

THE CHANNEL MARKER

A Publication of the
ELIZABETH RIVER DISTRICT
Virginia Conference United Methodist Church

JUNE 2014

From our DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

At times like these I like to quote great theologians. In this case it is Dr. Seuss. He wrote a book entitled, Oh, The Places You'll Go! In this book is this wonderful quote, "You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose. You'll get mixed up, of course, as you already know. You'll get mixed up with many strange birds as you go. So be sure as you step. And will you succeed? Yes! You will indeed! 98 and $\frac{3}{4}$ % guaranteed!"

As I think of my and others moving, I think of these wonderful words. We have the tools to do well. We have the brains to think and feel, the shoes to go and serve, and the guidance to go in directions that are important. Not always will things go exactly as we hope that they will. We, from time to time, get mixed up and bewildered. We will have problems and issues that will seem like strange birds. But will we succeed? With God's help and guidance we will be 98 and $\frac{3}{4}$ % successful.

It has been a fast and deeply rich 6 years serving with you all. I've learned a lot. I've made mistakes a lot. I hope I have been there for you in all kinds of settings a lot. We have seen many changes in numbers of churches and in numbers and names of ministers. We have seen successes and unfortunately we have met with some failures also.

My prayers go with you as you transition to a new D.S. Wayne Snead and his wife Beth are excited to come and serve alongside you. He has great energy and new ideas. He is already praying for this district and how he can make a difference with you. Please keep Kay and me in prayer as we move forward with excitement, energy, and a desire to serve God deeply and well in Fredericksburg.

I am reminded of the words of Isaiah in Chapter 43 when he writes that God paid a huge price for us. In the version called The Message, it is written that God would sell off the whole world to get us back to him and keep us close to him. That's how much we mean to God. That's how much he loves us. As we move forward with this kind of love, we cannot help but be 98 and $\frac{3}{4}$ % successful. This is God's guarantee.

Love,

Brad

Farewell



**Please join us on Sunday,
June 8th ~ 3pm
Ebenezer UMC
(1589 Steeple Dr, Suffolk)
as we bid farewell to our
District Superintendent & his wife,
Brad & Kay Phillips.**

This will be a time of celebration and appreciation as they complete their journey on the Elizabeth River District.

A worship service followed by a reception will be held in Ebenezer's Family Life Center.



*A basket will be available
for your cards and we will receive
a love offering for them.*

*Driving Directions are easier than you might think:
Head N on I664, take exit 9A to Route 17 N, Bridge Rd,
go about 8 miles to turn Right on Eclipse Dr;
Ebenezer church will be on the left.*

INSIDE this Issue:

2014 Annual Conference.....	Pages 4
Camp GOTCHA.....	3
District Calendar.....	Back Page
District Lay Leader.....	2
DS Farewell	Above
Job Opportunities	7
Program Coordinator.....	3
Safe Sanctuaries	5
Stewardship Corner.....	6
UMM.....	5
Also, look inside for <i>Voices of Youth, Rethink Church, All God's Children & more.</i>	

District LAY LEADER



Keith Willyard

keith.willyard@cox.net

(757) 479-0232

Several years ago, in a June article I wrote for the District Newsletter, I believe I quoted a familiar song, “*June Is Busting Out All Over*” – and it was and still is! Another year I did it again by quoting the song, “*Can You Feel the Love Tonight?*” We do, thanks to God. Now a song from “*Roar Of The Greasepaint – The Smell of the Crowd*” says, “*On a wonderful day like today, I defy any cloud to appear in the sky, dare any rain drop to plop in my eye on a wonderful day like today.*” And if we stop for just a moment we can feel June “busting out,” “*Feel the Love*” and realize that every day that God gives us becomes a “*Wonderful Day!*”

After all, it's June, a month that we celebrate **Flag Day**, **Father's Day**, and the **First Day of Summer**. School children are looking forward to the last day of school and a lot of us will begin to earnestly plan our summer vacation. We think about outdoor cookouts and picnics and it's all because we live in a world that God created just for us! The Old Testament book of Genesis has wonderful stories about God's creation! It's one book that begins to form our beliefs and our faith.

