thomas F. Lester (8) PL
Dinwiddie: Phyllis S. Piluso (4)
 Lebanon, Mt. Olivet
Kenwood: Pamela Rae Seeley (2)
McKenney: Karen Workman (5) FL
 Asbury, **Mansons**, **Rocky Run**
Oak Grove: David A. Holbert (5) RE
 Ocran: R. Lawrence House (3)
Smiths Grove: David B. Lewis (7) RE
West Dinwiddie: Gene C. Tatum (2) RA
 Assistant to the Pastor: **Norma Jean Townsley** (1) LM
 Corinth, **Trinity**, **White Oak**

EMPORIA

Main Street: Patsy B. Tony (2)
Monumental: Gerald L. Wicker (2) FL

FRANKLIN COUNTY

High Street: Susan Marie Reaves (5.5)

GREENSVILLE COUNTY

Greensville: Michael S.B. Robbins (2)
 Centenary (Jarratt), **Independence**,
 Mt. Pleasant

HOPEWELL

First: Michael H. Browder (4)
Wesley: S. Wayne Rickman (7)

PETERSBURG

Trinity: Gerald M. Miller (6) RE
 Washington Street: Gina D. Rochelle (2) OF

Saint Mark's: Gretchen O.S. Nelson (3)

PRINCE GEORGE COUNTY

Blandford: Jacob Sahms (4) PE
 The Stand: Regina Anderson-Cloud (2)
Garys: Henry D. Butler (7) RE
Prince George: Beverly J. Nelan (9) FL
 Newville, **Salem**

Salem: **Donna L. Mott** (1) RE

Sycamore: Bert L. Cloud (2)

Trinity (Disputanta): Robert C. Blinn (2)

SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY

Boykins: Michael Baugham (5) PL
 Boykins, **Branchville**, **Persons**
Capron: Steven Vornov (3)
 Capron, **Drewryville**, **Joyner**, **Vincent's Grove**
Courtland: **Brandon P. Robbins** (1)
Newsoms: Darwin G. Edwards (5) FL
 Barnes, **Newsoms**
Trinity Circuit: Rita A. Kanten (2) FL
 Grace Memorial, **Sebrell**

SUFFOLK

Magnolia: Doris V. Byrd-Madison (4)
Main Street: **Myrtle F. Hatcher** (1)
 Oxford: Kenneth E. Hanson (2) SY
 Providence: Garland K. Hines (2) RE
Somerton: Becky Gwaltney (9) PL
 Whaleyville: Walter H. Ihlefield III (2) PL

SUSSEX COUNTY

Rocky Hock-Ivor: Clifton D. Fritzinger (2) PL
 Ivor, **Rocky Hock**
South Sussex: Nathan A. Decker (3) PE
 Concord, **Lebanon**
Sussex: Daniel J. Armstrong (9) FL
 Fort Grove, **Sharon**
 Wakefield: Willie B. Guill Jr. (2)
Waverly: **Donna B. Smith** (1) PL

SURRY COUNTY

Claremont: V. Kaye Seay (2) PL
Surry: Raymond G. Rowland (22)
 Carsley, **Dendron**, **Oak Grove**, **Surry**

RICHMOND DISTRICT

District Superintendent: Steven R. Jones (4)

CHESTERFIELD COUNTY

Asbury Memorial: Derrick Parson (4)
Beulah: Keith A. Mottley (2)
 Associate: Benjamin E. Horrocks (4) PE
Bon Air: William A. Davis Jr. (6)
 Associate: Lauren E. Lobenhofer (3) PE
Brandermill: N. Burton Brooks Jr. (2)
 Associate: Sandra C. Bottoms (6)
Mount Pisgah: Steven F. Plymale (3)
 Associate: Lorena E. Beach (3) FL
New Life: Michael T. Maxwell (4)
Providence: Mary Beth Blinn (5)
Saint Luke's: **Lisa K. Sykes** (1)
Saint Mark's: David J. Bonney (6)
 Associate: Karen B. Hittel (4)
Sherbourne: Pamela H. Culler (6) PL
Woodlake: Peter M. Moon (10)
 Associate: Michael L. Whaley (7.5)
 Associate: Erin M. Reibel (3) PL

GOOCHLAND COUNTY

Bethel: John R. Hall Sr. (14.5) AM
Corinth: Gordon D. Walters Jr. (12) RE
St. Matthew's: Gordon K. Pruitt (7)

HANOVER COUNTY

Duncan Memorial: David M. Hindman (2)
 Dir. of Christian Ed.: Sandra C. Stanley (6) FD
Dunns Chapel: Charles R. Scott (6) RE
Enon: **Jeffrey Y. Harlow** (1)
Forest Grove: Susan T. Lynch (2) PL
Kenwood: F. Elizabeth Givens (8)
Lebanon: R. Spencer Broce (7)
 Youth Minister: Jason C. Stanley (2) PD
Mechanicsville: Kerry D. Boggs (12)
 Mount Hermon: Keith A. Lauer (3) PL
Mount Hope: **Kendra G. Swager** (1)
New Song: Chad M. Herndon (4)
Prospect: Jonathan B. Baker (10) PL
Saint Peter's: Debra Ruth Lucas (3)
Shady Grove: John J. Kelchner Jr. (2)
 Associate: C. Bradley Robins (3) FL
 Min. of Discipleship: Cynthia A. Lee (7) FD
Shiloh: Lawrence A. Erbin (4)
West Hanover: Claudia H. Stallings (9)
 Beaverdam, **Rouzies Chapel**

HENRICO COUNTY

Brookland: Lynne B. Caldwell (4) OE
Chamberlayne Heights: Livingstone S. Dore (5)
Christ: Sarah G. Sealand (3) PE
Corinth: Steven J. Summers (5)
Discovery: James E. Lavender Jr. (29)
East Henrico Cooperative Parish: Gilbert Elder (3) FL
 Bishop Memorial, **Fairmount**
Good Shepherd: Edward R. Walker (8)
 Min. of Discipleship and Communications:
 Lisa M. McGehee (2) PD
Greenwood-Laurel Park: G. Dean Pittman (4) FL
 Greenwood, **Laurel Park**
Highland Springs: **Douglas E. Crockett** (1) OE
Lakeside: **Rita A. Callis** (1)
Laurel Hill: **Norman L. Ramsey III** (1)
River Road: G. Kirk Nave (8)
 Associate: Emily A. Moore (2) FL
Saint Andrew's: Albert C. Lynch (7)
Shady Grove: David L. Adkins (7)
 Associate: Amy E. Pannell (4)
Skipwith: William A. James (5) AM
Trinity: John B. Peters (15)
 Associate: Teresa K. McRoberts (5)
 Minister of Discipleship: Judith Clegg Oguich (12) FD
Welborne: John M. Andrews (9)
Willis: Mark V. Rooks (2) PE
 Worship and Praise: **Tim J. Kirven** (1) FL

LOUISA COUNTY

Gum Spring: Jeffrey J. Haugh (8)

NEW KENT COUNTY

Providence: J. Brooke Willson (2)

POWHATAN COUNTY

Powhatan: John G. Briggs Jr. (5) AM

RICHMOND

Asbury (Church Hill): Marilyn A. Heckstall (7)
Belmont: **Larry J. Cochran** (1) PE
Boulevard: William R. Freeman (3)
Calvary: Amy Beth Hougland (2) PE
Centenary: **Matthew D. Bates Jr.** (1)
Central: Thomas W. Sweat (4)
Emmaus at Stratford Hills: Sung Il Yoo (1.5)
 Associate: Jonathan Park (4) OE
Ginter Park: Dorothy McNeer O'Quinn (3)
Huguenot: Richard H. Davis (5)

Ramsey Memorial: W. Joseph Winfree (13)
Associate: Norma E. Aguilar (5) PL
Reveille: James R. Noland (6)
Associate: Abigail W. Kocher (2) OE
Associate: Stephen A. Coleman (2) FL
Min. for Discipleship: Carol T. Uzzle (13) FD
Walmsley Boulevard: John A. Bright (5)
Wesley Memorial: Rodney M. Hunter (26)
Westhampton: Christina Haga Turner (3)
Westover Hills: Donna C. Holder (2)

ROANOKE DISTRICT

District Superintendent: Stephen C. Hundley (7)

BEDFORD COUNTY

Mountain View: Troy M. White (8) RL
Mays Memorial, Parrish Chapel
Three Oaks Fellowship: Tina Cox (1.5) PL

BOTETOURT COUNTY

Andrew Chapel: Morris A. Bennett (5.5) RE
Buchanan: G. Michael Huffman (9) FL
Lithia, Trinity
Eagle Rock: W. Raysor Sandifer (9) PL
Associate: Jessie A. Howard (9) LM
Bethel, Eagle Rock, Glen Wilton, Shiloh
Ebenezer: John Preer (1) ROC
Fincastle: Sandra A. McMillen (1)
Saint Mark's: David J. Rochford III (7)

CRAIG COUNTY

Foothills: Danny L. Kesler (4) FL
Hebron, **Mt. Pleasant**, Pierce Chapel
New Castle: Penny L. Wilson (4)
Bethel, New Castle

FLOYD COUNTY

Floyd Parish: Darren E. Landon (4) FL
Copper Hill, Havens Chapel, Huffville, Stonewall

FRANKLIN COUNTY

Boones Mill: Robert H. Garner (5) RE
Mount Olivet: Connie Ray Lee Sr. (29) RL

GILES COUNTY

Newport-Mt. Olivet: Morris V. Fleischer (4) FL
Pembroke: Robert D. Lough (3) PE
First, Mt. Lebanon

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Asbury (Christiansburg): George M. Warner Sr. (1)

Belview: Stanley A. Thompson (2) PE
Blacksburg: Reginald D. (Reggie) Tuck (10)
Associate: **Christina R. McLain** (1)
Min. of Music: Leigh Anne Taylor (11) FD
Calvary (Christiansburg): Sebert W. Rorrer (10) RE

Crockett Springs: Warren Carswell (1.5)
Fieldstone: T. Bryson Smith (4)
Goodwin Memorial: James S. Angle (17) RA
Halls: Bryan D. Oldham (1)
Lafayette: Elwood E. Carwile (3) RL
Mt. Elbert: Charles W. DeHart (2) RLOC
Mt. Tabor: Kenneth D. Farrar (2) PL
Park: J. Michael Sanborn (2) PL
Prices Fork: Debra C. Copeland (2) PE

Prices Fork, Trinity
Saint Paul (Christiansburg): Michael D. Copeland (2)
Wesley Memorial: Gustavo A. Segovia (1.5) OE
White Memorial: Herbert C. Williams Jr. (4)

ROANOKE

Fairview: Donald W. Baldwin (3) FL
Grace: E. Eugene Jones (7) RE
Greene Memorial: Gary L. Robbins (5)
Hispanos Unidos: Gustavo A. Segovia (5) OE
Huntington Court: Jeffrey D. Wilson (2) PE
Raleigh Court: Milton E. Marks (1)
Saint Paul: Carroll C. Carter (1)
South Roanoke: L. Stanley Wright Jr. (3)
Southview: Larry J. Edmonds (2)
Trinity: William C. Logan (8) RE
West End: Jan Nicholson Hill (1) OE
Windsor Hills: Thomas G. Lee (7)
Woodlawn: Louis M. Strickler (6)

ROANOKE COUNTY

Bonsack: Timothy F. Tate (4)
Catawba Circuit: Melanie D. Franklin (4) PL
Catawba, McDonalds Mill, Shiloh
Cave Spring: Ronald K. Morris (5)
Associate: John T. Hemming (4) PE
Lawrence Mem.: Terry A. Ross (1.5) PL
Locust Grove: Benjamin F. Lockhart Jr. (3) PL
Mount Pleasant: Elizabeth E. Mortlock (4) OE
Northview: Joseph H. Klotz Jr. (1)
Rockingham Court: Craig C. Newman (2) PE
Thrasher Memorial: Walter B. Failes Jr. (1)
Associate: David F. Vaughan (3) PE

SALEM

Calvary (Salem): Timothy W. Gearheart (4) FL
Central: Kristin M. Holbrook (2)
First: Stephen G. Bray (2)
Associate: Jeffrey L. Dorsey (15)

STAUNTON DISTRICT

District Superintendent: D. Michael Houff (2)

ALLEGHANY COUNTY

Alleghany: James A. Salmon (1) RL
Callaghan: James R. Rodden (3)
Fletchers Chapel, Hoke Chapel
Epworth: Thomas W. Reynolds (1) FL
Iron Gate: Lester W. Kennedy III (2) FL
Iron Gate, Longdale, **Walton Mem.**
Mountain Valley: Lee Dotson (17) RL
Mount Pleasant-South Covington: Charles H. Cole Jr. (1) PE

Mt. Pleasant, South Covington
Potts Valley: David C. Brown (10) FL
Humphrey's, **Persinger Mem., Pinnell**

AUGUSTA COUNTY

Augusta Springs-Craigsville-Goshen: Ryan Schaeffer (2) PL
Augusta Springs, Goshen, St. Paul's
Bethlehem-Jollivue: Janet C. Knott (1) AM
Bethlehem, Jollivue
Calvary: Douglas B. Paysour (1)
Associate: Sarah Locke (2) PE
Fishersville: Larry Jent (3)
Associate: **Ryan Oswald** (1) FL
Glossbrenner: Adam Blagg (5) PL
Greenville: Kevin W. Haynes (8)
Lyndhurst-Oak Hill: Michael W. Pettry (1) FL
Lyndhurst, Oak Hill
McKinley: Donald L. Long (12) RE
Mint Spring: Terry L. Clark (3)
Mount Zion: Joshua Davis (1) PL
Rankin: Charles E. Carroll (4) ROM
Associate: John C. Phillips (3) SY

