

THE BEACON

News from the Virginia Conference United Methodist Men

President's Message | Andrew Kissell

Chicken Friday on the Inside | Love Shall Overcome



Good Morning,

Every inmate or resident, as they prefer to be called, has a story -- why they're in, how bad it is inside, that kind of story. As Kairos volunteers, we are not supposed to ask, but residents often need to share. Kee told me his story on Chicken Friday.

There are a lot of bad things inside, and the food is one of the worst. But once or twice a month on a Friday at lunch, the lightly breaded chicken sandwich is the *best* menu item bar none. When lunch finally arrived at nearly 1pm, the anticipation was palpable. Kee and everyone else inside loved this chicken. You could see it in their eyes. This was worth the wait. And waiting is the thing you do the most in prison.

The chicken sandwich was better than anything else we were given to eat for lunch inside on this four-day weekend: soupy and lumpy mashed potatoes; broccoli stems without florets; mystery meat in macaroni. By comparison, this was cuisine. One resident told me he respected me because I ate the food. We all understood why residents sign up for Kairos: unlimited homemade cookies. The cookies may well have been gold, but this chicken was heavenly by prison standards.

Even though cookies may be a metaphor for Kairos, most residents figure out that "it ain't about the cookies." Kairos is about love and friendship; forgiveness and 1choices; grace and sacrifice. The residents learn why we're there as volunteers, recognize our willingness to accept them as they are, and begin to trust us -- both that we are not scammers and this Jesus stuff is not a scam. He's in our hearts. Our goal is to start prayer and share groups in the prison pods. They all may have been duds, throwaways, and nothing to everyone else, but not to us. They are our brothers. God loves them.

Each morning we ate breakfast at our motel, lunch in the prison, then dinner at a sponsoring church. That Friday we ate eggs and sausage for breakfast; heavenly chicken sandwiches at lunch; and fried chicken, green beans and deviled eggs for dinner. It was, after all, Chicken Friday.



Oh, I almost forgot. According to Kee, he acted in self-defense.

Grace and Peace,

Andrew

Andrew Kissell, President

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2019 UMM Annual Conference Breakfast | June 21 at 7am

You are Invited | Join VA UMMen at the Roanoker Restaurant



You are invited to the **2019 VA UMMen Annual Conference Breakfast on Friday, June 21, 7am**, at the [Roanoker Restaurant](#), 2522 Colonial Avenue in Roanoke. Men, spouses, and guests will gather at 7:00 a.m. to enjoy a hearty breakfast, welcome the Scouts and Heart Havens, and conduct the annual business of the Virginia Conference United Methodist Men. **The cost of breakfast is \$10.**

Please join us for prayer, devotion, and fellowship.

Note: The Roanoker Restaurant opens at 7am and is a 10-15 minute drive from the Burgland Center, site of the 2019 Annual Conference.

2019 Spiritual Advance | September 27-28 in Virginia Beach

Speakers | Hotels | Golf Tournament

Transforming Grace

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

Please join with UMMen of the Virginia Conference on September 27-28 for the 2019 Spiritual Advance at Baylake UMC in Virginia Beach. Speakers and workshop leaders will include:



The **Rev. Dr. Kevin Watson**, Assistant Professor of Wesleyan and Methodist Studies at Candler School of Theology at Emory University. He is author of *The Class Meeting: Reclaiming a Forgotten (and Essential) Small Group Experience*, a best-selling book about Wesleyan transformational small groups, and *Pursuing Social Holiness: The Band Meeting in Wesley's Thought and Popular Methodist Practice*. An ordained elder in the Oklahoma Conference, Dr. Watson is the Bible Study leader at the 2019 Annual Conference.



Odell Horne is the [YoungER Men's Ministry](#) Representative for the North Georgia Conference to the Southeast Jurisdiction's team that is working to develop best practices in reaching younger men for Jesus Christ. He is also a Lay Servant at Impact Church (East Point, GA), a Men's Ministry Specialist, and a member of the Society of Biblical Literature. He is a graduate of Texas College, Clark Atlanta University, and Bethel Theological Seminary. He works for the Atlanta-Fulton Public Library System.



Greg Arnold is deployed staff at the General Commission on United Methodist Men (GCUMM) and an advocate for Men's Ministry. The mission of the GCUMM is to help men grow in Christ so that others may know Christ.

Registration details and information about church sponsorships for the 2019 Spiritual Advance will be announced in June before Annual Conference. Discounts for pastors, spouses, early-bird and Buy One Get One (for first timers) will be available.

Please reserve your hotel rooms now at the special Spiritual Advance rate of **\$109/night**. Registration deadline is August 28, 2019.

[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



[Register for the 2nd Annual VA UMM/Heart Havens Golf Tournament](#) or contact Steve Shaefer at 757-285-8047.

Please download the [printable flyer](#) for more detailed information about the golf tournament.

June is Men's Health Month
Resources for Men and Health



Why do women tend to live longer than men? Why are men reluctant to go to the doctor? Why do men hesitate to talk to each other about health?

During Men's National Health Month in June, men and boys are encouraged to seek medical advice and early treatment for disease and injury. June 10-16, the week ending on Father's Day, is Men's National Health Week. President Clinton signed the bill that Senator Bob Dole sponsored into law establishing National Men's Health Week on May 31, 1994.

[Men's Health Network](#) is a national non-profit organization whose mission is to reach men, boys, and their families where they live, work, play, and pray with health awareness and disease prevention resources and tools.

Words to Live By . . .



Growing in Christian Fellowship...

"Many now happily experience that Christian fellowship of which they had not so much as an idea before. They began to 'bear one another's burdens,' and 'naturally' to 'care for each other.' As they had daily a more intimate acquaintance with, so they had a more endeared affection for each other."

- John Wesley

Recommended Reading: [II Corinthians 13:11 \(NIV\)](#)