

THE CHANNEL MARKER

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

JULY/AUGUST 2015



From our DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

Three times in three verses the Lord says to Joshua, **“Be Strong and Courageous”**. In the face of uncertainty and with the confidence of faith, Joshua was told to **“Be Strong and Courageous”** because God was going to be with him in this new land flowing with milk and honey (Joshua 1:6-9). By putting our faith and trust in the Lord we can **“Be Strong and Courageous”** even though we know that there are giants (obstacles and uncertainties) in the Promise Land.

I believe the Lord’s Word is still relevant today. For many congregations it seems like the obstacles (giants) are just too large to overcome. Obstacles like their church’s declining worship attendance, the lack of young people and children, the lack of new people creates worry about whether their church will close. The problem is that some churches are not reaching new people.

A **“Bold and Courageous”** congregation seeks to reach new people, more people. We believe Jesus died for us. We believe that Jesus died for all. We say God so loved the world that he gave His son (John 3:16). Does the fruit of our churches bear out that we really believe this? Today congregations are shrinking while the percentage of those not connected to a congregation is growing.

We need to **“Be Bold and Courageous”**! It is time we get out of our churches and back into the streets where the new people are - to begin to build relationships with those not currently connected in our church.

This is part of our heritage that we received from Jesus and John Wesley. Jesus went to where the people were. Wesley went to where the people were. He ended up preaching from a tombstone in order to carry the gospel message to all. We need to pray and ask God, **“Where are the tombstones we need to stand on in our community today... the places where we can encounter Christ and people in the streets?”**

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There is a Promise Land! We will only reach it if we are **“Bold and Courageous”**!!!

~Wayne

ElizabethRiverDS@vaumc.org
(757) 473-1592



THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

VIRGINIA CONFERENCE

POST OFFICE BOX 5606
10330 STAPLES MILL ROAD

GLEN ALLEN, VIRGINIA 23058-5606

YOUNG JIN CHO
RESIDENT BISHOP

June 23, 2015

TELEPHONE: 804/521-1102
FAX: 804/521-1178
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To the people of the Virginia Annual Conference:

May the grace and peace from our risen Lord be with you.

Many of you have heard that by a 989- 868 vote, the Virginia Annual Conference session approved a petition to General Conference to remove the following language from the *Book of Discipline*: "The United Methodist Church does not condone the practice of homosexuality and considers this practice incompatible with Christian teaching."

I want you to know that this vote took place in the midst of honest debate and prayerful discernment. Throughout it all, the expressed will of all participants was that we might know God's will for our church at this time.

Please note the following:

- 1) The current language in the *Book of Discipline* can only be changed by the General Conference which will meet next in May of 2016. This action is a petition of the Virginia Conference for the General Conference to take the action noted above. Nothing has changed.
- 2) Other language in the *Book of Discipline* related to human sexuality, including the ordination of homosexual persons and same sex unions, is not addressed by this petition.

I know the results of this action will be received with widely varied responses. But whatever those responses, what has not changed is that we are a people who share a common heritage and a common ministry in Christ Jesus. We are called to live and work together as a family of faith.

Within this family we can celebrate many powerful things God has done through us, such as the Imagine No Malaria Initiative, which is nearing 100% of its goal, and the many other ministries we lifted up at Annual Conference. Just as every family has differences and disagreements, yet remains united in care and love; so within our family of faith we should remain committed to one another. This day, as yesterday, we are called to be in ministry together with all people and we are called to be disciples together of the God we meet in the Scriptures.

I encourage you to join me in praying for our mission and for the future of our church looking for the guidance of our Good Shepherd on this issue. I am grateful for each one of you.

