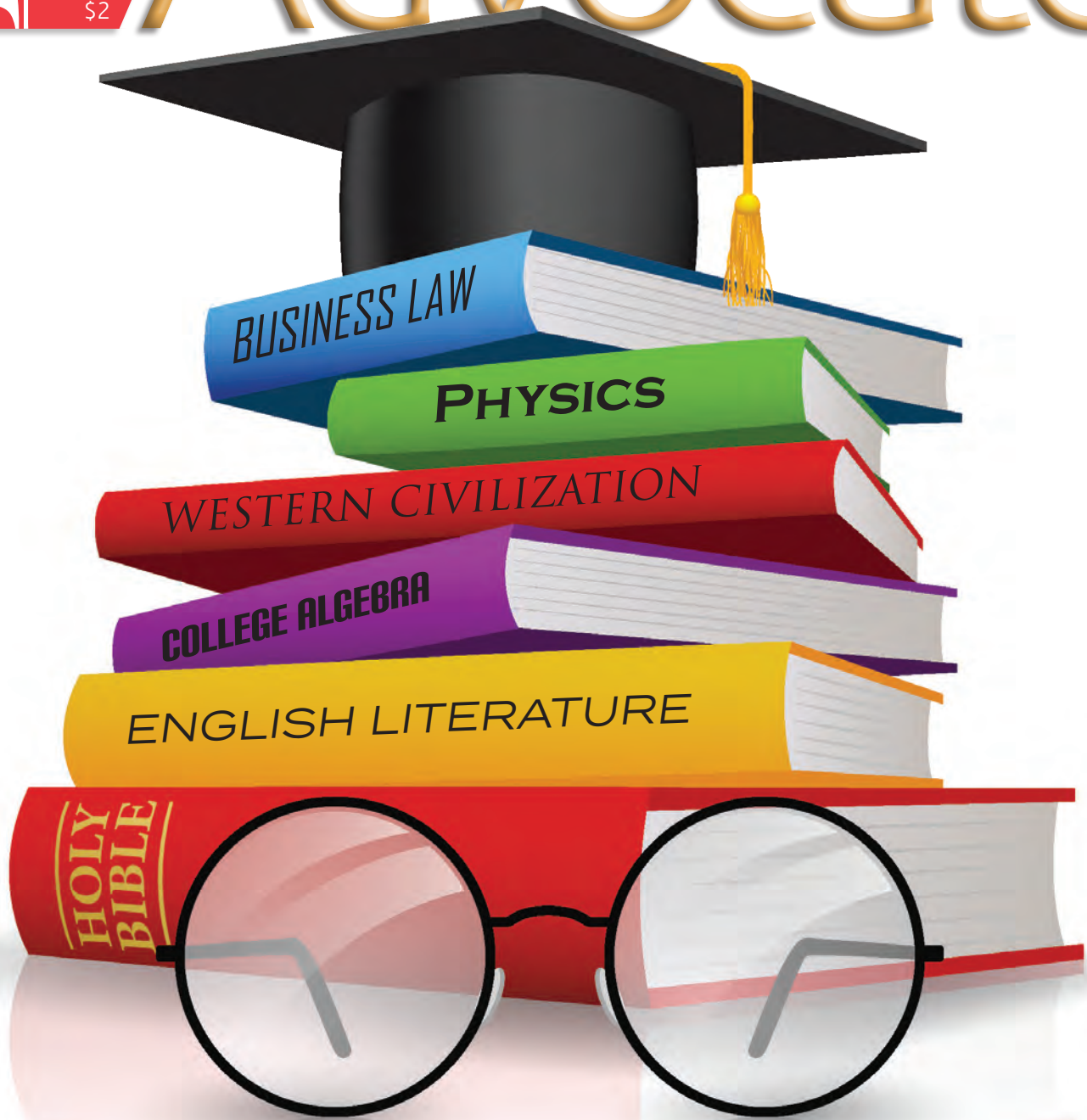


Advocate



TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT CAMPUS MINISTRIES

We need your feedback! Fill out our survey on page 7.

2019 - 2020 Appointments on pages 15-25

Connecting with the



Virginia Advocate

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

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804-521-1100

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Detailed guidelines for the following available upon request.

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Deadlines

The Advocate is published once a month. The deadline to submit news and ad copy for the August 2019 issue is June 28. For more information on future deadlines, contact the Advocate office or visit the website.

Advertising/Tributes

Rates for advertising and tributes are available upon request.

Local Church News

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

Letters

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

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PILLOW TALK



Madeline Pillow
Editor

Choosing to value humans

Recently I read a biography about John Adams and was fascinated as I realized how different our early founding fathers' interactions were

and how complex it was to secure liberty. We've all seen the painting depicting our forefathers drafting the Declaration of Independence, boldly working for the sake of liberty and justice. In reality it took a long time for many different voices to come to some semblance of agreement and was not as idealized as any painting can depict.

Beginning in 1778, Adams journeyed far longer, by land and sea, than any of the other American leaders. He would travel from France to the Netherlands and many miles in between seeking to gain French aid as well as Dutch coin to fund the American fight.

He once wrote, "I am but an ordinary man. The times alone have destined me to fame."

In reading, I often thought about our very own United Methodist Church and where we are. If we look at what happened in the American Revolution and how many times the relationships of the Americans, their allies and their enemies abroad could have spelled the demise of the American cause, we find one thing that held it together. Human relationships.

Amicable relationships and friendships were tested among the Americans during the war. Popularity contests, pride and egos threatened unity. It seems that only by a tenuous thread did the forefathers weave their way into liberty and justice for all.

Similarly, this time in our church is about human relationships. That fact should not be diluted. How we choose to treat each other or a group of people is what is recorded in the larger footnotes of history. It is also what is passed down to the next generation. Call it a mystic process or just human nature but our words and actions flow down to the generations who follow us. For good or ill.

Government and even organized religion, in the maintaining of the institutions, can lose sight of the humanity. Humanity is a sacred and precious thing. Anyone, religious or not, can agree to this. My question is whether we will allow room to acknowledge our own fragility and in that place of tenderness, honor other person's humanity above all else.

Doing this work is not clean. It's messy and it's a place where feelings are hurt, where hurts are acknowledged and even tested until ultimately there is healing.

In what will be done in this denomination, I hope we all choose to see people. To value real, breathing, hurt people first in all that we do and act upon. To first value and act on the things Jesus taught us.

Just as Adams found himself in a time where he was elevated to enact change for a whole country, Methodism finds itself in a moment of time.

What will be our next step? In our words and in our actions, what will we pass on to the next generation of Christians who come after us?

Madeline



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Scan this code to go to the
conference website:
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Remembrances of moving days past

This is the second in a series of remembrances of past moving days. You will find more in the August ADVOCATE issue. You can submit your own to MadelinePillow@vaumc.org

On our very first morning as a new parsonage couple on the Danville District, I sheepishly called the chair of the Pastor-Parish Relations Committee. Did he know how to unlock the bedroom doors? Somehow in the chaos of moving day, we had managed to trip the lock on a back room. Sequestered in this room were all of my wife's clothes — and I do mean all. "Didn't they tell you?" he asked. "Don't ever use those locks."

—The Rev. Dave Rochford, Staunton District Superintendent

When we were visiting with the late Rev. Walter Lockett at the parsonage prior to a move, we admired some blossoms on the lawn with his wife Virginia. Virginia said, "Here are

a few tomato plants I added — the new parsonage family will be able to enjoy fresh tomatoes soon after they arrive." My never-forgotten lesson: always plan to make things better for those who come after you whether it be lawn and garden, church, community or world.

More than a half century ago "Miss Georgia" was a veritable pillar of Blacksburg UMC. Those who attended Wesley Foundation were her adopted children. Her never-forgotten remark about pastoral transitions: "I cried when every one of my pastors left...except once I didn't cry much!"

—Ida Powell, Centenary UMC, Lynchburg

In 2010 I was moving from the Eastern Shore District to the (then) Portsmouth District. The moving men were at the parsonage, and I was standing in the living room watching as the sofa was being manipulated through the front door,

when one of the movers approached me. "Where's your husband?" he asked. I informed him I did not have a husband, and, looking a bit puzzled, he went down the hall to the bedroom. I heard him say to the man in the bedroom, who was taking the bed apart, "I thought you said we were moving a preacher today. Ain't no preacher here, just that woman in the other room." To which the other mover replied, "Shut up you old fool! She IS the preacher!" That memory has brought many smiles to my face. "Shut up you old fool! She IS the preacher!"

—Rita Kanten, Retired Licensed Local Pastor, currently appointed



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





LETTERS

To the Virginia Annual Conference and our Advocate magazine subscribers—

Over the last several years, the conference Communications staff, in consultation and partnership with the conference Board of Communications, has reflected on how best our office can meet the communication needs of our members and our conference as technology continues to change and communication needs shift.

We have specifically looked at how we can increase our reach to all of our members and provide better access to information across the Virginia Conference. Our board, in helping us do the work of understanding both the needs of our clergy and laity, recently conducted 19 focus groups in five different locations. We were able to ask in-depth questions about the communication needs of 98 people from 10 districts. Participants included active and retired clergy, church staff,

lay members and leaders in local churches, districts, conference boards & agencies and youth. This helped us gather a variety of great ideas on how we can improve conference communications.

In recognizing how the needs of our conference have changed over the years, The board voted unanimously at its February meeting to end production of the *Advocate* magazine with the December 2019 issue. This decision was approved by Common Table.

I, along with my staff and the board, recognize what this magazine has meant to this conference as well as its legacy. It was not a decision made in haste but one we have wrestled with to make sure we are best serving our conference in the area of communication.

In the remaining *Advocate* issues this year, we will share *Advocate* history and the legacy of

this fine publication. You will find a sheet addressing questions at: <http://www.vaumc.org/ncfiler-repository/UMCom/AdvocateLetter.pdf>. Please do not hesitate to contact me by email (MadelinePillow@vaumc.org) should you have additional questions.

It has been a joy for me to work on this magazine. I am so appreciative of those who shared their stories with us throughout the years and for our *Advocate* representatives around the conference who so passionately supported the magazine and, forgive the pun, advocated for it. To all our readers, I am so grateful for you.

We hope everyone will fill out the survey on the next page to help my office continue on this journey of providing helpful and accessible information to the Virginia Conference. You can mail in this printed version or go online to www.vaumc.org/survey.

Though the *Advocate* may be ending, the storytelling from the conference Communications office is not ending. We are finding new ways to reach our audience and seeking to create better

access for all to important information from and about our United Methodist connection. Blessings to you on the journey,

Madeline

Frequently Asked Questions:

I get a good deal of my information from the *Advocate* publication. How will I get my news?

Other avenues to get news include our conference website (www.vaumc.org); our *Sunday Advocate* bulletin insert; the e-*Advocate*, a weekly electronic newsletter; and our conference social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube and Vimeo). On these platforms, we will still be creating the content that you often find in the *Advocate* magazine from Virginia news to timely features. Should you need help identifying where to find any of these other communication avenues, contact the conference Communications office at 804-521-1110 or by emailing Advocate@vaumc.org.

(Con't. on next page: "ADVOCATE.")

LETTERS

("ADVOCATE," cont. from page 5.)

As we continue to prioritize how best to communicate to the conference, as stated in the letter, it is so important that all our readers fill out the survey to share their thoughts. Our goal is to reach ALL of our conference members in communication avenues where they receive their news.

How did the Board come to the decision to end the *Advocate* publication?

The conference Communications office, in consultation with the Board of Communications, has been having conversations about the future of the *Advocate* for many years.

For the last decade, we have seen a drastic drop in subscribers each year as needs and preferences have changed how readers want to receive their information. Likewise, our costs to print and mail the magazine have continued to rise over the years as the magazine runs a deficit each month.

Our current membership in the conference is over 300,000 and our magazine reaches less than 1 percent. In this

process of ending the *Advocate* magazine, we are interested in reaching more of our audience to provide news and helpful resources.

Do you want me to participate in the conference wide survey?

Yes! We encourage everyone in the conference to participate in the survey. This conference-wide survey is available in a number of ways including online and in this *Advocate* issue, as well as at the Board of Communications booth at Annual Conference.

We want to receive as many responses as possible to make sure we understand the needs of our members and how the conference office can best share information and resources.

Some of these questions will test things we learned from the focus groups. The final results from this survey will help the office prioritize our efforts as we work to continue improving conference communications.

My subscription to the *Advocate* continues past 2019. May I get a reimbursement?

Yes. If you would like a reimbursement, we

will be sharing a postcard to request this in upcoming issues of the *Advocate* magazine for print subscribers.

If you are an online subscriber, you may email your name, address, best contact information and how long your subscription continues to Advocate@vaumc.org.


My *Advocate* subscription ends in 2019. May I renew my subscription to get the final 2019 issues?

We will still be accepting one-year subscriptions for those whose subscription is ending in 2019; the amount left over can be reimbursed to you after 2019 by following the step above.

For questions concerning your *Advocate* subscription, please contact Pam Culler at (804) 521-1110 or PamCuller@vaumc.org or Brenda Capen at (804) 521-1116 or BrendaCapen@vaumc.org.

*For questions not listed here, you can contact Madeline Pillow, Director of Communications and *Advocate* editor, at (804) 521-1113 or MadelinePillow@vaumc.org.*

Please visit www.VAUMC.org/survey to take this survey online. If you prefer to fill out this paper survey, please tear out of the magazine and mail it back to this address:
Virginia Conference, Attn: Madeline Pillow, P.O. Box 5606, Glen Allen, VA 23058-5606.

 **T**hank you for participating in this communications survey for the Virginia Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church. Our goal is to provide both clergy and lay people across the conference with the information they need through the communication channels that are most useful to them. We will use the survey results to help prioritize our efforts to improve conference communications. We appreciate your open, honest feedback.

DUE DATE – Please mail your completed survey to the conference office no later than July 31, 2019.

1. What is your profession? (Select the answer which best describes you.)

- ☐ Clergy, serving in a local church
- ☐ Clergy, serving in another capacity
- ☐ Clergy, retired
- ☐ Lay person, working in a local church, district office, or the conference center
- ☐ Lay person, working in a church-affiliated non-profit, college, or school
- ☐ Lay person, working in business, government or other non-church job
- ☐ Lay person, student
- ☐ Lay person, not currently working
- ☐ Lay person, retired

Clergy—How long have you been a clergy person?

- ☐ 4 years or less
- ☐ 5 – 10 years
- ☐ 11 years or more

Non-Clergy—In what capacity do you currently serve in your local church, district, or conference? (Check all that apply.)

- ☐ Local church – church council / administrative board member or ministry chairperson
- ☐ Local church – other type of service
- ☐ District board or committee member
- ☐ Conference board or committee member
- ☐ Other church-related service
- ☐ Not currently serving in the church

2. In which district is your church located?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alexandria | <input type="checkbox"/> Lynchburg |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arlington | <input type="checkbox"/> Rappahannock River |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Charlottesville | <input type="checkbox"/> Richmond |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Danville | <input type="checkbox"/> Roanoke |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Shore | <input type="checkbox"/> Staunton |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elizabeth River | <input type="checkbox"/> Winchester |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Farmville | <input type="checkbox"/> York River |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Harrisonburg | <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> James River | |

3. How would you describe where you live?

- ☐ Rural
- ☐ Suburban
- ☐ City / Urban

4. How old are you?

- ☐ 20 & under
- ☐ 21 – 35
- ☐ 36 – 54
- ☐ 55 – 69
- ☐ 70+

5. Approximately how many people attend worship at your church each week?

- ☐ 49 or fewer
- ☐ 50 - 149
- ☐ 150 – 299
- ☐ 300 or more

6. Do you have an email address?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No, but I share an email address with another person
- ☐ No, but I am able to access emails in another way
- ☐ No, I don't have any access to email

7. Which of the following best describes the devices you own?

- ☐ I own a computer, tablet, or smart phone
- ☐ I do not own a computer, tablet, or smart

- phone, but I have access to one
- ☐ I do not own any of these devices, nor do I have access to them

8. In what ways do you CURRENTLY receive Virginia Conference information including news, event information, ministry ideas, how-to information, and stories? (Please check all that you currently use.)

- ☐ Weekly e-Advocate email newsletter, which summarizes key Virginia Conference information and other United Methodist news, and allows me to click through for more details
- ☐ ClergyNet or LaityNet daily emails with different church announcements and conference information
- ☐ Sunday Advocate church bulletin insert
- ☐ Social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest)
- ☐ Videos on YouTube or Vimeo
- ☐ VAUMC.org website
- ☐ Advocate magazine (either print or digital version)
- ☐ None – I do not currently receive Virginia Conference information
- ☐ Other (please specify)

9. If the communication tools listed below were all available to you, which one(s) would you want to use to get information from the Virginia Conference, including news, event information, ministry ideas, how-to information, and stories? (Please check all that you would like to use.)

- ☐ Weekly e-Advocate email newsletter, which summarizes key Virginia Conference information and other United Methodist news, and allows me to click through for more details
- ☐ ClergyNet or LaityNet daily emails with different church announcements and conference information
- ☐ Sunday Advocate church bulletin insert
- ☐ Social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest, etc.)
- ☐ Videos on YouTube or Vimeo
- ☐ Podcasts

- ☐ VAUMC.org website
- ☐ Conference app on my smart phone
- ☐ Printed news mailed to my home
- ☐ Phone – ability to call in to listen to conference news, stories, or information
- ☐ None – I am not interested in receiving information from the Virginia Conference
- ☐ Other (please specify)

10. Which Virginia Conference communication tool would you use MOST frequently? (Choose one.)

- ☐ Weekly e-Advocate email newsletter, which summarizes key Virginia Conference information and other United Methodist news, and allows me to click through for more details
- ☐ ClergyNet or LaityNet email groups with different church announcements and conference information
- ☐ Sunday Advocate church bulletin insert
- ☐ Social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest, etc.)
- ☐ Videos on YouTube or Vimeo
- ☐ Podcasts
- ☐ VAUMC.org website
- ☐ Conference app on my smart phone
- ☐ Printed news mailed to my home
- ☐ Phone – ability to call in to listen to conference news, stories, or information
- ☐ Other (please specify)
- ☐ None – I don't want or need any information from the Virginia Conference (Please let us know why you are not interested in receiving information from the Virginia Conference.)

11. Do you currently receive the weekly e-Advocate email newsletter from the conference?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No, but I might be interested
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not sure



If you receive or might be interested in receiving the e-Advocate: What type of information would you like to see in the weekly e-Advocate email newsletter? (Check all that apply.)

- ☐ General news from the Virginia Conference
- ☐ Messages from the Bishop
- ☐ News from Virginia Conference boards and agencies
- ☐ Events and training information
- ☐ Mission and outreach opportunities
- ☐ Links to uplifting stories about ministries around the conference
- ☐ Links to the latest how-to information, with tips and ideas for local church ministry (including worship; adult, youth, and children's ministries; missions and outreach; communications; and more)
- ☐ National and international United Methodist news summary
- ☐ Other (please specify)

12. Do you currently receive emails from the ClergyNet or LaityNet email groups?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not sure

If you are part of ClergyNet or LaityNet: How would you prefer to receive these emails? (Choose one.)

- ☐ Multiple times per day, so I receive the information as soon as it's available
- ☐ One time each day, with a summary of each message that I can click on to receive more information
- ☐ One time each day, but only send me information on the topics I select (like event information, job postings, etc.)
- ☐ One time each week, with a summary of each message that I can click on to receive more information
- ☐ One time each week, but only send me information on the topics I select (like event information, job postings, etc.)

- ☐ I am not interested in receiving these emails
- ☐ Other (please specify)

13. Does your church currently use the Sunday Advocate insert (with brief stories and news from the conference) in your church bulletin?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No, but I would like to start using it
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not sure

14. Does your church have a screen (or wall area) that you use to show videos, slides, or other images during any of your worship services?

- ☐ Yes, and we use it every week
- ☐ Yes, and we use it fairly frequently
- ☐ Yes, but we only use it occasionally
- ☐ No, we don't have one, but I would like the church to add one
- ☐ No, we don't have one

15. How does your church use videos? (Check all that apply.)

- ☐ Weekly during the worship service
- ☐ Occasionally during the worship service
- ☐ On the church Facebook page
- ☐ On the church website
- ☐ As part of a Bible study, small group, or Sunday school lesson
- ☐ Never use videos
- ☐ Other (please specify)

16. What video topics would you like to watch personally, or use in your church? (Check all that apply.)

- ☐ Uplifting stories about ministries around the conference
- ☐ Messages from the Bishop
- ☐ How-to information on church ministry
- ☐ Training videos (on church topics)

- ☐ Video on how apportionments are used
- ☐ None – I don't need any videos from the conference
- ☐ Other *(please specify)*

17. How often do you listen to podcasts (a digital audio recording you can download to a computer or mobile device like a smart phone)?

- ☐ Daily
- ☐ Weekly
- ☐ Monthly
- ☐ Very rarely
- ☐ Don't listen currently, but might be interested
- ☐ Never

18. What podcast (audio recording) topics would you be interested in? *(Check all that apply.)*

- ☐ Uplifting stories about ministries around the conference
- ☐ Messages from the Bishop
- ☐ How-to information on church ministry
- ☐ None - I'm not interested in podcasts from the conference
- ☐ Other *(please specify)*

19. How often do you visit the Virginia Conference website (www.vaumc.org)?

- ☐ Daily
- ☐ Weekly
- ☐ Monthly
- ☐ Very rarely
- ☐ Never

20. If the conference added a section to the website that served as a resource hub for local churches, what type of information / resources would you like to see there? *(Check all that apply.)*

- ☐ Recommendations on Bible studies / small group studies / Sunday school curriculum
- ☐ Section where churches can list resources

they have to share with other churches (for example, church van others can borrow, sleeping space or showers for mission trips or other ministry use, kitchen or large fellowship hall for church events, etc.)

- ☐ Clergy forum, where clergy can post a question and ask others to provide advice
- ☐ General ministry forum, where anyone can post a question and ask others to provide advice
- ☐ Sermon manuscripts or recordings from preachers around the conference
- ☐ None – I am unlikely to use a conference resource hub
- ☐ Other *(please specify)*

21. If the conference created a smart phone app, would you use it?

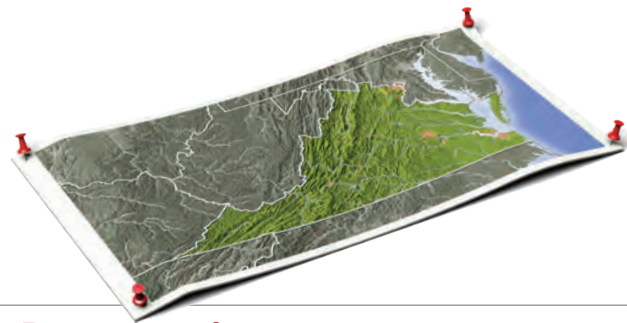
- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Maybe
- ☐ No, I use apps but I don't need a conference app
- ☐ No, I don't use apps

22. Is there any other feedback you'd like to share on Virginia Conference communications?

**Thank you.
We appreciate your
feedback!**

Please mail your completed survey to:
Virginia Conference, Attn: Madeline Pillow,
P.O. Box 5606, Glen Allen, VA 23058-5606
no later than July 31, 2019.