And during June, delegates from all around the Virginia Conference will be converging on the Hampton Roads Convention Center in Hampton, Virginia. There Bishop Young Jin Cho will preside over the **2014 Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, June 20-22**. This year's theme is: “**Lord, Renew Us With Your Spirit.**” This is an exciting time for our Church. This year's conference, like all of them, is not closed to delegates only, and it's as close to home as it will be in the foreseeable future! Next year our Conference site will be in Roanoke, VA, again. Everyone is invited to attend any of the sessions, and encouraged to attend the special worship sessions. Everything you will need and want to know about Annual Conference can be found on the conference website, vaumc.org.

If you have never attended a session of the Annual Conference, this will be the year to do so, while it is still in our back yard. So why not check out the schedule on the website and join us in Hampton for the 2014 Annual Conference. See you there!

Shalom,

Keith

This year's Annual Conference **Gala Laity Luncheon** will be held **on Saturday at 12 noon**, right there at the **Hampton Roads Convention Center**.

Rev. Bert Cloud will be our Keynote Speaker.

TICKETS will not be sold at the door,

but you can purchase them by mail:

Send: a **check** for **\$22 @ ticket**, and a **self-addressed stamped envelope** to:

Keith Willyard

5869 Baynebridge Drive

Virginia Beach, 23464.

I will also have any remaining tickets available at the

Orientation Session

for Elizabeth River district & church delegates

at Memorial UMC

(804 Gammon Rd, Virginia Beach 23464)

on **Sunday, June 1, 2pm.**

The **deadline** for ordering tickets is **June 9.**



District PROGRAM COORDINATOR



Ellen Clements

It already feels like summer with the temperatures we have been experiencing in May. In Cathleen Falsani's book *Sin Boldly, A Field Guide for Grace*, she encourages all of us to, "walk out in the fresh air and just be for a few minutes." At the end of the chapter called "Bear Repellant" she concludes, "I just needed to be outside to hear his (God's) voice." Taking a walk or working in our gardens can be a means of grace. If you would like to borrow this book, give me a call or stop by the district office. To hear Cathleen Falsani in person, register on Courthouse Community UMC's website for the July 18 speaker series. It is free, but registration is required. Cathleen is an award-winning religion columnist for the *Chicago Sun-Times*.

June means Vacation Bible School is just around the corner. To see the list of VBS programs around the district this summer, go to the district website and click on VBS. If your church is not represented on the list, please feel free to forward me that information and I will see that it is included.

Camp GOTCHA's theme for this year is "Be Green for Goodness' Sake" with an emphasis on taking care of God's creation. In order for children and adults to want to become good caretakers and to understand what that means, we must first fall in love with the world around us. It means getting outside and understanding the impact of decisions we make every day on our environment. Lynnhaven River Now and the Virginia Aquarium will be part of the missions program this year at Camp GOTCHA. If you want to be a part of this great camping experience for rising 3rd through rising 6th graders, please contact me. You can participate for a day or all week. There are opportunities for crew leaders and station helpers. To register your child, go to the district website and download a registration form. Initial registration may be done online, but we need a signed copy of the parental consent form along with the payment sent to the district office. See the registration form for complete details.

Once a year, the Network of Biblical Storytellers gathers to explore and celebrate the Word through Biblical storytelling. The Festival Gathering this year will be held Aug. 6-9 at the Ridgecrest Conference near Asheville, NC. The keynote speaker is Vicki Garvey, a remarkable Christian Educator from Chicago. She will lead participants in finding new ways to teach the greatest story ever told in an increasingly complex and changing time we live in. Venora Franklin Legaux, a long time storyteller and native of New Orleans, will be the featured storyteller. For more information, go to www.nbsint.org. I cannot attend this year due to a family wedding in Massachusetts. However, there are folks going from Virginia Beach if you would like to find out more about carpooling. Give me a call.