In Christ,

Young Jin Cho

2015 Annual Conference appointments

APPOINTMENT (City) CLERGY

Baylake (Virginia Beach) Clark D. Cundiff	LAST APPOINTED (District): <i>Nimmo (Elizabeth River)</i>
Broad Street (Portsmouth) Frederick C. Brockhausen III	<i>Courthouse Assoc. (Eliz. River)</i>
Chesapeake Avenue (Chesapeake) Janice P. Commander	<i>Roberts Memorial (Alexandria)</i>
Community Associate (Virginia Beach) Brian T. Boettcher	<i>First Appointment</i>
Ghent (Norfolk) Melody P. Tanner	<i>West Point (York River)</i>
New Creation (Chesapeake) C. Randolph Duncan	<i>Sterling (Arlington)</i>
Nimmo (Virginia Beach) Brandon L. Gilmore	<i>St. John's (Elizabeth River)</i>
Saint John's (Norfolk) Christa M. Springstead	<i>Community VB Assoc. (E. River)</i>
Saint Paul's (Chesapeake) Sandra Benton Plasters	<i>Ghent (Elizabeth River)</i>
Wesley Chapel (Suffolk) Brandon T. Nichols	<i>First Appointment</i>

LEAVING OUR DISTRICT (prior appointment)	NEW APPOINTMENT (District)
Lisa Blackmonson (Broad Street)	Matthews Chapel (York River)
David Drinkard (New Creation)	Harmony (Winchester)
Tim Earnhardt (Chesapeake Avenue)	Middlesex (York River)
Ileana Rosario (Wesley Chapel)	Lower Church (York River)
Hank Teague (St. Paul's)	Grace (York River)

Saturday evening at Annual Conference was the ordination service.

Congratulations to those who were:

LICENSED:

Brian T. Boettcher Licensed Local Pastor

COMMISSIONED:

Michelle D. Louk Provisional Elder

Brandon Nichols Provisional Elder

ORDAINED:

Patricia S. Money Full Elder



DISTRICT PROGRAM COORDINATOR

The theme for this year's Annual

Conference was "*From Members to Disciples.*" Throughout the weekend we were challenged to understand more fully what it means to follow Jesus Christ as his disciples. Do we have ways for the members of our churches to grow and become disciples, to live like Christ reaching out into the world? This is an ongoing challenge.

The Rev. Dr. Timothy L. Bias, General Secretary of Discipleship Ministries, led the two morning Bible studies, teaching on the theme for members becoming disciples. He shared experiences from two churches he served in Illinois in which the members ventured out into the community and formed partnerships with other organizations. In one instance a member approached an elementary school to ask children to come and be part of a children's choir. The gentleman could not sing, play an instrument or read music. Yet he felt that the Lord had laid this on his heart with the intent to include prayer as part of their time together. Parents were contacted through a letter in which the design of the group was outlined. They had to agree that the children could pray as part of the program. About 30 children's parents agreed and the group began. People with musical ability did help lead the choir, but the gentleman would pray at the end of each rehearsal. It took awhile, but eventually a child raised her hand for prayer for her missing kitty. That was followed a couple of weeks later by a child missing his daddy. As time went on even the parents would come early to participate in the prayer time. He spoke about another church who partnered with a local school and another who supported an Aids Clinic in their neighborhood. Sometimes we just have to ask people in our neighborhoods what they need.

One of the blessings of attending Annual Conference is *connecting with people and sharing ideas*. The room with all the displays was filled with people sharing their passion for ministries and how we can support one another. One of the displays had resources available from Discipleship Ministries. I picked up several booklets on topics such as *The Meaning of Holy Communion, Mission Trips for First Timers, Special Events & Traveling with Youth, A Guide to Prayer (Minding Your Call), Praying the Scriptures and 5 Devotions for the Local Church. The 2015-2016 Resource Directory (Lead the Way)* describes the mission and vision of this agency. Their Mission is "To challenge and support local church and Annual Conference leaders for their task of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." Their Vision statement is, "Leadership Ministries aspires to see a vital and vibrant church on fire to transform the world." The directory lists all the areas of ministry, resources and staff available to assist the local church. One resource available by email is *iTeach*, a free monthly newsletter providing insights on subjects Christian educators deal with every day. To subscribe, contact Carol Krau, ckrau@UMCdiscipleship.org. You can download resources for worship, evangelism, stewardship, laity in leadership and many more. Under Resources for Young People they list a website with blogs, events, and a catalogue of resources, www.globalyoungpeople.org. I have a Resource Directory you can borrow in my office or go to www.umcdiscipleship.org for more information.