The United Methodist connection in VIRGINIA



By Heather Hahn;
*Virginia quotes added by
Forrest White*
May 22, 2019 | LEAWOOD,
Kan. (UM News)

MORE THAN 600 U.S. UNITED METHODISTS spent three days grappling with possible options for forging what they hope will be a more just and inclusive church future. What united those at UMCNext, which met May 20-22 behind closed doors at the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kan., was their opposition to the Traditional Plan.

That legislation, which the special 2019 General Conference approved by a vote of

438-384, retains the church stance that the practice of homosexuality is “incompatible with Christian teaching” and strengthens enforcement of church bans on same-sex weddings and “self-avowed practicing” gay clergy.

The increased enforcement takes effect Jan. 1 in the U.S. But another General Conference, the denomination’s top lawmaking assembly, is also just around the corner, in May 2020.

“I was devastated by the results of the General Conference decision to go with the Traditional Plan. There was embarrassment to call myself

Planning new directions for the church

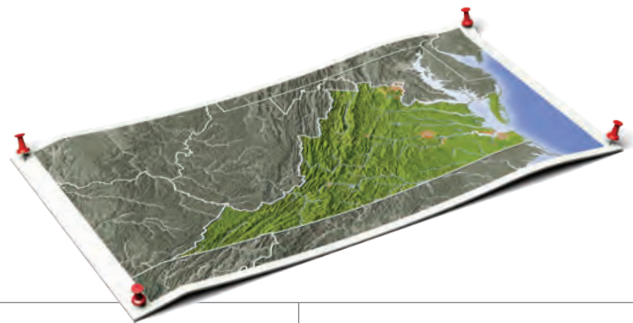
a United Methodist pastor,” said the Rev. Kirk Nave, senior pastor at Braddock Street UMC Winchester, who attended the UMCNext gathering. “Inactive young adult United Methodists have said, ‘If you didn’t know why young adults don’t want to come to church, you should now’ and ‘If you’re fighting over who to keep out of the

(Con’t. on next page: “UMCNext.”)

The Rev. Ginger Gaines-Cirelli (center) answers a question at the press conference following UMCNext. Looking on are fellow convening team members the Rev. DJ del Rosario (left) and Karen G. Prudente. Photo by David Burke, Great Plains Conference.



The United Methodist connection in VIRGINIA



“I think this is a wilderness time for us, but I think God is leading us to something better.”

– Rev. Clayton Oliphint,
senior pastor of
First United Methodist Church
in Richardson, Texas

(“UMCNext” con’t from previous page)

church, are you really a church?”

The Rev. Grace Han, lead pastor of Trinity UMC Alexandria, described herself as “incredibly discouraged” after 2019 General Conference and also attended the three-day gathering.

“Not only did we take a step in the wrong direction, it was clear that our church was broken and I wasn’t clear how we would move forward together,” said Han, who was also a part of the gathering in Kansas. “UMCNext was a long, intense, and sometimes difficult week. But it was a hope filled one. It made me realize the power and diversity of our connection and I was hopeful for where God is calling us next. We all agreed something needs to change and that was a powerful starting point. We agreed that God’s Holy Spirit isn’t done with us yet, and that God will breathe new life in our dry bones.”

Those gathered identified two possible approaches toward a new Methodism, said the Rev. DJ del Rosario of the Pacific Northwest Conference. These

include continued resistance to the Traditional Plan and reforming the church from within, as well as some form of negotiated separation to create something new.

They did not reach a consensus on a single direction. For now, those in attendance are working on a both-and-approach. And working groups will be developing plans for the next General Conference to consider.

“The ‘both-and-approach’ isn’t satisfying, but it’s strategic,” Han said. “What was clear at our gathering was that there wasn’t a one size fits all solution. The reality is that what is next in San Francisco is going to look different than what is next in Virginia, which is going to look different than what is next in Alabama. But the goal is to all move towards the same goal, towards a fully inclusive church, and we were all united on that goal.”

“There are churches who feel every urgency that they are going to leave now,” said the Rev. Adam Hamilton, one of the event’s conveners and lead pastor at Church of the Resurrection, the denomination’s most-

attended U.S. church with an average weekly worship attendance of nearly 7,000. “There are also churches that say we couldn’t leave even if we wanted to... So we’re ultimately going to have several pathways forward.”

Hamilton and others at the post-event press conference were also clear that resistance could mean violating the restrictions in the Book of Discipline, the denomination’s policy book, and risking their ministry. Resistance, conveners said, also could take less dramatic forms such as making sure their communities know all are welcome.

“Reforming the church from within is nothing new regarding full inclusion for our LGBTQIA United Methodists and their allies,” Nave said. “Resistance toward full inclusion is going to continue no matter what happens. ‘Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere’ as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said. In our baptismal vows, each of us promised to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves. Some of that evil is within me, as a white, heterosexual

The United Methodist connection in VIRGINIA

male, with all the privilege that comes with that, in addition to the sinfulness within me of which I am already aware. Some of that is without, as we confront systems and interpretations of the Bible that are harmful."

The UMCNext gathering drew together at least 10 representatives from each of the denomination's 54 U.S. conferences — many of whom applied to go. Hamilton said the event had 2,000 more people apply to attend than could fit in the room. Event organizers, he said, worked to ensure inclusion of LGBTQ United Methodists, diverse ethnic/racial groups and young people. Also in attendance were 16 bishops.

The Rev. Ginger Gaines-Cirelli, senior pastor of Foundry United Methodist Church in Washington, said during the press conference that those gathered agreed to four commitments.

- ❖ To be passionate followers of Jesus Christ, committed to a Wesleyan vision of Christianity.
- ❖ To resist evil, injustice and oppression in all forms and toward all people

and build a church which affirms the full participation of all ages, nations, races, classes, cultures, gender identities, sexual orientations and abilities.

- ❖ To reject the Traditional Plan approved at General Conference 2019 as inconsistent with the gospel of Jesus Christ and resist its implementation.
- ❖ To work to eliminate discriminatory language and the restrictions and penalties in the Book of Discipline regarding LGBTQ individuals.

Table discussions, Gaines-Cirelli said, centered on people's hopes for the church.

And indeed multiple participants at the event's conclusion expressed hope for the church's future.

No general church or annual conference dollars went to funding UMCNext, the Rev. Adam Hamilton said. People paid their own way to attend and United Methodist Church of the Resurrection also covered the costs of hosting duties.

Han called UMCNext a good start, but knows

the hard work is still ahead. "My hope is that we can be faithful to the ministry God has called us," she said. "I hope that out of this conversation, we can move on towards sanctification to live more fully, more honestly, more faithfully into God's mission. I hope we can be a fully inclusive and diverse church because that's what it means to be God's church."

Devastated by the outcome of 2019 General Conference, Nave left Kansas more than just hopeful.

"My hope is not merely a hope. It is in the promise of God for deliverance," Nave said. "Whenever there are periods of persecution, God always, always, delivers the oppressed. My hope is now joined with others for God to build a church, complete with a rich Wesleyan heritage and theology, where all of God's children are welcomed, where their monogamous, loving, relationships, are blessed, and their call to ministry can be lived out."

The UMCNext event came on the heels of another gathering where the church's future was on the

agenda. The Our Movement Forward summit, on May 17-18 at Lake Harriet United Methodist Church, also brought together United Methodists who advocate for full inclusion of LGBTQ Christians. 

— Heather Hahn is a multimedia news reporter for UM News. Sam Hodges, a UM News reporter based in Dallas, contributed to the story. Forrest White is a news associate with the Virginia Conference Communications office.

NOTE: View the full article at www.vaumc.org.

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Appointments

CLERGY

KEY

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

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

ROLL OF THE FIRST MILE

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

† - Denotes increase in Profession of Faith

ALEXANDRIA DISTRICT

District Superintendent: Jeffrey P. Mickel (6)

ALEXANDRIA

Beverly Hills: Deborah D. Porras (4)

Del Ray: David R. McWilliams (4) PE

Fairlington: **Janine Howard** (1)

Associate: Devon M. Earle (5)

Min. of Congregational Family Life:

Christian S. White Jr. (9) FD

Roberts Memorial: James G. Daniely (5)

Saint Andrew's: James L. Johnson III (3)

†**Saint James:** James E. Henry (28)

Trinity: Grace S. Han (2)

Washington Street: Thomas G. James (5)

FAIRFAX

Fairfax: David J. Bonney (5)

Associate: **Pamela Kippes** (1) FL

Fairfax Commonwealth: Minoo W. Kim (2) PE

FAIRFAX COUNTY

Accotink-Cana UM Mission: Joo Sup Park (12) OE

Aldersgate: **Randall Orndorff** (1)

Associate: Emily A. Moore-Diamond (2)

Aldersgate Kingstowne Communion:

Michelle L. Matthews (5)

†Annandale: Jason A. Micheli (2)

Associate: Peter B. Kwon (3) FL

Associate for Adult Discipleship: Chenda I. Lee (3)

Burke: Jason W. Snow (4)

Associate: Katherine C. Phillips (3) PE

Cameron: Oliver J. Box (7)

†Christ: John C. Speight Jr. (28)

Associate: Ryan S. LaRock (4)

Christ Online: Anthony J. Arnold (3) PE

Cranford: Lorenzo D. Hill (15)

†**Franconia:** Melissa D. Porter-Miller (3)

Lincolnia: Raymond A. Max-Jones (6) OE

Messiah: Reginald D. Tuck (6)

Associate: Pia L. Diggs (2) OF

Associate for Welcoming: Lauren L.

Geraghty (3) PL

†Mount Vernon: Jay L. Campbell (2) PE

New Light: Samuel Eunkwan Kim (5) OE

†Rising Hope UM Mission: Keary C. Kincannon (25)

Saint George's: Steven B. Wells (7)

Saint John's: Jae Woo Park (2)

Saint Matthew's: Neil R. Hough (6)

Associate: Nickie Moreno Howard (2) FL

Associate of Senior Adults Min. & Visitation: William E. Moberly (7) PL

Saint Stephen's: **Robert Robertson III** (1)

Associate: **Forrest Benjamin Teague** (1) FL

Associate: Jiyeon Kim (2)

†**Silverbrook:** **Seokchane Suh** (1) PL

†**Springfield:** Jeffry J. Roberts (8)

†**Sydenstricker:** Donald A. Jamison (4)

Associate: **Eric Kleppinger** (1) PL

†**Washington Farm:** Christina M. Hart-Perkins (2)

Wesley: Lydia E. Rodriguez Colon (6)

Associate: Angel M. Martinez-Ortiz (2) PL

†**Woodlawn-Faith:** Brian K. Brown (4)

FAUQUIER COUNTY

†**Bethel:** Faith M. Weedling (4)

Orlean: James A. Leamon (16) PL

Warrenton: Timothy F. Tate (4)

Associate: **Carl Chapman** (1)

Wesley Chapel: Jose W. Saldana (7) PL

MANASSAS CITY

Grace: **Drew VanDyke Colby** (1)

Associate: Janet P. Salbert (6)

Min. of Music: C. Milton Rodgers III (19) FD

Saint Thomas: Abigail E. Foerster (2)

Saint Thomas Haymarket: Brian W. Johnson (5)

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY

Asbury: **Kimberly Barker-Brugman** (1)

†**Bethel:** Joseph A. Shoop (7)

†**Buckhall:** Linda H. Monroe (9)

Cokesbury: Taylor C. Mertins (3)

Dumfries: Dale E. Gillis (7)

Associate: **John Rowe** (1) PL

Gainesville: John E. Patterson (23)

Associate: Sean D. Gundry (5) FL

Gainesville Revive House Church: J. Benson McGlone (3)

Ghana Wesley UM Mission: Emmanuel

Nkrumah (10)

New Life International: John Obeng (3) PE

†**Good Shepherd:** Sara Porter Keeling (2)

Associate: Wm. R. "Mac" McKenney (2) FL

Nokesville: Young Min Kim (3) FL

†**Old Bridge:** Burton C. Robinson (16)

Associate: Ronald T. Lanman (11) RL

Associate: Charles M. Stribula (3) PL

Prince of Peace: Genevieve M. Bowles (2) PE

Saint Mark's: Kurt D. Ludwig (7) PL

Saint Paul: Scott A. Beck (2)

Spirit & Life: Matthew J. Benton (5)
Associate for Bilingual Ministries: Peter Berberena (3) SY
Associate for Bilingual Ministries: Michael Finegan (3) SY
Associate for Bilingual Ministries: Mario Velez Lopez (3) SY
†**Sudley**: Hyo Joong Lee (5)
EXTENSION & OTHER APPOINTMENTS
Kimberly A. Barker-Brugman—Soul Story Ministry (Asbury)
Andrew S. Ensz—Minister Director of Arise, United College Ministries in Northern Virginia (Messiah)
Morgan Guyton—On Loan: Director, NOLA Wesley Foundation, Tulane and Loyola Universities (Burke)
J. Denise Honeycutt—On Loan: Merritt's Chapel UMC, North Carolina Conference
David F. McAllister-Wilson—President, Wesley Seminary (Fairlington)
Marianne K. Nassef—Part-Time Chaplain, US Air Force Reserve (Fairlington)
Lemuel E. Pearsall Jr.—Chaplain, US Army (Good Shepherd)
R. Kendall Soulen—Professor of Systematic Theology, Candler (Annandale)
Susan E. Willhauck (FD)—Associate Professor of Pastoral Theology, Atlantic School of Theology (St. Matthew's)

ARLINGTON DISTRICT

District Superintendent: **Sarah L.K. Calvert** (1)

ARLINGTON

Arlington Commons: **TBD**

Arlington Forest: **JaeHaeng Choi** (1)

Arlington Korean: Young Sung Ryu (3) PE

†**Arlington Temple**: Alison Rosner Bass (7)

†**Calloway**: Delishia A. Davis (3) OE

†**Calvary**: Matthew G. Smith (6)

†**Central**: Sarah Harrison-McQueen (6)

Minister of Health and Visitation: John H. Conway (4) PD

Cherrydale: Elizabeth A. Foss (9)

†**Clarendon**: Tracy McNeil Wines (6)

Community: R. Carl Ripley Jr. (28)

First Vietnamese-American of Greater Wash.: Hieu D. Phan (7)

†**Mount Olivet**: Edward R. Walker (7)

Associate: Teer Hardy (3) PE

Associate: Jeffrey H. Goodman (8) PL

Walker Chapel: **M. Lynne Alley-Grant** (1)

FAIRFAX COUNTY

†**Andrew Chapel**: Matthew B. Sergent (2)

†**Bruen Chapel**: **Donald Ferris-McCann** (1) OE

†**Centreville**: William B. Montgomery II (4)

Associate: Ellen LaCroix Fillette (4)

Charles Wesley: Martha C. Ringenbach (2) PE

†**Chesterbrook**: Daniel D. Park (4)

Church of the Good Shepherd: Eric Chang-Gyoon Song (4)

Community of Faith: Robert E. Vaughn Jr. (22)

Culmore: Nelson J. Neil (4) PL

Associate: Elizabeth H. Neil (4) PE

Dranesville: William E. Heinzman (8)

First Korean: Sung Ho Chung (16) OE

Floris: Thomas M. Berlin (23)

Associate: Barbara Miner (14) FL

Associate: Timothy L. Ward (11)

Associate: Ashley B. Allen (7)

Associate: John J. McGlothlin (2) FL

Associate: Robert N. Riggles (2) FL

Friendship: M. Thomas Lott (4)

Associate: James E. Harrington (3) PL

Graham Road: Arum Kim (2) PE

Minister of Health and Visitation: John H. Conway (4) PD

Great Falls: Livingstone S. Dore (4)

Herndon: Jonathan J. Page (2)

Korean of Greater Washington: **Younghoon**

Kim (1) OE

Associate: Daniel J. Cho (2) OE

Associate: Heewon Cho (3) PE

Associate: U. Tarah Lee (2) FL

Associate: **Jong Nam Kim** (1) OE

Associate: **TBD**

Korean of Koinonia: Young Bong Kim (4)

Associate: In Yong Chung (3) PE

Associate: Sunghyun Ryu (2) OE

†**Oakton**: Dawn-Marie Singleton (8)

†**Pender**: Catharine T. Guest (2)

Saint Luke's: Aslam Barkat (6) OR

Sleepy Hollow: **Jennifer L. Ailstock** (1) FL

†**Smith Chapel**: Ho Kang (2) PL

Trinity: James C. Sprouse (23)

Associate: Eileen F. Gilmer (7) FL

Associate: Ki C. Lee (5)

†**United Christian Parish**: Co-Pastor Elizabeth Williams (3) MOD

Co-Pastor: **Marcus Leathers** (1) MOD

†**Vale**: Jeffrey J. Haugh (6)

†**Vine**: D. Todd Schlechty (11)

Associate: Melissa R. Dunlap (3)

Associate: **Donovan H. Archie** (1) FL

Generational Ministries Director: Eoi Kyung Hwang (3) FD

Wesley: Kyungsuk Cho (4)

FALLS CHURCH

Christ Crossman: Jung Pyo Hong (2)

Dulin: M. Davies Kirkland (20)

Galloway: James E. Page Jr. (6) FL

LOUDOUN COUNTY

Aldie-Arcola Cooperative Parish: Christopher E. Riedel (4)

Associate: Richard B. Dawson (4) RL

Aldie, Arcola

Ashburn Korean: Hyunsik Kang (7) FL

Crossroads: David A. Norman (31)

Associate: Flor Norris-Hoydilla (3) PL

Galilee: Jason B. Duley (6)

Associate: Geitra J. Mickelson (3) PL

†**Pleasant Valley**: Eugene Kim (3)

Sterling: Stephen T. Vineyard (5)

Associate: Marcela M. Jarman (6) PL

EXTENSION & OTHER APPOINTMENTS

Michelle Holmes Chaney (OE)—Bidistrict (Alexandria and Arlington) Coordinator for Church Revitalization and Leadership Development (Centreville)

Tammie E. Crews—Deputy Command Chaplain, US Army, Military District of Washington, DC (Vine)

Jonathan D. Fuller (PD)—Coordinator of Residence Life at Randolph-Macon College (Floris)

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

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

Katherine A. Malloy (PD)—Associate for Lifelong Learning, Director of Christian Formation Resources, Virginia Theological Seminary (Floris)

Elizabeth H. Neil (PL)—Counselor, Pastoral Counseling of Northern VA

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

Timothy L. Ward—Arlington District Coordinator for Church Development (Floris)

CHARLOTTESVILLE DISTRICT

District Superintendent: Danny J. Kesner (7)

ALBEMARLE COUNTY

†**Aldersgate**: **F.W. Giessler II** (1)

Associate: Julie A. Nitzsche (2) PL

Binghams: William R. Payne (17) PL

†**Crozet**: Sarah R. Evancho (4)

Ivy Creek: Edward F. Rigg (4)

Mount Moriah: Alan R. Follett (3) FL

†**Restoration**: Gregory E. Miller (3) PL

Southern Albemarle: Brian C. Lamb (2) FL

†**Mt. Zion**, †**Scottsville**

Monacan Trail Cooperative Parish: **Timothy L. Worley** (1) FL

Batesville, **Mt. Olivet**, **Trinity (N. Garden)**

West Albemarle: Benjamin F. Houchens (20) PL

Browns Cove, **Gentry**

AMHERST COUNTY

Bethany-Sardis: **Robert J. Parks Jr.** (1) RE

Bethany, **Sardis**

Mount Pleasant: **Adam J. White** (1)

Mt. Horeb, †**Mt. Pleasant**, †**Poplar**

Wesleyan: Royce E. "Chip" Jones Jr. (2) SY

CHARLOTTESVILLE

†**First**: Gary E. Heaton (2)

Associate: John Phillip Woodson (4) FL

Hinton Avenue: Robert D. Lewis (8)
†**Wesley Memorial**: T. Isaac Collins (2) OP
CULPEPER COUNTY
†Culpeper: **John T. Hemming** (1)
Associate: Lauren E. Wright (2) PE
East Culpeper: William Michael Evans (3) FL
Hopewell, Richardsville

Little Fork Circuit: Kang Uk Lee (6)
Jefferson, Oak Shade, Woodland

FLUVANNA COUNTY

†**Byrd Chapel**: Neil W. McLaughlin (6) FL
†**Cunningham**: **Amy E. Grant** (1)
Haden Chapel: George E. Gorman (7) AM
Palmyra: George E. Gorman (7) AM
Salem: **Rebecca L. Trovalli-Cook** (1) FL
South Fluvanna: **Bruce N. Lugin** (1) RE
New Bethel, Seays Chapel, Wesley Chapel

GREENE COUNTY

Greene: Samuel R. Plymale (3) FL
Mt. Vernon, South River

Standardsville: Charles S. Winner (8)
Westover: Gayle G. Johnson (2) SY

LOUISA COUNTY

†**Louisa**: David R. Palmer (8)
Macedonia: Stephen M. Hall (7) RL
Mineral-Mt. Pleasant: **Larry E. Davies** (1) RE
Mineral, Mt. Pleasant

West Louisa: Jeffrey B. Smith (5) RE
Ebenezer, Lasley, Mt. Horeb

†**Zion**: Deborah Ann Koontz (2)

MADISON COUNTY

Bethel-Mountain View: **Roger T. Powell** (1) PL
Bethel, Mountain View

Madison: Daniel H. Albrant (3) FL
Madison, †Rose Park

North Madison: David A. LeFon (7.5)

Etlan, Mt. Olivet, Oak Grove
Rapidan: Richard P. Grendahl (3) FL
Bethsaida, Mt. Zion, Walkers

NELSON COUNTY

Bethany (Norwood): Hillary Ann Evans (2) PL
†**Bethlehem**: Edwin M. Childress (8) FL

Nelson: **Elizabeth A. Buxton** (1) FL

New Faith: Gregory Payne (14) LM
Rock Spring: Pamela J. Baldwin (10) FL
Rodes: Lowell D. Petry (6) FL

ORANGE COUNTY

Gordonsville: Penny L. M. Pelter (2) FL
Barboursville, Gordonsville

Orange Circuit: Ralph G. Satter (3) RE
†**Bethlehem, Salem**

†**Trinity**: Joshua D. Munnikhuysen (2) FL

RAPPAHANNOCK COUNTY

Amissville: Maxine C. Crenshaw (9)
Rappahannock: Jessica Squires Colwell (2)
Flint Hill, †Sperryville, Willis Chapel

EXTENSION & OTHER APPOINTMENTS

James H. Chandler—360 Intentionality (Cunningham)

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

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

DANVILLE DISTRICT

District Superintendent: **Denise P Bates** (1)

DANVILLE

Danville Area Teaching Parish:

Grace Design: Lauren Swanson (3) PL

St. Luke's: Susan M. Hannah (5)

Wesley Chapel-Rock Springs: Ryan S. Ware (2) PL

†*Rock Springs, Wesley Chapel*

Fairview: Jennifer D. Coffey (4)

†**Mount Vernon**: **Jae Wuk Cho** (1) OF

Trinity: Bobbie J. Henley (3)

FLOYD COUNTY

Harris Chapel: Marcus C. Wood (13) PL

FRANKLIN COUNTY

Bethlehem: D. Chris Bennett (11) FL

Callaway Cooperative Parish: Amy E. Pannell (5)

†*Highland, New Hope*

East Franklin: Byung C. Sung (4) OE

Crafts, Penhook

Fork Mountain: G. David Williams (3) PL

Gogginsville: Kathryn F. Budzik (6) FL

Pleasant Hill: James R. Rodden (4)

†*Red Valley*: Jaeyong Song (3)

†*Redwood*: Co-Pastor: **Clayton Payne** (1)

Co-Pastor: **Sarah Payne** (1) PE

Rocky Mount: William J. Waller (4)

Dir. of Music Ministries/Organist: Lynn Meeks (24) DM

St. James (Ferrum): Mary S. White (11) RE

Upper Franklin Cooperative Parish: Anthony C. Budzik (3) FL

Flint Hill, †Oyler's Chapel, Rehoboth

Washington Cooperative Parish: Kelvin A.

