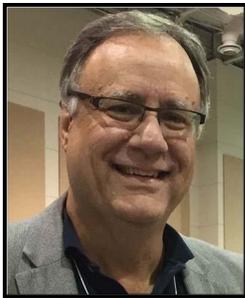


# THE BEACON

News from the Virginia Conference United Methodist Men

## President's Message | Andrew Kissell

### *Bed, Bathsheba, and Beyond | Lead Us Not into Temptation*



### Good Morning,

The Rev. Mark Miller of Virginia Beach UMC once taught the men attending Annual Conference that it's easier to *avoid* temptation than to resist it. To illustrate, Pastor Miller shared the story of how Jr. Sample of *Hee Haw* fame was telling Doc that he'd broken his arm in two places. Doc wryly advised Jr. to avoid those two places.

At our annual Spiritual Advance years ago, the Rev. Dr. Bill Bouknight taught us how easy it is for the Devil to tempt us. Power, money, sex, or drugs are the bait he uses, and at least one is bound to catch us!



Lot and his Daughters-Peter Paul Rubens

Why did Lot's daughters get him drunk? [Genesis 19:30-38](#)



Bathsheba at the Bath- Rembrandt van Rijn

Why did King David have Uriah killed?  
[2 Samuel 11:1-18, 26-27](#)

Why did Pontius Pilate ask Jesus, "What is truth?" [John 18:37-38](#)

Why did the rich young ruler ask Jesus how to "inherit eternal life"?  
[Mark 10:17-27](#)

If we don't keep God front and center, it is easy to see how evil thoughts can fill the

God-shaped hole in our hearts and lead us to sinful deeds. All we have to do is look at the daily news (or the Bible) to see how the mighty fall. So how do we avoid temptation since it's so hard to resist? Paul, in his letter to the Philippians, tells us to keep our *minds* on Godly things:

***"Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things and the God of peace will be with you."*** [Philippians 4:8](#)

For me, keeping my eyes on Jesus while my thoughts are on whatever is noble (and thereby avoiding temptation) requires daily prayer and Bible meditation, a weekly accountability group, weekly worship, and serving others. All of which are God's gracious gifts leading us not into temptation!

Grace and Peace,

**Andrew**

Andrew Kissell, President

757-839-0790

[Andrew.Kissell@aecom.com](mailto:Andrew.Kissell@aecom.com)

## All God's Children

### *Mentors Needed for Camps This Summer*



All God's Children Camp is looking for mentors, age 17 and up to spend a week in ministry at camp. All God's Children Camp is a week-long overnight camp for children ages 7-12 who have an incarcerated parent.

Come hang out with some pretty awesome kids spending time in the outdoors participating in activities that they would be unable to do at home. Activities includes biking, hiking, archery, a ropes course, zip lines and of course water activities!

We are in need of men (women, too!) who will mentor a child at camp and participate with a child along the journey at camp. We need 22 mentors to attend Camp Chanco on the James, June 16-21 and/or August 11-16.

Please contact VA Conference UMMen Chaplain Dann Ladd by email

[ladddann@gmail.com](mailto:ladddann@gmail.com), or call anytime 804-625-2693. **Men! We are needed!** They hope to see **US** at camp!

## Camp Rainbow Connection

*Male Counselors Needed for Camps This Summer*



Camp Rainbow Connection has two week-long camps each summer for individuals with intellectual disabilities. 2019 camps are June 22-28 and July 27-August 2 at Richard Bland College near Petersburg.

New counselors must attend a training session on March 30, and returning counselors may attend either the March 30 session or an April 13 session. Training is at the United Methodist Conference Center in Glen Allen.

Male counselors are especially needed! Interested in being a counselor? Please email Stacy Roberts at [stacyroberts@vaumc.org](mailto:stacyroberts@vaumc.org).

## 2019 Spiritual Advance | Transforming Grace

*Information on Church Sponsorships and Registration Coming in June*

# Transforming Grace

**2019 Spiritual Advance  
September 27-28, 2019  
Baylake UMC, Virginia Beach**

"Good show ... Impressive ... This was a great two days!"

"Outstanding group of speakers!"

"Great Location ... Nice Facility ... Facility very welcoming."

Comments from the 2018 Spiritual Advance

Not long ago, the Spiritual Advance really was a *retreat* in quiet and peaceful Blackstone at the VUMAC, which closed in 2016.