While I was visiting the different displays, I also spoke with representatives from the Society of St. Andrew, Shalom Farms and United Methodist Family Services (UMFS). I hope to build relationships with these agencies and keep you informed of opportunities to support them in their ministries. The Virginia Conference also has a "Board of Discipleship" with a representative for our region. I have reached out to him to find out what resources they might have available in our quest to make disciples.

I hope you will join us on **August 1st** for the "**Thank God for Kids Ministry**" event at **St. Paul's UMC in Chesapeake**. Dr. Lavender is bringing his exotic animals to share the good news with us. In addition there will be food, games, crafts and a flea market. There is something for everyone. Invite your friends and neighbors. The event will be from noon to 3 pm with Dr. Lavender's show at 1 pm.

The **District UMW books** are now located in my office along with all of the other district resources previously located in the Heritage UMC library. I will post an updated list of resources on the District website. As you seek to make disciples in your church and community, please contact me if I can assist you. We have several great studies available to borrow and I can always put out the word to other churches if you are looking for a particular resource.

May we pray, learn and grow together. See you around the district.

Shalom, *Ellen* District Program Coordinator, (757) 473-1502



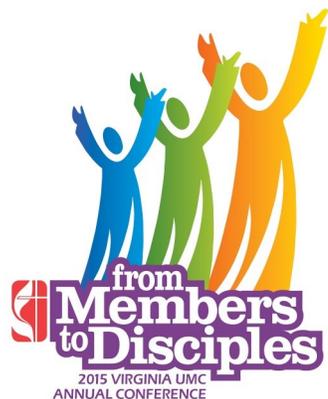
Ellen Clements
ellenclements@vaumc.org

**2015 Festival Gathering
of Biblical Storytelling**



www.nbsint.org

or call 1-800-355-6627.



2015 Annual Conference

<http://www.vaumc.org/AC2015>

The 2015 session of the Virginia Annual Conference was held at

The Berglund Center (formerly the Roanoke Civic Center) in Roanoke, VA, June 19-21.



Theme of this year's Annual Conference was
"From Members to Disciples."

2015 Annual Conference Offering

Total: \$152,125

2015 Annual Conference offering to support Cambodia mission, Ebola victims, poor children in Virginia.

Kits for UMCOR to be collected at Annual Conference

Total Kits: 42,843

Bedding kits: 111; Birthing kits: 4,533; Cleaning kits: 180; Health kits: 23,672; Layette kits: 1,965; School kits: 11,835; Sewing kits: 547.

4 CANS 4 CONFERENCE

9,869 POUNDS



Food Collected: 9,869 pounds of food.
All weekend containers will be filled to overflowing.



IMAGINE NO MALARIA

More than 91,606 lives

As of June 20, Conference reported of 86,454 lives saved. A spontaneous offering of \$28,560 plus \$22,000 in pledges brought the total to \$916,064.16, saving more than 91,606 lives. Funds are still coming in to the Conference office as churches continue to hold events to raise money for Imagine No Malaria and begin their Vacation Bible School emphasis on Imagine No Malaria. Send your donations to Virginia Conference, GFC number (6450) on the check.