Saint James: Rebecca L. Rumburg (2)
Sherando: David W. Breeden (3) RE
Stonewall-Westview: Robert VanGilder (6) RL
Stonewall, Westview
West Augusta: Deborah Washer (1) PL
West Staunton: Mary Pysell (1) SY
Asbury, Community, Lawson

BATH COUNTY

Bath: Byong H. Ahn (5) PE
Burnsville, Eden, Starr-Bolar, Va. Chapel
Hot Springs: J. Lynn Wright (5) FL
Ashwood, Emory

BOTETOURT COUNTY

Mount Olivet: Doris Hedrick (2) SY

BUENA VISTA

Saint John's: Ji Hoon Choi (4)

CLIFTON FORGE

Central: **Tommy A. Thompson** (1)

COVINGTON

Christ: Michael L. Snider (7) RE
Granbery Mem.: Barry R. Throckmorton (5)
Mount Carmel: Douglas E. Hollenbeck (10) FL
Parrish Court: Sue Ann Salmon (2)

HIGHLAND COUNTY

Blue Grass: W. Andre Crummett (12) FL
Blue Grass-Central, Hightown
McDowell: David R. Boger (11) RE
Doe Hill, McDowell, McKendree, Totten
Monterey: Clayton Payne (2) FL
Asbury, Green Hill, Monterey

LEXINGTON

Randolph Street: James A. Bollinger (5) FL
Trinity: Norman Tippens (2)
Associate for College Ministries: James A. Bollinger (4) FL

ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY

Beth Horon: Kenneth T. Decker Jr. (1) FL
Collierstown: Douglas Mitchell (2.5) FL
Collierstown, Mt. Horeb
Ebenezer: Phillip Ragland (2) SY
Fairfield: James W. Simmons (11) AM
Emory, Fairfield
Marvin: Dale Crosby (2) SY
Rockbridge: Sarah Payne (1) SY
Elliott's Hill, Mt. Zion, Wesley Chapel

STAUNTON

Central: Stephanie M. Sault (4)
Cherryvale: DeBorah F. Barnwell (2) PE
Christ: Robert A. Edwards (4)
Marquis Memorial: Robert W. Sharp (2)
Saint John's: Patricia M. Meadows (4)
Saint Paul's: G. Jeffrey Allen (5)
Staunton-Grottoes: Lucy A. Jackson Hughes (7) PL
Augusta Street, Mt. Moriah, Mt. Tabor

WAYNESBORO

Basic: Donald Gibson (8) FL
Glovier Memorial: Charles N. Wiest (4) AM
Main Street: Neil R. Hough (3)
Certified Lay Minister: Harold E. Baldwin Jr. (7) LM
Pleasant View: Kotosha D. Seals (1) PE
Saint Mark's-Wayne Hills: William D. Bearden (4) FL
St Mark's, Wayne Hills

WINCHESTER DISTRICT

District Superintendent: Lawrence R. Thompson Jr. (2)

CLARKE COUNTY

Boyce-White Post-Millwood: **Saundra A. Nottingham** (1) RE

Boyce, Millwood, White Post

Crums: Hyo J. Lee (6)

Duncan Memorial (Berryville): William K. Dawson (12)

Marvin Chapel: Kenneth K. Patrick (9)

Paris Mountain: Karen Adams (7) PL

Mt. Carmel, Providence Chapel

FAUQUIER COUNTY

Cool Spring: Janet Martin (3) PL

Linden-Markham: Ralph H. Crabill (2)

Linden, Markham

Marshall: Edna F. Moore (2)

Rectortown: **J. Adam Sowder** (1) PE

St. Mark's: **Jan V. Sickel** (1) PL

FREDERICK COUNTY

Brucetown: **Yun Chol Kim** (1) FL

Burnt Factory: C. Steven Melester (6) FL

Cedar Grove: Kathleen A. Work (4)

Little Mountain, Mt. Pleasant, Pleasant Vly.

Emmanuel: James Michael Smith (3)

Fairview-Refuge: John E. Lock (6)

Fairview, Refuge

Francis Asbury: William Todd Gess (5) PL

Chestnut Grove, Howard Chapel

Gainesboro: William R. Withers (16) RE

Grace (Middletown): Thomas H. Keithley (3)

Greenwood: **Andy L. Brock** (1) PE

Kernstown: W. Clay Knick (7)

Macedonia: Jason B. Duley (11)

Mt. Bethelview: **Victor R. Gomez** (1)

Mt. Olive, Old Bethel

North Frederick: Charles W. Townsend (3)

Rest, White Hall

Pleasant View: Hung Su Lim (3) PE

Mt. Pleasant-Lamps, Mountain View

Redland: Michael P. Kendall (6)

Relief-Hites: Aaron W. Fitch (2)

Hites Chapel, Relief

Round Hill: Steven B. Wells (2)

Shockeysville: **TBS**

Stephens City: J. Jeffrey Butcher (4)

Welltown: C. Marc Roberson (4)

Wesley Chapel-Pine Grove: James Markle (7) PL

Pine Grove, Wesley Chapel

LOUDOUN COUNTY

Bethany (Purcellville): Jeffry J. Roberts (6)

Evergreen: F.W. Giessler II (13)

Harmony (Hamilton): Stephen T. Vineyard (3)

Leesburg: James N. Wishmyer (5)

Minister of Administration: Wayne R. Reynolds (5) LM

Loudoun: **J. Robert Schoeman** (1) FL

Aldie, Unison, Upperville

Lovettsville: Kwang Ho Lee (3) FL

Bethel, Mt. Pleasant

Middleburg: **Leah A. DeLong** (1)

Mt. Olivet: Lee Crosby (4) FL

Mt. Zion (Leesburg): Melbourne H. Bailey (3) RE

Purcellville Circuit: Alphonso L. Irving (5) FL

Austin Grove, Grace Annex, Powells Grove

Rehoboth: Christine G. Hanak (7)

Round Hill: Jeffrey A. Witt (11)

Shorthill: Philip Brumback (4) PL

Ebenezer, Hillsboro

West Loudoun: **Wesley S. Corber** (1) PL

Bluemont, Roszell Chapel

Willisville-Hamilton Cooperative Parish:

Reginald A. Early (7) FL

Mt. Zion (Hamilton), Willisville Chapel

WARREN COUNTY

Bethel: Robert Moore (7) RE

Cokesbury: **Lorrie W. Aikens** (1) PL

Happy Creek, Howellsville

Front Royal: Gary E. Heaton (11)

John Wesley: Kent L. Jeter (4) RL

Reliance-Ridings Chapel: Timothy E. Teates (4)

Reliance, Ridings Chapel

Riverton: J. Michael Derflinger (4)

Warren: Deborah L. Carey (2)

Asbury, Bennetts Chapel, Limeton

WINCHESTER

Amor Y Paz, Iglesia Metodista Unidas:

Martha de la Rosa (11) FL

Braddock Street: James A. Hewitt III (6)

Associate: Sara E. Pugh (3) PE

Contemporary Worship Leader: **Bryan**

Biddle (1) LM

First: William M. White (3)

John Mann: James E. Page Jr. (4) PL

Market Street: Clyde T. Nelson (4)

Montague Avenue: Anthony Wadsworth (9) RE

Wesley: Michel Q. Mayton (5)

YORK RIVER DISTRICT

District Superintendent: Joseph D. Carson (5)

CHARLES CITY COUNTY

Memorial: Darcey G. Johnson (3)

GLOUCESTER COUNTY

Bellamy: Kenneth Stephen Waclo (3)

Bethany (Gloucester Pt.): Arthur L. Wolz Jr. (2)

Bethlehem: **Stephen A. Sales III** (1) SY

Gloucester-Mathews: Donald M. Warrick Jr. (2)

Locust Grove, Mt. Zion

New Hope: Brian D. Siegle (3)

Salem-Olive Branch: Rita L. Staul (9)

Olive Branch, Salem

Singleton: Calvin J. Griffin (2.5)

Susanna Wesley: J. Garrett Livermon (3) PE

HAMPTON

Aldersgate: David C. Cook (5) OE

Bethany: Arthur Rajanayakam (8)

Central (Hampton): Cheryl Harrison-Davidson (3)

East Hampton: Edward Merry (8) PL

First (Fox Hill): Brian Sixbey (2)

First (Hampton): Michael L. Nelson (2)

Fox Hill Central: Wayne C. Moore (5)

Phoebus: **Robert E. Rough** (1) PL

Saint James: Dwight Hughes (2)

Saint Mark's: **Roy P. White** (1)

Wallace Memorial: Myron Simmons (2)

Wesley: Elizabeth W. Taylor (9)

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY

Benns: Orville H. Burton (4)

Bethany: Lowell D. Petry (3) FL

Oak Grove/Riverview: Leon C. Basham Jr. (11) PL

Oak Grove, Riverview

Trinity: **Jeffery Lee Cannon** (1)

Uzzells: Thomas P. Reynolds Jr. (3) RE

Woodland: Michael W. Harrington Sr. (7) FL

JAMES CITY COUNTY

Mount Vernon: David E. Craig (8) AM

New Town: David V. Ford (13)

Wellspring: Edward A. Hopkins (2)

KING & QUEEN COUNTY

Shackelfords Chapel: Charles J. McHose (2) RE

KING WILLIAM COUNTY

West Point: Betsy C. Basehore (7)

MATHEWS COUNTY

Bethel-St. Matthew: Charles S. Winner (4) PE

Bethel, St. Matthew

Beulah-St. Paul: **Delia M. Parrish** (1)

Beulah, St. Paul

Central: Suzanne D. Gibson (3)

Mathews Chapel: Harry R. Loyd (5) FL

Salem: William H. John Jr. (7)

West Mathews: David C. Magruder (2) PE

Emmanuel, Grace-Providence

MIDDLESEX COUNTY

Clarksbury: Eric J. Vaudt (4) FL

Lower Church: **Barry L. Burkholder** (1)

Middlesex: **Geraldine R. Burkholder** (1) FL

Forest Chapel, Old Church

Urbanna: **Hyung Il Moon** (1)

NEW KENT COUNTY

New Kent: Thomas G. Tipton (5)

Pamunkey, Tabernacle

NEWPORT NEWS

Asbury: Myles Pierson (4) RE

Chestnut Memorial: Robert W. Gochenour (2)

Christ: Clyde M. DeLoach (5)

First: John T. LeGault Jr. (13)

Grace: Helen Casey-Rutland (6)

Noland-Trinity: **Jennifer L. Day** (1)

Noland, Trinity

Open Door: Yoon Seok Choi (2) OE

Parkview: Carla Stearns (2)

Warwick Memorial: William G. Davidson (3)

Associate: Jessica D. Squires (3) PE

POQUOSON

Tabernacle: Willard D. Wash (6)

Trinity: **C. Eugene Meek** (1)

WILLIAMSBURG

Williamsburg: Matthew W. Jones (2)

Associate: Alison Rosner (2) PE

Dir. of Youth Min.: Todd J. Query (6) OD

YORK COUNTY

Crooks Memorial: Charles N. Moore (3)

Providence: C. Douglas Akers (2)

Saint Luke's: Douglas D. Gestwick (6)

Associate: Clara P. Gestwick (6)

Min. of Discipleship: James A. Pace (6) PD

Zion: Kathy B. Gochenour (2)

b. Extension Ministries and Other Appointments

ALEXANDRIA DISTRICT

Herbert Brynildsen (FD)—Program Coordinator, Alexandria District (Secondary appointment: St. Matthew's)
Elizabeth Chadsey (FD)—Director, Inner Truth Ministry (Secondary appointment: Warrenton)
Timothy M. Farabaugh—COO, Vinson Hall Retirement Community (Fairlington)
Judith T. Hall (FD)—Pastoral Counselor, Pastoral Counseling of Northern Va. (Secondary appointment: St. Matthew's)
Youtha C. Hardman-Cromwell—Assistant Dean Wesley Seminary at Mount Vernon Square, Wesley Seminary (Trinity, Alexandria)
Lucretia Hurley-Browning—Director, Juniper Tree Pastoral Counseling Center, and Assistant Pastor, First UMC, CPA Conference (Aldersgate)
Karla M. Kincannon—Director, SpiritArt Ministries (Rising Hope)
David F. McAllister-Wilson—President, Wesley Seminary (St. Matthew's)
Drema McAllister-Wilson—On loan: Minister of Congregational Care, Metropolitan Memorial UMC, BW Conference (St. Matthew's)
Pamela G. Meeuwissen (PL)—Chaplain/Spiritual Counselor, Mary Washington Hospice (Christ)
Marianne K. Nassef—Chaplain, U.S. Air Force (Fairlington)
James A. Noseworthy—Senior Assistant to the President, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary (Rising Hope)
Ann On-Lin Tang—Chaplain, U.S. Army (Messiah)
James P. Watkins—GBGM Church and Community Worker/Ex. Dir., Caretakers of God's Creation (St. Matthew's)
Dana R. Wellman—Dir., Administrator & Clinician, North Range Behavioral Health, Greeley, CO (Annandale)
Susan E. Willhauck (FL)—Associate Professor of Pastoral Theology, Atlantic School of Theology (St. Matthew's)

ARLINGTON DISTRICT

Elizabeth Gray Caudill—Program Coordinator, Arlington District (Clarendon)
Tammie E. Crews—Command Chaplain, U.S. Army (The Vine)
Richard B. Dawson (FL)—Director, Camp High Road (Arcola)
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)
Eoi Kyung Hwang (FD)—On loan: Christian Education Minister, First UMC Flushing, NY Conference (Korean UMC Greater Washington)

Thomas James (PE)—Resource Manager, Lewis Center for Church Leadership, Wesley Seminary (Centreville)
Seungsoo Jun—On loan: Associate Pastor, Holy Flames Methodist Church, Bundang District, Joongang Annual Conference, Korean Methodist Church (Korean Church of Greater Washington)
Sangkeun Kim—Professor of Mission Studies, The Divinity School at Yonsei University, Korea (Korean UMC Greater Washington)
Robert B. Lloyd Jr. (PE)—On loan: Pastor, Kapolei UMC, Hawaii District, Cal-Pac Conference (Trinity)
James M. Melson—Director, The Cornelius Corps (Crossroads)
Paul A. Nixon—New Church Development Strategist, Path I Division, GBOD and Consultant, Epicenter Consulting Group (Arlington Temple)
Martha M. Real (FD)—Executive Director, GRACE Ministries of The UMC (Floris)
R. Kendall Soulen—Professor of Systematic Theology, Wesley Seminary (Culmore)
Charles K. Tran—GBGM Missionary, Ministry with Vietnamese Migrants, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (First Vietnamese)
James M. Truxell—Pastoral Counselor, Pastoral Counseling of Northern Va. (United Christian Par.)