Edwards Sr. (3) FL

Associate: Jeffery T. White (3) PL

Burnt Chimney, Epworth, †Halesford

West Franklin: **Jimmy D Calhoun** (1) OF

Bethany, Maple Grove

HENRY COUNTY

Axton: Amanda B. Harris (3) FL

Beckham, Carroll Memorial, Irisburg

Chatham Heights: **Timothy W. Gearheart** (1) FL

Fieldale-Mount Bethel Cooperative Parish:

Andy Brock (1)

Fieldale, Mount Bethel

Pleasant Grove: Gi-il "Gil" Lee (4) PE

Smith Memorial: Kameron M. Wilds (5)

Stanleytown: David A. Westmoreland (6) FL

Two County Cooperative Parish: **Laurice F.**

Jones-Wilks (1) FL

Associate: Clyde DeLoach (2) RE

Anderson Chapel, Bethel, Cascade, Granbery, Ridgeway

MARTINSVILLE

First: Keith E. Ritchie (8)

Wesley Memorial: Timothy W. Gearheart (5) FL

PATRICK COUNTY

Meadow: **John B. Franklin** (1) FL

Mountain View: Terry F. Martin (15) PL

North Patrick: Co-Pastor: Mary Sue Terry (2) PL

Co-Pastor: David Gaylor Jr. (2) PL

Ross Harbour, †Woolwine

Patrick: **Ronald D Gibson** (1) SY

Concord, Nettle Ridge, New Hope

Patrick Ecumenical: **Tammy Franklin** (1) FL

Creasey's Chapel, †Fellowship

Providence: Keith L. Vernon (6) FL

Salem: John B. Franklin (8) FL

Stuart: Thomas B. Shepherd (13)

PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY

Brosville: Intek Oh (4) OE

Calvary-Kerns Memorial: **TBD**

Calvary, Kerns Memorial

Concord-Mt. Pleasant Cooperative Parish:

Tobias B. Lutz (5) FL

Concord, †Mount Pleasant

Floral Hills-Mount Olivet Cooperative Parish:

Timothy J. Barth (1) PE

†*Floral Hills, Mount Olivet*

Harmony-Swansonville Cooperative Parish:

John Bright (1)

Harmony, Swansonville

Hopewell: Ronnie Tote (2) SP

Oakland: Jon M. Woodburn (7) FL

Watson Mem. (Chatham): Blair O'Quinn (2) FL

Whitmell-St. John's Cooperative Parish:

Wayne C. Moore (5)

St. John's, Whitmell

EXTENSION & OTHER APPOINTMENTS

Barry Scott Foster—Pastor, Moravian Church in America, Southern Province (TBD)

Ralph K. Hawkins—Professor and Chair, Dept of Religion, Averett University

Jan Nicholson-Angle (AF)—Dean of the Chapel, Ferrum

DIACONAL, DEACONESS & HOME MISSIONER

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

EASTERN SHORE DISTRICT

District Superintendent: Alexander B. Joyner (6)

ACCOMACK COUNTY

Accomack Cooperative Parish: **Cathy Lean Fielding** (1) OF

Drummondtown, Metropolitan

Cashville Cluster: Roland D. Major (3) PL
Andrew Chapel, **Leatherbury**, **River-view**

Adams-Bloxom Mission Cooperative Parish:

Gregory L. Duncan (5) PL

†**Adams**, Bloxom Mission

Belle Haven-Bethel: Paul Donghwan Oh (6)

Belle Haven, **Bethel**

Calvary: Barbara Justis (5) LM

Christ (Chincoteague): Joseph D. Carson (3)

Coastal Charge: Hodae Kim (2) FL

Atlantic, **Assawoman**, **Downings**

Craddockville: Robert I. Kelly (8) FL

Grace (Parksley): C. Alan Layman (3)

Greenbackville: Barbara L. Parker (2) PL

Signpost, **Union**

Guilford: Hyeon Ho Lee (5)

†**Guilford**, **St. Thomas**

Hallwood: James R. Maddox (8) RE

Market Street: J. Barton Weakley (6)

†**Melfa**: **Steven B. Doan** (1) ROF

New Beginnings: Fred O. Okello (3) OF

New Hope: **Kendra S. Powell** (1) LM

Evergreen, **Harborton**, **Mears**

Memorial

Ocean View: Sallye H. Bowen (15) RE

Onley: **James D. Canody** (1)

Pittsville-Pocomoke-Watts: W. Maury
Enright (6) RL

Pittsville, **Pocomoke**, **Watts**

Saint John's (Atlantic): Gary C. Miller (33) AM

Sanford-Saxis: William C. Jefferson (9) PL

Sanford, **Saxis**

Seaside: Curtis D. Lucy (4) FL

Painter-Garrisons, **Smiths Chapel**, **Oak Grove**

Snead Memorial (Wachapreague): James
S. Nock (14) PL

Swain Mem. (Tangier): Nona Rust Floyd
Allen (2) FL

Woodberry: E. Wayne Johnson (2) RL

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY

Cape Charles-Capeville: Linda H. Lowe (3)

Capeville, **Trinity**

Cheriton Cooperative Parish: **Virginia Greer** (1) FL
Cheriton, **Travis Chapel**

†**Epworth (Exmore)**: Mikang Kim (7)

†**Franktown**: **Rachel Gene May** (1)

Johnsons: Clarence W. Bowen Jr. (21) RE

†**New Mission**: Harold E. White (15) FL

EXTENSION & OTHER APPOINTMENTS

Verónica Barrell—Executive Director,
Una Familia (Market Street)

Brenda Lee Laws (FD)—Case Manager,
Intellectual Disabilities Services,
ESCSB (New Beginnings)

Robert B. Lloyd Jr.—On Loan: **Aiea UMC**,
Cal-Pac Conference

ELIZABETH RIVER DISTRICT

District Superintendent: M. Wayne Snead (6)

CHESAPEAKE

†**Covenant**: **Hyun “Tommy” Suh** (1) FL

†**Deep Creek**: Michael W. Plasters (7)

Good Hope: Mark E. Christian (23)

Great Bridge: Timothy P. Craig (7)

Associate: **Daniel Guenther** (1) FL

†**Hickory**: **Sarah D. Locke** (1)

Indiana: Waverly “Smitty” C. Smith III (2) RL

Jolliff: Brandon T. Nichols (2)

Assistant to Pastor: James W. Jones (6) LM

Messiah: Robert G. Robinson (4)

Mount Pleasant: Robert M. Pihlcrantz (14) FL

†**New Creation**: C. Randolph Duncan (5)

Associate: **Spencer T. Black** (1) FL

Oak Grove: H. Frank Holley (8)

Associate: Sandra L. Butts (3) PL

Oaklette: Timothy D. Hazlett (9)

Portlock: Andrew H. Schwartz (3) FL

†**Resurrection**: Jesus N. De Los Santos (4) OE

Saint Paul's: **Thomas L. Mercer Sr.** (1) RE

CURRITUCK COUNTY, NC

Knotts Island: Diana L. Johnson (8) PL

NORFOLK

Aldersgate: Lee J. Crosby (4) FL

Christ: Derek P. Koolman (8)

Epworth: **Sandra Benton Plasters** (1)

†**First**: Megan J. Saucier (2)

Ghent: Melody P. Tanner (5)

Larchmont: Scott M. Rimer (13)

Associate: Randall T. Timmerman (4) PE

†**Miles Memorial**: David A. Goodpasture (4)

Norfolk: Sherry L. Daniels (14)

Associate: Carolyn J. Graves (9) PL

Norview: Paul L. Phillips (2) RE

†**The Garden**: Christa M. Springstead (2)

Wesley Grace: J. Robert Berghius (2)

PORTSMOUTH

Centenary: John W. Cole II (6)

Community-St. Mark: R. Kirk Culpepper (18) FL

Community, **Saint Mark**

Crossroads: **Camille Pentsil** (1) OE

Monumental: H. Celeste Heath (2)

Saint Andrew's: James Bowers (2) PE

SUFFOLK

Beech Grove: Keith D. Moore (10)

†**Ebenezer**: Won Gyu Lee (4)

†**Virginia Korean**: **Seong Uk Hong** (1) FL

English Pastor: Bonnie J. Whitehurst (6) SY

Wesley Chapel: Devon M.K. Blair (2) FL

VIRGINIA BEACH

Baylake: Clark D. Cundiff (5)

Bethel: Barbara J. St. Jean (6) PL

Charity: David Ryu (4) FL

†**Community**: Matthew Meisenhelter (3)

Associate: Brian T. Boettcher (5) FL

†**Courthouse Community**: Elizabeth S.
Anderson (4)

†**Foundry**: **Matthew G. Potter** (1) PE

†**Francis Asbury**: Edward S. Martin Jr. (11)

†**Haygood**: Tammy L. Estep (6)

Heritage: Michelle D. Louk (4)

†**Light of Hope**: David L. Cunningham (2)

Lynnhaven: Brandon P. Robbins (2)

Memorial: **David J. Jimenez-Cardenas** (1) FL

Nimmo: **Amanda S. Webber** (1)

Saint Andrew's: Jeffrey A. Witt (4)

Salem: Nancy M. Vaughan (2) FL

Sandbridge Community Chapel: Mary

Sullivan-Trent (3) PE

†**Tabernacle**: Jack E. Davis (24)

Thalia: E. Joseph T. Varner (4)

†**The Gathering at Scott Memorial**: **Stephanie**

Kimec Parker (1)

Virginia Beach: Mark A. Miller (3)

EXTENSION & OTHER APPOINTMENTS

Rebecca L. Copeland (PD)—Assistant Profes-
sor of Theology at Boston University

School of Theology (Virginia Beach)

Frank P. Decker—Vice President, TMS Global
(GA) (Community, Portsmouth)

James R. Driscoll—Operations and Mobiliza-
tion Chaplain, Army Chief of Chaplains

Office (Baylake)

Rachel Gilmore—Discipleship Ministries, Path
One (The Gathering at Scott Memorial)

Jessica L. Hargrove (FD)—Alicia's Place

Anne West Kesner (FD)—Chaplain, Children's
Hospital of the King's Daughter

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

Kwon Hong “Moses” Min—Student, Wesley
Theological Seminary (Va. Korean)

Patricia S. Money—On Loan: Jason Lee
Memorial UMC, Blackfoot, Idaho, in the
Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference (Hay-
good)

Brent M. Seusy—Peninsula Pastoral Coun-
seling Center & Churchland Psychiatric
Associates (New Creation)

Jason C. Stanley (FD)—District Church Revital-
ization Coordinator, Elizabeth River District
(First, Norfolk)

Randall Timmerman—Ignite Wesley Founda-
tion at ODU

Gregory B. West—Chaplain, Virginia Wes-
leyan University (The Gathering at Scott
Memorial)

DIACONAL, DEACONESS & HOME MISSIONER

Laarni S. Bibay (DC)—Children Health Advo-
cate/Medical Mission Project Coord., Tidewa-
ter Pediatrics, Portsmouth (Resurrection)

Anselma “Emma” Samson (DC)—Coordinator
for Leadership Development for Church
and Community, Resurrection UMC (Resur-
rection)

FARMVILLE DISTRICT

District Superintendent: **Denise P. Bates** (1) PL

AMELIA COUNTY

Amelia:

Co-Pastor: Calvin "Callie" Walker (4) PL
Co-Pastor: Alexis S. Fathbruckner (1.5) RE
Trinity-Latino: Ivelisse M. Torres (2) PL
†**Tabernacle**, †**Trinity**

Journey: Michael T. Davis (9) RA

North Amelia: Linda D. Hudgins (2) FL

Epworth, **Jetersville**, **Salem**

APPOMATTOX COUNTY

†**Memorial:** Russell M. Cheatham (10)

New Pamplin: **John M. Kelley** (1) FL

Evergreen, **Piney Ridge**

Pamplin-Pamplin City: **Amy R. White** (1) SY

BRUNSWICK COUNTY

Brodnax: Co-Pastor, Paul A. Beighley (8) RE

Co-Pastor: Pamela G. Pickard (6) PL

†**Bethany**, **Brodnax**

Lawrenceville: **Cecelia R. Brooks** (1) OE

North Brunswick: Benjamin H. Taylor III (7.5) PL

Antioch, **Lebanon**

Prospect: Kenneth L. Thrasher (13) FL

South Brunswick: Randall S. Williams (5) FL

†**Olive Branch**, **Rock**

West Brunswick: Hyo Gyum "James" Kim (3) OE

†**Bethel**, **Macedonia**

BUCKINGHAM COUNTY

Buckingham: **Evelyn L. Penn** (1) FL

Browns Chapel, **Hanes Chapel**, **Rocky Mt.**

Dillwyn: Billy E. Swan (13) FL

Bethel, **Salem**, **White Hall**

James River: Paul D. Larrimore (2) OF

Arvonias, **Centenary**, **Glenmore**

West Buckingham: George K. Schaefer (4) PL

Mt. Tabor, **Trinity**, **Woodland**

CHARLOTTE COUNTY

Centenary-Madisonville: **Ohhwan**

"Freedman" Kim (1) FL

Charlotte: Christine L. Holly (2) FL

Charlotte C.H., **Hebron**, **Lebanon**, **Mt. Calvary**

Keysville: Ohhwan "Freedman" Kim (3) FL

Mt. Carmel-Phenix: Michael W. Teixeira (17) FL

Mt. Carmel, **Phenix**

New Hope-Southall Memorial: Song "Philip"

Hong (3) OE

New Hope, **Southall Memorial**

CUMBERLAND COUNTY

Antioch: **Justin A. Hicks** (1) PE

Cumberland: Jerry E. Drinkard Jr. (5) PL

Hobsons Chapel, **Payne Memorial**

Oakwood: James O. Radford (2) RE

Thomas Chapel: Richard L. Bucher (14) RL

HALIFAX COUNTY

Cherry Hill: Patricia L. Neilsen (7) RL

East Halifax: Kerry L. Halbert (6) OF

Clover, **Scottsburg**

Glenwood: Betty D. Marshall (3) RL

Glenwood, †**Olive Branch**

Halifax-Union Cooperative Parish: Kenneth T.

Decker Jr. (3) FL

Halifax, †**Union**

Main Street: S. Wayne Rickman (4)

McCanless Memorial: Joe D. Trickey Jr. (7) PL

McKendree-Asbury: **Kenneth E. Hanson Jr.** (1)

RL

Asbury, **McKendree**

Mount Cana: A. Randolph Holmes (15) FL

Mount Laurel: Don R. Pizzeck (18)

†**Shady Grove:** Shayne V. Estes (5)

South Halifax: **Virginia R. Jones** (1) SY

Cedar Grove, **Harmony**

LUNENBURG COUNTY

Kenbridge: **Marsha L. Davis** (1) FL

Lunenburg: **Michael G. Day** (1) RL

†**Antioch**, **Williams**

Plantersville: Ralph "Red" L. Moore (16) LM

Victoria: J. Randall Kiel (2) FL

MECKLENBURG COUNTY

Boydton: Raleigh M. Felton III (2) PL

†**Centenary (Chase City):** **Michael C. West** (1) SY

Easters: Jeffery P. Clemens (3) RL

†*Jamieson Memorial:* **Samuel S. Chung** (1) OE

LaCrosse: Jerry B. Malone (4) PL

Lakeland: **William A. Greer** (1) FL

Kingswood, **Rehoboth**

North Mecklenburg: Michael D. Blythe (3) OF

Salem, **Shiloh**

Providence-Trinity: Jody R. Jessup (5) OR

Providence, **Trinity (South Hill)**

Rehoboth: **Raleigh M. Felton III** (1) PL

†**Sardis:** **TBS**

South Hill: Brian D. Siegle (5)

Union Chapel: John E. Conner (7) RE

West Mecklenburg: James H. Fry III (2) PL

Ephesus, **Fields**, **Friendship**

Zion: Robert I. Ledbetter (4) LM

NOTTOWAY COUNTY

Burkeville: Lisa S. Meyers (6) FL

Bethel, †**Wards Chapel**

Crenshaw: Nadeem A. Khokhar (2) FL

†**Crews:** Laney S. Spigener Jr. (2)

East Nottoway: Randy L. Baisey (2) FL

Butterwood, **Grace**, **Rocky Hill**

Nottoway: Dan E. Walker (3) RL

Bethel, **St. John's**

Nottoway-Lunenburg: Michael A. Johnson (7) FL

Laurel Hill, **St. Mark's**, **Thriffts Chapel**

PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY

Farmville Area Teaching Parish:

†**Farmville:** Michael P. Kendall (7)

Min. of Youth: Lyndsie N.K. Blakely (8) FD

Meherrin: Kyla M. Silver (4) SY

Prince Edward: **Patricia C. Kelley** (1) FL

Beulah, **Mt. Harmony**, **Mt. Pleasant**

Prospect: Michael E. Harris (3) SY

Olive Branch, **Prospect**, **Smyrna**

EXTENSION & OTHER APPOINTMENTS

Charles F. Baber Jr. (FD)—On Loan: Youth Minister, University UMC, North Carolina Conference (Oakwood)

Shayne V. Estes—Assistant to the District Superintendent (Shady Grove)

Justin A. Hicks (PE)—Campus Minister/Director, Wesley Foundation, Longwood and Hampden-Sydney (Farmville)

Tasi B. Perkins—Student, Ph.D., Georgetown Univ., DC

T. McKennon Shea Jr.—Assistant VP of Development, High Point Univ. (Farmville)

HARRISONBURG DISTRICT

District Superintendent: Victor R. Gomez (2)

AUGUSTA COUNTY

Annex-Crimora: Gayle Thornberry (5)

Annex, †**Crimora**

†**Bethany:** **Susan M Reaves** (1)

Harrison-Mt. Bethel: I. Cameron Carte (5) PL

Harrison, **Mt. Bethel**

Mount Pisgah: John Crawford III (15.5) RE

Congregational Care & Visitation: P. Mardy Marston (9) LM

Mount Zion (Mt. Solon): A. Al Tuten (4) PL

†**New Hope:** **Michael B. Reaves** (1)

Parnassus: Victoria L. Barb (8) FL

Sangersville: Gary M. Monroe (9) PL

Verona: Robert J. Weeks (9)

Aisle 7 Fellowship: Shawna N. Hiner (2) FL

Weyers Cave: Margaret M. Packard (10) FL

HARRISONBURG

†**Asbury:** Stephen D. Hay (7)

Associate: Robert E. Talbott (11) FL

John Wesley: Costella Forney (2) PL

†**Otterbein:** Adam L. Blagg (6)

Associate: Faith E. Fowler (2) PL

RISE: Amanda Miller Garber (10)

PAGE COUNTY

Luray: Erich D. Bennett (9)

Page: Laura Whittle Stratton (7)

Shenandoah: Jonathan J. Lamb (3) PE

Christ, **Fields**

Shenandoah Circuit: Ellen H. Martin (11) PL

Grove Hill, **Oak Grove**

†**Stanley:** Anne M. Sisson (3) FL

ROCKINGHAM COUNTY

Blue Ridge: Richard R. Robertson (3) FL

Assistant: Michael W. Miller (3) SY

Furnace, †**Hensley**, **Jolletts**, †**Mt. Pleasant**

†**Bridgewater:** Stephen R. Creech (4)

Associate: James A. Harris (10) RE

Clover Hill: Sarah C. Bailey (2) FL

†**Dayton:** **Jennifer L. Day** (1)

†**Elkton:** Debra A. Powell (3)

†**Evangelical:** **Kyle Bomar** (1) OP

Fellowship-Linville-Edom: **Patricia M.**

Meadows (1) RE

†**Edom**, †**Fellowship**, †**Linville**

First (Timberville): Daniel K Purdom Jr. (1) FL
Fulks Run: Darin M. Buse (4) FL
Caplingers, Mt. Carmel, Riverside
Grottoes: Brian E. Posey (6)
Keezletown: T. Joel Robinette (8)
Massanutten: **B. Kaminer (Kam) Stabler** (1) SY
 East Point, *Mt. Zion, St. Peter's, Trinity*
 †*McGaheysville:* **Kotosha Griffin** (1)
 Lay Minister: Joseph H. Amend III (2) LM
Mount Clinton: Kevin C. Poeckert (3) FL
Mount Crawford: **Bertrand Griffin II** (1) OE
Mt. Crawford, †*Mt. Sidney*
Mount Horeb: Isaac E. Harper (15) PL
Mount Tabor: Kevin D. McMullen (2) FL
Mountain Valley-Cedar Grove: **Eduardo Carrillo** (1) FL
 †*Cedar Grove, Mountain Valley*
 Port Republic: James W. Joyner (6)
St. James (Pleasant Vly): Carrie L. Talbott (7) FL
 †*St. Paul:* Sue H. MacTavish (3) RL
Singers Glen: Debra C. Cline (3)
 Cherry Grove, *Donovan Memorial*
 †*Sunset Dr. (Broadway):* E. Thomas Murphy Jr. (4) RE
 †*Vision of Hope:* David M. Burch (14)

SHEANDOAH COUNTY

Christian Newcomer: Luther Edwin "Nip" Crites Jr. (11) OE
Christian Newcomer, Mt. Hebron
Columbia Furnace-Union Forge: W. Glen Early (5) AM
 †*Columbia Furnace,* †*Union Forge*
Edinburg: Eugenie Finn-McKenzie (3)
St. John's, Wesley Chapel
Fort Valley: John W. Senters (4) PL
Oak Level, White Chapel
Manor Memorial (New Market): Bass M. Mitchell (3)
Mount Jackson: Darwin G. Edwards (4) PE
Mt. Jackson, Quicksburg
Mt. Olive-Shiloh: **David Nesselrodt** (1) RE
 Mt. Olive, *Shiloh*
Mount Pleasant: F. Darlene Wilkins (5) PE
 Assistant: Lisa Coffelt (5) LM
Hawkinstown, Mt. Clifton, Mt. Hermon, Otterbein Chapel
Shenandoah Valley: W. Todd Gess (1.5) PL
 Mt. Zion (Strasburg), *Mt. Zion (Woodstock)*
 †*Strasburg:* John B. Haynes Jr. (6)
 †*Toms Brook:* Stanley A. Thompson (5)
Woodstock: Robert N. Hoskins Jr. (7)
EXTENSION & OTHER APPOINTMENTS
 Thomas W. Crosby—Executive Director, Camp Overlook (Sunset Drive)
 Julie Ann Haushalter—Director, Lavender Center for Education and Retreats (Vision of Hope)
 Shin Woo Hong—On Loan, Pastor, Bupyeong Korean Methodist Church (New Hope)