DVDs of Annual Conference can be ordered from Conference Communications office

The Conference Communications office is selling DVDs of the 2015 Annual Conference session. Volume 1 will include the memorial service, ordination, mission and special offering worship service and recognition of retirees. Volume 2 will include Bishop Cho's Episcopal Address, Laity Address, Common Table, Discipleship Circles and Imagine No Malaria reports, Sunday morning closing worship and teaching sessions led by the Rev. Timothy Bias. The cost is **\$22 for Volume 1, \$12 for Volume 2 and \$30 for both volumes**. This year, for the first time, a short overview video of the 2015 Annual Conference (suitable for use in making a report on Annual Conference to your local church) will be available to view on the conference Facebook page or YouTube channel, free of charge. Cost is \$10 for a copy of the overview video on a DVD (shipping included). Order Form is available on the website or by calling Pam Culler in the Communications office at (804) 521-1110 or 1-800-768-6040, ext. 110.



District Presidents:

In "The Sermon on the Mount," Jesus reminds us (Matt 7:21-24) that we aren't really his disciples if we don't put our words into action. The Book of James tells us the same. In fact, many of us may act, but our heart won't be in it or may be in the wrong place. That's why our relationships with God and each other are so important. When Gene, Lynn and I started talking about Lynn's presentation this fall at our Spiritual Advance it was clear that we all wanted more than a one-time offering with an educational opportunity. We want a chance to build a relationship with some of the people that God singles out as needing our help the most—*prisoners*. I know that most of you and your men are involved with other ministries

such as Heart Havens or food pantries or Scouting. You have learned that these ministries result in relationships that have helped you grow spiritually and as a result you have become true servant leaders. Like most men, until my UMM brothers brought me along, I didn't think I needed relationships to be Godly. I still have trouble sometimes.

Based on your replies, I know you all have been praying about and discussing my proposal to begin a relationship with our prison chaplains throughout the state. Elizabeth River District is nearly ready to make a financial commitment on behalf of the fellowships even though we don't yet have an advocate or champion who has stepped forward to coordinate the effort over time. At the urging of our Conference President, Jeff Hall, I will be calling each of you to confirm your willingness to participate in planting a small mustard seed with the prison chaplains and prisons in your District.

I'll be asking each of you to let me know if you are ready to make this small commitment, plant this small seed, and see how God can make it grow.

Thank you for your service to your Conference and our Lord,

Andrew Kissell

V.P. for Spiritual Life



Do you know someone who is College-bound!

DO YOU HAVE SOMEONE HEADED OFF TO COLLEGE?

Do you have a student or students heading off or returning to a **Virginia college, community college or university** this fall? Give us their names so our Campus Ministers and Chaplains can connect with them. It's easy to do just go to the link below, fill out the form and submit. Our campus ministries will take it from there. The schools can't give our ministries student names so we rely on you to help us make these connections. Pastors, parents, youth leaders, students – go to the www.vaumc.org/CollegelInfo link, fill out the form, submit and help us all stay connected and in ministry with one another.

The Bishops' Foundation invites you to the **Goodson Preaching Academy**

Craft & Creativity

Preaching in the Context of a Rapidly Evolving World

Sept. 21-24, 2015

Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center, Blackstone, VA

Dr. Paul Scott Wilson



Dr. Paul Scott Wilson, Professor of Homiletics at Emmanuel College, Toronto, is our presenter. He is the author of many books on preaching, including *Four Pages of a Sermon* which is recommended reading. He is past president of the Academy of Homiletics. Go to vaumc.org for registration and information. Registration deadline is September 15.



Get help meeting your Vital Congregation Goals!

The next 5 Talent Academy Teaching Event will be:

Stir Up the Fire: Wesley's Way of Making Disciples

Featuring the Rev. Dr. James Harnish



Tuesday, November 10, 2015 | 9 AM - 3 PM

This event, focused specifically on **small group ministry**, will feature the Rev. Dr. James A. Harnish, former senior pastor of Hyde Park United Methodist Church in Tampa, and author of many books including *A Disciple's Path*. Dr. Harnish is an advocate for Wesleyan small group ministry with 40 years of pastoral ministry and involvement in the church.