CHARLOTTESVILLE DISTRICT

Barry Penn Hollar—Professor of Religion and Philosophy, Shenandoah Univ. (Madison)
William M. King—Professor of Religious Studies, Albright College (Wesley Memorial)
David Allen LeFon—Chaplain, U.S. Navy (Madison)
Deborah E. Lewis—Campus Minister/Director, Wesley Foundation, UVA (Wesley Memorial)
Janice M. Rivero—Director for University Programs, Stop Hunger Now (Wesley Memorial)
Thomas W. Sherrod—Director of Pastoral Care, Iredell Hospital, Statesville, N.C. (Mt. View)
Rochelle A. Shoemaker—Pastoral Counselor, Rochelle, Inc. (Wesley Memorial)
Adam James White—Chaplain of the College, Sweet Briar College (Wesley Memorial)

DANVILLE DISTRICT

C. Wesley Astin Jr.—Dean of the Chapel and Religious Life, Ferrum College (Redwood)

EASTERN SHORE DISTRICT

Brenda Lee Laws (FD)—PIPS Coordinator, ES Community Services Board (Secondary appointment: Horntown)

ELIZABETH RIVER DISTRICT

Frank P. Decker—Vice-President, Mission Operations, Mission Society for UMs (Community, Portsmouth)
Joseph T. Eldridge—University Chaplain, American University (Epworth)
Pamela J. Gable—On loan: Pastor, Lisbon UMC, E. Ohio Conference (Great Bridge)
William T. Greer Jr.—Pres., Virginia Wesleyan College (Larchmont)
Charles E. Harris—President/CEO, YMCA, S. Hampton Roads (Great Bridge)
John B. Haynes Jr.—Dir./Campus Minister, Tidewater Wesley Foundation, ODU (Heritage)
Amy Dawn Johnson (PE)—Staff Chaplain, Sentara Norfolk General Hospital (Va. Beach)
Evelyn G. Keever—Dir. Of Pastoral Care/Bioethics, Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters (Haygood)
Charles H. Leavitt Jr.—Chaplain, Bon Secours Healthcare Systems, Inc., Suffolk (Community, Va. Beach)
Joel M. LeMon—Assistant Prof. of Old Testament, Candler School of Theology, Emory University (Ebenezer)
Charles E. Rowley—Command Chaplain, U.S. Navy (Courthouse Community)
Gregory B. West—Chaplain, Virginia Wesleyan College and General Evangelist, Life in His Name, Inc. (Monumental)

FARMVILLE DISTRICT

Charles F. Baber Jr. (PD)—On loan: Minister to Youth and Families, Highland UMC, Raleigh, North Carolina Conference (Oakwood)
George H. Donigian—On loan: Pastor, Lupo Memorial UMC, Greenwood, South Carolina Conference (Jamieson Memorial)
Janet K. Johnson—On loan: Pastor, Memorial UMC, KY Conference (Prince Edward)
Richard L. Meiser Jr.—Campus Minister/Director, Wesley Foundation, Longwood and Hampden-Sydney (Farmville)
T. McKennon Shea (PE)—Director of Admissions, Duke Divinity School (Farmville)

FREDERICKSBURG DISTRICT

Gerald C. Headley III (PE)—Chaplain, Calvert Hospice, Prince Frederick, MD (Melrose)
Teresa Signer Smith—Director, New Pathways Ministries (New Hope)

HARRISONBURG DISTRICT

Benjamin D. Burks—Vice President: Life Enrichment & Spiritual Care, Va. Mennonite Retirement Community (Asbury)
Charles F. Reynolds—Exec. Dir., Virginia Conference Wellness Ministries, Ltd. (Verona)

JAMES RIVER DISTRICT

Dwala J. Ferrell—Executive Director, Pathways-VA, Inc. (Oak Grove)
J. Stanley Hargraves—Registrar, Union Presbyterian Seminary (Chester)
Robin C.M. Jones (FL)—Chaplain, Jackson-Feild Homes (Concord)
P. Michael Watts—Dir., Shalom Homes, Pathways-VA, Inc. (Oak Grove)
John D. White (FD)—Special Education Teacher, Matoaca High School (Secondary appointment: Trinity)

LYNCHBURG DISTRICT

Dori Baker—Scholar-in-Residence, The Fund for Theological Education (Lane Memorial)
Ray A. Buchanan—Founder and President, Stop Hunger Now, Inc. (Bedford Circuit)
Jennifer Vestal Moore (FL)—Dir. Of Church Relations, Society of St. Andrew's (Peakland)
Joellen M. Simmons (FL)—Chaplain/Volunteer Coordinator, Halifax Regional Hospice (Brookneal)

RICHMOND DISTRICT

Marc D. Brown—Director, Connectional Ministries, Virginia Conference (Trinity)
David E. Carl Jr.—Ex. Dir., Pastoral 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)—Dir. Of Ministry, Lake Junaluska Conference and Retreat Center and Consultant, Cross-Paths Ministries (Secondary appointment: Good Shepherd)
Beth Downs (FD)—Director, Ministerial Services, Virginia Conference (Secondary appointment: Reveille)
David Andrew Forrest (PE)—On loan: Pastor, Munger Place Church, a campus of Highland Park United Methodist Church, Metro District, North Texas Conference (St. Matthew's)
Allen E. Gunther Jr.—Chaplain, U.S. Army (Shady Grove, Henrico)
Sandra K. Hamilton—Pastoral Counselor and Faculty, VIPCare (Trinity)
Margaret Jannie Holton—Assistant Prof. of Pastoral Care and Counseling, Yale Divinity School (Reveille)
Virginia A. Lee (FD)—Associate Professor of Christian Education and Dir. of Deacon Studies, Garrett-Evangelical Seminary (Charge Conference: Reveille)
Anita E. Mays (PL)—Chaplain, The Hermitage (Centenary)
Mark V. Ogren—Dir. of Congregational Development and Evangelism, Virginia Conference (Duncan Memorial)
James G. O'Quinn—Pastoral Counselor, Lifeline Counseling Associates, Inc. (Ginter Park)

Nancy Robinson (FD)—President, The Friends of Barnabas Foundation (Secondary: Lakeside)
Kathryn F. Talley—Deputy Exec. Dir., Va. Supportive Housing (Centenary)
Joseph Torrence (FD)—Senior Youth Minister, Christ Church Episcopal (Secondary: St. Matthew's)
Dorothee Tripodi (PE)—Assoc. Dir. of Supervised Ministry and Vocational Planning, Union Presbyterian Seminary (Woodlake)

ROANOKE DISTRICT

Lynne Alley-Grant—Director of Church Development, Roanoke District (Blacksburg)
Stephen Darr—Campus Minister Dir., Community Clg. Ministries (Blacksburg)
Jeanne T. Finley—Director, Collegial Communications (Blacksburg)
Bret-Ashton G. Gresham—Director/Campus Minister, Wesley Foundation at Va. Tech (Blacksburg)
Thomas L. Joyce—Assistant to the Bishop (First, Salem)
Jeffrey C. Pugh—Professor of Religious Studies, Elon (South Roanoke)

STAUNTON DISTRICT

Kenneth A. Beals—Assistant Professor & Chaplain, Mary Baldwin College and UVA (Central)

Harlan Beckley—Prof. of Religion and Dir., Shepherd Program, Washington and Lee Univ. (Trinity)
Charles V. Jackson II—International Dir., Generous Hands Ministries, Inc. (Basic)
Timothy W. Kidd—Assistant Director for Campus Recreation, University of Arizona, Tucson (Mint Spring)

WINCHESTER DISTRICT

B. Justin Allen—Dean of Spiritual Life and Director of The Institute for Church Professions, Shenandoah Univ.
Rhonda VanDyke Colby—Vice-President for Student Life, Shenandoah Univ. (Braddock Street)
John D. Copenhaver Jr.—Professor of Religion and Philosophy, Shenandoah Univ. (Stephens City)
Christine G. Hanak—Women's Ministry Coordinator, Ambassadors for Christ, International (Rehobeth)
Kenneth K. Patrick—Chaplain, Blue Ridge Hospice (Marvin Chapel)
Cynthia I. Zirlott (FD)—Chaplain, United Campus Ministry, Frostburg State University (Secondary appointment: Frostburg UMC; Charge Conference: First)

YORK RIVER DISTRICT

Edward S. Barnett—Chaplain, U.S. Army, Center Instructor (Williamsburg)
Christina M.H. Perkins (PE)—On loan: Pastor, Renwick and Goldfield UMCs, Iowa Conference (Bethany, Gloucester Point)

c. Diaconal Minister Appointments

DANVILLE DISTRICT

Lynn Meeks—Rocky Mount UMC, Director of Music Ministries/Organist

d. Deaconess & Home Missioner Appointments

ALEXANDRIA DISTRICT

Ludid Orozco (DC)—Teacher, Early Learning Program, Annandale UMC (Annandale)

ARLINGTON DISTRICT

Patricia N. Marks (DC)—Community Development Volunteer, Peace Corps, Western Samoa (Culmore)

DANVILLE DISTRICT

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

ELIZABETH RIVER DISTRICT

Haniel Garibay (HM)—Projects Coordinator and Grant Writer, National Assoc. of Filipino-American United Methodists (Resurrection)
Olma Eleanor Garibay (DC)—Multi-Ministry Director, Resurrection UMC (Resurrection)

FARMVILLE DISTRICT

Diane W. Hassell (DC)—Director, Amelia Charge Outreach Ministry, Amelia Charge (Trinity)

FREDERICKSBURG DISTRICT

Susan Lewandowski (DC)—Family Leave of Absence (Fredericksburg)



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Virginia

Conference lives into new 16-district alignment

Although the “before” and “after” photos look remarkably similar, the Virginia Conference lives into a slimmed down 16-district format beginning July 1.

Gone are the Ashland, Portsmouth and Rappahannock districts. A new Fredericksburg District has been created. The Petersburg District becomes the James River District, the Norfolk District becomes the Elizabeth River District, and the Peninsula (and Rappahannock) districts become the York River District.

That also means a readjustment of district offices:

- The **James River District's** main office will be the former Petersburg District office on South Crater Road in Petersburg; a satellite office will be located at Main Street UMC in Suffolk.
- The **York River District** Office will be at Morrison UMC, which is being discontinued, on Harpersville Road in Newport News.
- The **Fredericksburg District** office will be located at Wright's Chapel UMC on Ladysmith Road in Ruther Glen.
- The **Elizabeth River District's** main office will be at the former Norfolk District office on Baker Road in Virginia Beach; a satellite office will be located at Monumental UMC on Dinwiddie Street in Portsmouth.

Cabinet Secretary John Vest, who is going to the James River District, says there has been a strong effort by the Cabinet to be mindful of the travel needs of the clergy and laity

of the new districts. “In every new district, we have tried to think through the time and distance it would require to attend district events. We anticipate a combination of district and regional events so the burden doesn't fall on any one locale.”

Other districts are seeing changes. The Richmond District has grown from 44 churches to 66 churches, mostly from the Ashland District, but also from New Kent and Powhatan counties. The Farmville District expands from 92 to 109 churches, while the Winchester District shrank by 13 churches. Alexandria, Arlington, Harrisonburg, Lynchburg and Charlottesville have very minor changes, while the Roanoke, Eastern Shore, Staunton and Danville districts are unchanged.

