

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

- 7:30 Morning Eucharist (Rm. 106)
 - 8:15 Singing our Faith
 - 8:30 Bible Study
 - 9:05 Minutes Committee Report of Statistician/Treasurer
 - 9:30 CFA Report
 - 10:00 Unfinished Conference Business
 - 10:45 Recess for worship
 - 11:00 Worship
- Advocate* distribution
Fixing of Appointments



- 15 Elders ordained
- 40 Licensed Local Pastors
- 1 Deacon ordained
- 1 Recognition as Associate Member
- 15 Commissioned as Provisional Members
- 43 Retirees

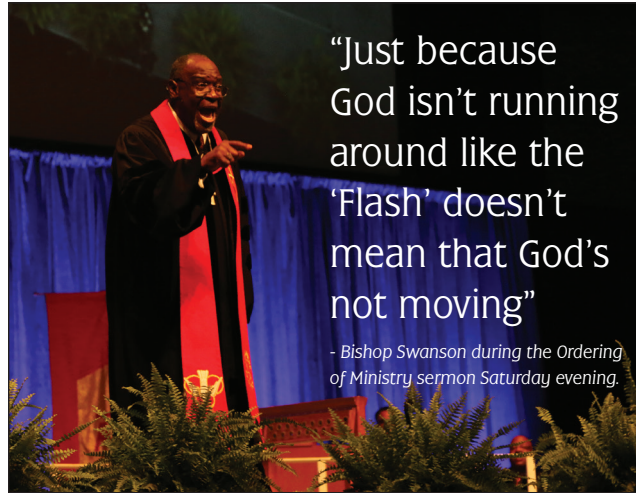
Welcome to the 235th Virginia Annual Conference, Hampton Roads Convention Center, Hampton, Virginia

Spirit moves during Bishop Swanson's sermon for Ordering of Ministry

Bishop James E. Swanson Sr., Mississippi Conference, delivered a sermon called, "But, I Haven't Finished Yet" to those gathered as well as those in the Service for the Ordering of Ministry: 15 people were ordained as elders, one as a deacon, 40 were commissioned as licensed local pastors, 15 as provisional members and one as an associate member at the Saturday evening service.

Swanson spoke about the Holy Spirit falling on Pentecost Sunday. He said that the Holy Spirit was impatient.

"We have no clue how long that sermon might have been had the Holy Spirit not interrupted it. The Holy Spirit



"Just because God isn't running around like the 'Flash' doesn't mean that God's not moving"

- Bishop Swanson during the Ordering of Ministry sermon Saturday evening.

wanted to get on with the business of falling on the people in Cornelius's house," he said.

Bishop Swanson said that the Holy Spirit is anxious in this place and wants to fall on people, to transform the people who will transform the world. The mission of the church, he said, cannot be done by us, but by the Holy Spirit working through us in ways that are sometimes contrary to what we are used to.

He said that God is always moving forward in a steady fashion.

"Just because God isn't

running around like the "Flash" doesn't mean that God's not moving," he said.

The problem, Swanson said, was that we are seeing the world with our eyes, rather than the eyes of God. When we look through the glory of God, we can see the ways that God is working in the world that we might otherwise be blinded to.

"One of the biggest struggles of ministry," Swanson said, "is working through the mantle of negativity and those who are panicking that the church is on fire." He asserted that

(Con't on back: "ORDINATION.")

Glory Sightings video series

Throughout the 2017 Virginia Annual Conference, videos of "Glory Sightings" around the conference have been shown. Bishop Sharma D. Lewis said she got the idea from Bishop James E. Swanson Sr., Mississippi Conference. Through these videos, Lewis said she hoped to show the conference the glory of the Lord that is being shown through ministries in the Virginia Conference.

"Glory Sightings help highlight activities and ministries in the conference that we might not normally see," said Nick Ruxton, conference videographer, who put together the videos. "It also is a way for other people to

connect and get ideas for what they can do in their church. It's a way to brainstorm with one another," he said.

Some of the ministries that are being highlighted are from local churches. For example, St. Luke's UMC, York River District, has a ministry called "Stick Power" where youth in the community come to the church to play field hockey. One of the major themes of the church is "church happens everywhere," and members say they believe that church can happen through sports ministry.