Robert O. Jones Jr.—On Loan: Fairbanks UMC, Alaska Missionary Conference
 D. Brent Levy—On Loan: Christ UMC (Chapel Hill), North Carolina Conference
 Gordon K. Meriwether III (RL)—District Director of Congregational Vitality

JAMES RIVER DISTRICT

District Superintendent: Sylvia S. Meadows (2)

BRUNSWICK COUNTY

Brunswick: Ruth A. Collins-Dinger (8) RL
Edgerton, Pelhams, Pleasant Grove
Philadelphia: Brian Mallary (4) FL
Ebenezer, Matthews Chapel, Philadelphia

CHESTERFIELD COUNTY

†*Bermuda Hundred:* Michael Dettmer (4)
Bethia: James H. Carey Jr. (22)
Centenary: Joseph E. Hammond Jr. (2) RA
Chester: Clara P. Gestwick (2)
 Associate: Patrick S. Pillow (5) FL
 †*Ettrick:* Bobby H. Lamb (10) RA
 †*Hopewell:* Mark D. Richardson (6)
 †*Ivey Memorial:* Anita E. Mays (3)
Matoaca: Richard S. Gordon (9)
 †*Trinity:* Teresa M. Keezel (9)

Associate: **Herbert Brynildsen** (1) FD
 †*Wesley Chapel:* Michelle E. Lindsey (10)

Wood's: Andrew Ware (3)

COLONIAL HEIGHTS

Highland: Joseph T. Carson III (3)
 Associate: Maggie Hasselbach (3) FL
Wesley: **Brian J. Simmons** (1)

Associate: **Joellen M. Simmons** (1) PE

DINWIDDIE COUNTY

Asbury: S. Karen Workman (13) FL
Carson: Mary K. Dadisman (2)
Crawford: Craig A. Buxton (2) PL
Kenwood: Melody A. Duncan (2) FL
Lebanon: Steven E. McMillion (5)
Ocran: **Timothy A. Beck** (1)
Rocky Run: Bryan L. Carper (4.5) PL
South Dinwiddie Hope: S. Ray Watson (5) PL
Mansons, Mount Olivet
Twin Grove: Michael Tolbert (3) FL
 †*Oak Grove,* †*Smiths Grove*
West Dinwiddie: Pennie M. Foy (2) PL
Corinth, Trinity, White Oak

EMPORIA

†*Main Street:* Thomas E. Durrance (4)
Monumental: Rachel Plemmons (4) PE

GREENSVILLE COUNTY

Centenary (Jarratt): Richard C. Franklin Jr. (5) PL
Greensville: **R. Shaun Smith** (1) FL
Independence, Mt. Pleasant

HOPEWELL

First: J. Christopher Andress (6)
 †*Wesley:* Jacob H. Sahms (4)

PETERSBURG

Saint Mark's: **Joellen M. Simmons** (1) PE
 †*Trinity:* Co-pastor: **Linwood E. Daniel** (1) RE
 Co-pastor: **David Bailey** (1) SY
Washington Street: Thomas F. Lester (4) PL
PRINCE GEORGE COUNTY
Prince George Cooperative Parish: Michael Baugham (5) FL
 Associate: Deborah F. Baugham (3) PL
Blandford, †*Gary's, Salem*
Prince George: Gilbert M. Elder (7) FL
Newville, Salem
 †*Sycamore:* DeWayne A. Duncan (7)
Trinity (Disputanta): **Theresa M. Swindell** (1) FL
SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY
Boykins: Kyle Bass (3) SY
Boykins, Branchville, Persons
Capron: Frederick C. Brockhausen III (2) FL
 Associate: David Everett (5) SY
Capron, Drewryville, Joyner, Vincents Grv
Courtland: William L. McClung Jr. (2)
Grace Memorial: William H. Sloan (3) PE
 †*High Street:* Nathan A. Decker (5)
Newsoms: Penny G. Rasnake (2) FL
 †*Barnes,* †*Newsoms*

SUFFOLK

Magnolia: **Sheena A. Laine** (1) FL
 †*Main Street:* Richard L. Meiser Jr. (2)
Oxford: Rita Kanten (3) RL
Providence: Garland K. Hines (10) RE
Somerton: John E. Meservey (2) RL
Whaleyville: John E. Meservey (7) RL
SUSSEX COUNTY
Concord: **Barbara D. Lewis** (1) FL
 †*Fort Grove:* R. Shaun Smith (3) FL
Lebanon: Donna B. Smith (5) AM
Rocky Hock-Ivor: Clifton D. Fritzinger (10) PL
Ivor, †*Rocky Hock*
Sharon: Robert Moseley Jr. (1.5) SY
Wakefield: Glenn Riggs (4) FL
Waverly-Carsley Cooperative Parish: **Steven C. Snodgrass** (1) FL
 Carsley, †*Waverly*

SURRY COUNTY

Surry: **Raymond G. Rowland** (1) RE
 Oak Grove, Surry
EXTENSION & OTHER APPOINTMENTS
 Andrew H. Book—James River District Director of Congregational Excellence
 Jasmyne Graham (FL)—Director, Wesley Foundation, Virginia State University (Ettrick)
 J. Stanley Hargraves—Registrar, Union Presbyterian Seminary (Chester)
 Anthony Hunley (AF)—Chaplain, U. S. Army, Fort Lee, Virginia (Indiana Conference)
 Robin C. Moore (FL)—Director of the Spiritual Care Program, Jackson-Feild Homes (Concord)

Donna B. Smith (AM)—Chaplain, Greensville Correctional Center (Lebanon, Sussex)
 R. Shaun Smith (FL)—James River District Construction Manager (Lebanon, Sussex)
 John D. White (FD)—Autism Teacher, Chesterfield County Schools (Chester)

LYNCHBURG DISTRICT

District Superintendent: Scott E. Davis (4)

AMHERST COUNTY

†Amelon: Mark A. Tinsley (2) OF

†Emmanuel: Nancy Coleman Johnson (7) FL
Mt. Tabor-Smyrna: Joyce G. Austin (12) LM

APPOMATTOX COUNTY

Appomattox Circuit: John E. Flood (2) FL

Mt. Comfort, Trinity

Bethel: **TBS**

BEDFORD

Main Street: Richard H. Ecklund (6)

Associate: William P. Greer (4) RL

BEDFORD COUNTY

Bellevue: **Riley R. Smith Jr.** (1) (RE)

†Bethany, Oakland

Bethesda-Patmos Cooperative Parish: **Claire Miller** (1) FL

†Bethesda, Patmos

Bethlehem (Moneta): David W. Lord (13)

Assistant to Pastor: Susan M. Hughes (3) FD

Center Point-Salem: William R. Clark (8) PL

Center Point, Salem

Cove: Barbara Gail Mabe (1.5) SY

Ebenezer-Otterville: Mark A. Wilkerson (15) LM

Ebenezer, Otterville

Emmaus-Leesville: Edward F. Sheehan (7) FL

Emmaus, Leesville

Epworth (Thaxton): June C. Carpenter (4)

Forest-Forest Road Cooperative Parish: Sue W. Keen (2) FL

Forest, Forest Road

Kelly Circuit: Mark W. Tucker (4) PL

Associate: **Elaine Brown** (1) SY

Mt. Zion, New Hope

Lebanon: **TBS**

†Mountain View: Steven L. Propst (11)

Otter: Willie Butler (2) RE

Ephesus, Nicopolis

Peaksview: Russel K. Alden (4) PL

Hickory Grove, Wilsons

Shiloh-Mt. Olivet Cooperative Parish: Charles E. Johnson Jr. (8) PL

Mt. Olivet, Shiloh

†Union: Denny Van Aalsburg (3) SY

CAMPBELL COUNTY

Bethany: Jennifer V. Moore (5) FL

Brookneal: Willie B. Guill (3) RE

Calvary: Michael W. Miller (11) PL

Concord Cooperative Parish: **Rick Duncan** (1) (OR)

Bethlehem, Early's Chapel

Huddleston-Mt. Horeb: Jane L. Whitehead (3) PL

Huddleston, Mt. Horeb

Indian Hill: James D. Stevens (6) ROF

Lane Memorial: Benjamin E. Horrocks (4)

Mt. Zion: Steve Kidd (2) SY

Mead Memorial: Keon Huh (3)

Mount Hermon: Dawn Compton (5) FL

New Hope-Sharon: Richard A. Daily (5) RE

†New Hope, Sharon

Providence-Whites: George Jack Davis (6) FL
 Providence, Whites

Rustburg: **L. Raymond McGarr** (1)

Salem: Charles E. Schooler (22) FL

†Timberlake: Bradley A. McMullen (4)

Associate: Matthew B. Laskey (2) FL

Wesleybury: William A. Smith (8) SY

West Campbell: Marcia K. Huntsman (5)

Evington, †Lamb's

LYNCHBURG

†Boonsboro: **Bart A. Fletcher** (1)

Centenary: **Michelle Mee-Hye Kim** (1)

Chestnut Hill: Elizabeth W. Ecklund (4)

Christ's Community Fellowship-Monroe:

Yosep Nam (3) FL

†Christ's Community Fellowship, Monroe

Court Street-Marsh Memorial: William Turner Burleigh (12) FL

Court Street, †Marsh Memorial

Fairview-New Bethel: Phillip C. Showers (13) FL

Fairview, †New Bethel

Fort Hill: **Marc D. Brown** (1) RE

Heritage: **Amy Beth Coleman** (1)

Associate: Robert F. Michalides (3) FL

Jackson Street: Reason A. Chandler (7) FL

Peakland: John N. Vest (7)

Tyreeanna: James W. Martin (20) SY

PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY

Anderson Memorial (Gretna): **R. Douglas**

Gunsalus (1) (RE)

Fowler Memorial: Debra A. Straughter (2) RL

Bethany-Ebenezer, Mt. Airy

Hurt: **James F. Brown** (1) (RL)

Mount Airy: Kyle D. Uselton (5) SY

Providence, Republican Grove, St. Andrew

New Bethel-Motley: M. Stephen Morris (4) FL

Motley, New Bethel

Payneton-Siloam: **Daniel R. Dibble** (1) (PL)

Payneton, Siloam

Smith Mountain:

Mt. Zion: Rodney Newbill (4) SY

New Ridgeway: Ricky R. Scott (4) SY

Zion: David P. Edinger (5) FL

EXTENSION & OTHER APPOINTMENTS

Ashley M. Abarca-Mitchell—On-loan, Pastor,
 Wolf Lake UMC, Indiana Conf

Dori Baker—Senior Fellow for Research and
 Learning at the Forum for Theological
 Exploration (Peakland)

Benjamin D. Burks—Executive Director, Bran-
 don Oaks (Bethlehem) (note comma)

Susan M. Hughes (FD)—Program Director,
 New Tomorrows, Lake Christian Ministries
 Jennifer Vestal Moore (FL)—Chaplain, Ran-
 dolph College

Leigh Anne Taylor (FD)—Revitalization Coor-
 dinator, Lynchburg District

RAPPAHANNOCK RIVER DISTRICT

District Superintendent: **Charles F. Bates** (1)

CAROLINE COUNTY

Bethel: Mark Roscoe (2) PL

†Bowling Green: Carol Seeley (3) OF

Caroline: Mark A. Lawrence (7) PL

Mt. Vernon, St. Paul's

†Hopewell: Lou Woolner (12) PL

†Rehoboth: Christopher Watson (5) PE

Shiloh: Jarvis Bailey (4) PL

Wrights Chapel: Charles Tillapaugh (28)

ESSEX COUNTY

Essex-King & Queen: George M. Warner Sr. (5)

Lebanon, Providence, Trinity

Tappahannock Memorial: Loretta A.

Benninghove (3)

FAUQUIER COUNTY

Cedar Run: J. Stephen Little Jr. (9) FL

Trinity, Wesleyan

Grace (Hartwood): **Larry Jent** (1)

Liberty: Robert A. Almy (2)

Midland: Barbara H. Jamieson (7) RL

Morrisville: Elizabeth S. Glass (6)

†Mount Horeb: Gayle D. Porias (10)

†Remington: **Donald E. Williams** (1) FL

FREDERICKSBURG

†Fredericksburg: Gina Anderson-Cloud (2)

Associate: Joshua M. Hagstrom (2) FL

Associate Pastor for Congregational Care:
 James A. Ginther (.6) PE

†Hillcrest: Justin L. Williams (10) FL

KING AND QUEEN COUNTY

Mizpah: Ellis H. Gayle (2) PL

Shepherds: Ellis H. Gayle (3) PL

KING GEORGE COUNTY

Dahlgren: Thomas G. Lee Sr. (5)

Fletchers Chapel: **Barry L. Burkholder** (1)

Trinity: **Luis E. Alderman** (1)

KING WILLIAM COUNTY

Epworth: Jonathan B. Baker (8) PL

McKendree: Betty Jo Sims (3) RL

LANCASTER COUNTY

Asbury: Jack T. Bailey (6) PL

Bethel-Emmanuel: Tae Won Kang (4)

†Bethel, Emmanuel

†Irvington: Jesse C. Blythe (2) PL

Kilmarnock: Penny P. Cory (7)

†White Stone: L. Bryan McClain (12)

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY

†Bethany (Reedville): Derek E. Tomek (3) FL

Bluff Point: Jack T. Bailey (6) PL
†**Galilee:** Carl L. Perez (5)
Heathsville: Rebecca L. Minor (9)
Henderson: Han Yi (2) FL
Melrose: Kathy B. Gochenour (4)
Mila-Wicomico: Donna M. Blythe (12) PL
Mila, Wicomico

Northumberland: John C. Wright (3) FL
Afton, Fairfield

Rehoboth: Donna M. Blythe (8) PL

RICHMOND COUNTY

Richmond: **MiRhang Baek** (1) FL

Calvary, Hopewell, Oakland

Warsaw: Daniel Burch (3) FL

SPOTSYLVANIA COUNTY

Eastland: Craig A. Muffley (9)

†**Peace:** Scott D. Hopkins (3)

Shady Grove-Olivet: Hae Rin Lawson (8)

Olivet, Shady Grove

Tabernacle: James G. O'Quinn (2)

Wilderness Community: Karma Denise
Walton (3) OE

Zion: Barry R. Blakley (2) PL

STAFFORD COUNTY

†**Andrew Chapel:** Thomas L. Swingle (5) PE

Antioch: Wilhelmina "Mina" Sumpter (2) RE

†**Ebenezer:** Robert D. Lough (3)

Associate: **Monica T. Reynolds** (1) PE

†**Falmouth:** **Kenneth P. Woodie** (1) PL

†**New Hope:** **Robin BeMiller** (1) PE

†**Register Chapel:** Sung Il Yoo (7)

Saint Matthias: Bert Cloud (2)

Salem: **Kenneth P. Woodie** (1) PL

WESTMORELAND COUNTY

Andrew Chapel: Kevin F. Elmore (5) PE

Carmel-Coles Point: Robert W. Gochenour (4)
Carmel, Coles Point

Colonial Beach: Stephen Kwang-Hoon Lee (3)

Ebenezer: Rebecca L. Rumburg (7)

Edgewater: Jon B. Davis (7) PL

Grace (Oak Grove): Michael Liskiewicz (2) SY

Montross: David C. Lagerveld (2) RE

†**Lebanon, †Providence**

EXTENSION & OTHER APPOINTMENTS

Robert A. Almy—Church Ingenuities
(Liberty)

James A. Ginther (PE)—Clinical Pastoral
Education, Hunter Holmes McGuire
VA Medical Center

Gayle D. Poria—Dir. of Heartwood
Ministries (Mount Horeb)

Mark A. Roscoe (PL)—Director of Cross-
roads Mission Center

DIACONAL, DEACONESS & HOME MISSIONER

Susan Lewandowski (DC)—GED Instruc-
tor, Rappahannock Area Regional
Adult Education (Fredericksburg)

RICHMOND DISTRICT

District Superintendent: Peter M. Moon (5)

CHESTERFIELD COUNTY

Asbury Memorial: R. Jason Elmore (4) PL

†**Beulah:** Donald D. Gibson (3)

Associate: Jonathan F. Poarch (2) PE

†**Bon Air:** N. Burton Brooks Jr. (5)

†**Brandermill:** Jim C. Dunkin (4) MOD

Associate: Terry Kwanghyun Eum (3) FL

Mount Pisgah: Robert E. Cooper (8)

Dir. of Youth and Young Adult Min.: Amy L.
Crisp (4) FD

†**New Life:** Michael T. Maxwell (12)

†**Providence:** Derrick Parson (5)

†**Saint Luke's:** Lisa K. Sykes (9)

†**Saint Mark's:** Francis T. Cooper (5)

Sherbourne: Pamela H. Culler (14) PL

Woodlake: Gordon K. Pruitt (5)

Associate: Marie E. Misiaszek (3) PL

GOOCHLAND COUNTY

Bethel: John R. Hall Sr. (22.5) AM

Corinth: James E. Lavender Jr. (2) RE

†**St. Matthew's:** **Mark Montgomery** (1)

HANOVER COUNTY

Duncan Memorial: Dorothy McNeer O'Quinn (3)

Associate: Joshua A. McCauley (3) FL

Dunns Chapel: William R. Freeman (8) RE

Enon: ReNe'e R. Teague (6)

Forest Grove: Linda E.F. Crabbs (7)

Kenwood: **Elizabeth A. Nordan** (1) PE

†**Lebanon:** R. Spencer Broce (15)

†**Mechanicsville:** Kerry D. Boggs (20)

Mount Hermon: Sheldon "Mac" F. McLeod
(1.6) ROF

†**New Song:** Chad M. Herndon (12)

Dir. of Discipleship: Cynthia A. Lee (4) FD

Prospect: Sheldon "Mac" F. McLeod (3) ROF

Saint Peter's: Yun Chol Kim (2)

†**Shady Grove:** John J. Kelchner Jr. (10)

Associate: Sandra Bottoms (5)

†**Shiloh:** Sarah G. Sealand (6)

West Hanover: Owen M. Taylor (2) FL

Beaverdam, Rouzies Chapel

HENRICO COUNTY

†**Brookland:** Richard "Dickie" Coffey (3) PL

Chamberlayne Heights: Linda Driver Ray (6)

†**Christ:** **Nancy E. Robinson** (1) FD

Corinth: **Teresa S. Smith** (1)

†**Discovery:** J. Adam Sowder (3)

Fairmount: Mi Sook Ahn (3) PE

Good Shepherd: T. Bryson Smith (2)

Associate: Lisa M. McGehee (10) FD

Associate: **Raja Samuel Kirubakaran** (1) OE

Greenwood-Laurel Park: **Josette Franklin** (1) OF

Greenwood, Laurel Park

Highland Springs: Douglas E. Crockett (9) OE

Lakeside: Mark V. Rooks (3)

Laurel Hill: Yunho Eo (2)

River Road: Darcey G. Johnson (5)

Saint Andrew's: **Denise B. Watkins** (1) FL

†**Shady Grove:** Christina R. McLain (3)

Associate: Anne B. 'Beanie' Kelley (5) FL

Skipwith: T. Todd Smith (4)

†**Trinity:** Larry E. Lenow (7)

Associate: **Hung Su Lim** (1)

Minister of Discipleship: Judith Clegg

Oguich (20) FD

Welborne: F. Elizabeth Givens (8)

†**Willis:** **Robin Lafon** (1) SY

†**Worship and Praise:** Timothy J. Kirven (9) FL

LOUISA COUNTY

Gum Spring: **Dan Chinho Kim** (1)

NEW KENT COUNTY

†**Providence:** William H. John Jr. (6)

POWHATAN COUNTY

†**Powhatan:** **Karen B. Hittel** (1)

RICHMOND

†**Asbury (Church Hill):** Marilyn A. Heckstall (15)

†**Belmont:** Larry J. Cochran (9)

Associate: Julio Serrano-Perez (7) PL

Boulevard: **Andrew B. Willson** (1)

Calvary: Kurtis A. Knobel (2) OR

Centenary: Matthew D. Bates Jr. (9)

Minister with Young Adults: **Andrew B.
Willson** (1)

†**Central:** Amy Wolz Johnson (3)

Emmaus at Stratford Hills: Chul Ki Kim (7)

†**Ginter Park:** Dennis C.M. Lipke (8) RE

Huguenot: Gay B. Hall (4) RE

Ramsey Memorial: Claudia H. Stallings (2)

Associate: Norma E. Aguilar (13) PL

Reveille: J. Douglas Forrester (6)

Associate: Stephen A. Coleman (10) FL

Dir. of Adult Discipleship: Kelley Lane (6) FD

Walmsley Boulevard: **Delano P. Douglas** (1) FL

†**Wesley Memorial:** Rodney M. Hunter (34) RE

Westhampton: Christina Haga Turner (11)

Westover Hills: Donna C. Holder (10)

EXTENSION & OTHER APPOINTMENTS

Caitlyn Fox Bailey—Chaplain, VCU Health
Systems (Westover Hills)

Lindsey M. Baynham—Director, Center for
Clergy Excellence, Virginia Conference
(Boulevard)

Christopher M. Bennett—Associate Facilita-
tor and Consultant, The Spark Mill (St.
Matthew's)

Florence F. Brooks—Director of Pastoral
Services, Cedarfield (Bon Air)

David E. Carl Jr.—Ex. Dir. of Spiritual Care &
Education, Atrium Health, Charlotte, NC

and On Loan: Pastor, Big Spring UMC, WNC
Conference (River Road)

Katie B. Anthony Gooch—Director, Pace
Center at VCU (Boulevard)

Kendra D. Grimes—Chaplain, Randolph-
Macon College (Duncan Memorial)

Lynda W. Harding (FD)—Chaplain, Hospice of Virginia (New Song)

M. Jan Holton—Associate Professor of the Practice of Pastoral Theology and Care, Duke University Divinity School (Reveille)
Virginia A. Lee (FD)—Associate Professor of Christian Education and Dir. of Deacon Studies, Garrett-Evangelical Seminary (Reveille)

Meredith L. McNabb—Associate Director of the Lake Institute at the Lilly Family School of Philanthropy at IUPUI (Indiana University-Purdue University-Indianapolis) (Boulevard)

Mark V. Ogren—Dir. of Congregational Excellence, Virginia Conference (Duncan Memorial)

Theodore Smith—Director of Connectional Ministries (Corinth, Sandston)

Crystal Sygeel—Director of Hospitality Ministries, Union Presbyterian Seminary (Good Shepherd)

Kathryn F. Talley—Senior Development Officer, Community Housing Partners (Skipwith)

Joseph Torrence (FD)—Chaplain, St. Christopher's School (St. Matthew's)

Dorothee Tripodi—Assoc. Dir. of Supervised Ministry and Vocational Planning, Union Presbyterian Seminary (Westover Hills)

Michael L. Whaley—Assistant Director of Richmond Friends of the Homeless (Mt. Pisgah)

DIACONAL, DEACONESS & HOME MISSIONER

Diane V. Hassell (DC)—Outreach Ministries (Mount Pisgah)

ROANOKE DISTRICT

District Superintendent: Kathleen Overby Webster (7)

BEDFORD COUNTY

Mays Memorial: Melanie D. Franklin (4) PL

†**Parrish Chapel:** Mark W. Tucker (1) PL

Associate: Elaine Brown (1) SY

Three Oaks Fellowship: Robin L. Colwell (1) RE

BOTETOURT COUNTY

Andrew Chapel: Morris A. Bennett (14) RE

Buchanan: W. Douglas Mitchell (7) FL

Lithia, Trinity

Eagle Rock: W. Raysor Sandifer (17) RL

Eagle Rock, Glen Wilton, †Shiloh

Ebenezer: Melanie D. Franklin (4) PL

†**Fincastle:** Kwangmin Shin (1) FL

†**Saint Mark's:** Justin S. White (3)