<http://vaumc.org/5Talent>



Elizabeth River District UMM Breakfast

St Andrew's UMC, Virginia Beach

Saturday July 18th, 8 a.m.



Reaching New People

"Elbow Activities"

The Rev. Wayne Snead

Elizabeth River District

*preceded by St. Andrew's Men's Chorus
and followed by small group discussion*



UMM enjoying last
year's Annual
Conference breakfast



See you at St. Andrew's United Methodist Church Social Hall ,
717 Tucson Road (off Princess Anne Road in Kempsville), Virginia
Beach. Cost: \$5- pay at the door. Reservations required by 11 July
through Robert Caldwell: robaldwell@verizon.net or call 420-7293.

*Menu: Western Scrambled Eggs, Sausage Gravy & Biscuits,
Potatoes O'Brien, Grits, Kielbasa, Warm Cinnamon Buns,
Fruit Cups, Bananas, Grapefruit, Cold Cereals, juice, Coffee ,Tea*



*All men are invited to the Breakfast, whether fellowship members
or their friends. Bring your friends and neighbors!*



Elizabeth River District

United Methodist Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

Purpose of United Methodist Women:

The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.



Wow! Annual Conference was exciting and full of praise and worship. The Bible study in the morning was worth the trip to Roanoke. The United Methodist Women Prayer Breakfast was a blessing. Getting to see old and new friends and Don Edwards, from Grace/Shalom was entertaining in telling us about all that they do in the community. The UMW had a video that was shown during Conference and you can go to the website vaumw.org to view it. The UMW of the Virginia Conference are doing exciting things in missions. Hope all of your units are doing well and telling our and your stories.

Don't forget your Dimes and Dollars for Blackstone. Hope you are using your sock I handed out at the Prayer Luncheon at Beech Grove UMC. This is an on going special project of UMW in the Virginia Conference since 1975. Hope to see you at our next event.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Mission Encounter - July 24-26, 2015 at Blackstone Conference & Retreat Center. Courses include ... Geographic Study: Latin America - People & Faith; Spiritual Growth Study: Created for Happiness— Understanding Your Life in God; Issue Study: The Church and People with Disabilities. You won't want to miss these great studies. The registration form is on vaumw.org, District Office or from Joann McClung.

Young Women's Retreat "Big Enough" (ages 18-40) at Blackstone Conference Center on September 18-19, 2015. Retreat leaders will be Sarah Stephens and Joanna Paysour.

Annual Meeting and Prayer Lunch Saturday, September 26th at 10:30am at Centenary UMC, 3312 Cedar Lane, Portsmouth. Reservations need to be called in by September 21st to 484- 5051. Our speaker will be Karen McElfish, Conference UMW Vice President. Mission Project: Wesley Community Service Center in Portsmouth (our only National Mission Project in VA) - Paper products, food, gift cards (Walmart, Food Lion).

43rd Virginia Conference UMW Annual Meeting, October 24-25 at Blackstone — Help us celebrate the 40th anniversary of this special program.

Joann McClung, President United Methodist Women [joannmclung43@gmail.com. or joannmclung@cox.net] Cell (757) 408-1010.

Calling All Clergy & Their Families



Please come join us for our annual **Clergy Welcome Picnic** to be hosted by Virginia Wesleyan College on **Sunday, July 26, 2015** starting at **5 PM**. Come early and enjoy some corn hole, ring toss, and other games as we fellowship together and welcome our new **colleagues to the Elizabeth River District! Our host will**

provide the food and all we ask is for returning pastors to bring a dessert to share. Please R.S.V.P. to Ellen, ellenclements@vaumc.org by **July 20th**. We look forward to seeing you there!





THE GLOBAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

Willow-Creek
Thursday - Friday
August 6-7, 2015

You are presented with a lot of opportunities to sharpen your skills and develop the people you lead.