For a complete list of new districts and the charges/churches within them, visit the conference Web site <www.vaumc.org>. □

Abbreviations for 16 Districts:

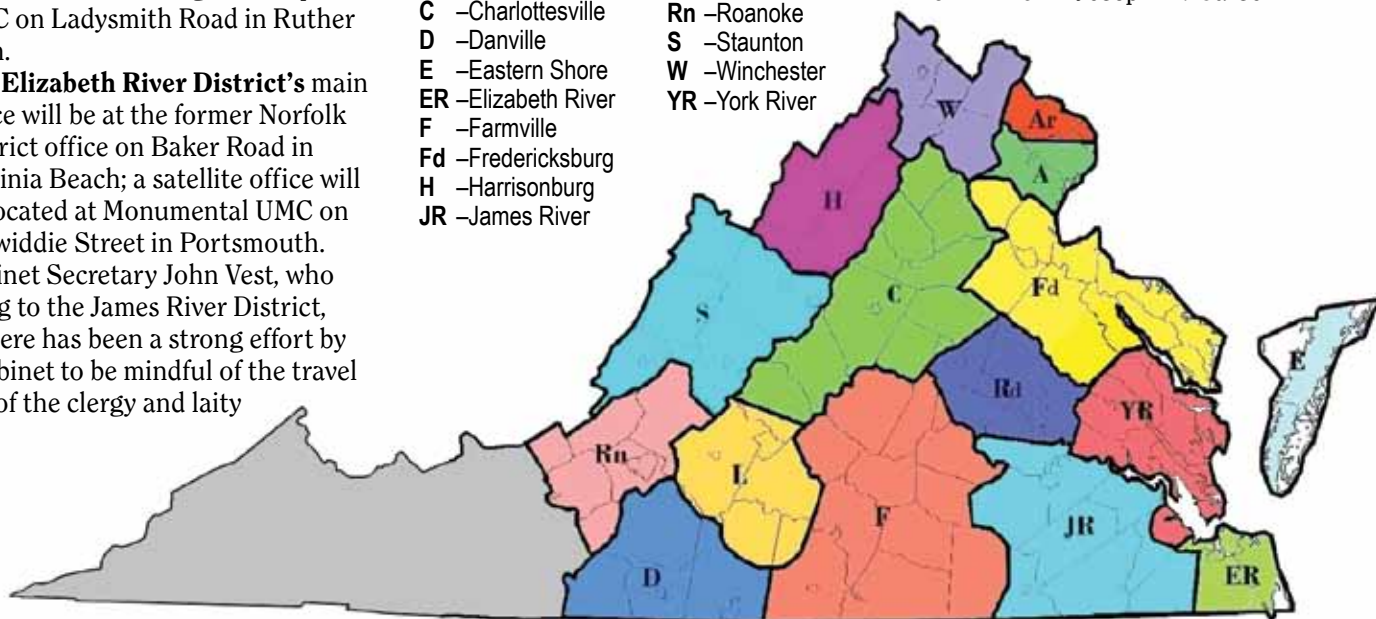
A –Alexandria	L –Lynchburg
Ar –Arlington	Rd –Richmond
C –Charlottesville	Rn –Roanoke
D –Danville	S –Staunton
E –Eastern Shore	W –Winchester
ER –Elizabeth River	YR –York River
F –Farmville	
Fd –Fredericksburg	
H –Harrisonburg	
JR –James River	

Virginia Conference's 16 districts and their superintendents

Along with the conference's new district configuration, Bishop Charlene Kammerer will have three new members of her Cabinet – Janine Howard, Ted Smith and Bob Parks.

The complete list is as follows:

Alexandria – Ken Jackson
Arlington – Young Jin Cho
Charlottesville – Brenda Biler
Danville – Janine Howard
Eastern Shore – Tammy Estep
Elizabeth River – Brad Phillips
Farmville – Bob Parks
Fredericksburg – Ted Smith
Harrisonburg – Tommy Herndon
James River – John Vest
Lynchburg – Larry Davies
Richmond – Steve Jones
Roanoke – Steve Hundley
Staunton – Mike Houff
Winchester – Larry Thompson
York River – Joseph D. Carson



Advocate to add online content as a subscription feature

Methodism's oldest continual publication will soon offer the full content of the newsmagazine on the Virginia Conference Web site <www.vaumc.org> and online subscription options.

For \$20 per year, subscribers can receive both the print copy of the full-color magazine each month plus full access to the *Virginia United Methodist Advocate* online. The print subscription price will remain the same at \$15 annually. Subscribers will be given a password that will allow them to access the magazine on the World Wide Web while they still receive the print magazine in the mail. The cost of the "online only" subscription will be \$10 a year.

The target date for the launch of this new feature is Sept. 1.

The *Advocate* got its start in 1832 as the official voice of the Methodist Church in Virginia. Today, it is one of several media venues from the Virginia Conference Communications office, which range from print to video to social media.

"At the core, our work is simply telling the stories about the work of



A screen shot of the landing page where subscribers can access the online Advocate in September.

our churches and our conference," said Neill Caldwell, editor of the *Advocate*. "Our office continues to add new ways to do that to keep pace with an ever-changing world."

Each month the *Advocate* maga-

zine has a main theme or "cover topic," plus articles from around the conference, jurisdiction, nation and world. There is also a section for local church news, a regular Bible study written by people from within the conference, commentary, letters, a word from our bishop and news about conference clergy.

The magazine will be posted as a "hyperlinked" pdf file, which means that much of the content of articles will be linked to other Internet sites. For example, in an article about Heart Havens, clicking on the name "Heart Havens" will take readers to the Heart Havens' Web site for more information about the agency that provides for residential needs of adults

with intellectual disabilities.

The *Virginia Advocate* newsmagazine is regularly honored by the denomination's professional communications organization, the United Methodist Association of Communicators. □

Virginia United Methodist Foundation names Deal Tompkins as its new executive director

E. Deal Tompkins has been elected president and executive director of the Virginia United Methodist Foundation succeeding Jim Bergdoll, who is retiring.

Tompkins was most recently the director of Gift Planning at Emory and Henry College. He brings more than 25 years of experience in development work at several colleges and hospitals, including four years as director of Planned Giving at Randolph-Macon College in Ashland. He also has done consulting work in development and capital campaigns, including the use of real estate in planned giving.

Tompkins is a lifelong United Methodist and recently has been active with the Roanoke Symphony, Habitat for Humanity and the Kiwanis Club of Roanoke.

"We welcome Deal to this important position," said Lori Roberts, chairperson of the Foundation board. "Providing opportunities for planned gifts through our local churches has been a priority of the Virginia Conference Foundation,

and Deal's experience will allow us to expand that emphasis. He also will be able to provide consultative services to local churches developing endowment programs."

The Virginia United Methodist Foundation manages \$37 million for churches, agencies and institutions of the Virginia Conference and works with these groups in the development of endowment programs with an emphasis on encouraging planned gifts for ministry. Among the Foundation's assets are \$7 million in permanent endowment funds that have been contributed by individuals to be managed by the Foundation to support various ministries and \$1.2 million invested by individual donors in life income instruments such as charitable gift annuities and charitable remainder trusts. □



Tompkins

Volunteers from Texas repay a kindness with tornado cleanup in Stuarts Draft

The group of workers sawing felled tree branches and hauling away debris from the Smith house on White Hill Road in Stuarts Draft looked like any band of helpers.

And like she would for any other group of people helping her out, Shirley Smith gladly offered to take them to a pizza buffet for lunch. But these were no ordinary helpers; they had traveled to Augusta County from Galveston, Texas.

And they had come to return a favor.

In 2009, people on the island of Galveston still were reeling from the damage caused when Hurricane Ike swept through. Beyond the deaths and injuries, the damage was remarkable. It would take more than neighbors and insurance to put life back to normal. So a group of youth from Calvary

United Methodist Church in Stuarts Draft traveled to Texas to help out.

"We host a lot of groups who come down to help out," said Lowell Bagott of Moody Memorial First UMC of Galveston. "But Stuarts Draft has been my favorite."

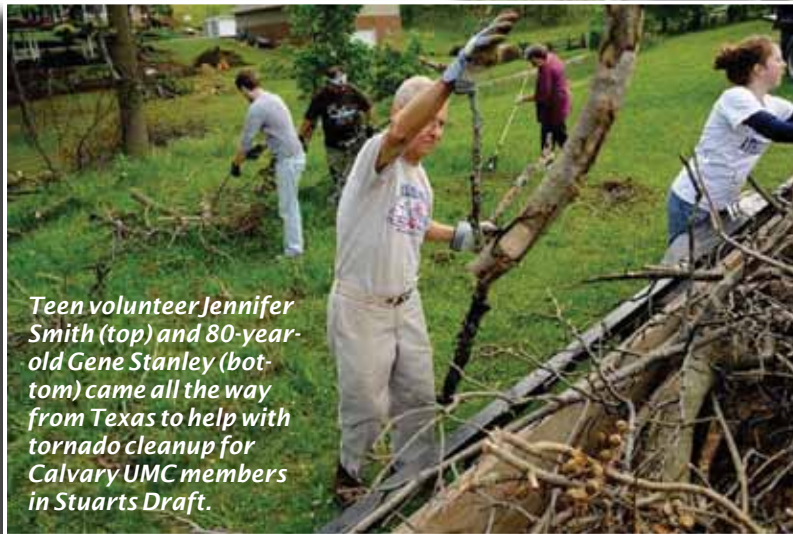
Bagott ministers to youth, college students and young adults for the church. When he saw on Facebook that tornadoes had touched down in Augusta County, he wanted to come help his friends.

"When I saw on (Pastor B. Failes') Facebook page that a storm had come through, there was no question we were coming," Bagott said.

In the meantime, Smith was coping with the debris left after firewood

from downed trees had been harvested. "I spent three weeks out here raking because I knew the way the grass was growing, I'd have to," she said.

But the larger work



Teen volunteer Jennifer Smith (top) and 80-year-old Gene Stanley (bottom) came all the way from Texas to help with tornado cleanup for Calvary UMC members in Stuarts Draft.

would require help, she knew. Just when she thought she didn't know what to do, Failes told her a miracle might just happen.

When Bagott let Failes know they were coming, the Calvary pastor asked for church members who needed help and for opportunities the group could help with in the community.

"They came in here this morning and just got right to work," Smith said.

By mid-afternoon, the group had loaded a trailer full of debris. Other parts of the Texas team were arranging thousands of pounds of food in the church's food pantry. They found indoor work to do while it poured rain outside.

And it's not all about work, Bagott said.

"They came up here to work hard," he said of the group, which also included 80-year-old Gene Stanley. "But sharing time with Shirley over lunch is just as important as picking up a pile of limbs. Probably that's even more important."

Several of the Texas crew smiled when they remembered the Calvary group that traveled to Galveston when they were

in need.

"Twenty teenagers drove 20-plus hours to show their love to our island," Bagott said. "They came to do hard work." □

— Cindy Corell, *The News Leader* (Staunton)

Have questions about:

• Disaster Response in Virginia?

Contact Bob Pihlcrantz, Virginia Conference Disaster Response Coordinator, at (757) 408-6653 or <vacdr@cox.net>.

• Volunteering to help?

Contact Keith Mottley, Virginia Conference Coordinator of United Methodist Volunteers In Mission (UMVIM), at <umvim@vaumc.org>.

Members of Fairfax County church exceed goal of sewing 100 dresses for children in Haiti

Not everyone at St. Stephen's UMC in Burke could go on a recent mission trip to Haiti, but everyone was touched by the devastation of the 2010 earthquake there and the poignant photos during the one-year anniversary in January. This inspired a project to contribute in some small way and join in with our missionaries in spirit, if not in body. St. Stephen's started a "Little Dresses for Haiti" project, with a goal of sewing 100 sundresses for girls and some shorts for boys to show the children in a tangible way that they are loved and remembered.

We started out with a word-of-mouth campaign to enlist seamstresses and held two "Sew-Ins" at the church. Many more sewed at home: neighbors, friends and relatives in Florida, Texas and Wisconsin. Girl Scout Troops 5684, 5237 and 4622 joined in the fun, with some girls learning to use sewing machines for the first time. The Adventures in Learning Book Club, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and the Burke Chapter of Quilters Unlimited heard of the project and all contributed their time and talents.

Our youngest seamstresses were 10 years old and the eldest was 97. One woman without a sewing machine wanted so much to participate that she sewed an entire dress by hand.

St. Stephen's Children's Fellowship collected coins during Lent to purchase new underwear and many adults joined in with additional donations. When our May 1 deadline arrived, we were surprised and delighted to have a total of 408 dresses, 51 pairs of shorts, 500 pairs of panties/briefs, and more than \$500 in donations.

The dresses and shorts traveled to Haiti with the St. Stephen's mission team in May. The team, led by mission veteran the Rev. Sam Ne-Smith, worked building a security wall around a school and church in Banique, a small community about

three hours north of the capital, Port-au-Prince. While Banique did not experience the direct impact of the earthquake, the community experienced a major aftershock as people from Port-au-Prince moved into this already impoverished area.

While the team worked doing a lot of construction, the most important work that was done was building relationships, especially with the children. Following a worship service

on Sunday, the team distributed the majority of the little dresses, shorts and underwear. The children were delighted with their new clothes.

Many of the boys put on their new shorts right away. Some of the girls said that they were saving their new dresses for a special occasion. The extra dresses and shorts were sent to an orphanage in Port-au-Prince.

It was with great joy that the team

expressed how the dresses had been lovingly made by their church family back in Virginia. Both the mission team and the children were blessed as things came full circle as the hands that made the little dresses and shorts now touched the hearts and lives of children in Haiti. □

— Submitted by the Rev. Melissa Porter-Miller, an associate pastor of St. Stephen's UMC and member of the mission team; and Nancy Dubiell, member of St. Stephen's UMC who spearheaded the sewing project.



(Top right, L-R): Ricardo, an interpreter for the mission team, gives a pair of shorts handmade in Virginia to a young Haitian boy and his father. **(Above):** A Haitian girl models her new dress delivered by the St. Stephen's mission team. **(Right):** St. Stephen's UMC member Jean Taylor (left), along with member Patti Keppler (right) help Graciela Keppler learn to sew for a good cause.



Youth ministry in rural area depends on reliable transportation and digital-age communication

by Rev. James Siddons

In these modern times, people do not walk anywhere. Everybody needs transportation.

This situation is problematic for churches in Virginia's rural counties, where a geographically large county may have only a few middle schools and high schools. Each school will have youth who ride the school bus to and from school from a large area of both suburban neighborhoods and more sparsely-populated rural areas.

This means students make friends at school who live five, 10, even 20 miles from school, in all directions. They are friends every day at school, but they and their families are not neighbors, and the parents often do not know each other.

Texting has become the method by which school friends keep in touch in the evening and on weekends. They already have been texting each other all day at school, even from one hallway to the next. Youth prefer texting over cell phones because they do not have to talk out loud and be overheard, or disturb a class.

At Grace Design UMC in Danville, I noticed this scenario among the youth of the church, and thought about how to work in terms of it to bring the youth together at church. The plan I developed has been very successful.

First, I realized that "the youth of the church" were not defined by the youth in the immediate neighborhood, but those at Chatham High School, some 25 miles away, who were friends who stayed in contact with each other all day.