As you enjoy the outdoors and travel some this summer, stop, look and listen for signs of God's grace all around you.

Shalom,

Ellen

eclements@elizabethriverdistrict.org

New Resources to Borrow from the District Office

City of God, faith in the streets, by Sara Miles
Engaging Local Schools, DVD/CD Resource from the Lewis Center for Church Leadership
Pastrix, by Nadia Bolz-Weber
Sin Boldly, A Field Guide of Grace, by Cathleen Falsani
6 Decisions That Will Change Your Life, by Tom Berlin
6 Things We Should Know About God, by Tom Berlin
6 Ways We Encounter God, by Tom Berlin

Go to the District website for a complete list of resources:

www.elizabethriverdistrict.org

CAMP God's Outdoor Training Camp — Have an Adventure!

GOTCHA

Be Green for Goodness Sake!
The Earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world and those who live in it. — Psalm 24:1

Camp GOTCHA

July 28 - August 1, 2014 • 9 am - 2:30 pm

Baylake United Methodist Church
4300 Shore Drive
Virginia Beach, VA 23455
(757) 464-2423

To register online or to download a registration form, go to the District website www.elizabethriverdistrict.org

Sponsored by The Elizabeth River District UMC

2014 Annual Conference

June 20-22

The Hampton Roads Convention Center
Hampton, VA



The 2014 session of the Virginia Annual Conference is being held at the Hampton Roads Convention Center in Hampton, Va., Friday, June 20, to Sunday, June 22. Laity and Clergy sessions will begin at 1 p.m. on Friday. First plenary session begins at 3 p.m. Ending time should be around noon on Sunday.

- **Orientation** will be held on **June 1st** at Memorial UMC in Virginia Beach, **2pm**.
- **LAITY LUNCHEON** being held on **Saturday, June 21 at 12:00 P.M.** at the Hampton Roads Convention Center. Keynote Speaker, Rev. Bert Cloud. Cost of the luncheon is \$22.00. (See District Lay Leader article for more information pg. 3)

- **4 CANS 4 CONFERENCE** you are encouraged to bring an offering of 4 Cans 4 Conference to distribute to local food bank!

Please bring:

- 1) 1 can of Veggies or Fruit
- 2) 1 can of meat or fish
- 3) 1 can of Soup or Stew
- 4) 1 can with a pop-top (for easy opening) contents of your choice!

- **ALL KITS** are welcome; there is an increased need for: **Sewing Kits ~ Layette**

Instructions & patterns: on the UMCOR website: <http://www.umcor.org/UMCOR/Relief-Supplies>

Kits ~ Bedding Kits

- **FREE CHILD CARE** Wesley United Methodist Church in Hampton will host this year's child care, free of charge, because of the generosity of the York River District. Staffed child care for day and evening sessions will be available at Wesley UMC, 2510 N. Armistead Ave., Hampton, VA 23666. Child care will be a mini-VBS experience using Cokesbury's *Workshop of Wonders*, where kids will discover how to imagine and build with God. For details and registration, please use either the Word or pdf file available on the Annual Conference webpage.



CLERGY SPOUSES' LUNCHEON
VIRGINIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE UMC 2014

LET'S CELEBRATE!

"And people should eat and drink and enjoy the fruits of their labor, for these are gifts from God." Ecclesiastes 3:13 (NLT)

PLEASE JOIN US FOR LUNCH TO **CELEBRATE** YOUR MINISTRY!

SPEAKER:	REVEREND KIOK CHO (SPOUSE OF BISHOP CHO)
WHERE:	HAMPTON ROADS CONVENTION CENTER 1610 COLISEUM DRIVE
WHEN:	12:30 P.M., SATURDAY, JUNE 21, 2014
COST:	\$20 (Salad, pan seared chicken, vegetable, rice, dessert, beverage)

REGISTRATION OPTIONS:
Online with a credit card: Go to www.vaumc.org; click Events and the date June 21, or you may complete the form below and mail with your check. **DEADLINE** is MAY 31.