Take advantage of the Global Leadership Summit's Premier Host Site

SPRING BRANCH COMMUNITY CHURCH

1500 N. Great Neck Rd, Va Beach

9:30am - 5:45pm

\$209 Individual Rate

(includes all conference materials)

For more information: www.willowcreek.com



Salem UMM

Spaghetti

Dinner



Salem United Methodist Church
2057 Salem Rd
Virginia Beach, VA 23456

Saturday, Sept. 12, 2015

5:00 pm - 7:00 pm



Come and enjoy a great Spaghetti dinner & fellowship.

Menu items to include Spaghetti,

Tossed Salad, drinks, & hot dogs. Desserts available .

Adults \$8.00 Children \$5.00

For More Info: Jim Becker 502-5476



FRIENDS OF THE GROOM

"We are a theater company committed to revealing the Christian message with a unique blend of humor, story, challenging content, and scenes that are hard to forget."

SAVE THE DATE

July 31st/August 1st

Theater Camp for Adults, Youth, and Children.

Friends of the Groom will be here at
Messiah UMC.

Look them up on their website:
www.friendsofthegroom.org



SAVE THE DATE: SEPT. 19

How to Reach New People

COACHING TUNE-UP EVENT

(for those participating in coaching)

Courthouse Community UMC

AUGUST 14 & 15, 2015 • 18 SATELLITE LOCATIONS • OPCIÓN EN ESPAÑOLA

CROSS X ROADS

SCHOOL OF CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT 2015



School of Congregational Development

Satellite Events 2015

For the fourth year, the School of Congregational Development offsite participation is being made available through target congregations in our five jurisdictions on **Saturday, August 15, 2015**. This Satellite Event is made possible by the creative partnership with Global Ministries through the Office of Congregational Development.

The Office of Congregational Development aims to strengthen disciples of Jesus Christ and churches within the US that seek to more effectively engage with the diversity within their communities, especially with persons who are immigrants, racial ethnic, or living in poverty.

Those attending the Saturday event will be able to participate through live, interactive and tape-delayed live streaming of our two outstanding presenters: Rev. John Edgar & Dr. B. Kevin Smalls. Our theme this year is "CrossXRoads" and these two leaders will share years of ministry practice, strategy planning for innovative teams, and mobilizing ministry teams to reach the real community where we serve and much more.

Those attending the Friday event (a 2-hr Intensive Broadcast in Spanish) will be able to participate through live streaming of our outstanding presenter: Dr. Iosmar Álvarez. Our theme this year is "CrossXRoads" and Dr. Álvarez will share years of ministry practice around forming leaders in the local church that will lead the congregation to multiply its DNA and make disciples of Jesus Christ.

ELIZABETH RIVER DISTRICT'S HOST SITE . . . Norfolk United Methodist Church

Saturday, August 15, 2015 10:00 am to 3:30 pm ~ 1520 Halstead Ave, Norfolk, VA 23502

Registration Cost: \$29.00 per person

Register online: <http://www.scdsatellites.org>



Chile

The last time I went with a Mission Team to Chile was in 2010, and I came home with bronchitis, which made me conclude that I would not go back again. However, Pedro Grandon asked me to publicize the need for teams to go to Carahue, near Nueva Imperial and Temuco. Pedro is now the pastor there in addition to the church in Nueva Imperial.

In the midst of sending information to the UVMIM Jurisdictions, I felt God calling me to go to Carahue, since I had been pastor in Carahue when we were missionaries in Temuco. We will be doing repairs on the church building, leading a Vacation Bible School, and doing evangelistic work. Ed Sievers, a member of Charity UMC, will be the co-leader with me. The dates are October 15 - 25, 2015, and we anticipate the cost per person will be between \$2,000 and \$2,500. Anyone potentially interested in participating, please contact me as soon as possible. Please pray for this mission. May God bless you.