Second, I saw the need for transporting these young people to and from the church. There is a church bus, but it needed new tires to make extended runs along county roads. We were blessed to receive funding from the Danville District office for six new tires.

Next, the youth-ministry leaders at Grace Design, David and Nancy Payne, talked with the United Methodist Youth Fellowship (UMYF) president and a few other youths about inviting their unchurched friends to Grace Design youth meetings, using texting for quick communication. These text messages, and e-mails from Nancy Payne, were sent to alert all the youths (about 25) of upcoming meetings and where the church bus would be stopping. David Payne drives the bus, and his route typically stops at about 10 homes, stretching from a home about eight miles east of Chatham to two others in Axton, on the western edge of Danville, a circular route that takes almost an hour.

Finally, we needed a youth worship service of some sort, so we converted an existing Monday-evening worship service for adults who work on Sunday mornings (which few adults were attending) into a contemporary youth service with praise band, PowerPoint projections and informal atmosphere.

Once these changes were in place in late 2009 and 2010, there was a slow increase in attendance at the Monday night "Second Chance" services, but keeping an atmosphere of praise and worship was difficult as many of the new youth were unfamiliar with church. Many of them had little familiarity with Bibles, hymns and hymnals or group prayer. But gradually the idea of "worship" caught on, and the enthusiasm these youth had for coming to church on Monday evenings was



David Payne (right) arrives with youth after an hour drive through rural Pittsylvania County. The bus is used for Monday night praise services, Friday night youth socials and out-of-town events.

increasingly apparent.

The culmination came with a confirmation class this year. Grace Design received five youths into membership on Easter Sunday, three of whom were baptized during the service. A sixth member of the confirmation class is joining another United Methodist church, and the mother of one of the youths joined Grace Design on Mother's Day.

The sight of six confirmation students, mostly new faces to the Sunday-morning congregation, being presented and spoken for by their mentors, and three baptisms, with people coming forward for the laying of hands, had a transforming effect on the congregation.

This great work of God's grace would not have happened without understanding what our church's "neighborhood" is in the digital age, and the active support of a number of church members. During the confirmation presentation on Easter, David Payne said to everybody, "See? This is why I drive the bus!" □

— The Rev. James Siddons is pastor at Grace Design UMC in Forest (Danville District).

Make a difference by volunteering at/supporting All God's Children Camp

Imagine waking up in the midst of God's creation. The birds singing, crickets chirping, and knowing you are one of God's children. This is what campers can experience during their week at All God's Children Camp. Children of incarcerated mothers or fathers come together for a weeklong adventure at camp where they swim, fish, hike, sing, roast marshmallows, learn how much God loves and cares about them, and discover that they are not the only ones with an incarcerated parent. These weeks are made possible with your help.

The 2011 camp dates are:

- **July 31-Aug. 5** at Camp Highroad in Middleburg (Northern Virginia)
- **Aug. 7-12** at Westview on the James in Goochland (Central Virginia)
- **Aug. 14-19** at Occohannock on the Bay in Belle Haven (Eastern Shore)

Prayerfully consider how you can help by:

- **Mentoring:** These volunteers do not lead activities, but provide supervision, companionship and compassion to the children during their daily activities. They are the ones who assure the children that God loves and cares about them in the midst of their struggles. After camp, mentors agree to maintain their contact with their campers by phone or letters throughout the school year. Mentors must be adults ages 17 and up. They attend training the Sunday morning prior to the week of camp. It is an intense, yet extremely rewarding, experience.
- **Supplies:** Your Sunday school class, United Methodist Men's or Women's group, or Vacation Bible School can help by collecting supplies, such as new sleeping bags (plain colors – no special characters), pillows, pillow cases, flat twin sheets (no fitted sheets), swimsuits (assorted sizes), and shower totes with handles.
- **Prayer:** The camp and children need your prayers. Alarming statistics show that these children are more likely than their peers to have behavioral problems, trouble in school, and

likely to eventually be incarcerated. We hope to give these children the chance to break this cycle.

• **Transportation:**

Most of these families are not able to transport the campers to and from camp. Church groups and individuals are needed to help with this effort on Sunday afternoon and Friday afternoon of the camp weeks. Campers come from across the



state, so help is needed in all regions.

• **Financial Contribution:** The camp depends on funds donated by individuals,

groups, and churches. A scholarship of \$350 sends one child to camp.

For more information, visit the Web at <www.vaumc.org/agcc> or contact Casey Torrence, director of All God's Children Camp, at 1-800-768-6040 or 804-521-1100, ext. 138 or e-mail <caseytorrence@vaumc.org>. □

Shenandoah nursing students spend break on Medical Boat in Brazil

During Shenandoah University's (SU) spring break, nine nursing students, two nursing faculty, and the Rev. Rhonda VanDyke Colby, SU's vice president of Student Life, traveled to the state of Amazonas, Brazil. After joining a team made up of several Brazilians, they boarded the John Wesley Medical Boat, which carried them deep into the rainforest via the Amazon River.

Throughout the following five days, the team was able to provide both medical and spiritual care to more than 500 residents along the river. While Amazonians benefited from the care provided to them, the SU participants also gained invaluable knowledge and experience in addition to unique insight into themselves as individuals, nursing professionals and members of God's great family.

Shenandoah's Office of Spiritual Life has been able to work in partnership with the Virginia Conference's Initiatives of Hope in both Brazil and Mozambique. Last summer, VanDyke Colby led a team of students to Mozambique, where they met with young adults. The group spent several days in community with one another, worshiping and engaging in discussion regarding leadership practices in the church.

"These two mission trips provide concrete examples of how our United Methodist connectional system is at work," said Katherine Malloy, Spiritual Life coordinator. "Both the Winchester and Staunton districts have significantly helped us to fund these mission trips. Students and staff who participated came from numerous local churches in diverse districts and denominations. The Virginia Conference also provided us with invaluable monetary support and training. And we obviously worked alongside the Methodist Church in Brazil and the United Methodist Church in Mozambique." □



(Above): SU's Kathleen Cronin high-fives a little boy after teaching teeth-brushing. (Left) SU's Leslie Purcell is all smiles after giving an infant a checkup.

Upcoming Events – for all ages!

JULY

Helping Hands: A Virginia Conference Children's Mission Event, Four dates and locations during the summer: **July 7–8, Main Street UMC**, Waynesboro area; **July 21–July 22, Woodlake UMC**, Richmond area; **July 25–26, Williamsburg UMC**, Williamsburg area; **July 29–30, The Stand UMC**, Petersburg area. This event offers rising 4th–6th-graders a hands-on opportunity to do mission work as children from all over the conference join together as one “United” Methodist church making a difference in the community. Woodlake will offer an optional early start time to include one additional mission opportunity. Come and learn about mission opportunities and the importance of being a caring Christian. The cost is \$36 per person; this will include a T-shirt, meals and snacks, and overnight stay. Register online at <www.vaumc.org>, under “Events.” Questions regarding the event should be directed to Beth Christian at <bchristian@woodlakeumc.org>, or call (804) 739-4535, ext. 28.

School of Christian Mission, July 22–24 (weekend), July 25–28 (weekday), Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center, Blackstone. The School of Christian Mission is a cooperative school for all ages offered annually by the Virginia Conference Board of Global Ministries and United Methodist Women (UMW). Your congregation is invited to come alive to mission under this year's theme of “All Things Made New.” Topics for this year are: *Coming Out on the Side of Grace: Forgiveness and Reconciliation*; *Haiti: Challenges and Hope*; *Joy to the World: Mission and Evangelism*; and for the children's study, *Krik, Krak: The Story of Haiti*. Participants will: have the opportunity to take two studies, receive literature that is helpful in teaching these studies in the local church, and bring items for school kits that will be assembled for the United Methodist Committee on Relief. Download a brochure and registration form at <www.vaumc.org>, under “Events,” then click on the date.

For more information, visit the UMW Web site at <www.vaumw.org> or contact Louise Miller at (540) 343-7529 or <rolmiller@cox.net>. **Registration deadline: July 10.**

AUGUST

LEAD: Training for youth leadership, Aug. 5–14. The Salvation Army in Roanoke. LEAD is the new leadership training event to replace the former YAC and VUMDYLA. District and local church youth councils are invited to select 3–5 youths who are willing to commit to this nine-day intensive experience and a covenant action plan to enact newly developed leadership skills in their districts and local communities upon return. For more information and to register online, visit the “Events” section at <www.vaumc.org>.

Festival of Wisdom and Grace Conference, Aug. 8–11. Lake Junaluska, N.C. Sponsored by the Southeast-

ern Jurisdictional Association of Older Adults, the 2011 theme focuses on *One in the Spirit: Age to Age Conversations*, and features Dr. Leonard Sweet, Dr. Evelyn Laycock and senior research engineer Brian Jones for the professional track. Paul Saik and the Lake Junaluska Singers will provide music. The event includes worship, Bible study, seven workshops and fellowship. It is designed for older adults, as well as for persons working with older adults in their congregations. For more information or to register online, visit <<http://www.lakejunaluska.com/wisdom-and-grace/>>.

Holiday closings set

Conference offices in the Virginia United Methodist Center, located in Glen Allen, will close at 1 p.m., Friday, July 1, and will remain closed Monday, July 4, in observance of Independence Day. Offices will reopen Tuesday, July 5. □

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Nation & World

UMCOR helping pick up the pieces in multiple states following storms

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is keeping its promise to stand with tornado, storm and flood survivors, who this spring have experienced historic challenges.

In less than eight weeks, UMCOR has disbursed about a quarter million dollars in emergency grants to 15 United Methodist annual conferences across the United States; most are in the South and Midwest, where many of the storms have struck and survivors seek to piece their lives back together.

In that same period, more than 9,300 cleaning buckets have been shipped to devastated areas from depots of the UMCOR Relief-Supply Network, including from Sager Brown Depot in Baldwin, La., which, like other communities along the Mississippi River this spring, is itself still at risk of floods.

Rev. Tom Hazelwood, UMCOR's U.S. Disaster Response executive, reiterated that UMCOR remains firm in its "absolute commitment to walk alongside these annual conferences, these local churches and communities" that have been affected by this spring's severe weather.

"We absolutely will be there with them," he said, even as he noted that funding for disaster response, specifically the 2011 Spring Storms Emergency Advance, remains low.

Hazelwood offered his remarks from Joplin, Mo., where he is visiting for the second time since an EF5 tornado tore through the town on May 21. At least 125 people died, 750 people were taken to area hospitals, and some 5,000 homes and other buildings were destroyed in the disaster, according to news reports.

A second disaster threatens to overtake Joplin by way of a tidal wave of unsolicited goods (clothing, house-

hold items, perishable foodstuffs, diapers, etc.) and volunteers who just show up to help. Critical resources are being redirected from the important work of response and relief to managing what has become a crush of unneeded donated items. Social networking sites are promoting collection drives while radio stations, small and large businesses, business and fraternal organizations and churches around the country fill semi-trucks with items that threaten to crowd warehouses and overwhelm distribution channels in the impacted area.

Your help is urgently needed to stem the flow of unneeded goods and volunteers into Joplin and other regions affected by the spring storms. Those wanting to help can do so in a way that doesn't cause further impact, but rather aids in the response and recovery effort.

Government, voluntary agency and faith-based partners agree that monetary contributions to a recognized agency like UMCOR is the best way to help disaster survivors. Cash doesn't need to be sorted, stored or distributed, and it allows the voluntary agency to direct the donation towards the needs that most urgently need addressing.

Just two days after the deadliest tornado in U.S. records devastated Joplin, another line of twisters battered Oklahoma, Kansas, Arkansas and Texas. As in Virginia, Georgia, North Carolina, Mississippi and Alabama, United Methodists are doing what they can to pick up the pieces. They are providing neighbors with emergency provisions, salvaging whatever they can and joining together to pray and mourn lost loved ones.



Laurie VanZant searches for her dog in the wreckage of her home in Joplin, Mo., following the May 21 tornado that leveled most of the town. (Associated Press photo)

Funds for relief efforts in recently pummeled states are being collected through UMCOR. Funds are also needed to provide emergency relief across the nation and in many areas of the world. You can donate to any project by placing a contribution in the offering plate at a local United Methodist church; by sending a check to UMCOR, P.O. Box 9068, New York, NY 10087-9068; or by calling 1-800-554-8583, where credit card donations are accepted. You can also give online by clicking on any of the "Give Now" links at <www.umcor.org>. Look for Advance #3021326, "U.S. Spring Storms."

Meanwhile in Virginia, work has been organized to assist those affected by tornadoes in Gloucester County. Volunteers with access to heavy equipment can call Carolyn Kincaid at (757) 232-4819. Groups or individual volunteers may call the Community Emergency Relief coordinator Jane Wenner at (804) 693-1390.

The Rev. Bob Pihlcrantz, pastor at Mount Pleasant UMC, is the Virginia Conference Disaster Response Coordinator. You can reach him at (757) 408-6653 or <vacdrt@cox.net>.

Keith Mottley, pastor at Beulah UMC, Richmond District, is the Virginia Conference Coordinator of United Methodist Volunteers In Mission. Reach him at <umvim@vaumc.org>. □

—From staff and wire reports

Mississippi congregation clings to faith amid flooding

Redwood (Mississippi) United Methodist Church Pastor Barbara Hite urged her congregation to hold tight to their faith as May's floodwaters crept near the tiny, white church at the end of a winding road.

Members — many of them from the Eagle Lake retirement community, which had to be evacuated — shared their stories of survival. Some are living with relatives; others in hotels. The church's parsonage is a temporary home for six church members who had been searching for higher ground.

"It's not really home," said 16-year-old Anthony Genereaux, who's living at the parsonage a mile up the road. "But I feel connected to God."

Dottie Lee, 44, has moved from her home in the Delta because roads leading there have been closed because of floodwaters. She and others gathered at Redwood UMC gave updates on members and family.