No walk-ins on the day of the luncheon
Please note there will be no child care on site. Child care is available through the conference; visit www.vaumc.org/AC2014 for more information.

YORK RIVER
DISTRICT

Please complete this form with your name as it is to appear on your name tag. You may write a check payable to VA Annual Conference Clergy Spouses' Luncheon and mail to: Becky Livermon, 6325 Kelly's Place, Gloucester, VA 23061.

Name: _____ Email: _____

District: _____ Retiring: Yes or No First Appointment: Yes or No

Vegetarian lunch: Yes or No Total amount enclosed: \$ _____

JUST BEFORE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Safe Sanctuaries TRAINING

Wednesday, June 18
1:00 pm - 9:00 pm
&
Thursday, June 19
9:00 am - 4:00 pm

HAMPTON ROADS CONVENTION CENTER

1 CEU for participation of UMC clergy and lay professionals. Verification of attendance for others who can utilize the contact hours.

Guest speakers:

Joy Thornburg Melton and Sherry Cothran



To register, go to www.vaumc.org/events and choose the June dates.

The cost is \$25 per individual or \$80 for a team of four. A **limited number** of rooms are available at the Embassy Suites (located beside the Hampton Roads Convention Center) at a discounted rate, so book early through the registration page on the conference website (see above).



"Do you have one that says, 'Sorry my cell phone rang during your sermon?'"



"From the Old Testament times to today, men gather to discuss their faith journeys and find meaning, hope and healing. Small group ministry was an essential element of the

Wesleyan movement in England and in 'the colonies.'
United Methodist Men shall be a creative, supportive fellowship of Men who seek to know Jesus Christ, to Grow Spiritually and to seek daily His Will. Our primary purpose is to declare the centrality of Christ in the lives of Men and in all their relationships."

Let me reiterate:

To ASSIST YOU IN CONTINUING THE GROWTH, the ERDUMM has established a new Program for the District, "**GRILLING FOR GOD**". We will bring the entire Ministry team to your fellowship and grill for you.



We are trying to build the established fellowships and to start new fellowships within the district. We are requesting that the President of the current fellowship or a Member of Men's Group of any Church in the Elizabeth River District that would like the Elizabeth River Ministry Team to bring our Grill to your Fellowship, please visit our Web site and make a request for our GRILLING FOR GOD visit.

We are also very active with the **Heart Haven Project**. We **Heart Havens** are celebrating our relationship with **Heart Havens with a picnic on June 15th at Oak Grove UMC in Chesapeake, VA.** Please come and help us celebrate our continuous support with the Heart Haven Project.

Last month we told you that the United Methodist Men is the largest, most organized men's organization of any denomination and the second largest sponsor of the **Boy Scouts of America** in the World. If you have a Boys troop we thank you; if you do not and are considering chartering a Troop, we have the Resources available for your assistance.

We thank you for your support and encourage your Fellowship to attend our monthly ERDUMM Meetings, held the Second Sunday of each month at Community UMC, Virginia Beach, VA.



Albert Weal, Team Leader
Dist. United Methodist Men



**Legacy Sunday:
Sowing for a Future Harvest!**

2014 will be a significant year of sowing seeds for a future harvest of ministry in the community served by United Methodist churches. A “Legacy Sunday” can kick off several strategic efforts that will continue throughout the year with announcements in Sunday School, bulletin inserts, newsletter testimonials, a workshop, etc. The goal is to help church members envision what their legacy gift can accomplish in continuing the work and ministry near and dear to the individual’s heart.

The Foundation is available to assist churches throughout the conference in variety of ways to meet their dilemma of a decreasing contribution base with a very effective solution that will result in not only meeting expanding budgets, but also seen in a harvest of vital ministry that changes lives and touches souls.