CRAIG COUNTY

Foothills: Rodney Longmire (6) SY

Hebron, **Mt. Pleasant, Pierce Chapel**

New Castle: Charles R. Stacy (3)

Bethel, New Castle

FLOYD COUNTY

Floyd Parish: Darren E. Landon (12) FL

Copper Hl, Havens Chpl, Huffville, Stonewall

Mt. Elbert: Christopher Yopp (1) SY

FRANKLIN COUNTY

Boones Mill: James R. Rodden (4)

Mount Olivet: Jeffery T. White (2) PL

GILES COUNTY

†**Newport-Mt. Olivet:** Morris V. Fleischer (12) FL

Pembroke: E. Russell Gresham IV (2)

First, Mt. Lebanon

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Asbury (Christiansbg): Ryan M. Schaeffer (1)

Belview: Christopher Yopp (1) SY

†**Blacksburg:** Ralph W. Rowley (3)

Associate: Jennifer L. Fletcher (3)

Associate: Kelly A. Shushok (4) FL

Calvary (Christiansbg): Sebert W. Rorrer (18) RE

Crockett Springs: Brenda Sternfeld (1) PL

Fieldstone: Ryan M. Schaeffer (2)

Goodwin Mem.: Charles W. DeHart (3) RLOC

Halls: Brenda Sternfeld (6) PL

Lafayette: Jeane D. Dunkum (4) RE

Mt. Tabor: Kenneth D. Farrar (10) PL

Park: Patricia A. Jones (6) RE

Prices Fork: Michael Hill (6) SY

St. Paul (Christiansbg): Moonsup Paul Song (5)

Trinity (Christiansbg): Russell Shepherd (8) PL

Wesley Memorial: Russell Shepherd (1) PL

White Memorial: Herbert C. Williams Jr. (12)

ROANOKE

†**Fairview:** Donald W. Baldwin (11) FL

Grace: Robert L. Haley (3) RE

Greene Memorial: Philip Waltz (2)

Huntington Court: Jeffrey D. Wilson (10)

†**Raleigh Court:** Seungsoo Jun (5)

Saint Paul: Lyle E. Morton (4)

†**South Roanoke:** Craig C. Newman (2)

Southview: Warren R. Carswell (4)

Trinity: Joanna M. Paysour (1)

West End: Lyle E. Morton (4)

†**Windsor Hills:** Douglas B. Paysour (5)

Woodlawn: John B. Snyder (6)

ROANOKE COUNTY

†**Bonsack:** J. Randall McMillen (4)

Catawba Circuit: Scott Robertson-Gouge (4) OR

Catawba, McDonalds Mill, Shiloh

Cave Spring: Lauren C. Lobenhofer (1)

Associate: Joanna M. Paysour (8)

Dir of NextGen Min: Timothy S. Craft (3) FD

Lawrence Memorial: Terry A. Ross (9.5) RL

Locust Grove: Benjamin F. Lockhart Jr. (11) PL

†**Mount Pleasant:** Robert G. Stutes (7) OR

†**Northview:** Douglas R. Sasser Jr. (3)

Rockingham Ct: Nathan Colwell (2) FL

Thrasher Memorial: Walter B. Failes Jr. (9)

Associate: **Seung Jae Jo** (1) FL

SALEM

†**Calvary (Salem):** Jason L. Bryant (5) FL

Central: Bryan K. Buckles (5)

†**First:** Alan T. Combs (3)

Associate: Jeffrey L. Dorsey (23)

EXTENSION & OTHER APPOINTMENTS

Carroll Clifton Carter (RE)—On Loan: Moriah-Holmes Grove, WNC

Stephen Darr—Campus Ministry Dir., Community College Ministries (Blacksburg)

Bret-Ashton G. Gresham—Director/Campus Minister, Wesley Foundation at VA Tech (Blacksburg)

STAUNTON DISTRICT

District Superintendent: David J. Rochford III (7)

ALLEGHANY COUNTY

Alleghany: Shannon P. Cox (7) SY

Callaghan: Nancy A. Palmer (4) FL

†**Fletcher Chapel, Hoke Chapel**

Epworth-Mountain Valley: Jonathan S. Greer (2) FL

Epworth, **Mountain Valley**

Iron Gate: Joseph Rose (1) SY

Iron Gate, Longdale, Walton Mem.

Mt. Pleasant-S. Covington: Yun Goo Kang (3) OE

Mt. Pleasant, †**South Covington**

Potts Valley: David C. Brown (18) FL

Humphrey's, **Persinger Mem., Pinnell**

AUGUSTA COUNTY

Bethlehem: David Boger (1) RE

Calvary: David F. Vaughan (2)

Associate: **Jenelle Watson** (1) PL

Churchville Cooperative Parish: Lester W. Kennedy (5) FL

†**Glossbrenner, Saint James**

Fishersville: Peter Choi (1)

†**Greenville:** James A. Bollinger (2) FL

Jollivue: Carrie Moffitt (1) PL

Lyndhurst-Oak Hill: Michael Harrington (1) FL

†**Lyndhurst, Oak Hill**

†**McKinley:** Donald L. Long (20) RE

Mint Spring: Ryan S. Oswald (3)

St. Paul's-Goshen: Don Duty (2) SY

Goshen, St. Paul's (Craigsville)

Shenandoah: Reginald A. Early (5) RL

Asbury, **Community, Lawson, Randolph St.**

†**Sherando:** J. Gregory Kropff (3) PL

West Augusta: Mark A. Reuter (2) RE

BATH COUNTY

Bath: Lorrie J. Aikens (8) FL

Burnsville, †Eden, Starr-Bolar, †Va. Chapel

Hot Springs: Namseok "Andrew" Baek (2) OE

Ashwood, Emory

BOTETOURT COUNTY

Mount Olivet: Doris T. Hedrick (8) RL

BUENA VISTA

Saint John's: Louis H. Caddell (3) OR

†**People United in Christ:** Danta Thompson (6) SY

CLIFTON FORGE

Central: J. Lynn Wright (6) FL

COVINGTON

Christ's Cooperative Parish: Deborah D. Washer (7) FL

Christ, Parrish Court

Granbery Memorial: **Sung Woon Yoo** (1)

Mt. Carmel: Douglas E. Hollenbeck (18) FL

HIGHLAND COUNTY

Blue Grass: W. Andre Crummett (20) FL

Blue Grass, †Hightown

McDowell: **Walter Westbrook** (1) RE

Doe Hill, †McDowell, †McKendree, †Totten

Monterey: Bobbi Jo Gardner (6) SY

Asbury, Green Hill, Monterey

LEXINGTON

†Trinity: Joseph J. Cailles (4)

ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY

Collierstown: William D. Bearden (2) FL

Collierstown, Mt. Horeb

Ebenezer: Jody Lipham (3) SY

Fairfield: Valerie W. Ritter (3)

Emory, Fairfield

Marvin: R. Michael Long (6) SY

Rockbridge: Lucy Jackson Hughes (6) RL

Beth Horon, †Elliott's Hill, Mt. Zion

STAUNTON

†Central: Won H. Un (7)

†Cherryvale: **Vivian M. Utz** (1) FL

†Christ: **Jesse Moffitt** (1) PE

†Marquis Memorial: Elizabeth von Trapp Walker (2)

Saint John's: Charles H. Cole Jr. (3)

†Saint Paul's: Norman L. Ramsey III (2)

Staunton-Grottoes: John D. Benson (7) SY

Augusta Street, Mt. Moriah, Mt. Tabor

WAYNESBORO

Basic: Chad T. Beck (3) FL

Glover Memorial: Janet Knott (2) RA

†Main Street: Linda Kusse-Wolfe (4) OE

Certified Lay Minister: Harold E. Baldwin Jr. (15) LM

Pleasant View: Eric Strother (7) SY

Saint Mark's: Kevin W. Haynes (2)

EXTENSION & OTHER APPOINTMENTS

Nathan P. Anderson (PD)—Medical School, Pittsburgh, PA

Paul J. Ritter (FL)—Chaplain, Keen Mountain Correctional Center

Norman G. Tippens (RE)—Pastor, Wesley Memorial UMC, NC Conf. (Trinity, Lexington)

WINCHESTER DISTRICT

District Superintendent: Steven J. Summers (2)

CLARKE COUNTY

Boyce-Millwood-White Post: Harry G. Neidig (3) PL

Boyce, Millwood, White Post

Crums: **David Graves** (1) OE

†Duncan Mem. (Berryville): James M. Smith (3)

Marvin Chapel: Kenneth K. Patrick (17) RE

Paris Mountain: Karen D. M. Adams (15) RL

Mt. Carmel, Providence Chapel

FAUQUIER COUNTY

Cool Springs: Leah A. DeLong (2) RE

Linden-Markham-Marshall Co-op. Parish:

Terry L. Hendricks (4)

†Linden, Markham, Marshall

Middleburg-Rectortown Co-op. Parish:

Steven W. Weedling (4)

Middleburg, Rectortown

St. Mark's: Melbourne H. Bailey (3) RE

FREDERICK COUNTY

Brucetown: Susan G. Catlett (3) FL

Burnt Factory: C. Steven Melester (14) AM

Cedar Grove: Penny L. Wilson Jr. (2)

Little Mountain, Mt. Pleasant

Emmanuel: **San Kang** (1) OE

Fairview-Refuge: Laetitia Schoeman (4) FL

Fairview, †Refuge

Gainesboro: Robert M. Throckmorton Jr. (2) RE

Grace (Middletown): W. Clay Knick (4)

†Hites Chapel: **Mary Lock** (1)

Howard Chapel: Anthony A. Wadsworth (7) RE

Kernstown: Aaron W. Fitch (6)

Macedonia: Michel Q. Mayton (6)

Mount Olive-Relief: Seung Hae Yoo-Hess (2)

Mount Olive, †Relief

North Frederick: **John Lock** (1)

Rest, †White Hall

Old Bethel-Welltown Cooperative Parish:

Joshua Dalton (1) FL

†Old Bethel, Welltown

Pleasant View: **Mike Pettry** (1) FL

Mt. Pleasant-Lamps, Mountain View

Redland: **Erin Geoffrion** (1) PE

†Round Hill: Larry E. Craddock (2)

Shockeysville: TBS

Stephens City: J. Robert Schoeman (4)

Wesley Chapel-Pine Grove: Philip H.

Brumback (6) RL

Pine Grove, Wesley Chapel

LOUDOUN COUNTY

Agape (Purcellville): Alphonso L. Irving (3) FL

Bethany (Purcellville): Joshua S. King (3)

Bethel: **Hyunsik Kang** (1) OE

Evergreen: **Mark Mrini** (1)

Harmony (Hamilton): Debra R. Lucas (2)

†Leesburg: James N. Wishmyer (13)

Minister of Administration: Wayne R.

Reynolds (12) LM

Dir. of Connect Ministries: Heather L. Wray (4) FD

Loudoun: **Cynthia Rainger** (1) PL

Unison, Upperville

Mt. Olivet-Mt. Pleasant: **Stephen King** (1)

Mt. Olivet, Mt. Pleasant

†Rehobeth: **Hyunsik Kang** (1) OE

†Round Hill: Daniel A. Wray (4)

Short Hill: Marcellus H. Jagoe IV (5) PL

†Ebenezer, Hillsboro

West Loudoun: **Chad Hrbek** (1) SY

Bluemont, Roszell Chapel

Mt. Zion-Willisville Chapel Co-op. Parish:

Tracey Lyons (3) PE

†Mt. Zion (Hamilton), Mt. Zion

(Leesburg), Willisville Chapel

WARREN COUNTY

Bethel: John T. Stelzl (2) PL

Front Royal: Terry L. Clark (3)

†Howellsville: Francis P. Bertrand (8) PL

†John Wesley: John T. Stelzl (3) PL

Reliance-Ridings Chapel: J. Richard McDowell (3)

Reliance, Ridings Chapel

Riverton: C. Marc Roberson (6)

Warren: Sherry L. Waddell (7) FL

Asbury, Bennetts Chapel, †Limeton

WINCHESTER

Braddock Street: G. Kirk Nave (8)

Associate: Sean C. Devolites (3) PE

First: William M. White (11)

Greenwood-Market Street: Keiko T. Foster (3)

†Greenwood, Market Street

John Mann-Wesley Co-op. Parish: Barbara A. Cousar (3) PE

John Mann, Wesley

Montague Ave.: Thomas H. Keithley (2) RE

EXTENSION & OTHER APPOINTMENTS

B. Justin Allen—Assistant VP for Student Life, Dean of Spiritual Life, and Director of the Institute for Church Professions, Shenandoah University (Braddock Street)

Joanna S. Dietz (FD)—Associate Director for Call & Discernment, Center for Clergy Excellence, Virginia Conference
Elizabeth LaBella-Foster—Our Common Life (Braddock Street)

Sara E. Pugh Montgomery—On Loan: Pastor, Coweta First UMC, Muskogee District, OK Conference (Braddock Street)

Joshua R. Orndorff—Chaplain, Randolph-Macon Academy (Riverton)

Colleen Halligan Preuninger (AF)—Director, Youth Theological Institute

Rhonda VanDyke—Vice-President for Student Life, Shenandoah University (Braddock Street)

Cynthia I. Lirlott (FD)—Protestant Chaplain, United Campus Ministry, Frostburg State University (Secondary appt.: Frostburg UMC; Charge Conference: First)

YORK RIVER DISTRICT

District Superintendent: Seonyoung Kim (6)

CHARLES CITY COUNTY

†Memorial: **Barry R. Throckmorton** (1) RE

GLOUCESTER COUNTY

†**Bellamy**: Kenneth Stephen Waclo (11)
Bethany (Gloucester Pt.): J. Michael Derflinger (3)
 †**Bethlehem**: Carol I. Bookwalter (7.5) RE
 †**Locust Grove**: Booker D. Brown Jr. (2) FL
 †**Mt. Zion**: Carol I. Bookwalter (2) RE
 †**New Hope**: Chong Ho Yang (5)
Salem-Olive Branch: Ann On-Lin Tang (3)

†**Olive Branch, Salem**

Singleton: Calvin J. Griffin (10.5)

Susanna Wesley: Janice Y. Commander (2) RE

HAMPTON

Bethany: Esther N. Agbosu (2)

Central: **Brenda Mack** (1) OR

First (Fox Hill): Brian K. Sixbey (10)

†**First (Hampton)**: Candace L. Martin (5)

Fox Hill Central: Eric J. Vaudt (6)

Phoebus: Rita L. Staul (3) RE

Saint James: Michael L. Nelson (4)

Saint Mark's: Deborah S. Clark (2) FL

Wallace Memorial: Kevin E. English (2) OR

Wesley: Gretchen O.S. Nelson (4)

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY

Benn's: Elizabeth Gray Caudill (3)

Bethany: Michael T. Frank (6)

Oak Grove-Riverview: Roderick L. Clayton (4) PL

Oak Grove, Riverview

Trinity: Daniel E. Elmore (2)

Uzzell: Rebecca W. Gwaltney (8) PL

Woodland: Amanda H. Newman (6)

JAMES CITY COUNTY

†**Mount Vernon**: Lorena E. Beach (3) PE

†**New Town**: J. Garrett Livermon (3)

Congregational Life & Discipleship Pastor:
 Marie B. Allen (4) RL

Wellspring: Edward A. Hopkins (10)

Youth Pastor: Todd J. Query (2.5) OD

KING & QUEEN COUNTY

Shackelfords Chapel: Kristie Askew (3) PL

KING WILLIAM COUNTY

West Point: **Joengin Kim** (1)

MATHEWS COUNTY

Bethel-St. Matthew: Yosub Namgung (3) PE

Bethel, St. Matthew

Beulah-St. Paul: Delia M. Parrish (9) FE

Beulah, St. Paul

Central: Ji Hoon "John" Choi (5)

†**Mathews Chapel**: **Brett Isernhagen** (1) PE

Salem: Bertina J.H. Westley (2) FL

West Mathews: **Jennifer Mercer** (1) FL

Emmanuel, Grace-Providence

MIDDLESEX COUNTY

†**Clarksbury**: Kenneth E. Cleveland (6) FL

Lower Church: Ileana Rosario (5)

Middlesex: Timothy R. Earnhardt (5) FL

Forest Chapel, Old Church

Urbanna: Robert Bruce Johnson (3)

NEW KENT COUNTY

New Kent: **Timothy M. Porter** (1) FL

Pamunkey, Tabernacle

NEWPORT NEWS

†**Asbury**: C. Leon Basham Jr. (5) PL

Chestnut Memorial: Robert M. Chapman (6)

†**Christ**: Thomas G. Tipton (8)

First: Elizabeth A. Lutz (3)

†**Grace**: Forrest H. Teague Jr. (5)

†**Holy Cross International**: Yoon Seok Choi (10) OE

Trinity: **Burton Mack** (1) OR

Parkview: **Michael Guminsky** (1) PL

Warwick Memorial: **Judy Worthington** (1)

Associate: Peggy M. Langille (4) FL

POQUOSON

Tabernacle: **Jeffrey Cannon** (1) RE

Associate: Brenton A. Staul (5) PL

Trinity: Patricia Anne Riggs (3)

WILLIAMSBURG

†**Williamsburg**: Matthew W. Jones (10)

Associate: Meghan Roth Clayton (2.5)

Min. of Congregational Care: Helen Casey-
 Rutland (7)

YORK COUNTY

†**Crooks Memorial**: Lisa A. Barbary (7)

†**Providence**: **Lisa R. Blackmonson** (1)

Saint Luke's: Clarence R. Brown (2)

Associate: Ashley B. Roth (2) PE

†**Zion**: David C. Magruder (6)

EXTENSION & OTHER APPOINTMENTS

Koren B. Robins—On Loan: Pastor, Orange

UMC, North Carolina Conference

Carlson M. "Carly" Sawyer (FL)—University of
 Virginia Health System



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THE CAMPUS MINI

By Paulo Lopes

THE QUESTION I'VE BEEN ASKED MOST in my four years serving as conference director of Next Generation Ministries is "How can my church reach young people?" I can't remember the last time I taught a workshop, met with church leaders or shared a meal with a pastor where that question hasn't popped up in some shape or form.

My answer typically involves asking two follow-up questions:

1. Is your church currently reaching people in general? (most churches who are not reaching YOUNG people aren't reaching people at all)
2. How does your church nurture the young people who are already part of the community throughout their life stages?

In focusing on question 2, I believe that supporting and/or connecting your students to campus ministries is absolutely essential to any successful ministry strategy that involves young people.

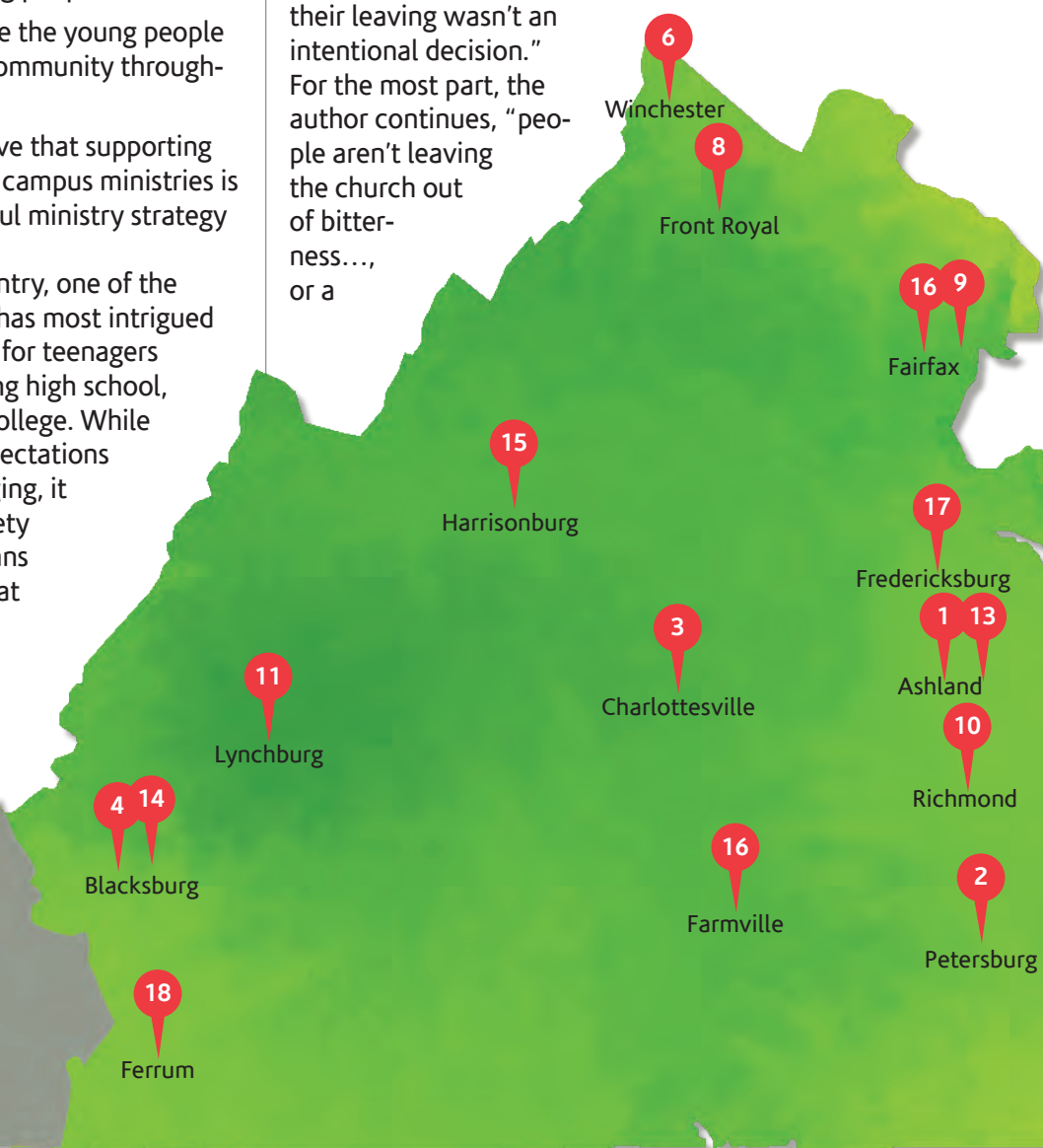
Having grown up in another country, one of the aspects of American culture which has most intrigued me is how incredibly disruptive it is for teenagers to leave their homes after graduating high school, often because they are headed to college. While both higher education AND our expectations for high school graduates are changing, it remains ingrained in American society the assumption that turning 18 means it's time to become an adult, and that becoming an adult means one will now leave their parents' home.

This is a unique "rite of passage" is when compared to most cultures around the world. My

goal here is not to write an opinion on whether this is a good thing or not. Successfully ministering to young people in your local faith community without taking college/campus ministry into consideration is virtually impossible.

Lifeway Research found in a recent study that the rate at which teenagers drop-out of church after their first year in college has remained steady over the last 10 years at roughly 70 percent. Only 30 percent of those who leave the church in college end up returning by age 30.