"I'm so thankful for my faithful friends," Lee said. "My whole life is in this seven-mile radius. My job, my church, and my home."

While the flooding of the Mississippi River was devastating to their lives, neighbors pulled together to tough it out until the waters go down.

Hite, who ministers at the two-point charge of Eagle Lake UMC and Redwood UMC, sees it firsthand and tends to the flock as they work to tend to themselves.

It's only natural for questions to arise, she said.

"Why us? Why now? Why so much devastation and destruction?" Hite prayed. "Help us to hold on to our faith. We choose to trust Jesus."

While water levels started to recede in some places, officials warned that the river would remain above flood stage for several weeks.

By the first week of June, U.S. 61 North at Redwood was reopened after state inspectors deemed that it was safe. Ten miles of Mississippi 465 between U.S. 61 North and Eagle

Lake and two miles of Mississippi 16 at Mississippi 149 remained off limits to traffic, probably until the middle of June, officials said.

The Mississippi River was measured at 51.68 feet at Vicksburg on June 6, down six-tenths of a foot. Levels were falling about a half foot a day. In Memphis, the high crest on May 10 was 48 feet, 14 feet above flood stage. Downriver, including Vicksburg, levels were not expected to drop below flood stage until the end of June.

Officials say flooding in Mississippi



(Left) Redwood UMC member Arveta Avant holds on to her faith following the flood devastation of her community.



A home near Yazoo City, Miss., is completely surrounded by the floodwaters.

could have caused more than \$250 million in damages to agriculture as about 450,000 acres of cropland have been destroyed. There is no official estimate yet for damages to homes and other structures. Agriculture officials had initially feared the flood would impact as much as 600,000 acres of row crops and a total of 1.4 million acres of land in Mississippi, said Andy Prosser, a spokesman for the Mississippi Department of Agriculture.

In Redwood, a community of less than 1,000 about 15 miles northwest of Vicksburg, employees worked to pump seepage from the front of Redwood Elementary School. A dirt levee had been built there in recent weeks.

The levee was protecting the school, but four feet of water covered the slides and swings on its playground.

Redwood UMC, a picturesque, wooden structure with a white pavilion attached, is across the road.

"We're blessed we have a place to go. We could have ended up at a shelter," said Jaqi Sellon, who's living at the church parsonage with her husband and three children. Two, including Genereaux, are teenagers; the other is 23.

Debra Breland, a retired school bus driver who lives near Redwood, said she's allowed four families to move on her 10-acre property.

"We tried to open it up to anybody who wanted to bring their trailers and campers out there," Breland said. "We're just trying to be neighborly and let them know that God can be there for all of us."

Although churches are the traditional refuge in troubled times, they've also become part of the river's toll.

William Jefferson, 56, floated by the flooded Trinity Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church in a small boat in Vicksburg. It's just down the street from his flooded home.

"That's all you have left is faith. That's all you have left," he said. "There's nothing left after that." □

— Associated Press

Florida church raising money for rebirth after fire

A year ago, everything burned.

Branches United Methodist Mission (logo, at right) in Florida City, near Miami, was reduced to ash by an arsonist before dawn on the morning of May 23, 2010. The plastic of the brand-new playground was charred and warped by the heat of the flames. The classroom space where the children of the poor and working class found refuge after school was destroyed.

A year later, the congregation of about 150 is still faithful, still hopeful.

On May 23, they “commemorated” the first anniversary of the fire and the 100th anniversary of the congregation, singing: “Greater things are yet to come, greater things will still be done in this city.”

The service at the church site was one of remembrance and reflection on the tragedy; a celebration of the community’s generosity in the aftermath; and excitement for the future, said the Rev. Audrey Warren. She became pastor of the church just before the fire.

She summed up the past year by paraphrasing a verse from Paul’s Letter to the Romans: “As every day goes by since then, we learn how much stronger we are, and our endurance has grown and we’ve shown our character. The little things don’t bother us anymore,” she said.

Right after the fire, churchgoers contended with the sweltering summer heat and stinging mosquitoes to attend services under an open-air tent. But they had the support of the community in ways both big and small. A local man donated ice every week so churchgoers could have chilled bottles of water. And just when members were reaching a breaking point, Miami Vineyard Community Church surprised them with a donation of more than \$80,000.

“People came with all kinds of things and ways to help. It was just



such an encouragement,” said Virginia native Kim King Torres, who does outreach ministry for the church and has lived in the area for more than a decade. She moved to the Miami area after finishing



Torres

a degree in Religious Studies at Randolph-Macon College in Ashland.

Today, a 5,000-square-foot prefabricated building serves as their

temporary home, where they hold services, after-school programs and meetings. Not a single day of programming was cancelled because of the fire.

“It shocks me that we were able to continue,” Torres said.

There is still a long way to go. South Florida Urban Ministries, the nonprofit organization that runs the Branches after-school enrichment programs, hopes to raise \$2 million for a new facility, which also will serve as the new church. They hope to break ground in 2012 on a 10,000-square-foot building.

“You can’t give up,” Torres said. □

— Christina Veiga, The Miami Herald

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Plans proceeding for 2012 General Conference in Tampa

The Florida Hospitality team continues its work toward the 2012 General Conference, which will take place April 24-May 4 at the Tampa Convention Center.

The Rev. Jim Harnish, senior pastor at Hyde Park United Methodist Church in Tampa and the chair of the hospitality team, told Southeastern Jurisdiction church communicators meeting in Orlando that the group's goal is "to prepare a place where the Spirit might be moving to revive the people called United Methodist."

The Florida team has been working closely with the Commission on the General Conference. Harnish said the commission's members have been open to change and the two groups have "worked together beautifully," he said. "That in itself is a sign of hope for me."

General Conference is the legislative body of The United Methodist Church. The 1,000-delegate assembly meets every four years to consider changes to the church's *Book of Discipline*, as well as adopt resolutions on current issues and approve plans and budgets for the following four years.

The Convention Center is a 600,000-square foot facility that sits right on the waterfront. Because of its unusual design, where the main hall is on the second floor, Harnish said team members have talked about "preparing the upper room."

This year's Florida Annual Con-

ference was held June 1-4 at the Convention Center in Tampa as part of an effort to get familiar with the facility "and begin to make it our home," said Marilyn Swanson, Host Operations leader and Volunteer Services coordinator for the 2012 meeting.

Harnish said the General Council on Finance and Administration is looking for sponsors for the event that fit with the church and the denomination's "Social Principles." Sponsors will provide food and snacks for delegates, meaning one General Conference tradition will end: there will be no piles of homemade cookies!

The mission statement of the Hospitality Team is "to offer a gift of warm welcome which provides a setting for the unity and health of the church." Health of the delegates is also a concern in this two-week marathon, so efforts will be made to help participants get more sleep than in years past. Harnish says the goal is to end all sessions by 9:30 p.m.

Thousands of petitions to sift through could throw a wrench into

those plans, but organizers are also working to "protect" committee time and provide the various committees "time to focus on things that are most important, that could have a significant impact" on the life of the church, Harnish said.

The Commission on the General Conference is accepting petitions through Sept. 27. Harnish said another change will be that any legislation not acted on by the scheduled close of the final plenary session will die.

There also will be no morning worship times scheduled, but worship in the evenings instead. The major celebration of mission and ministries will be held on the Sunday of the session; otherwise Sunday will be considered a Sabbath time, with no meetings scheduled.

The Commission on General Conference and United Methodist Communications will sponsor a news briefing for communicators and heads of delegations Jan. 19-21, 2012, in the Convention Center. These pre-General Conference events offer general information and presentations on key topics that will come before the legislative body. The Commission and the Communications office will also sponsor similar briefing events in Africa, Europe and the Philippines. □

— Neill Caldwell



The Tampa Convention Center sits on the waterfront. (Inset): The official logo.

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Spread of United Methodism in Vietnam is an encouragement for U.S. church

“It’s the Book of Acts” says the Rev. Joseph Bishman, superintendent of the Shawnee Valley District in West Ohio Conference. He is referring to the frontier United Methodist mission work in Vietnam, in which his district is heavily invested.

The Vietnam United Methodist Church has grown from about 4,000 people to nearly 12,000 in the last four years. In their recent annual meeting with Bishop Bruce Ough, they expressed the goal of starting 100 new churches by year-end 2012. Approximately 200 churches currently exist, nearly all of which were started since 2001. This is all the more remarkable, given the cultural and political context of this arm of our church.

A small United Methodist presence existed prior to the arrival of United Methodist missionaries Ut Van To and his wife, Karen. Their initial work was mostly “under the radar” with house churches. However, around four years ago, trade agreements required the country to open up its stance on religion and allow more freedom, allowing for this growth. Of course, freedom alone does not cause multiplication. Bishman says that the primary factor is the driving focus of reaching new people for Christ. Their stated mission is “we exist to welcome people to Jesus Christ, equip them with a faith that’s applicable in real life, and send them out to make disciples of Christ for the transformation of the world.”

The strategy is well articulated:

- Concentrate on forming and growing cell groups;
- Organize training programs for cell leaders;
- Bring people to Christ through the cell groups;
- Ask conferences, districts and churches in the United States to support the vision and goals of the Vietnam Mission Initiative;
- Continue to follow up on the request to be officially recognized by the government;



- Continue to follow up on the application for United Methodist Committee On Relief (UMCOR) to be granted permission to operate in Vietnam.

Another aspect of the rapid growth has been the support through the General Board of Global Ministries’ (GBGM) partnership program, “In Mission Together.” This is a program where U.S. churches can develop partnering relationships with churches in the mission initiative program of GBGM, such as in Vietnam. Of particular impact here is a relationship developed between a district and the entire mission initiative. Bishop Ough challenged Bishman to take this on and his district has done so. While this district is in Appalachia and has unimpressive economic credentials, they still have raised more than

a half million dollars over the course of three years for this ministry. The district has really owned this work and has many leaders who have been to Vietnam to participate in the work there.

Not only does this fledgling church have evangelism DNA, they are developing mission-minded stewardship DNA as well. This stewardship development is making amazing progress in another area as well. The Vietnamese UMC is working toward self-sustainability, with decreasing dependence on the U.S. church for their basic needs. Nevertheless, the relationship with the U.S. churches will continue, but with the support funds being used for outreach rather than the pastors’ salaries and other traditional needs.

It’s certainly exciting to find this pocket of the UMC reflecting our roots and experiencing dynamic, vital disciple making. Hopefully, the U.S. church can become infected by the life of this portion of our denomination. One way to connect is to partner with mission initiative churches. At any rate, we can be encouraged and inspired by those places in our connection, both in the U.S. and abroad, where God is moving in fresh and powerful ways to fulfill our mission. □

— Dr. Ed Stetzer, president of LifeWay Research and a contributing editor for Christianity Today

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UM Church among many faith groups and others urging Major League Baseball to take tobacco out of the game

Three United Methodist organizations are among 25 faith groups around the country calling for the Major League Baseball Players Association to agree to Commissioner Bud Selig's proposed prohibition on tobacco use at games. The faith leaders join a growing coalition of medical groups, public health officials and fans urging

baseball to prohibit smokeless tobacco use in the contract that is to take effect next year.

A letter sent May 31 to Michael Weiner, the union's executive director, was signed by Jim Winkler, chief executive of the General Board of Church & Society, Gil Hanke, top officer of United Methodist Men, and Julie Taylor, who chairs

United Methodist Women's Children, Youth & Family Advocacy. Winkler also serves as chair of Faith United Against Tobacco.

Besides United Methodists, endorsers of the letter include Baptists, Jews, Seventh-day Adventists, Muslims, Lutherans and Presbyterians.

Smokeless tobacco use among high school boys has climbed 36 percent since 2003.

Winkler said the players' union has a chance to resolve this issue without delay by following Commissioner Selig's recommendation for a Major League Baseball (MLB) prohibition on tobacco use that's similar to what already is in place in the minor leagues. "This shouldn't be contentious," he said. "It's a matter of protecting players' health and the well-being of kids."

Smokeless tobacco use causes oral cancer, gum disease, tooth decay and mouth lesions. Its use by young people also may serve as a gateway to cigarette smoking, the nation's number one cause of preventable death.

Selig announced on Opening Day of the 2011 season that the league would propose a tobacco ban comparable to the one in place in the minor leagues. The players' union has not responded to Selig's commitment, and has said the issue is the subject of negotiations.

Tobacco use was banned in the minors in 1993. The National Collegiate Athletic Assn. and the National Hockey League have instituted prohibitions on tobacco use. MLB lags behind. □

— Wayne Rhodes,
General Board of Church & Society

United Methodist Social Principle ¶162M. Tobacco states:

In light of the overwhelming evidence that tobacco smoking and the use of smokeless tobacco are hazardous to the health of persons of all ages, we recommend total abstinence from the use of tobacco. We urge that our educational and communication resources be utilized to support and encourage such abstinence. Further, we recognize the harmful effects of passive smoke and support the restriction of smoking in public areas and workplaces.

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Local Church



▲ In January, **St. Andrew's UMC**, Richmond District, began a new mid-week children's program. Children's Director Deborah Schieber decided to call the program "WOW," because she wanted the children to feel a sense of excitement and to say "WOW" each time they came to the program. On Wednesdays, the children have choir, games, a snack dinner, crafts and a Bible story. During Advent, the children experienced a "Birthday Party for Jesus." On Palm Sunday, Schieber, dressed in full costume, gave the Children's Message as told through the eyes of the donkey who carried Jesus into Jerusalem. St. Andrew's had its second annual "Easter Bunny Breakfast" (pictured) on April 23 with games, pictures with the Easter Bunny and an Easter Egg Hunt.