For more information contact: **Stephen B. Clark, Planned Giving Officer**
StephenClark@vaumc.org




**Voices of Youth 2014:
“Forward, Upward, Onward,
Together” Tour**

*will be here on the
Elizabeth River District*

Saturday, July 19th
Nimmo UMC
 2200 Princess Anne Rd
 Virginia Beach, VA 23456
 (757) 427-1765



*Please join us for an evening of music,
worship, and mission education!*
We are excited to be in ministry with you!



**All God’s Children
Camp**
 for children of incarcerated
 mothers or fathers

Summer 2014

A week-long overnight summer camp sponsored by The Virginia United Methodist Church for children ages 7 – 12

August 3 – 8 at Occohannock on the Bay
 August 10 – 15 at Westview on the James

You can help by providing supplies or monetary donations to help sponsor a child.

Contact: Casey Torrence, conference office
caseytorrence@vaumc.org
 (800)768-6040, ext. 138

Rethink Church meeting basic needs for community

We’re meeting people’s everyday needs for community. Poverty, hunger, disease are some of the formidable challenges facing people today. Rethink Church’s recent national advertising reminds people that when we respond by offering our time, resources, and energy, we help meet people’s most basic needs.

When doing a community service project or an ongoing ministry that serves these needs, show the [:15 video](#) or [:30 video](#) in worship available on the link below. Also, you can download Facebook and Twitter covers to add to your social media platforms. To download videos and social media elements, <http://rethinkchurch.org/articles/basic-needs>

Use articles from rethinkchurch.org and take a look at content from the updated site. This is a great way to let your church and others know about what the UMC is doing for basic needs.

Follow us and share stories of the [basic needs service](#) going on in your church on Rethink [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) and use #rethinkchurch.

CHURCH POSITIONS AVAILABLE

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT [Magnolia UMC –Suffolk] This position is part-time 25 hours a week. Salary is commensurate with experience \$13,000.00-\$15,000.00. Please mail, email, or fax your resume with references to: Magnolia United Methodist Church, Attn: Betty Armstrong - Administrative Assistant Search, 1764 Wilroy Rd, Suffolk, VA 23434. FAX: 757-538-3101 Email:betty12205@charter.net For detail job description, visit the Virginia Conference Web site at www.vaumc.org/jobs

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC/WORSHIP LEADER [Christ - Newport News] The director of Music is responsible for planning, developing, overseeing and coordinating, and directing a blended (traditional and contemporary) music program of Christ church. If you are interested, please send your resume to Christ UMC, Attention SPRC, 133 Deep Creek Road, Newport News, Virginia 23606 or you can e-mail it to Office@christumc.org and put position title as the Subject. All positions require a background check. Detail job description at www.vaumc.org/jobs

ACCOMPANIST [Christ - Newport News] Must be able to read and play the piano. Organ experience is a plus. Responsibilities include accompanying the worship ensemble (choir or praise group) during weekly practices (Wednesday evening) and Sunday services, seasonal programs and special services. This is a part-time position. Salary is negotiable. Detail job description www.vaumc.org/jobs. *Contact info, see Director of Music/Worship...above.*

WORSHIP LEADER of EMERGENT WORSHIP SERVICE [Larchmont UMC Norfolk] A part-time position, the Worship Leader will be part of the team that designs and leads the Emergent Worship service at 9:45 AM every Sunday morning. This person is highly creative, possesses a willingness to collaborate and innovate a new worship service, and work closely with the Senior and Associate Pastors. For a detailed description, check out the conference website ... www.vaumc.org/jobs. Interested persons should send a cover letter and their resume to Audra Mitchell, SPRC Chair, mitchell.audra@gmail.com.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COORDINATOR [Centenary UMC, Portsmouth] to implement and oversee a comprehensive plan for all educational ministries of the church - for children, youth, and adults. Bachelor's degree in Christian Education is preferred, or equivalent education and experience. Candidate must be committed to Jesus Christ and the teachings of Scripture. Candidate must demonstrate skills, such as organization and communication, and passion to provide vision, encouragement, and spiritual leadership to all age groups. Position is part-time, up to 29 hours per week. Please contact the church office, (757)484-5051, or Pam Kelly (757) 484-7158.