According to a recent *Christianity Today* article about that same study, strikingly, three-quarters of those who abandon their faith "said their leaving wasn't an intentional decision." For the most part, the author continues, "people aren't leaving the church out of bitterness..., or a



STORY CONNECTION

renunciation of their faith." People are simply drifting away for lack of connection!

Through your apportionment dollars, we are able to develop and support campus ministries in 19 different schools in the Virginia Conference. Each of these ministries is an extension of your ministry and a bridge for young people during a crucial time of transition in their lives.

Throughout the pages of this month's *Advocate*, you will have the opportunity to read some incredible stories of how young people are getting connected, equipped and sent out for ministry beyond college. My hope is that you will be inspired to act by investing in the faith of our Next Generation by supporting our campus ministries. We've even made sure to list the top five ways you and your local church can get involved.

Last but not least, I'd like to offer you one way you can immediately begin supporting your students and our campus ministries. Go right now to www.vaumc.org/Collegelinfo and share with us the names and contact information of members of your church who are currently in college. This is the simplest way to connect your student to a campus ministry at the school they will attend. This also goes for those students attending schools outside of Virginia.

We hope to partner with you in increasing the chances that our students will be engaged, nurtured and challenged in their faith during their time in college.

—Paulo Lopes is the conference director of the Center for Next Generation Ministries in the Virginia Conference.



See page 49 for a complete list of contact information for Virginia campus ministries.



CAMPUS MINISTRIES IN VIRGINIA

- Randolph-Macon College, Ashland
- FLOW @ Virginia State University, Ettrick/Petersburg
- University of Virginia, Charlottesville
- Virginia Tech, Blacksburg
- Virginia Wesleyan University, Norfolk
- Shenandoah University, Winchester
- Norfolk State University, Norfolk
- Randolph-Macon Academy, Front Royal
- Arise @ NOVA & George Mason University, Fairfax
- Pace @ VCU, Richmond
- Randolph College, Lynchburg
- William and Mary, Williamsburg
- IGNITE @ Old Dominion University, Norfolk
- Community College Ministries, Blacksburg
- RISE @ James Madison University/ Bridgewater College/Eastern Mennonite, Harrisonburg
- Longwood & Hampden-Sydney, Farmville
- Mary Washington, Fredericksburg
- Ferrum College, Ferrum
- Christopher Newport University, Newport News



RANDOLPH-MACON COLLEGE

DISCERNING CALL AT RANDOLPH- MACON COLLEGE

By Kendra Grimes

UNITED METHODIST COLLEGES are in a unique position to offer not only quality educational experiences but also opportunities for young people to explore God's call in their life as they discern their path forward. At Randolph-Macon College in Ashland, Va., we value the opportunity to help youth and young adults discern where God is calling them. Two of R-MC's well-known efforts in nurturing vocational discernment are *Convergence: A Youth Theology Institute on Faith and Science* and *The A. Purnell Bailey Program for Ordained Ministry*. Thanks to a generous grant from the Young Clergy Initiative of the UMC General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, Randolph-Macon is launching an additional initiative in the fall of 2019: *Valuing the Voices in our Church*.

Valuing the Voices is a one-day retreat for high school youth and their families followed by an online discussion and learning community for the remainder of the academic year. Our goal is twofold – to equip high school youth to better discern where God is calling them vocationally; and to be more aware of the variety of important voices and perspectives within our church. We will affirm the voices of youth; they are key leaders as God calls our church forward. Participants will hear the call stories and ministry experiences of many Virginia UMC leaders including the Rev. Victor Gomez, the Rev. Rodney Hunter, the Rev. Ashley Roth, the Rev. Lindsey Baynham, and the Rev. Dan Kim. They will enjoy the leadership of R-MC Bailey Scholars and Pre-Ministerial students who are in the midst of their own journey of faithful discernment.

R-MC will recruit participants from the Virginia, North Carolina and Baltimore-Washington Annual Conferences with a priority to connect with churches having a significant African American, Asian American, and Hispanic membership. We will invite youth from rural areas, small towns, suburban neighborhoods and urban communities. We hope the pool of participants will be a diverse group with unique experiences and insights to



"Randolph-Macon College's Convergence Youth Theology Institute on Faith and Science encourages youth to work together in discovery and problem-solving." All feature photos are courtesy of respective campus ministers.

share with one another.

The inaugural event will take place on R-MC's campus on Saturday, October 26, 2019. While high school students gather to begin their year-long journey, parents are invited to participate in two workshops: "*How to tell your story to your children*" and "*How to listen and allow your child to tell his/her own story.*" The R-MC Admissions Office will offer a program to assist families (especially those whose children may be first generation college students) in navigating the college application/financial aid process. Additionally, fun activities and meals will be provided for siblings of participants who travel with their family for the all-day event.

Following the initial retreat on the R-MC campus, youth participating in *Valuing the Voices* will meet online twice a month throughout the school year to discuss current events and enjoy video discussions. We will look at topics from a variety of perspectives, increasing our self-awareness and learning to value other voices. We will encourage youth to examine how their identity shapes their beliefs and experiences while contributing to God's unique call in their life. At the end of the experience, youth will create a video reflecting on their journey of discovery in their year in the program.

If you have questions about *Valuing the Voices*, the *A. Purnell Bailey Program for Ordained Ministry*, the *Convergence Youth Theology Institute on Faith and Science*, or other R-MC initiatives, please contact the Rev. Kendra Grimes, chaplain, and Director of Church Relations at Randolph-Macon College in Ashland, Va., at 804-752-7374 or kendragrimes@rmc.edu. 📧

– The Rev. Kendra Grimes, is chaplain and Director of Church Relations at Randolph-Macon College in Ashland, Va.



BOND GROWS BETWEEN LOCAL CHURCH, CAMPUS MINISTRY

By Delano Douglas

AT VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY (VSU), a Historically Black College and University (HBCU) in Ettrick, Va., there have been a host of wonderful and marvelous things that the Lord has done in our midst since I started my campus minister role in July of 2009. Through our gifted, talented, anointed, and called young adults, the ministry has undergone many changes including a name change from "United Campus Ministries" to FLOW (Faith, Love, Outreach and Worship) in 2015.

Our young adults have a heart for their community. In 2009, they began serving as volunteers at Ettrick Elementary School through Communities In Schools (CIS) by reading to students in kindergarten through third grade. This partnership continued through afterschool mentoring programs for boys and girls.

We also collaborated with the Chesterfield County Food Bank resulting in the establishment of a monthly food distribution serving over 120 families in the Village of Ettrick, where more than 40 VSU students have volunteered for the past five years and counting.

We began a couple of new outreach ministries in 2018 serving lunch once a month at The Hope Center in Petersburg, along with partnering churches such as Bermuda Hundred UMC. Through the purchase of a 15-passenger van, we have been able to transport students to various ministry engagements throughout the Tri-Cities area and to begin Reel Talk, a weekly movie-based Monday evening Bible study.

Our Virginia Conference bond strengthened as we began a partnership with Ettrick UMC in 2015 and relocated our Sunday afternoon worship services to their sanctuary. You will often find our students also attending the church's morning worship service and as the students have wholeheartedly embraced



Worship and community partnership are important at FLOW.

All feature photos are courtesy of respective campus ministers.



and been embraced by the church. In the last several years, the students have embarked on service and restoration projects around the church, even raising funds themselves to contribute back to the facility.

The partnership has not only been a great mission opportunity, but we also feel like there is room for the church to grow. Our campus ministry is working with this church to help grow the church and not only in its mission but hopefully in the future of its members. Ultimately, the intent is not only to build relationships between the students and the church but for both entities to collectively find ways to reach out to the Ettrick community with the Gospel.

Music is also very important and vital to our ministry. In 2011, we birthed the Avodah music ministry to render praise and worship for Sunday services, named after a Hebrew word that means worship and work. Just a year later, Chara, Greek word for joy, was founded as a performing arts ministry consisting of praise dancers and gospel mimes.

As I prepare to answer God's call to ministry as a pastor in the local church, I look back on the past 10 years with fondness and faith. I am excited about what the Lord will do in the life of the FLOW Wesley Foundation through the leadership of the Rev.

Jasmyn Graham. 

—The Rev. Delano Douglas is the outgoing campus minister of FLOW Wesley Foundation at Virginia State University (VSU) and has served there for 10 years.



UNIVERSITY
of VIRGINIA

LOVING THE OTHER SHEEP AT UVA

By Deborah Lewis

JESUS GAVE US A HEADS UP about all of this, you know. He told us there are “other sheep” whom he loves and who aren’t right here in the same fold with us (John 10: 11-18).

He demonstrated interfaith dialogue and showed us there is no shame in enlarging our thinking about who is included in God’s plan (Matthew 15: 21-28). Most importantly, he told us that to love our neighbors is part of what it means to love God with all of who we are (Mark 12: 28-31).

Nonetheless, the first time The Wesley Foundation at UVA went on a spring break service trip with our friends from The Brody Jewish Center-Hillel at UVA, some Wesley students fielded puzzled inquiries from Christians involved in other campus ministries: Why were we doing this? I wish I’d thought then to say, simply, “Other sheep.”

On that first trip, one of the Jewish students reflected after observing the way the rabbi and I interacted, “The two leaders of two different religious communities have engaged in constructive discussions of religion without fighting—something that I do not often encounter.”

Why take trips like this? Because the world needs to see it. Because we need to experience the blessed awkwardness of speaking about God with people who speak about God differently than we do. We need to fight the myth that we don’t have much in common with these neighbors, especially when Jesus says otherwise.

Just last month, Wesley learned to enthusiastically wish our Muslim neighbors a Ramadan Mubarek (blessed Ramadan) as the Muslim holy month of Ramadan began during the final week of spring semester exams. Together with Hillel, the Muslim Students Association, the local mosque, and four other Christian campus ministries, we offered Iftar meals (dinners to break the daily fast in the evenings) and hosted them at Wesley.



Ideally located directly adjacent to UVA grounds, Wesley has a kitchen and large dining space, perfect for hosting meals and we removed the living room furniture for the week to provide space for the evening prayer (Maghrib).

It involved some sacrifice as it was exam time, but we asked ourselves what it would be like if we had to be away from home, taking exams, on Christmas Eve. So we prepared meals, made space for prayers, put up welcome signs, and we invited the neighbors to our place.

Over and over throughout the week, new Muslim friends came up to thank us for providing these meals. They expressed how nice it was to gather as a larger community for prayer and the Iftar meal each night, noting that often when Ramadan falls during the school year students will go out to restaurants in small groups.

We met out-of-town parents who were here to pick up their students to go home for the summer, and we welcomed grad students who hurried back to their labs after the meal. The Christian and Jewish volunteers stood by quietly each night as we listened to the beautiful call to prayer, a lovely melodic moment of communal hush before the bustle of getting the meal on the tables.

Last fall in Philadelphia, Jews were attacked while worshipping at Tree of Life Synagogue. This spring, Muslims in two New Zealand mosques were attacked while worshipping. Two months ago, Christians in Sri Lanka were attacked while worshipping on Easter Sunday. Here in Charlottesville, while Christians and Jews and Muslims were coming together at Wesley for these Iftar meals, there were two incidents near the mosque as people were walking to or from prayers – one was a hit-and-run and the other was a near miss.

There has never been a more important time to demonstrate love for our neighbors, to show the community what this looks like, and to develop deeper interfaith relationships. There has never been a better time to look for and love the other sheep. 🍕

—The Rev. Deborah Lewis serves as Director & Campus Minister of The Wesley Foundation at the University of Virginia.



VIRGINIA TECH

Relationships take root at district youth events. All feature photos are courtesy of respective campus ministers.



YOUTH ENGAGE AT DISTRICT YOUTH EVENTS

By Bret Gresham

THE REV. ReNe'e TEAGUE, pastor at Enon UMC, approached the Rev. Bret Gresham, campus minister at Wesley at Virginia Tech, in 2013 to talk about ways to engage local church youth groups with campus ministry. Out of that conversation arose a beautiful representation of the United Methodist connectional system. That year the students of Wesley at Virginia Tech led the Fredericksburg District youth retreat at Blackstone Retreat and Conference Center.

"The development of the relationship between Wesley at VT and the Fredericksburg Youth was a God moment," Teague said. "The retreat format blessed the Tech crew and the youth of the district in equal measure. We built bridges and relationships to carry our youth in the college setting. I'll always look back on that week when the idea developed and I'll know the hand of God was working all around and through us."

This was just the beginning of such a fruitful ministry with different district youth retreats. Since that first retreat, Wesley at Virginia Tech has led two such retreats each year: one for an outside district and the other for our Roanoke District.

These district youth retreats are multi-faceted. They give college students in campus ministry a chance to use their gifts to lead, youth an opportunity to engage with campus ministry prior to college and a connection a greater awareness of campus ministry.

"As a college student, helping to plan and lead these retreats gave me space to explore God's call," the Rev. Lauren Wright, associate pastor at Culpeper UMC, said. "Through worship planning, preaching, and engaging with youth in small groups, I was given opportunities to use my gifts and grow in tangible ways. These experiences were crucial to both my own formation, and my understanding of how God was calling me to lead in the local church."


Many students who are in ministry through Wesley

at Virginia Tech are a part of it because of their participation in the youth retreats. In fact, Emilie Berger, Wesley's student campus minister for 2019-2020, said she is at Virginia Tech because of the Roanoke District Youth Retreat.

The students at Wesley desire to create authentic and challenging themes for retreats to challenge youth to think critically about their faith. Emily Stallings, the Worship Minister at Wesley in 2018-2019, said, "We do youth retreats to offer a sense of community as well as a space for youth to grow. Being able to offer a safe space for them to ask questions is vital for them in developing their faith."

The Fusion Retreat is held off the Virginia Tech campus, at Eagle Eyrie or the Smith Mountain Lake 4H Center. The Fusion District youth leadership pays Wesley for leading the retreat, and Wesley uses that money to help offset the cost of their spring break mission trip. "Every penny we spent on speakers and bands went to send Wesley students on their spring mission trip," Teague said. This is a great example of the connectional nature of The United Methodist Church.

The Roanoke District retreat has grown from around 75 youths from 10 churches in attendance to more than 100 from 14 churches in attendance. It gives some of the smaller membership churches an opportunity to experience a youth retreat similar to the larger ones in other conferences without the enormous price tag. The Roanoke District Common Table funds the retreat 100percent and youth/leaders only pay \$10 to offset the price of the T-shirt. Students stay at Fieldstone UMC for the weekend and worship at the church on Sunday morning. Last year the youth led the way in starting the Roanoke District Solar Panel Mission Project in Puerto Rico which will provide 50 solar panel kits (\$1,000 each) by raising enough money to purchase the first kit.

VT Wesley students look forward to the retreat every year. Lives are being transformed and connections are being made to make campus ministry and The United Methodist Church a vital part of ministry with young adults. 

—The Rev. Bret Gresham is campus minister at the Wesley Foundation at Virginia Tech.



SOUL GROUPS AT VIRGINIA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

By Greg West

SOUL GROUPS" launched within the Virginia Wesleyan University (VWU) Marlin Ministry Lead Team in fall 2018. With three groups of three students each, the agenda for these gatherings was to answer the question, "How is it with your soul?"

These weren't Bible studies though the Bible was certainly used. "What's going on at the intersection of God and your life?" It's a chance to celebrate together and a chance to get honest about our struggles. The atmosphere is always grace and truth with the welcome to God's Holy Spirit to guide and provide whatever is needed.

These groups are modeled after the Class Meetings that the early Methodists required. We Methodists have a stunning theology of how God reaches out to each of us with His love and correction; and we have a very an incredibly high view of how God can transform us in this life, more and more towards Christ-likeness. Prevenient Grace and Christian Perfection!

The positive experiences that our student leaders had in these soul groups, led us to the decision to launch more groups for more students in spring 2019.

Jason Brugman and Justin Robins, VWU chaplain office interns, were instrumental in making this a success as they launched six soul groups in the spring with 24 students participating. The training for group leaders included creating the atmosphere of grace and truth, navigating times when students are in crisis, when someone dominates the group, making sure confidentiality is held and praying for the group.

It is very clear that deep relationships are formed in these groups and that following Christ in community has tremendous benefits. It is a significant




All feature photos are courtesy of respective campus ministers.



commitment though, and not everyone was ready to follow through with this, yet others joined mid semester. One of the groups never really got off the ground, however, another group was so successful that two groups formed out of it. Discipleship is a journey, and a costly one at that; but Jesus commanded it, and he knows what's best for us.

There are numerous other groups that gather on a weekly basis at VWU. Our prayer team grew from five students to more than 15 by the end of this spring semester.

In all of our groups we make room for those who do not yet believe in Christ. Young people especially need places to ask the difficult and challenging questions of life, of the Bible and of God. We have seen many receive Jesus as Savior and Lord here on campus, one of whom is off to seminary this fall.

We want to make Jesus known, loved and obeyed so we seek to spread scriptural holiness across our campus and land. Remember, Jesus didn't start a mega church, he started a mini church. A small group of the 12 disciples and the women who are always with him. And for the first 100 years of our Methodist movement, small groups (class meetings) were required of all. Small groups are the method of Jesus and the method of the Methodists. 

—The Rev. Greg West is chaplain at Virginia Wesleyan University.



SHENANDOAH
UNIVERSITY

STRIVING TO BE PEOPLE OF FAITH, JUSTICE AT SHENANDOAH UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE

By Colleen Hallagan Preuninger

ON A SUNNY AFTERNOON IN JULY 2017, we loaded up the Shenandoah University vans with 20 high school students and headed to a synagogue in Bethesda, Md. We were in the second week of the Shenandoah University Youth Theology Institute (SUYTI), and the group knew each other well.

As I was driving I heard fragments of a conversation emerging from the back of the van, punctuated by the name of the current president of the United States. Glancing in the rearview mirror, I noted that the students speaking were both some of our most progressive and some of our most conservative students in the cohort. I immediately became anxious. I strained to listen to what the students were saying, concerned that there wasn't a staff member in the back to mediate the conversation.

We arrived at our destination, and I anxiously looked for signs of distress as the students shuffled out of the van. I took one of the students aside and asked about the conversation. The student shared that the political conversation was polite and healthy, even though they fervently disagreed with one another. This student seemed genuinely surprised at my concern, as if to ask why I thought our students couldn't have a healthy conversation about politics on their own. I felt sheepish and suddenly hopeful.


Reflecting on this moment and others like it over the past three years with our youth institute students, I realized how significantly my hope and trust in the power of Christian community had been depleted over the last season of conflict and division.



Humbly and organically, the 2017 student cohort of SUYTI modeled that difficult conversations in Christian community are possible. In an area where many adults have failed, our students are eager and proficient. This brings me much hope for the future of American Christian faith communities, even if the future of The United Methodist Church seems uncertain.

Guided by the expansive message of love and justice embodied in the person and ministry of Jesus of Nazareth, as well as the epic story of God's vision for health and wholeness told in the fullness of the biblical canon, SUYTI seeks to honor, equip and empower high school youth to understand and respond to God's call on their lives at the intersection of faith and justice. We believe this begins by cultivating communities where youth can engage with the message of Jesus alongside peers and mentors and ask deep questions that are relevant to their lives. From the first cohort we welcomed to campus in 2017, our youth institute students have taught our staff and faculty just as much (if not more) as we have taught them about what it means to be a person of faith working for justice in the world.

Our students have held conversations in their local faith communities about queer inclusion and immigration. They have worked with local government to address opioid addiction and pollution. They have brought congregations of different racial and ethnic backgrounds together, created interfaith youth groups, and engaged in disability advocacy.

Our students have embodied the gospel of Jesus Christ, equipped and empowered by the Holy Spirit to be agents of love and reconciliation and justice in the world. They are the hope of the church and a model by which all of the church (especially the adults!) should strive to live. 

—The Rev. Colleen Hallagan Preuninger is the Director of the Shenandoah University Youth Theology Institute (SUYTI).



NORFOLK STATE
UNIVERSITY

WORSHIP INSPIRES, ENCOURAGES IN CAMPUS MINISTRY

By Joy Carrington

THE YOUNG PEOPLE at the Wesley Westminster Foundation at Norfolk State University worship with the hope of spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ, making disciples and transforming lives on the college campus and in the community.

Worship through song, dance, art and mime are a few of the ways we seek to reach others. The campus ministry hosts a myriad of opportunities for praise and worship during Campus Ministry Week, Family Weekend Inspirational Service and revivals and concerts. Blending their voices in song seems to be an attractive means for provoking interest in ministry on campus. The students are sought after to render music for churches and our "Regenerated" choir was featured in recording artist Pharrell Williams' Something in the Water Concert event in spring 2019 at the Virginia Beach ocean front.

As a ministry of dance both males and females join in worship through liturgical movement. During Spartan Fest, campus ministry assisted the student government association in hosting a campus wide worship event. More than 250 students gathered in one place and some made a profession of faith.

I believe many of our students hold Hebrews 10:25 near to their hearts where it is suggested that we, "not neglect to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near." College students love to worship.

This year as the campus ministry choir celebrated "The Big One," we hosted a revival and concert to commemorate their one-year anniversary together as Regenerated. The revival was well attended and held at a local church as the praise team led us in



song and the praise dancers ushered in the presence of God. The mime ministered in a special way. The preacher caused our hearts and minds to be stretched.

For us, worship serves as a way to inspire us and to encourage us. When I observe these young people, I see hope for the future. All young people are not leaving the church; in fact, many of them are simply looking for a church offering authenticity and unconditional love. I believe that many who come to campus ministry come because they in fact find a place of authenticity and unconditional love.

Campus ministry of The United Methodist Church offers hope to many who otherwise would have none. This hope not only expressed in music but also in art.

Students paint as a form of expression and worship. One of our student leaders brings together groups who paint allowing for much needed creativity and relaxation. Many of the students participating in the ministry on campus have long distanced themselves from church only to find themselves thrust right back into faith as a college student.

Parents marvel at how their children are so enthusiastic about worship here with us when many of them had to beg their children and young adults to participate in church at home. The hope lies in the fact that young people often attract other young people.

I am grateful that these young adults I serve in ministry attract others toward a culture of service to God, the campus and the community. Even when we serve food as a part of outreach, it is done with songs of praise. 🍷

—The Rev. Joy Carrington is director of campus ministries for the Wesley Westminster Foundation at Norfolk State University.



2018 United Methodist confirmation class
at Randolph-Macon Academy.
All feature photos are courtesy of
respective campus ministers.



YOUNG PEOPLE PROCLAIMING THEIR FAITH AT RANDOLPH- MACON ACADEMY

By Celeste Brooks

RANDOLPH-MACON ACADEMY celebrated the re-dedication of Boggs Chapel in 2014 in honor of its 50th anniversary. At the time, R-MA Chaplain Rev. Josh Orndorff hoped and prayed that it would be the start of a revival on campus, that the Spiritual Life programs on campus would grow to include young people making commitments of faith. It seemed unlikely, but our God is the God of hope.

Orndorff offered confirmation classes in 2015-2016, which culminated in 15 students joining The United Methodist Church. During the next school year, he coordinated with nearby Christendom College to offer Catholic confirmation classes. Over the past four years, in cooperation with the college as well as John Wesley UMC and Front Royal UMC, a total of 51 students have been confirmed and one completed a Reaffirmation of Faith. Thirty-six of those have been confirmed into the UMC, and Rev. Orndorff has also had the privilege of conducting 11 baptisms during the confirmation ceremonies. The confirmands have been from several countries, including Nigeria, China, England and the United States.