The 2018 Spiritual Advance in Virginia Beach was a success, providing both

restoration of some ministry funds and all needed operating funds for 2019 with attendance over 90.

Significantly, the Spiritual Advance was and remains the only source for Conference UMM operational funding. Both donations at the event and registration fees help support yearly VAUMM operating budget and support of missions.



At the 2019 Spiritual Advance, **Bishop Sharma Lewis** and **Rev. Dr. Kevin Watson** will speak on the theme "Transforming Grace".



**Sponsoring churches** will have a great opportunity to develop, support, make contacts, and promote the Spiritual Advance.

Sponsoring churches

- will receive up to 12 registrations with three registrations designated for adults under 40,
- will be listed and acknowledged in all Spiritual Advance communications, and
- will be available to all churches with a special focus on churches without UMM fellowships.

Discounts for pastors, spouses, early-bird and Buy One Get One (for first timers) will be available.

Information about sponsoring and registering for the 2019 Spiritual Advance is coming in June.

## 2019 Spiritual Advance Hotel Reservations

*Reserve Rooms Now at a Special Rate*

Looking for a place to stay for the 2019 Spiritual Advance at a great vacation spot with off-season rates? Look no farther!

A special money-saving agreement for **2019 Spiritual Advance guests** has been made with the two area hotels that are 6 miles from Baylake UMC. The cost of your room is **only \$109/night** ... so be sure to reserve your room *now* to take advantage of this special offer.



### [Delta Hotel Norfolk Airport Reservations](#)

1570 North Military Highway

Norfolk, Virginia 23502

Phone: 757-213-2231

**Note:** Select the dates 09/27/2019 - 09/29/2019 to book the special rate.



[DoubleTree by Hilton Norfolk Airport Reservations](#)

1500 North Military Highway

Norfolk, VA 23502

Phone: 757-466-8000

**Heart Havens/VA Conference UMM Golf Tournament**  
*Registration Now Open | Sign Up Today!*



You are invited to participate in our second annual Heart Havens/VA Conference UMM Golf Tournament. This tournament is being sponsored by the Virginia Conference United Methodist Men of the Elizabeth River District and will support the ministries of Heart Havens, Inc.

The tournament begins with a shotgun start at 10:00 AM on Friday, September 27, 2019, at Honey Bee Golf Course. All women and men players are welcome to come and enjoy an afternoon of great golf, fun, & fellowship! Cost is \$60 per individual or \$200 per team. For more information, please call Steve Schaefer at (757) 285-8047.

[Heart Havens](#) empowers adults with a developmental disability to live full and vibrant lives with as much independence as possible. This non-profit ministry began in 1996 as an outreach of the Virginia Conference United Methodist Church's Commission on Disabilities and has strong ties to the United Methodist Men.

[Registration for 2nd Annual Golf Tournament Now Open ... Sign-up Today!](#)

**United Methodist Men in Ministry**  
*Upcoming Dates for Your Calendar*

**2019**

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>2019 Spiritual Advance</b>	September 27-28	Baylake UMC (Virginia Beach)

<b>All God's Children</b>	June 16-21	Camp Chanco on the James (Richmond Area)
	July 28 - August 2	Occohannock on the Bay (Eastern Shore)
	July 29 - August 3	Camp Chanco on the James (Richmond Area)
	August 11-16	Camp Chanco on the James (Richmond Area)
<b>Annual Conference UMM Breakfast</b>	June 22 (6am)	Thrasher Memorial UMC (Vinton)
	March 30 (Training)	United Methodist Center (Glen Allen)
<b>Camp Rainbow Connection</b>	April 13 (Training)	United Methodist Center (Glen Allen)
	June 22-28	Richard Bland College (Petersburg)
	July 27 - August 2	Richard Bland College (Petersburg)
<b>Southeast Jurisdiction Meeting</b>	October 4-5	Lake Junaluska
<b>VA UMM Cabinet Meetings</b>	May 5, 9am-2pm	United Methodist Center (Glen Allen)
	Sept 8, 9am-2pm	United Methodist Center (Glen Allen)
	November 8-9	Visioning Retreat (Location TBD)

## Words to Live By . . .



### *What is the nature of love?*

"It is the nature of love to unite us together..."

- John Wesley

Recommended Reading: [John 15:17](#) (NIV)