YOUTH LEADER [Centenary UMC, Portsmouth] a person with strong Christian values who will lead our youth in their spiritual journey in society. This person must have appropriate education and experience. Please contact the church office, (757)484-5051, or Pam Kelly (757) 484-7158.

ORGANIST [Centenary UMC, Portsmouth] to play the pipe organ for the traditional service at 11 a.m. on Sundays Please contact the church office, (757)484-5051, or Pam Kelly (757) 484-7158.

More job opportunities go to Conference website . . . www.vaumc.org/jobs

Attention: CLERGY & CHURCHES Anticipating a CHANGE in APPOINTMENT

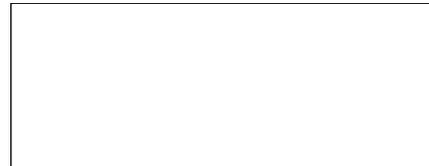
Accountable Reimbursement should not exceed half of the annual amount established on the charge conference clergy compensation report. Any unspent amount cannot be advanced to the pastor without 1) approval of your church leadership, and 2) reporting it as income on their W-2.



In the Virginia Conference
 United Methodist Church
 P.O. Box 12654
 Norfolk, VA 23541-0654

Non-Profit
 Organization
 U.S. Postage PAID
 Norfolk, VA
 Permit No. 332

Return Service Requested



VA Conference Bishop Young Jin Cho
 District Superintendent Bradford L. Phillips
 District Office Manager Deborah L. Hanson
 District Finance Secretary Tammy A. Waters
 District Program Coordinator Ellen J. Clements
 District Treasurer Mary R. Stroh
 District Lay Leader Keith E. Willyard
 District Associate Lay Leader Gary Denette
 District Webmaster ... Dominica "Dee" Guagliardo

DISTRICT CALENDAR

To receive the *Channel Marker* by email,
 Send your request to

ElizabethRiverDistrict@vaumc.org

Newsletter Articles **Deadline**
 is the **15th** of every month

All articles should be submitted

BY EMAIL

to address below.

Job Announcements should be 60-words or less.

Events 100-words or less or 1/4 page flyer-format

District Officers try to limit to a half-page



ElizabethRiverDistrict@vaumc.org



1 Annual Conference Orientation,

Memorial UMC (Va Beach) 2pm

1st **CLERGY EVALUATION DUE** 2nd **PARSONAGE REVIEW DUE**

8 **PENTECOST**

8 **Farewell to the Phillips**, *Ebenezer UMC (Suffolk) 3pm, see pg 1*

14 **FLAG DAY**

15 **HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!**

18 - 19 **Safe Sanctuaries Training**, *see pg 5*

(Hampton Convention Center)

18th 1:00 pm-9:00 pm & 19th 9:00 am-4:00 pm

20 - 22 **Annual Conference Hampton Convention Center**

Fri 20th 1pm Laity & Clergy Sessions begin

3pm First plenary session begins

Sat 21st 12noon Gala Laity Luncheon

12:30 Spouses' Luncheon

25 **Moving Day**

29 **New Clergy first Sunday in the Pulpit**



18 **Cathleen Falsani**, *(Courthouse Community) pg 3*

19 **Voices of Youth**, *(Nimmo UMC, Va Beach) 7pm*

22 **District Finance Committee**, *district office 4pm*

28th thru Aug 1 **CAMP GOTCHA pg 3**

Office Location: 815 Baker Rd. Suite 301, Virginia Beach

Phone: 757.473.1592 Fax: 757.473.1790

Email: ElizabethRiverDistrict@vaumc.org

District Website: ElizabethRiverDistrict.org

Conference Website: vaumc.org