Grace and Peace, Walt Whitehurst waltpungo@aol.com

All New and Returning Ministers serving the Elizabeth River District

On **August 4, 2015, 10:30 a.m.** Wesley Community Service Center will be hosting an **Open House Event** just for you. Wesley Community Service Center is a Mission Project of the United Methodist Church, Virginia Conference. Wesley is in ministry with communities of Portsmouth, Va. The Director, John Hatcher, Staff and Board of Directors look forward to this special time of fellowship and sharing information about the ministries of Mission being done by the center. We at Wesley are looking forward to meeting each of you on August 4th. There will be more information to follow within the next week or two.



60th Annual Lotus Luncheon Tabernacle UMC

1265 Sandbridge Rd. Va. Beach

July 15, 2015 11am – 2pm

Menu:

Country Ham or Chicken Salad

Potato Salad, String Beans, Corn Pudding,

Stewed Tomatoes, (Choice of Two)

Cornbread or Roll

Cake or Pie

Tea, Coffee or Lemonade

Adults, \$9 ~ Children, \$4 ~ under 5 free

Take Outs Available

Tabernacle United Methodist Church

CENTER FOR SACRED MUSIC *at Virginia Wesleyan College*

2015 Worship & Arts Summer Conference

July 27-August 1, 2015

*Everything you loved about CSM's
Sacred Music Summer Conference plus plenty more!*

A week of 45 informative and energizing workshop sessions for musicians, clergy, and worship leaders led by 17 guest clinicians and VWC faculty. Features 18 anthem reading sessions and evening events which include a prayer service using the music of Taizé; a hymn festival co-sponsored by the Tidewater Chapter of the American Guild of Organists; festival worship featuring the drama group Friends of the Groom and the 110-voice Wesleyan Worship Choir led by **Joseph Martin**; a closing choral concert featuring **Mack Wilberg**, director of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, conducting the 95-voice Wesleyan Festival Chorus; and the world-famous VWC cookies & lemonade break every afternoon.

Register for the week or by the day. CEUs are offered as well as academic credit (different rates and requirements apply). On-campus air-conditioned housing is available.

Details and Conference brochure:

www.vwc.edu/csmsummer



The School for Children's Ministries is On The Road again! Four new locations this year. Learn Extraordinary Lessons from Ordinary Objects plus three more workshops. .5 CEU offered as well as certificates for preschool teacher accreditations. **Please encourage your children's ministry team to attend.** Only \$20 per person. Brochure and Registration online:

<http://www.vaumc.org/Events?cid=3&ceid=1272&cerid=0&cdt=5%2f30%2f2015>

Fall dates and locations:

September 12, 2015

Timberlake UMC

Lynchburg

October 17, 2015

Thalia UMC

VA Beach

November 7, 2015

Good Shepherd UMC

Dale City



What is All God's Children Camp?

Children ages 7 to 12 spend a week at camp, participating in activities such as boating, swimming, hiking, archery, horseback riding, music, crafts, Bible study and conflict resolution. Partnering with Virginia United Methodist Camp provides a week of sanctuary for children who face so many challenges in their lives: economic poverty, temporary living conditions, loneliness, low self-esteem, violence and drugs.

ALL GOD'S CHILDREN CAMP



.....Wondering how you can help?