◀ On Good Friday, April 22, Herman Berry of **Zion UMC** in Seaford made

a cross walk through the town and beyond. Carrying a pine cross and wearing clothes of Christ's era, he began at noon and was accompanied by the Rev. Kathy Gochenour and other church members on his pilgrimage.

Calvary UMC, on Hopkins Road in Parksley on the Eastern Shore, will hold its 123rd annual church supper on July 4 from 2-6 p.m. You can eat at the church or place a take-out order. [Call (757) 665-6445 after 11 a.m. on July 4.] For more information, call Mary Ogburn at (757) 665-4132 or e-mail <msogburn@peoplepc.com>.



▲ **Clarendon UMC** in Arlington recently held an "I Love Lucy" party. The United Methodist Women are supporting Lucy Sayedain, a nursing student in Liberia, with funds to allow her to earn her degree. Participants were invited to dress as their favorite "Lucy" (Lucille Ball, Lucy of Peanuts, etc.) and come to make beaded bracelets or necklaces like those worn in Africa. Clarendon women worked to make this a team effort: some donated necklaces, bracelets or loose beads, while others separated by color. Even more women set up a "bead buffet" from which participants made their selections. More than \$800 was raised in this intergenerational event.

Journey UMC, the new missional faith community start in Amelia, officially kicks off on July 1. Journey is located at 20371 Patrick Henry Highway in Jetersville, and the pastor is Mike Davis. For more information see the Web site <www.journeyumcva.org> or e-mail <pastor@journeyumcva.org>.



◀ The Rev. Joe D. Carson, superintendent of the newly-formed York River District, officiated at the Eagle Court ceremony for

Joshua Smith May 6 at **Zion UMC** in Seaford, sponsor of Boy Scout Troop 123. After the presentation of Smith's Eagle rank, many of the congregation joined the troop and Cub Scout Pack 155 for a reception to celebrate the achievement.

More than 100 people gathered May 14 at **Burke UMC's** "Change the World" Community Festival to participate in a variety of service projects. "Many hands joining together can make a change for the better," the Rev. Judy Fender said. A large crowd of congregants, community members and children came out to pack 20,000 Stop Hunger Now meals to be sent to children in Africa and Haiti. "We send these meals over to schools in Africa and in developing countries," said Spencer Murricks, the assistant program director of Stop Hunger Now's Lynchburg location. "The kids get to eat. Not only that, but they get to go to school and get an education. It's a way to break the cycle of poverty." Attendees at the festival also packed 100 UMCOR health kits, 100 school supply kits and 100 birthing kits for those in need. One hundred kid-friendly food bags were also prepped for students in Fairfax County Public Schools who are on free or reduced school lunches. The food bags are designed to provide them with snacks and meals for the weekend. Collections of shoes, stuffed animals, and items for tornado and disaster relief were also collected.



▲ **High Street UMC's** (in Franklin) Mission Team held a salad/potato bar luncheon fundraiser, with a speaker on Habitat for Humanity. While the program was going on, the children took a real potato to decorate. One of the Mission Team members decorated a potato to look like the pastor, Susan Reaves (pictured), and she used it for her topic during Children's Church on Sunday.



▲ Members of **St. Paul UMC** and **Beulah UMC** gathered at St. Paul in Mathews County to take an active role in combating world hunger. They raised \$2,810, enough for 11,240 meals, which they prepared for shipment with the help of Stop Hunger Now.



▲ **Watson Memorial UMC** in Chatham held a bake sale May 27 to help raise money for the church and its missions. The church members raised more than \$500.

Mary E. Harris turned 100 on May 21. For 40 years she was an active member of **Keezletown UMC** (Harrisonburg District) and served as their representative to Annual Conference. She was also active in her church and district United Methodist Women. Harris lives in the assisted living facility of the Bridgewater Retirement Community in Bridgewater. She attends worship every Sunday, and is still active in her Sunday school class. She is the mother of the Rev. Hugh T. Harris, serving in retirement as pastor of the South Halifax Charge, Farmville District, and the Rev. James A. Harris, serving in retirement as associate pastor for Congregational Care at Bridgewater Church, Harrisonburg District.



▲ The **Franklin/Southampton Cluster** in the Portsmouth District participated in a "Change the World" activity on May 14. At **High Street UMC**, members of seven churches packaged more than 14,000 meals for Stop Hunger Now. The meals will be sent to orphanages and schools in Honduras.

As part of the "Change the World" weekend, **Palmyra UMC** held an "Imagine No Malaria" dinner on May 14 with displays of African mission trips and about malaria. The African-inspired menu gave everyone a taste of the culture of Africa. Close to \$2,000 was raised to help in efforts to eradicate malaria, a disease often transmitted by mosquitoes that kills millions of people. The United Methodist Church has expanded its ministry for this disease to include "Nothing But Nets" as well as other education, prevention, communication and treatment.



▲ In April, United Methodist Women at **Regester Chapel UMC**, Ashland District, celebrated the 100th anniversary of the *New World Outlook* magazine in conjunction with their Candle Burning Ceremony. Dressed in fashions of 1911 and being introduced with a calling card of their own making, they all in turn read passages from the first *Missionary Voice* publication, published in Nashville January 1911. There were also mission stories about Isabella Thoburn and Clara Swain, and recently written music and poetry by Julia Harriet Johnston. Refreshments of the period were served.

In May, the United Methodist Men of **Sydenstricker UMC** (Springfield) sponsored a golf tournament to support David Curtin, who is headed to Greece to represent the United States in golf at the Special Olympics World Summer Games June 25-July 4.



◀ To raise funds to participate in "Change the World" initiative on May 14, **Boykins UMC** (Portsmouth District) youth sold butterflies made by a member to adorn the cross in the sanctuary immediately after Easter Sunday. They were donated in honor/memory of loved ones and stayed on the tree until Ascension Sunday, signifying new life in Christ. Two church members joined the cluster group of Portsmouth District in its last mission effort by contributing \$100 raised from the project and then helped prepare the 14,000 meals packaged for Stop Hunger Now. The balance collected was donated to BUMC's own food pantry, which assists more than 250 families every month.



Living the Word



ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Lucille Stevens has been a member of Brookland United Methodist Church in Richmond for 46 years and has been the church secretary since 1985. She also is a full-time English as a Second Language (ESL) instructional assistant at Johnson Elementary School, serving grades first through third. Lucille has been a certified lay speaker since 1995 and has taught Sunday school in all age groups for the past 42 years. She is currently teaching an adult class. Lucille attended the former Smithdeal-Massey Business College for legal secretarial studies. She has been married to her husband, Thomas, for 32 years and together they have three grown children and seven grandchildren.

July 3, 2011

Consequences for disobedience
Joshua 7:1, 10-12, 22-26

The Scripture lesson for today entails so many different aspects – obeying God, disobedience, punishment and fear of God. In Joshua 6:18-19, God gave explicit instructions to Joshua and the Israelites, but the Israelites acted unfaithfully regarding the devoted things because one person, Achan, took some of them. God burned with anger at all because of one. In the church, one person's sin can affect many, if not all the congregation, for we are one in the body of Christ.

I think children learn disobedience and its consequences early in life. One time, my younger brother and I disobeyed our parents by going to a nearby creek several blocks from our home. We knew we weren't allowed to go there on this particular day, but we just couldn't resist the temptation, especially since we were keeping company that day with a few other neighborhood children. It was exciting, but we felt a little bit guilty since we knew we were doing something wrong. The trek along the creek ended at a small bridge. Guess who was waiting for us in a car at the bridge? Yes, that's right, our parents. The consequence of that disobedience was a really good spanking!

Just like my brother and me, Achan couldn't resist temptation, but unlike us, Achan's punishment was death. Obedience to God is really important, according to Scripture. The following were consequences for disobedience to God: Ananias and Sapphira – death; Moses didn't get to enter the promised land; Adam and Eve had to leave the Garden of Eden; Jonah got swallowed by a

big fish; and there are many more examples, too.

I do believe God, like our parents, does many things for our own good to teach us, protect us, strengthen our faith, and help us to build character. In doing so, we have experience to help others.

The one other thing you need to know about my trip to the creek is it was the day after a heavy rain, and the water was chest deep for me but chin deep for my brother. I had to keep looking out for him so he didn't go under the water. At our age, we didn't know how to swim. I can look back now and see why my brother and I were not allowed to go to the creek that day. Our parents were just looking out for and trying to protect us. God is like that too, isn't He? □

July 10, 2011

How soon we forget
Judges 2:11-19

The Israelites served the Lord during Joshua's lifetime. This next generation didn't know firsthand what God had done for Israel, so they didn't follow the Lord, but instead worshiped other gods. God was angry and left them to their enemies. They would repent, but the Israelites' faith was so weak that they needed guidance. The Lord showed mercy in their times of distress by sending judges to save them. However, they still wouldn't listen, and refused to give up their evil ways. Consequently, God disciplined them again, they repented again, and God sent help again.

We, too, are like the Israelites. Whenever things go wrong, we call out to God for help. However, when things are going our way, we forget all about God. It is like our Lord to

give us every opportunity to repent and change our ways.

I can't remember a time when God wasn't a part of my life in some way. Even as a small child, I felt God's presence. I was 12 when I gave my life over to Christ. I was very naive, protected, and sheltered by my parents. I never really had any big "life lessons" to test my faith, but the first one came when I had a miscarriage when I was 17. I pleaded with God to save my baby even when I said I would accept whatever God thought was best. I wasn't strong enough in my faith to follow God completely then, but the Lord was still there. My second "life lesson" came when I got married before my 18th birthday. My first husband committed adultery, and I was divorced before I was 24 years old. All I wanted when I was growing up was to be a good wife and a good mother, and I felt I had failed.

The really good news is I turned to God 100 percent during that second "life lesson." I knew I couldn't go it alone and needed God to help me through the pain. You've heard it said, "If I had only known back then what I know now, I would have done things differently." As painful as some of my "life lessons" were, I wouldn't change a thing. All those life choices have made my faith stronger and brought me in a closer relationship to my heavenly Father.

Why is it we turn to God when things go wrong, but not when all is well? For me, it was because I needed to grow and mature as a Christian. How soon we forget all the "miracles" or times God has been with us through our trials. How soon we forget to thank God for all God is doing in our lives. We can only stay close to God in all times, good and bad, if we walk with God every day. To do that, we have to listen to God's Spirit in us, read God's Word, talk with God daily and feed God's sheep. Then, and only then, will we know God intimately as our Lord and Savior. □

July 17, 2011

God works through us all!
Judges 3:15-25, 29-30

After Othniel, the first judge God appointed, died, the Israelites again did evil in the sight of the Lord. Why do they keep repeating the same mistakes? They sure don't seem to learn, do they? Why does God keep helping them? It is only by God's grace that God keeps listening to their cries for help.

God answers their pleas for help, but how does God's help come? Help comes from the Lord through another appointed judge, Ehud, a Benjamite. The story of Ehud is an unusual one filled with deception, murder, and even humor. It is interesting God chose a left-handed man, but it was a strategic decision. Since he was left-handed, he could conceal his sword on the side that was unexpected for detection, because the right hand is usually favored.

It seemed relatively easy for Ehud to murder King Eglon. He is egotistical, doesn't see Ehud as a threat, and arrogant enough to think Ehud has some great message for him. King Eglon is also slow to respond to defend himself because he is obese. Therefore, Ehud completes his mission, escapes, gathers the Israelite troops, and defeats the Moabite soldiers.

God also can speak to us through other persons. We have been blessed at our small church to have a history of outstanding pastors. Each one, because of his or her call to the ministry, has added tremendously to the spiritual growth of our congregation and to me as an individual as well. It was from the encouragement of a former pastor, Jeff Dorsey, that I became a lay speaker. Our former pastor, Peter Moon, encouraged me to become an adult Sunday school teacher. Both of them saw talents in me that I would not have seen. The hardest thing for me was public speaking and teaching my peers. Because God spoke to me through these pastors, I have been blessed beyond measure. God does not just use pastors. God uses the common, ordinary persons to do God's work. God even uses children.

I have a 7-year-old granddaughter who was born with a chromosome abnormality. She cannot walk, but we never give up hope. She cannot talk in the way that children her age do, but she sure knows how to communicate her needs to us! She absolutely loves music and books. She has the most radiant smile that just melts your heart. Oh, how I would love to see through her eyes! Every little milestone is a miracle from God. I believe she was sent by God to show us how to love unconditionally. She has taught me more than any one person could teach another. So you see, God can work through us all! □

July 24, 2011

Follow the leader
Judges 7:2-4; 3-15; 8:22-25

I'm sure you've played "Follow the Leader" as a child. Someone is designated the leader, and everyone else follows all the actions of the one in charge to lead the line. If you have a really great leader, all goes well with the line. But, if the leader doesn't do a good job, all the followers will stumble.

What kind of leader was Gideon? God chose Gideon to save the Israelites from the Midianites. Gideon had doubts and asked God for a sign, and God obliged. At times he has faith, then more doubts and fears, and again needs more signs. God is patient and grants each request. Finally, Gideon gets the confirmation that he needs when he hears a Midianite's dream and its interpretation. He is convinced of God's victory over the Midianites and worships the Lord.

God reduces the number of the Israelite army so they would know the victory was by God's power and not theirs. Such small numbers going against the Midianites would be an impossible task. God is really the leader here, but the Israelites want to make Gideon king after they are victorious. Gideon lets the people know immediately that God is supreme.

(Continued on next page)

(Continued from previous page)

Often times we forget that we do not do anything by our own volition but by the power of God. We also forget who is in charge and who gets the credit.

We, as a church or community of believers, need to be careful of the leaders we follow. Bad leaders (those who do not put the Lord first) will inevitably lead us astray. There were devastating results in the following of Jim Jones and David Koresh. I believe it is possible they started out their ministries following God, but then, started taking the credit for themselves instead of giving God all the glory. If God is not leading the church, everything falls apart.