"R-MA was founded in 1892 with the intention of helping young people grow in their faith and become leaders. Confirmation classes help R-MA reclaim that original purpose," Orndorff said. "With confirmation, R-MA is living into its identity as an extension ministry that reaches out to people beyond the local church and brings them into the community of faith."

As part of the confirmation journey, the students serve others. This year, they made a trip to the

Washington UMC Disaster Relief Center in North Carolina.

"It's important, because I think people who aren't Christians feel separated from the church or they see it in a negative light," said Taylor Wreath, one of this year's UMC confirmands, who went on the trip. "Serving in UMVIM [United Methodist Volunteers in Mission] gives us the platform to go out and show that it's not about going to church once a week, but living your faith in every action you do."

Taylor had grown up in a Christian church but had never been baptized, as her parents wanted her to choose her own path. Her initial reason for choosing to go through the confirmation class was not one of faith, but of practicality. R-MA requires religious study for graduation. Taylor opted to take the evening confirmation class to free up her academic schedule. But before she took the first class last fall, God began preparing her heart for much more.

Having seen the movie "Unbroken," Taylor decided to read the book last summer. "The second part was about Louis Zamperini coming home, having all those demons with him, and ultimately making his way back to God. As soon as he went back to God, he was cured, in a way. He never had any more PTSD episodes," she said.

That story inspired Taylor, and she began the confirmation classes with a completely different purpose in her heart: to get to know the God she had been missing.

"I grew in so many ways I didn't expect," she said. She began reading the Bible every night. "At my baptism, I just got chills, and my whole family was there." Although Taylor had kept her journey somewhat private from her family, the celebration still inspired them. On Mother's Day, her mom asked to go to church together—something the family had not done in a very long time.

"Taylor's testimony is inspiring. I have been humbled to be a part of so many young people proclaiming their faith in Jesus and vowing to be a part of the church, and to see the impact they have had on others," Orndorff said. "The fact that so many young people are still interested in learning and living out their faith brings me hope about the future of the church and the next generation." 🍀

— Celeste Brooks is the director of communications at Randolph-Macon Academy.

HOPE IN SABBATH

By Drew Ens

TAKING TIME AWAY is difficult in a challenging appointment like campus ministry. Every year becomes a ministry-planting opportunity with new students who have new gifts, talents and passions. If we do our job well, we see a quarter of our students graduate and join local churches. This already challenging environment can make it difficult to take a step back when things are not going as well as they should and take time to pray, cast vision and seek the Holy Spirit.

Prior to my arrival at Arise, the local campus ministry board, the Conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry (BHECM), our supporters and the campus minister at the time requested that we take one year off to vision cast and seek what God wanted for Arise. It was humbling to walk into that space and know that together we had hope for something new that only God could see.

It was so important to have the support of the previous campus minister. The amount of work she did and the hope she had for something new can never be undervalued. We certainly had some moments where the obstacles looked too great. I remember contacting the returning students to tell them how things were going to look that year. Looking back, it was a miracle we made it through that year with anyone since “taking a year off” is a big deal when you only have four years in college. Recently, one of our 2019 graduates told me that she “just knew Arise wasn’t going to be a thing when she graduated from George Mason (GMU),” because when she showed up that first time after the previous campus minister left, there were only two students. One student told me they had already made up their mind to leave Arise because in his first three years of college there were three different campus ministers. He said he had no idea what made him stay on to be a part of the rebuild, but he did and is a leader even to this day.

That first year we had eight students and a board member who agreed to meet, pray and serve together on our vision/relaunch team. We met sev-



eral times a month, went on retreats and came out of it stronger and more focused. God had given us a set of values which then formed a vision statement and a mission. This vision statement — “Because we believe in Jesus we welcome all, share God’s universal love and compassionately share our faith on campus and in the community — was supported by our local board and embraced by all of our ecumenical partners and the rest of our students. As part of our final retreat as a vision team, we painted chalices and patens to be used in worship as a symbol of our hope of passing something along to the next generation of students who would find their home at Arise.

Because of the work, trust and hope placed in us by all of our supporters and partners and the time invested by the students and board members, we have seen substantial growth at Arise. We have seen financial growth from our supporters — enough so that we could hire an additional staff member to help support the students on campus. We have seen numerical growth to where we have about 60 students involved in the ministry and a leadership team of 12 students for the upcoming school year. We have also seen lives transformed as we have celebrated two baptisms over the past year. We continue to reach new students and share with them the hope and love that has come to be synonymous with Arise at GMU and NOVA Community Colleges. We are a growing, thriving campus ministry with hope for how God will continue to lead us into our future. I am forever grateful for the season of sabbath and reflection those incredible leaders gave to Arise Campus Ministry and myself. 🍀

— The Rev. Drew Ens is the campus minister at Arise in Fairfax, Va.



PACE DEVELOPS COMMUNITY LEADERS

By Katie Gooch

DOZENS OF STUDENTS, FACULTY AND STAFF are standing in line. The engineer from Newport News turns to her classmate and with a twinge of excitement and nervousness asks, "Have you ever had jollof rice?" A couple from Danville stay close to one another. They are the only ones at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) from their high school class. They don't know anyone else in the room but heard there was a hot meal for just a buck. One sophomore stands outside of The Pace Center with his phone tightly clutched, waiting for his friend who told him about the Community Café. Students close to the front of the line hear nervous chatter from the kitchen. "Oh no! The rice is burned." "Just mix it with the sauce, it'll taste great."

Pace's Community Café offers a hot, homemade meal for one dollar every Thursday to VCU students, faculty and staff. The brainchild: VCU United Methodist students. The chefs: VCU students from all over the world. The patrons: anyone willing to be a part of the experiment to help create community on campus.

Pace's Community Café is one of several ministries that have come out of Pace's Servant Leadership Institute. As Pace prepared to relaunch, VCU United Methodist students gathered to ask, "Where is God at work at VCU, and how is God calling United Methodists to join in?"

The answer: Bring to life the gifts and passions of the VCU community. Pace's handful of devoted students went to their fellow classmates asking, "What do you know enough about that you could teach others? What are you passionate about? If you could do anything to create even more community on campus, what would it be?" After just a few conversations, it wasn't hard to see God at work.


One of the biggest assets on VCU's campus is the incredible diversity of the student population. They

come from families all over the world. Their interests vary from engineering to art, medicine to literature. They are 18-year-old freshmen living in dorms and 40-year-old sophomores supporting families. Diversity is the top reason students choose VCU, but the campus is so big that many students find it easier to stick with people like themselves.

Enter Pace's Community Café. Students who like to cook try their hand at making a favorite family recipe for dozens of their peers. Volunteers who don't know much about the kitchen but are interested in learning show up to chop, wash and stir. And fellow classmates come with a dollar in hand, unsure of who they will meet or what they will eat, but they are game.

Last spring, Pace students invited others to join them in asking their friends, roommates and random students at the library about their gifts and passions. More than 400 students put their books and phones aside to share about themselves. Many were taken aback that someone cared about their hopes and dreams for their community and the gifts they could contribute to make it a reality.

Society teaches students that to be a good leader, you must focus on developing your own gifts. Many community service programs have taught students that to engage in their community, they should first look to see what is wrong with it and find ways to fix it. Instead, Pace students have chosen to use 1 Peter 4:10 as its guide: "And serve each other according to the gift each person has received, as good managers of God's diverse gifts." Pace is striving to develop servant leaders who bring to life the diverse dreams and gifts of others.

At Pace's Servant Leadership Institute, students are living out the belief that all of God's children are created with unique and abundant gifts. Imagine if all teachers, politicians, lawyers, nurses and social workers were driven by the goal of finding and celebrating the gifts in others? VCU is giving the students the tools to be whatever they want to be. Pace is teaching the students how to use these tools to become servant leaders. 

— The Rev. Katie Gooch is the director and campus minister at the Pace Center for Campus and Community Ministry at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU).



UNIQUE COOPERATING SPIRIT BETWEEN COLLEGE AND LOCAL CHURCH

By Jennifer Vestal Moore

IT'S NOW BEEN FOUR YEARS since I was appointed to serve in the unique cooperative ministry of chaplain at Randolph College and pastor at Bethany UMC in Rustburg.

It seems like yesterday when I said to my then-district superintendent, "I want to do creative ministry!" He knew of my experience and education in student ministry as well as my passion for the poor and feeding the hungry. He knew that I would say "Yes" to whatever was suggested. He had a grand plan and a new vision to develop a partnership between the college and a local church.

I find great joy in both of these ministry settings individually, yet the most exciting part of my ministry has been finding ways for the church and the college to work together as the body of Christ.

In the four years that the church and college have partnered together, dozens of Randolph students have worshiped at Bethany, some sharing their gift of music and others sharing their appreciation for being the recipient of a United Methodist scholarship. Some students have shared their faith stories. Others have talked to our youth about college life. And still others — Randolph's International Students — have brought the fullness of World Communion Sunday to the congregation by speaking and singing in their native tongue while also sharing about their countries. Students, faculty, and staff from the college have sat down to dinner at the church's annual community Thanksgiving dinner.

The generous people of Bethany UMC threw a birthday party for a Randolph student from Ghana who was far from home; cake, cards and gifts of food and money brought the student to tears. Each


year the parishioners put together "welcome back to college" bags for the students. You can also find members of the congregation on the Randolph campus enjoying the sights and sounds of the phenomenal college orchestra and chorale throughout the year.

There have been many blessings from this relationship, but the greatest blessing for me is when both of these communities join together in work, prayer and praise serving the hungry through the Food for Families program at Parkview Missions (an Advance Special and Lynchburg District UMC mission).

There are certainly challenges that all chaplains and campus ministers face that are unique to the college setting. In the church, we live by the Bible and are guided by the *Book of Discipline*. At the college it is important to recognize, appreciate and reach out to the great diversity of the student population. Seeking out inclusive language is mandatory, and demonstrating the love of Christ through our actions takes priority over the spoken word.

As I reflect on the joy of ministry, and specifically the ministry God has called me to, I am so thankful for a cooperative spirit between Randolph College and the people at Bethany United Methodist Church. I am thankful for a creative and visionary district superintendent who heard his pastor and acted upon her gifts. I am thankful that The United Methodist Church is open to change and trying "A New Thing." I am especially thankful to our amazing God who can bring all of this together for the glory of God's Kingdom.

I strongly encourage congregations to reach out to their local UM college chaplains and Wesley Foundation ministers and seek ways to help our students. Simple gestures like prayers, goodie bags, invitations to church sponsored events and food of any kind are always welcome.

Our churches have an opportunity to make a huge impact on the lives of those who may be far from home and could use a little encouragement. You and your church can make a difference. I promise you, you will find great blessings along the way. We sure did! 

— The Rev. Jennifer Vestal Moore is chaplain of Randolph College in Lynchburg and pastor of Bethany UMC in Rustburg.



WILLIAM & MARY

FOLLOWING JESUS AT WILLIAM & MARY

By Max Blalock

HERE AT WESLEY FOUNDATION AT WILLIAM & MARY (W&M) we worship together, eat together, study the Bible together, serve together, and are transformed through the deepening relationships with God and one another. But it doesn't stop there. All those practices are focused upon sending us out to transform and be transformed by the deepening relationships we build with God and folks across the campus and beyond.

Just this past year, our faith and God's love has moved us to:

- ❖ partner with students, faculty, staff, and the community to open the first food pantry at W&M;
- ❖ welcome three students to live at Wesley who had nowhere else to go;
- ❖ partner with local churches, individuals, and student groups to provide support to refugees in the area through Hampton Roads Refugee Relief;
- ❖ co-sponsor, with the South Asian Student Association and others, a vigil for the terrorist attacks in Sri Lanka;
- ❖ partner with the Muslim Student Association and fast with them for their Fast-A-Thon, co-sponsor a Pre-Ramadan Iftar dinner at Wesley, and co-sponsor the vigil for the victims of the terrorist attacks in New Zealand;
- ❖ host Hillel, the Jewish student group for their Rosh Hashanah dinner and several Shabbat services, as well as co-sponsor the vigil for the victims of the terrorist attack at the Tree of Life synagogue;
- ❖ co-host several community dinners at the Wesley House with various other student groups to address food insecurity and build community across the campus;



- ❖ partner with the Center for Student Diversity on an interfaith trip to the Holocaust Museum, as well co-host a discussion about faith on campus;
- ❖ partner with UndocuTribe to host and Immigration 101 event; and
- ❖ have a table at the W&M Pride event, and our president speak, ensuring that students know that our welcome, inclusion, and affirmation is truly for all.


The most powerful example of Wesley putting our faith into action was this spring when a hate group came to campus for two days. Wesley, along with other student groups and individual students, coordinated with the college to have a counter-protest area. In answer to the hate-filled messages nearby, Wesley offered cookies, lemonade, water, and other snacks on those two very hot days.

In addition, we were there for five-and a -half hours each day, offering loving conversation and support for the students. All of us together created a joyous, loving community filled with music, laughter, great snacks and powerful, hilarious signs in response to the hate. Not only did we care for students those two days, it led to at least one student who isn't Christian coming to Wesley to "discover what y'all are about."

When it comes to who we are, the students at William and Mary say it best:

"I am just happy to be a part of a group that is inclusive, rallying for radical change and love of everyone and anyone, and whose morals and values stand with mine so well."

"I sorely needed a home, and Wesley pretty much saved me."

Because of the way we embody the love of God through following Jesus, we literally save lives. We are the community that students know that they can come to when they are in crisis, in need or just looking for some friendly faces with love and snacks to share. Thanks to the entire Virginia Conference for empowering us to be a place of faith, hope, and love! 

– The Rev. Max Blalock is the campus minister at the Wesley Foundation at William & Mary.



Students create a drainage ditch in Xeabaj II. All feature photos are courtesy of respective campus ministers.

RANDOLPH-MACON COLLEGE

IN MISSION AT RANDOLPH- MACON COLLEGE

By Kendra Grimes

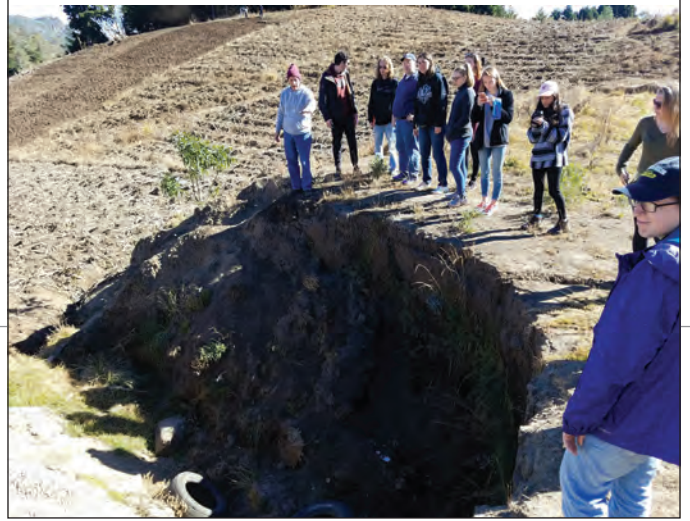
DUNCAN MEMORIAL UMC has partnered with Randolph-Macon College to be in ministry beyond their Ashland, Va. community. For several years, the congregation has worked with Highland Support Project, based in Richmond, Va. Duncan Memorial's Missions Committee is focused on long-term relationships in mission and not projects that change every year. As church groups returned to the same Guatemalan community annually, it became clear that the village school/soccer field was experiencing ongoing flooding issues.

Duncan Memorial mission team member Dr. Ray Martin dreamed out loud, "What if we had Randolph-Macon students who are studying engineering physics and soil mechanics come down and do the field work, then the church could come back with funds and money to help the village carry out the project?"

This dream became a reality in January 2018 when Professor James McLeskey's Engineering for Developing Areas course travelled to Xeabaj II. The class surveyed the area where severe erosion was occurring due to rainwater runoff. They created a topographical map of the area, took soil samples, and then created a plan for a drainage ditch and retaining wall. Students worked in teams, each team creating their own design, and the professors selected the best plan.

Duncan Memorial Church sent a mission team back to Xeabaj II in July of 2018 to construct the drainage ditch and a gravity retaining wall comprised of hundreds of used tires. In addition to ending the flooding and erosion, this design created a use for old tires which would otherwise be an environmental problem.

Partnership made problem-solving possible: Highland Support Project was already in partnership with the community and aware of the challenges facing those who live there. Randolph-Macon



College had professors and students with the skills and knowledge to create a remediation plan. Duncan Memorial UMC could secure volunteers and funding to carry out the project. Local residents could offer time, physical labor, and genuine hospitality. Randolph-Macon Chaplain Kendra Grimes commented, "Together, we created change that none of us could have accomplished on our own."

— The Rev. Kendra Grimes is chaplain and Director of Church Relations at Randolph-Macon College in Ashland, Va.



OLD DOMINION
UNIVERSITY

ODU students stock and serve
at the IGNITE food pantry.
All feature photos are courtesy
of respective campus ministers.

FOOD PANTRY ESTABLISHED IN RESPONSE TO STUDENT FOOD INSECURITY

By Maxine Thomas

THE IGNITE PANTRY was created in response to a need we discovered among our earliest volunteers at Old Dominion University (ODU). After spending time with these volunteers, we knew them and their struggles personally and found that many of them were hungry.

The staff at IGNITE didn't understand how this could be possible as we were on a campus where all freshman are required to have meal plans and the student food options seemed vast. As we explored the problem a little more, we found research that said that 1 in 4 college students are food insecure, which means that they don't know from where their next meal will come.


Our pantry serves all students, faculty, and staff in ODU's community, and we work hard to spread the word each year to make sure new students know we are here for them.

As we approach our fourth year open, we have served more than 500 unique pantry clients, not including the dependents of those clients. In addition to those served, we have received a profoundly positive response from ODU's community with more than 344 volunteers who have logged hundreds of hours with us helping serve our clients week after week.

Between our partnership with the FoodBank of Southeastern Virginia and our partnership with ODU, we have been able to continue updating the types of food that we distribute to better fit the dietary needs of all of our clients. In addition to the traditional non-perishable items you typically find at a pantry, we have been able to start distributing more fresh foods.



Staff at ODU wrote a grant that enabled us to purchase a large industrial fridge and freezer which will house turkeys for Thanksgiving, hams for Christmas, fresh produce from the ODU Community Garden and huge fresh food donations from ODU Dining.

Our partnerships have allowed us to make a tangible difference beyond the IGNITE pantry as well. IGNITE now sits on a Food Insecurity Committee which has successfully developed an app that sends push notifications to students, faculty and staff who have self-identified as food insecure to let them know when and where free fresh food is on campus. 

-The Rev. Maxine Thomas is the outgoing director and campus minister of the Wesley Foundation at Old Dominion University (ODU), IGNITE Norfolk.

TEACHING INNOVATION, CREATIVITY FOR STUDENTS

By Steve Darr

YOUNG PEOPLE CAN DISCOVER and test their creative genius with one another at the Design, Engineering, and Innovation LAB (DEILAB) or find a safe space. DEILAB is a new partner of Alliance for Excellence, a program of Community College Ministries bridging cultures and social connections and expanding opportunities through education. The program pictured here was held at the Cherrystone Missionary Baptist Association near Danville Community College on May 11, 2019.

But the program doesn't just work with today's students in college. We also serve tomorrow's college students, some of whom will go to area community colleges and others to four-year institutions or be prepared for commercial or industrial careers.

Either way, innovation and creativity around simple design challenges teach valuable lessons in working together with a faithful purpose to build a better world. Interactions motivate youth to build a compassionate, caring, and civil society. DEILAB will tour our community colleges in the coming months and we would be delighted to add your community or college to the tour. Please contact me, Steve Darr, anytime at 540-230-8581 or stevedarr@vaumc.org. Learn more at www.deilab.com. 📧

-The Rev. Steve Darr is the campus ministry director of Community College Ministries in Roanoke.





FUTURE LEADERS COLLABORATE IN CAMPUS MINISTRIES

By Drew Enszt

A RENEWED SPIRIT OF COLLABORATION among campus ministries, Virginia United Methodist-related schools and the Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry (BHECM) began several years ago. Two initiatives growing from the conference Next Gen Ministries and BHECM are the Campus Ministry Team and the Campus Ministry Institute.

The Campus Ministry Team began as an invitation to all campus ministers and chaplains in the Virginia Conference to be a part of something new. A team of eight began to meet, with the goals of offering support to one another as well as looking at how we could help support fruitfulness and transformation across all campus ministries and United Methodist-related schools throughout Virginia.

This team has met for nearly three years and has expanded to include individuals who are not currently campus ministers but have experience and passion about college students knowing the transformative love of Jesus Christ.

Webinars, collaborative projects with the BHECM, and an on-boarding resource team for new campus ministers have come from this team. This on-boarding team has worked with new campus ministers, helping them become acclimated to their ministries as well as offering support when difficulties arise. This has created an environment of collaboration, assistance and helpful resourcing.


Another initiative grown out of the collaboration between the Campus Ministry Team and the BHECM is the Campus Ministry Institute.

Over the past two years, students and staff from four contextually different campus ministries have been part of the Campus Ministry Institute. The Campus Ministry Institute focuses on team-based leadership development so that campus ministers and chaplains are equipped to build ministry teams

alongside their student leaders.

These ministry teams spend considerable amounts of time together, building capacity and trust through spiritual formation, covenant, ministry action planning and experimentation. With clarity of purpose, campus ministry leaders and their teams can go back to their campuses and focus on sharing their faith with others.

Throughout the process, campus ministries have received individualized leadership coaching, walking through a visioning and leadership process which culminates in a spring retreat. This past year's spring retreat was incredible as students talked through plans on their campus, brainstormed ways to reach out to others on campus, and thought through their goals for the following year.

This resource, which continues to be offered to campus ministers and chaplains, has been a great opportunity to train and help students think about their leadership potential, not only in campus ministry, but in every facet of their lives. The Campus Ministry Institute continues to be a place where we see hope for the future of campus ministry in Virginia and also for churches that these students will help lead. 

– The Rev. Drew Enszt is the campus minister at Arise in Fairfax, Va.



HOLDING SPACE AT RISE CAMPUS MINISTRY

By Kelsey Barnes

When I left my family for James Madison University (JMU) in August 2010, I was not expecting involvement with campus ministry or an eventual career in clinical social work. Starting college, I was sure of only two things: I wanted to help people and I wanted to leave my faith behind. Generations and generations of my family had kept the Protestant faith. By the time I was born, I had probably heard every classic hymn through walls of the womb.

I grew up thinking God had a purpose for every event; “love the sinner, hate the sin” expressed proper righteousness; and experiencing anxiety was somehow related to the magnitude of my faith. I struggled to maintain these beliefs when my own challenging life experiences so boldly welcomed more questions. I challenged the common notion that God purposefully uses horrendous episodes of suffering like natural disasters, abuse and death as “teachable moments.”

I craved to know if God, who creates everyone in God’s image, would truly condemn God’s beloved children to eternal burning for merely worshiping or loving differently. Maybe if I rid myself of religion and focused only on loving others, it would be enough for God.