Other Glory Sightings focus on conference

(Con't on back: "GLORY.")



("ORDINATION," con't from front.)

just because the church is on fire, it doesn't mean it's burning down. This is what happens when we look through the eyes of God, he said, rather than our own— it provides a new perspective.

Bishop Swanson had an altar call at the end of his sermon as he and Bishop Lewis went to stand on the floor where people came to pray and talk with them. 🇺🇸



The Service for the Ordering of Ministry is a service of excitement and accomplishment.



Tweets heard 'round the conference

@th8rshoes This woman is everything I didn't know I needed in a Bishop **#the-bestisyettocome**

@ejhnstn For young United Methodist women all over Virginia, seeing and hearing Bishop Lewis is a powerful thing

@BrwnEydGirley When your 10yo son puts down his book/games to hear the Bishop and see her as she comes by, you know it's the real deal

@SassyTheologian Young adults bringing the truth with grace. Grateful, grateful, grateful.

@fluteVA I think the sound crew needs a shoutout for the lack of feedback as the Bishop walks all over the room

@Chafinhofer "I'm retired. I don't like all this trouble." - Bishop Chamberlain is cracking me up!

@mncollins16 Bishop Cho had you praying for four years to get you ready for me. - Bishop Lewis

@revrunmrc I only use twitter during annual conference

@smithgym In other news...believe the Bishop Lewis hug-o-meter is currently around 396

@thricemantis Can the theme of **#vaumc18** be focused on theological anthropology?

@hasselml So thankful for **#stirupthegifs**

Bible Study draws on parable of the sower



Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett of the North Alabama Conference gave the Bible Study at the beginning of the morning session on Saturday, June 17. She drew from Bishop Lewis' Scripture from Isaiah as well as from the Book of Matthew with the parable of the sower.

Wallace-Padgett said she was glad to be with the Virginia Conference for two reasons: She was happy to be with her friend, Bishop Lewis, and because she firmly believed that the Virginia Conference was "good soil."

"Much of God's creative, restorative, redemptive, new work is done through 'good soil' like you," she said.

Wallace-Padgett shared a story of a time when she was on a flight to Birmingham, Ala., and she encountered a young woman named

Maria who was traveling for a job interview. Wallace-Padgett offered her card and told Maria she could contact her if she got the job, so Wallace-Padgett could offer advice on neighborhoods, grocery stores or churches. This led the pair to converse about their faith. The young woman had grown up in the church, but had largely rejected the idea of God due to her environment.

The two attended church together the following morning. Wallace-Padgett said that since that day, she had prayed for Maria many times, and wondered how many other times she was sitting next to someone on a plane with whom she could have had that same interaction. Since then, Wallace-Padgett has committed to having faith conversations with the people around her as she travels, because she strives to be the soil through which God sows seeds.

Finally, Wallace-Padgett called upon conference members to be that same "good soil." There are people who are positively impacted by the ministries happening within the conference, she said, and the conference gives her hope for the future of United Methodism. 🇺🇸



("GLORY," con't from front.)

ministry abroad. The Cambodian Methodist Women are empowering women and girls to become religious leaders in their communities. They train women to become pastors as well as ensure that women are included in the appointment process. Their hope is that the Cambodian Methodist Women will become like the United Methodist Women, an organization that provides more avenues for women

to be church leaders.

During the Sunday morning service, there will be more Glory Sighting videos, including ones from a campus ministry and a car show ministry. 🇺🇸



By the numbers

2017 Kits 4 Conference

The total number of Kits 4 Conference collected for UMCOR was 41,522. Specifically:

- ❖ Bedding: 330
- ❖ Birthing: 2,327
- ❖ Cleaning: 332
- ❖ Health: 24,801
- ❖ Layette: 940
- ❖ School: 12,035
- ❖ Sewing: 539
- ❖ Misc.: 218

COSROW Report for Friday evening

The number of people speaking and participating on stage as reported by the Commission on Status and Role of Women (COSROW):

- ❖ Women: 75
- ❖ Lay: 43
- ❖ Youths: 17
- ❖ Adults: 55
- ❖ Men: 125
- ❖ Clergy: 80
- ❖ Young Adults: 22
- ❖ Older Adults: 63