I have often wondered in the past several years why our church is still standing. We are small in numbers, yet we haven't closed our doors. I can think of only two reasons. The first, we have had great leadership in our pastors but also in our church officers. You can tell the Lord is number one in their lives. The second, as our Pastor Lynne believes, as long as we, as the whole body of Christ, put the Lord first and do the Lord's will together as in one accord, we will prevail. I believe this, too. God and only God is in charge, doing the impossible even against all odds. To God be the glory forever and always! Amen. □

July 31, 2011

Eyes on God

Judges 10:10-18

God's patience with the Israelites finally wears thin, and God leaves them to their gods and idols. The Israelites soon see the error of their ways, confess their sins, call out to God for mercy, repent and worship the Lord.

God hears their cries and delivers them, but not immediately. They need to learn more about what it means to abandon God by breaking the covenant their forefathers made with God. Even though they abandon God, God never really abandons them. God has always been watching, ready to offer God's

forgiveness and grace.

In our classroom at school, we have a special way of getting the children's attention. The teacher will say, "Eyes on me." The students respond by saying, "Eyes on you," keeping their eyes on the teacher. Sometimes the teacher has to say again, "Keep your eyes on me." Then she will give instructions, and the children will begin their work. Inadvertently, a student or two will be doing something entirely different from the rest of the class, or they will ask, "What are we supposed to do?" To which the teacher responds, "You were not listening and didn't keep your eyes on me. So, now you do not know what to do. Next time, make sure to keep your eyes on me."

We are a lot like that with God, too. When we keep our eyes and attention focused on God, we do fine. When we take our eyes off the Lord, we fall into our sinful ways. The generations of Israelites, from the time their forefathers made a covenant with God, have been struggling to keep their eyes on God.

If we keep our eyes on God, God will never leave us. My father had dementia

the last few years of his life before he died in September 2007. My father was a Christian and kept his eyes on God. Even as his mind and body were failing him, his eyes were looking out with love. He received great comfort when we sang hymns to him and prayed with him. The words from hymn number 349 from *The United Methodist Hymnal*, "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus" says, "Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in his wonderful face, and the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of his glory and grace." The one thing that gave me comfort was to know my father had his eyes on the Lord, and the Lord was with him with each breath he took until he found the peace to let go.

Keeping our eyes on God is not enough, though. We have to see through God's eyes to love our neighbors. Who are our neighbors? Our neighbors are our family, our church, our community, our nation, and our world. We have to share the love of the Lord with everyone, everywhere, in every way we can. Only then, can we truly see through God's eyes. □

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Letters & Commentary

Can The United Methodist Church survive?

Commentary by
Kelly West Figueroa-Ray

Taylor Burton-Edwards, director of Worship Resources of the General Board of Discipleship of The United Methodist Church charged with helping local churches by “equipping world changing disciples,” asked what “missional Methodists” should do in the face of our church’s newest digital report card toy: “dashboards.”

Using dashboards, you can find out weekly information about churches that have the biggest gain or loss in membership and attendance, baptisms and professions of faith. (You can even click on a link to those naughty churches that have not turned in their weekly numbers yet ... tisk, tisk.)

In the end, Burton-Edwards, although he criticizes this form of documenting “maintenance discipleship,” advises pastors to fill out the forms and then go *beyond* them ... So, my pastor friends, if they ask for your Saturdays – four days a month – to fill out paperwork, give them at least five days.

I’m sure that there is something good that comes from all that reporting, but in general I am pretty unimpressed with how the church I love, The United Methodist Church, is going beyond its majority-white, status-quo-supporting self to minister to the world.

John Wesley, founder of the Methodist movement, was quoted as saying: “The *world* is my parish.” He did not say “the people that show up to this particular building on a Sunday are my parish.” The United Methodist Church has become a cushy institution, banking on performance measures kept by fancy gadget dials to help save it from the fate towards which all mainline denominations seem to be heading – slow death.

And yet, I believe there is hope.

One is the phenomenon of “church plants.” Although I do not believe this move toward church planting is the “silver bullet” that will save our denomination, I do know of at least some church plant congregations that take seriously Wesley’s charge to make the world their parish.

For lack of space, I will detail the one I know best – Mosaic in Brooklyn Park, Minn. Mosaic’s pastor, the Rev. Rachel McIver Morey, was my roommate in seminary. She made plans and kept them, was efficient and would have probably made whatever conference leadership extremely



Figueroa-Ray

happy with her dashboard-reporting skills. But then at least two things happened: she was called to plant a multicultural church (where none had existed before) and she became a mother.

There is something about rocking a colicky baby for hours on end that gives a person a new outlook on life. The only thing left to do when you’re not in control of a situation is be present in the midst of it. A multicultural church plant is a colicky baby whose occasional smiles are all the reward they will see at first. It is not a well-behaved child that adheres

exactly to all the developmental milestones the books say should be there. God’s peace is what gives Rachel and the Mosaic team the strength to do the street-level ministry with real people that they are called to do.

Unlike a normal church appointment, church planters must build up a congregation from scratch. They build up interested people, raise funds and launch preview services. Here is a description of Mosaic’s most recent preview service:

Mosaic gathered at Odyssey Academy in Brooklyn Park to make sandwiches for Simpson Shelter – which, with all hands on deck, ended up taking 20 minutes, even with a break to go buy more bread! – and collect canned goods for our local food shelf. At five o’clock, we chimed the gong and began worship. Our worship used table conversation and fellowship alongside music from Paraguay, the United States and Indonesia. We closed with Communion and each had a bologna sandwich in communion and community with the Simpson Shelter guests who would be eating them for lunch the next day.

Not your typical worship service.

The United Methodist Church needs to look out among these young pastors – the ones who are out tending the sheep. They, not the ones best at keeping score on dashboard dials, make the world their parish and change the world through discipleship. They could be a part of a new era of Methodism.

So, my Methodist brothers and sisters, how long will you grieve over the loss of your past glory? God has rejected it and moved on ... and we should too. □

– United Methodist Kelly West Figueroa-Ray is a Ph.D. student in Comparative Scripture, Interpretation and Practice at the University of Virginia.

Church's mission is emerging as entry point for new people

Commentary by Lovett Weems

It is intriguing that the first connection people have with a congregation tends to change from time to time.

For churches with struggling adult Sunday schools, it may be hard to imagine that for a long time the Sunday school was the most likely church entry point for most adults, as well as children and youth. Well into the 1950s in many denominations and regions, the most common invitation church members gave their new neighbors or co-workers was to attend their Sunday school class with them. It was not uncommon for church school attendance to run higher than worship attendance. In fact, the Sunday school sometimes seemed to receive more loyalty than the worship experience. This was particularly true on circuits where the Sunday school was an every Sunday experience while "preaching" occurred on a rotating schedule among the churches on the charge.

Most of us are more familiar with the pattern that came next, in which the most likely first connection with a congregation was a worship service. People looking for a church on their own no longer came early to ask which Sunday school class they should attend but came first to a worship service. And church members inviting others to attend their church would now more likely invite newcomers to "worship" with us at our church. In this period, the worship attendance in most churches pulled ahead, sometimes well ahead, of Sunday school attendance.

We may be on the verge of another change, in which the entry point to a congregation for more and more people is through service and mission. This seems especially true for the young. For many young people, inviting their friends who don't attend church to "come to my church" may not be the most comfortable invitation to make or the one most likely to receive a positive response. On the other hand, few young people would be reluctant to invite any of their friends to join them for a service project sponsored by the church, and few young people will turn down such an invitation. The sense of commitment to help others among young adults is as strong as their excitement about most churches is weak.

It is too early to know if mission as an entry point to church will take hold in the way that Sunday school and worship did in prior times. But we do know that for increasing numbers of persons with a passion to serve and some disillusionment with the church, mission may be their most likely entry point — if churches are actually serving others and including new people in such service. We also know that, in this time when "belonging leads to believing," it is often only after a person comes to trust a community and to feel accepted by that community that there is much interest in what the community believes. □

— Dr. Lovett H. Weems Jr. is the executive director for the Lewis Center for Church Leadership at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C.

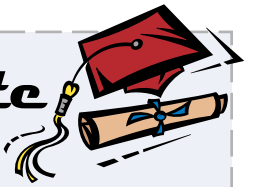
A collection of pastors' sermons would be beneficial to all

Too often our Church and our [local] churches, through complacency or agenized tunnel vision, overlook gifts and talents that are available, yet discounted. For example: Every year we have our Annual Conference, yet beyond the usual proceedings, a missed opportunity exists that could be a grand seed of spiritual impact offering multiple benefits.

Pastors from across the Commonwealth ought to submit one sermon from the many preached throughout the year for publication. This volume could become a vital companion to one's devotionals. And not only would readers encounter many sermons of various topics and styles, it could invigorate the laity as well as strengthen pastors. A portion of this volume's sales could be used toward some special offering or mission. □

G. Dunbar Moomaw, member of Dahlgren UMC

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Clergy & Diaconal

Deaths

Rebecca Murphy, widow of the Rev. Robert E. Murphy, died May 23, 2011.

Margie Day, widow of the Rev. Bill Day, died June 5, 2011.

Frances Boyette, mother of the Rev. Keith Boyette, died May 28, 2011. Keith is pastor of Wilderness Community UMC in the Fredericksburg District.

The **Rev. John McKay**, father of the Rev. Barbara Jacobs, died May 31, 2011. Barbara is pastor of Zion UMC in the Fredericksburg District. Rev. McKay was a Baptist pastor.

C. Brantley Allen, brother of the Rev. Jim Earley, died June 7, 2011. Jim is pastor of Walker Chapel UMC in the Arlington District.

Marilyn Joyce "Lyn" Robeson, Ashland District office manager since 1995, died suddenly while at work May 19, 2011.

African-American preaching summit set for July 13-15

"The Foolishness of Preaching: Words that Transform the World" will be the theme for the first-ever African-American preaching summit to be held July 13-15 at Lake Junaluska Conference and Retreat Center in North Carolina. The event will bring together African-American clergy to explore and experience effective sermon preparation, powerful preaching and worship as practiced by outstanding African-American preachers in The United Methodist Church. (1.3 CEUs available)

For more information and registration details, visit <www.lakejunaluska.com/african-american-preaching>. □



2011 LICENSING SCHOOL — Participants in the 2011 Licensing School gather for a group photo during a "field trip" to Camp Occohannock-on-the-Bay, Eastern Shore District. The annual school was held on the campus of Virginia Wesleyan College in Norfolk. All persons not ordained who are appointed to preach and perform the duties of a pastor must have a license for pastoral ministry, so the conference Board of Ordained Ministry, along with the Board of Higher Education, sponsors this course in May each year. (Photo by Christy Gresham)

Exploration 2011 event for young people discerning a call into ordained ministry

Exploration 2011, to be held Nov. 11-13 in St. Louis, is an important event for young people who may be discerning a call into ordained ministry. At Exploration, participants aged 18 to 26 will get to choose three workshops. Topics range from general discernment to specific ministry options within and beyond the local church. They will be able to connect with experts in a variety of fields of ministry, as well as with other young adults passionate about the very same topics. In addition, they will participate in a small group throughout the weekend led by a seminarian or young adult in ministry. Finally, all 13 United Methodist theological schools will have booths so participants can talk about scholarship options, curriculum, and which school may be the best fit for their academic and vocational interests. Scholarships will be available. Event registration will open this summer at <www.gbhem.org/exploration>. The Rev. Jessica Fuller, an ordained deacon serving at Crozet

UMC, will be attending Exploration '11 as a representative from the Virginia Conference. □

Jan Rivero joins staff of Stop Hunger Now

The Rev. Jan Rivero has joined the staff of Stop Hunger Now as University Program Director. In her new position she will be working to expand the work and presence of Stop Hunger Now on campuses across the country. She brings to the work 20 years of ministry in higher education, having most recently served as executive director and campus minister at the Wesley Foundation at UNC Chapel Hill. She also has served parishes and campuses in the Virginia Conference since 1980. □



Rivero

FAQs about a 'Call to Action'



Charlene Payne Kammerer
Bishop of the
Virginia Conference

Q – “What is it? How did it come about?”

A – The “Call to Action” emerged from a group set aside by the Council of Bishops and Connectional Table of The United Methodist Church. The report challenges the church to fundamentally change our United Methodist culture. The call is for a new posture of leading, a new culture of conferencing, a new culture of measuring fruitfulness and effectiveness, and a new culture of aligning resources for common mission and goals.

Q – What is meant by a “Creeping crisis of relevancy in The United Methodist Church?”

A – In a systemwide survey of over 30,000 congregations in the United States, the crisis has to do with a lack of trust between local church members, the annual conference, general church agencies and leader groups; low levels of mutual respect; the frequent absence of civil dialogue; and the lack of ways to measure success. (“Call to Action” report)

Q – What is needed to turn around The United Methodist Church?

A – A cadre of mutually committed, turnaround leaders, both clergy and lay, who will make a long-term commitment to change what we emphasize in The United Methodist Church, and are willing to let go programs of the past that have not led to effectiveness and fruitfulness in the making of world-transforming disciples of Christ.

Q – What are we talking about measuring?

A – We are talking about developing clear measures of effectiveness in relation to our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ. These measures will fall into two categories: 1) vital disciplemaking congregations and 2) areas of focus that will transform the world. These measures include conversion and justice, personal and social holiness, individual growth and denominational vitality.

These are only a few Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) as I listen to people talk about the “Call to Action.” Please be in a season of prayer as the work and recommendations of many leader groups converge. These recommendations leading toward a culture change will be considered at the 2012 General Conference, to be held April 24-May 4 in Tampa, Fla.

Grace and Peace,

Charlene Kammerer
Charlene Kammerer

Connecting with the *Virginia Advocate* official newsmagazine of the Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church

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