When RISE UMC in Harrisonburg, Va. found me on JMU’s campus (and I say “found” because they kept popping up wherever I seemed to go,) I thought it was rather bold of them to claim their snazzy taglines like “everyone means everyone,” and “you are a gift.”

In my experience, everyone meant “everyone who looks like the rest of the congregation,” and you are a gift meant, “we want you to be on all of the committees.” I felt certain that arriving in all my messiness would prompt one righteous member to latch on to me with a promise of immediate healing.

Fortunately, personal authenticity is one of RISE’s core beliefs. The community there is unlike anything I had experienced in any other spiritual company.



My four undergraduate years with them opened my eyes to a type of ministry so rarely practiced, but so desperately needed: the ministry of holding space. “Holding space” means to acknowledge and share someone’s experience without necessarily offering solutions or filling silent moments. RISE community was and is spectacular at holding space. They embraced me as I was with all of my complex questions, doubts and fears, and they welcomed this struggle with, “me too.”

As a social worker in the absurd year of 2019, holding space is one of my boldest, hardest, and most healing clinical tools. In allowing this kind of practice, which often happens without words, I am treading against my gnawing human instinct to fill and fix.

In my work, people often want to be seen more than they want to be solved. On a daily basis, I sit with others in raw and painful moments, and I feel the true audacity it takes for my clients to hope. My clients choose to look their fear in the eye and carry themselves through the threshold. I am astounded by their daringness to face their own suffering with the subtle promise that fear will not have them that day. These moments are the most sacred and most holy in my work.

These moments thrust me to a time when my own inkling of inextinguishable, scrappy hope pointed my feet to RISE’s front door again and again and again as if to say, “fear will not have me today,” to which God always answers, “come as you are.”

– Kelsey Barnes is a Clinical Social Worker/Child Domestic Violence Advocate in the Greater Richmond Area and was a part of RISE campus ministry.

Students from Concord University and Bridgewater College show off the notes they received from the Culpeper UMC congregation. All feature photos are courtesy of respective campus ministers.



CHURCH SUPPORTS STUDENTS AWAY AT COLLEGE

By Lee Anne Orndorff and Michelle Orndorff

FOUR YEARS AGO, at Culpeper UMC(CUMC) in Culpeper, VA, the church discovered it had lost our path in supporting their college age young adults. But with God's help, this area of ministry can be achievable, and any church can support their young adults wherever God may lead them!

CUMC's former children's ministry director Lee Anne Orndorff, who had seen the young adults in Culpeper UMC grow from childhood, felt called to reconnect the church with their young adults. Under Orndorff's leadership, CUMC began to live into the calling to better support their college students and the College Age Young Adults Ministry Team was formed. The team's vision is that young adults, as they find their own paths in life, need to be shown that the church values them, believes in them, prays for them and supports them. Overall, they must know that they are still a vital part of their church family.

The College Age Young Adult Ministry Team began sending cards two years ago to each college age young adult in the church, whether attending college, working, or serving in the military. Monthly, from September to April, 100 blank cards are presented for church members to write brief words of encouragement and sign their name. Each card includes a picture with a Scripture verse written on it and each young adult is prayed for by name when the team meets.

Here is what a few of CUMC's young adults said about receiving cards from their church family:

❖ *"It's always fun to get mail, and I look forward to the cards from CUMC. They never fail to brighten my day. I'm so thankful for such a loving church*

family to come home to!"

—Allison Woods , Virginia Tech

❖ *"Got another letter in the mail yesterday, thanks so much!! I love hearing from you guys!!"*

— Ben Stephenson, University of Virginia

Fueled by the excitement of the young adults who received cards, the team's heart for encouraging their own young adult church members continued to grow. One of the group's other ways of outreach include the idea of taking CUMC College Road Trips. With little to no hesitation, members of the team and others from the church began visiting as many students as possible at their college/ university that spring! "Exam goodies," also known



UMC Culpeper members hand-deliver goodie bags to college students all over Virginia, but these two photos are from UVA and JMU.



as popcorn, ramen noodles, protein bars, oatmeal, candy, gum, crackers, and more are collected from the church family. Bags are filled with those goodies and the adventures begin. A couple of days before descending on a campus, the student(s) are sent a text to see when they are available. The greetings are recorded on Facebook Live so that members of the church family can join in! Sometimes students are treated to a meal so there is more time to listen to their stories.

Before leaving each campus, wherever the team may be, prayers are lifted up for each student. In the past two years, students at 17 schools in Virginia have been visited. Goodie bags are mailed to those not seen and to those attending schools out of state, while community college students pick up their goodie bag at church. CUMC has found that investing in these college age young adults has been a blessing to all involved and they should always know that we are only a text away.

No matter how big or small your church may be, or how far you are from your students, you can still connect with them. Whether it is mailing a card, hosting intentional gatherings, or even going on a road trip to visit, there are many different ways to support the college age young adults in your church in real and authentic ways. Be intentional in showing them that they matter, God loves them, and their church is here for them! 🍷

– Lee Anne Orndorff and Michelle Orndorff represent the College Age Young Adult Ministry Team at Culpeper UMC.

PERSPECTIVE OF A CAMPUS MINISTER

By Justin Hicks

I WALKED ONTO THE HAMPDEN-SYDNEY COLLEGE CAMPUS full of excitement and possibilities in August 1999. I was ready to move from under my parents' wings and live a full life where I was in charge. There was no one to tell me when to be home, when to clean my room or when to go to bed.

Fast forward 19 years and I find myself in a similar situation: pulling into the Wesley Foundation to start my first day of being the campus minister. I felt the same nerves and excitement as a college freshman. Will they like me? Will they even show up?

Wesley, especially this Wesley, holds a special place in my heart. It was here on a spring break mission trip to Red Bird Kentucky that I quietened myself enough to listen to what God had been saying to me for some time.

It was a still night in the hills of Kentucky when I felt a call to ordained ministry. My campus minister at the time affirmed in me what God was saying. Wesley became my home away from home, a place I met God and was able to wrestle through the questions I had as a young adult.

We had a change in campus ministers my senior year, and that was tough for me. But we were sent a new campus minister that loved us just the same

The Rev. Justin Hicks is saying farewell to his first senior class this year at Longwood College and Hampden-Sydney College. All feature photos are courtesy of respective campus ministers.

WESLEY



and continued to pour into my life even after I graduated.

It had always been a prayer of mine that one day I could return to a place that was so informative in my call and life in general. Wesley is that place where I could come and be myself and I was accepted. It was the place I met people who would become my lifelong friends. It also modeled for me the way that I understood ministry for and with people.

Today we work hard at the relationship-building part at Wesley. I am finishing my first year and about to say “see you later” to my first group of seniors. When I left this place the first time 19 years ago, I always knew there was a group of people in Farmville that loved and cared for me. We want that for all our students.

I learned so many leadership skills while at Wesley, like what it looked like to interact with people and how to work through difficult situations.

We push our students when it comes to leadership. They are asked to step out of their comfort zones, and we hope when they leave this place they find a place in the church and use their leadership to be a part of what is happening in their little piece of the world. 🍀

– The Rev. Justin Hicks is campus minister at Longwood and Hampden-Sydney Wesley Foundations.



PLUGGING INTO CAMPUS MINISTRY

By Rob Lough

I RECENTLY HAD AN INTERESTING EXPERIENCE while on vacation. I was traveling with my family through Blacksburg and stopped in at the Wesley Foundation at Virginia Tech to visit the campus minister, Bret Gresham. Bret wasn't in, and as I walked back through the lobby a young lady looked up from her books and said, "Hi Pastor Rob." I didn't expect that. As I took a moment to speak with her another student came out of the dining room, and said, "Pastor Rob?"

Now, you might think this familiarity existed because the church I serve is next door to Tech. In reality, my congregation is 150 miles away, and I haven't been in that building in years. The reason these two young people recognized me wasn't because I had a deep relationship with the ministry, but because they attend my church. In fact, eight students who grew up at Ebenezer Church are now plugged in at Wesley on Tech's campus.

This summer my time as chair of the board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry for the Virginia Conference will come to an end. Earlier in my career I was honored to serve on an administrative council for one of our campus ministries called the Local Board. It has been a wonderful experience to work with our outstanding campus ministers and students in both capacities, but the most important thing I have done to support these vital Next Generation (NextGen) ministries has nothing to do with serving on an administrative team.

I have done one simple thing to help young people who are beginning their college journey connect with Christ and one another in their new environments. It has been fruitful and only takes a few brief moments.

When I have had a student preparing to go to a college or university where we have a campus ministry, I simply did my best to share with the student about the ministry. Often, that simply entailed let-



ting the student know there IS a UMC ministry at their school. It took no time at all. Certainly, you should feel free to go an extra mile. On a few occasions, I set up an email introduction between the student and the campus minister. Once, I took the student to lunch with the Wesley Foundation director, but for the most part all I did was tell the students about the ministry.

One of our great desires as humans is to belong, and in telling these students about our campus ministries we are helping them find a place where they can find belonging in their new environment. Our campus ministries provide a safe space for community to flourish and for the new experiences and information students are encountering to be discussed and processed, all within a Christ-centered environment.

My challenge to all of us, whether laity or pastors, is to have a brief conversation with the students in our congregations to let them know there is a place for them as they depart for the next phase of their journey. Christ and His Church have prepared a place in advance for our students to feel loved, find purpose; this is a place for them to belong. Hallelujah! 🇺🇸

— The Rev. Rob Lough is outgoing chair of the Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry for the Virginia Conference.

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LIVING THE WORD



Wil Bailey is a NC Conference Missionary and an UMVIM individual volunteer. He graduated from Duke Divinity School with an M.Div. degree in 2003. Wil is the executive director of Acts One Eight Missions. Wil and his wife, Yolanda, have been hosting mission teams and coordinating projects alongside the Evangelical Methodist Church of Costa Rica since 2003. Their daughter, Isabella, is five years old. For more information about them and their work in Costa Rica, please visit www.costaricamissionprojects.com.

July 7, 2019
Matthew 5:14-16

In September 1999 I was driving alone from California to North Carolina. My plan for day one was to get from San Diego to somewhere in Texas to stop for the night and continue on the next day. I remember around dusk coming over a hill and seeing lights away in the distance. With nothing but highway between me and those lights on the horizon, I figured that wherever those lights were would be a good place to stop for dinner and spend the night. Three hours later, I got to the source of those lights, never crossing my mind that they were that far away.

There have been times throughout my life when the church (the community of faith in Jesus Christ that collectively calls itself church) has served that same purpose for me, times I have been figuratively driving through the desert, not really knowing how far away I am from where I'm supposed to be, and then I see it — the lights on the horizon, guiding me home. Because I've experienced it myself, I am conscious of how important it is for the church to be that "light of the world" for others. In order for the church to do that it must be visible so that anyone wandering through the desert, in need of nourishment and shelter, can see where we are.

Earlier this year we had a volunteer team from Kansas working with us in

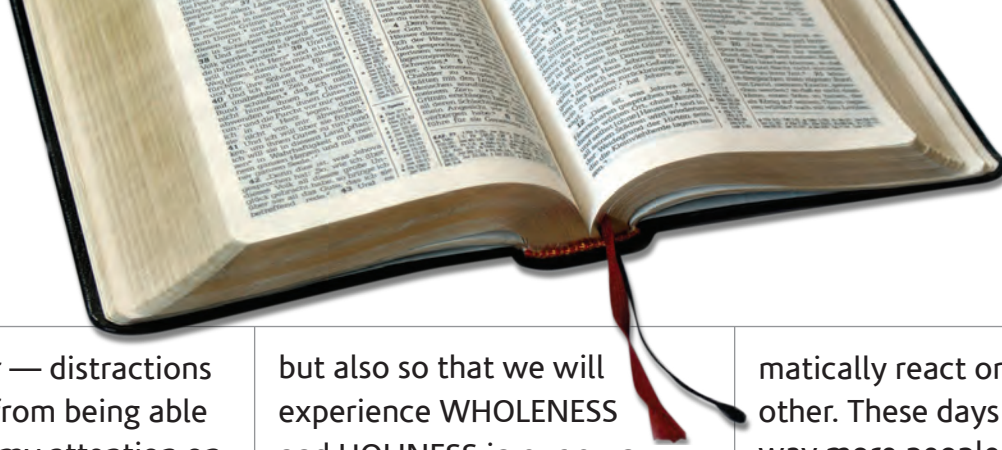
San Isidro, Costa Rica. They spent part of their time here in small groups with local church members visiting families in the community, sharing Jesus' love with them and inviting them to a special worship service that the local church was planning for the end of the week. One of the things that made that service "special" was that they had it out in the middle of the street — the podium, instruments, pews... everything.

No one got hurt, no one got mad, and it was beautiful to see the church be that visible in the middle of their community. Even people who didn't come to the service stepped outside onto their porches or into the street in front of their homes and watched from a distance.

The work of the church in the world is too beautiful and too important to be hidden. That light must shine in the darkness for all to see.

July 14, 2019
Matthew 5:21-32

There are days when before 11 a.m. I have already checked off all 40 items on my to-do list. It doesn't happen often, but every once in a while it does. And does it feel good! But more often, I feel like I'm not getting anything done. It feels like I'm just spinning my wheels or slogging through mud. Usually those days are filled with distractions — phone calls, emails, unexpected knocks on



my office door — distractions that keep me from being able to focus all of my attention on the task at hand.

Spiritual distractions can take a toll on us as well. If we are burdened by unresolved issues with the people around us, then we become vulnerable to distractions on a spiritual level that keep us from coming “to the altar” with the kind of focus that the Lord deserves. We carry those unresolved issues instead of a worthy sacrifice into the Temple. In Matthew 5: 24, Jesus makes it clear that it is better to walk away from the altar and resolve the unresolved, then to approach it in such a state. It’s better for me and better for the brother or sister who “has something against [me].”

The very idea of seeking holiness and purity in my own life is daunting to say the least. And the distance from daunting to burdensome is quite short indeed. What a relief to realize that it is for my own spiritual health and wellbeing that Jesus is pointing the hearers of the Sermon on the Mount in this direction. Do good, resolve conflict, resist hatred so that those around us will see and experience the grace of our Lord and Savior,

but also so that we will experience WHOLENESS and HOLINESS in our own lives.

Anger, murder, name calling, lust, adultery...None of these belong on the altar. Not only do they not belong on the altar, but they also keep us from approaching the altar with pure hearts. They create barriers between ourselves and God’s divine presence. The call to “Be holy, because I am holy” (Lev. 11:44, 1 Pet 1:16) may seem an impossible task, a goal too lofty and daunting, but it is at the core of why we and the church were created in the first place.

July 21, 2019
Matthew 5:38-48

Flight or fight is a concept I remember learning about in health class in elementary school. Apparently if someone threatens me I’m wired to either confront them, hoping to overmatch their force with my own, or flee, hoping that I’m faster than they are. I was taught that it is a natural reflex. We don’t have to stop and think about which of the two we are going to do if the situation arises, our minds and bodies will auto-

matically react one way or the other. These days it seems like way more people are inclined to fight than flight. You don’t have to watch the news or connect to social media for very long to see shocking acts of violence.

What Jesus is offering in these verses is a way of being in the world that doesn’t fall into either one of those two traditional categories. His words are as counter cultural today as 2,000 years ago. It seems to me that the core of this lesson is trust. Do I trust Jesus enough to:

- ❖ Respond to acts of violence in a way that, instead of reciprocating that violent act, actually disarms the aggressor in a way that shows them the same grace and mercy that is shown to me every time my sins nail Jesus to the cross?
- ❖ Respond with extravagant generosity to those who want to take from me because Jesus has promised that I will be cared for just

(Con’t on page 52: “LIVING WORD”.)

The 2019 Living the Word devotions are from the *Standard Lesson Commentary* from Cokesbury.
Note: you can follow the July readings for the 2019 Bible Challenge from Bishop Lewis on pg 53.

(“LIVING WORD” con’t from previous page.)

like “the birds of the air”?
(Matthew 6:26)

- ❖ Respond to institutional oppression in such a way that the oppressor is ashamed of him or herself when the light of Christ shines on their darkened hearts, leading them to see that grasping at power is as far as we can get from who Jesus was?
- ❖ Respond to hatred by overwhelming it with love? If I truly understand and appreciate the lengths and depths to which Jesus went to save me when I was His enemy, how can I resist extending some reflection of that perfect love to those whom I call enemy?

I believe that we can trust God and His promises. I believe that we already know how this story ends. I pray that the way I live my life bears witness to whom we trust.

July 28, 2019
Matthew 7:1-6, 15-23

Since 2003 we have been hosting short-term Volunteers in Mission teams who come to serve alongside the Methodist

Church of Costa Rica. When the mission teams are here, we worship together, pray together, serve one another, have fellowship with one another and witness in the communities where we partner with the local churches. Those five things are what make this ministry “church.” Worship, Prayer, Service, Fellowship and Witness — what we are is church. What we are not is a construction company.

While buildings may be the most visible evidence of the work we are doing in Costa Rica, they are not the beginning and the end of the work we are doing here.

We know that helping the local churches with the needs they have for classrooms, worship spaces and housing for pastors and their families is important, but these are all “fruits” of our being church together. They are the good fruit that grows on a healthy tree (church) because of the lasting relationships that are built around nurturing the tree (church).

You can’t be in ministry with people if you don’t see them first. You can be in ministry at them. You can be in ministry to them. But you can’t

be in ministry with them. We must be intentional about seeing our brothers and sisters who are around us, whether that be in the community where we live, the country where we were born or while overseas on a mission trip.

Seeing them leads us to engaging. Engaging leads to building relationships. Building relationships leads to understanding what it means for the same Christ that abides in me to also abide in them. Then the word church becomes something different. Then we are bound to Christ and to one another and we have been made church. That church will bear fruit that is good. A healthy tree bears healthy fruit. A healthy church, built on engaging, listening, abiding and being, will bear healthy fruit as well.

As hard as an unhealthy tree might try to bear good fruit, these verses from Matthew 7 make it clear that they can’t. By the same token, the good tree doesn’t have to “try” to bear good fruit. It’s what they do. It happens naturally. One of the most exciting and beautiful things I have seen over the last 16 years is the good fruit that grows naturally out of the healthy church. 🍓



Bishop's Bible Challenge readings for July

July 1	Deut. 13-15; Acts 4:1-22
July 2	Deut. 16 -18; Acts 4:23-37
July 3	Deut. 19-21; Acts 5:1-21
July 4	Deut. 22-24; Acts 5:22-42
July 5	Deut. 25-27; Acts 6
July 6	Deut. 28-29; Acts 7:1-21
July 7	Deut. 30-31; Acts 7:22-43
July 8	Deut. 32-34; Acts 7:44-60
July 9	Obadiah; Acts 8:1-25
July 10	Ruth 1-4; Acts 8:26-40
July 11	Psalms 1-3; Acts 9:1-21
July 12	Psalms 4-6; Acts 9:22-43
July 13	Psalms 7-9; Acts 10:1-23
July 14	Psalms 10-12; Acts 10:24-48
July 15	Psalms 13-15; Acts 11
July 16	Psalms 16-17; Acts 12
July 17	Psalms 18-19; Acts 13:1-25
July 18	Psalms 20-22; Acts 13:26-52
July 19	Psalms 23-25; Acts 14
July 20	Psalms 26-28; Acts 15:1-21
July 21	Psalms 29-30; Acts 15:22-41
July 22	Psalms 31-32; Acts 16:1-21
July 23	Psalms 33-34; Acts 16:22-40
July 24	Psalms 35-36; Acts 17:1-15
July 25	Psalms 37-39; Acts 17:16-34
July 26	Psalms 40-42; Acts 18
July 27	Psalms 43-45; Acts 19:1-20
July 28	Psalms 46-48; Acts 19:21-41
July 29	Psalms 49-50; Acts 20:1-16
July 30	Psalms 51-53; Acts 20:17-38
July 31	Psalms 54-56; Acts 21:1-17

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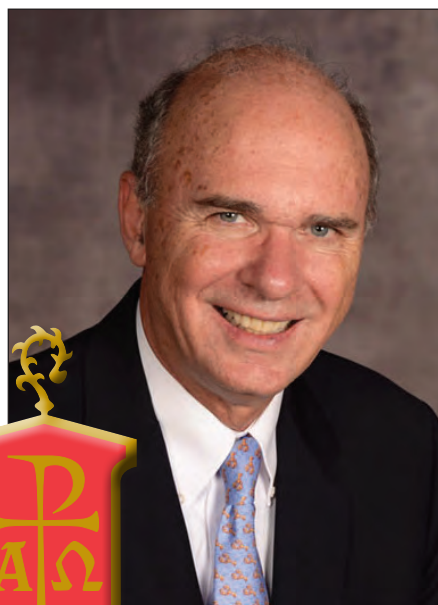
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FROM THE BISHOP



The point of appointments

Once again this July more than a hundred United Methodist congregations and pastors in Virginia and thousands across the United States will begin new appointments. New pastors will be in new places with new people together for the first time.

As a preacher's kid, I was very upset every time we had to move, starting all over in a new school and needing to find new friends. Now, as a retiree, my wife and I are connected with a congregation and we have grown fond of our pastors — why change? So, what's the point of appointments?

God's mission to love and save our world resulted in the most profound "missional appointment," sending in history. "God

so loved the world that he gave his only Son..." (John 3:16) Jesus came, not for a 9-5 job or to take care of an institution, but to proclaim in his life, death and resurrection Good News for all people in all places. This remains the heart of God's sending mission and the primary point of appointments!


Jesus teamed with faithful—though not perfect—men and women who became the church, not a building, but a dynamic, creative group whom he sent to "Go make disciples...." (Matt. 28:18-20). They were appointed. And they were pointed outward into their communities and world, together with Christ. "Lo, I will be with you!"

The church of John Wesley's time was stuck, not sent; pointed inward, not outward; doing maintenance, not mission. For the sake of making disciples, the Wesleyan movement embarked on an itinerant, missional, sending strategy. Wesley went out and sent out (appointed) others to all kinds of places where there were people and communities yearning for new life, hope, faith, and love. He claimed, as we still do, the "world as our parish."

Thus, the point of appointments is not to take care of pastors (or preacher's kids, although we consider their needs.) It is not to take care of congregations (although we consider their input.) But the point of appointments is to team pastors and congregations together to "take care" of God's mission out into the world of their community and beyond.

This can be a joyful and ful-

filling adventure of faith for the clergy who have chosen to be a part of the United Methodist itinerant sending system, having vowed to "offer themselves without reserve to be appointed." Likewise, the congregation who, as the continuing witness for Christ in their community, benefit from the variety of gifts that a variety of pastors, over time, bring for strengthening that congregation for God's mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of God's world parish.

Let us pray for all of those congregations and pastors who are entering into a newly-appointed partnership in ministry this July. Trust Christ's word: "Lo, I will be with you!" 

ONE LAST WORD

TOP 5 WAYS TO GET INVOLVED IN CAMPUS MINISTRY

1.

Send in names of current students
(use vaumc.org/CollegeInfo)

2.

Connect your students with their school's campus minister
over email or even go to lunch!
(see Rob Lough's article on pg. 48.)

3.

Give financially.
(connect with campus ministry directly or send a check to the
conference office with campus ministry's name)

4.

Reach out to campus minister on ways to partner.
(see list on page 49 for contact info)

5.

Pray for campus ministries and students.

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