2015 CAMP DATES

August 2 - 7
Occohannock on the Bay in Belle Haven

August 9 - 14
Westview on the James in Goochland

www.vaumc.org/agcc

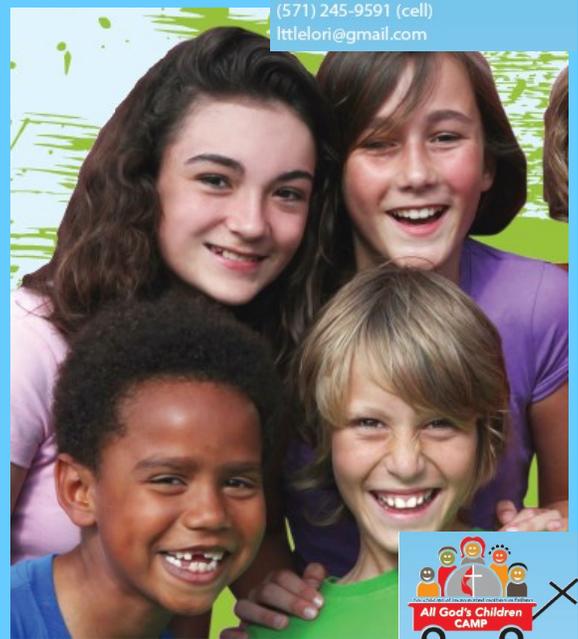
Lori Smith, Director
All God's Children Camp
The Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 5606, Glen Allen, VA 23058
(804) 521-1138
(571) 245-9591 (cell)
littlori@gmail.com

MENTORING: Volunteers come from churches across the conference to spend the week at camp. Mentors do not lead activities, but they do provide supervision, companionship and compassion to the children during their daily activities. They are the ones who assure the children that they are indeed all God's children, and God loves and cares for them in the midst of their struggles. After camp, mentors agree to maintain contact with their campers by phone or letters throughout the school year. Mentors are adults ages 17 and up. They attend training the Sunday morning prior to the week of camp. It is an intense, yet extremely rewarding, experience.

SUPPLIES: Your Sunday school class, UMM, UMW circle or Vacation Bible School can help by adopting a cabin and providing supplies. Please check the website to sign up and see the list of supplies. Collect the supplies and then deliver them to camp the Saturday before it begins. Also, notes, bracelets, and journals can be donated as something special to give to the kids. Check the website often for updates on supplies specific to the camps.

PRAYER: The camp and the children need your prayers. Alarming statistics show that these children are more likely than their peers to have behavioral problems, trouble in school, and are likely to be incarcerated. We hope to give these children the chance to break this cycle.

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION: The camp is funded by individuals, groups and churches. A scholarship of \$400 sends one child to camp. Please make check payable to VAUMC with AGCC in the memo line.



THANK GOD FOR KIDS MINISTRY

with Dr. Jim Lavender from Discovery UMC in
Richmond



**WHEN THE MOST AMAZING SHOW ON
EARTH IS REALLY ABOUT HEAVEN!**

AUGUST 1, 2015

Noon-3pm (Show at 1pm)

St. Paul's UMC

437 W. Providence Rd, Chesapeake

**Food, games, crafts, & flea market before and after the show
From 1-2pm, hear and see stories and lessons from the Bible as they come ALIVE
when illustrated by dozens of live, exotic animals!**



As part of a special arrangement with the **Virginia Conference**, **Kings Dominion** amusement park is offering United Methodists discounted prices on tickets during United Methodist Days at the park. Cost is \$34 per person for ages 3 and older for discount tickets valid, **July 1-6**, and **July 18-20**. Children ages 2 and under will be admitted free. **JoyFest** (one of the country's largest gospel festivals featuring Fred Hammond, Tamela and David Mann and Tye Tribbett) will be **Saturday, July 18**. KingsFest and JoyFest tickets are sold separately in advance through the call center at (804) 876-5000. Cost is \$40 for Good Any Day tickets, which are valid **April 11-**

Oct. 31. Kings Dominion is located 20 miles north of Richmond, off Interstate 95. To purchase tickets online, go to www.kingsdominion.com and enter promo code KDUMC04 in the top right corner under "my cart." The Virginia Conference will receive \$1 for each ticket purchased online during United Methodist Days.

4th of JULY



CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP

Heritage UMC invites you to a **CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP**. If you are a caregiver or know someone who is, we meet here at the church (815 Baker Road, Va Beach 23462) on the 3rd Saturday of each month from 10am to Noon. If you have questions, you may contact Linda Chase, (757) 613-1266.



CHURCH POSITIONS AVAILABLE

P/T DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRIES [Jolliff, Chesapeake] seeking energetic and motivated individuals with strong Christian values to grow an already established youth ministry for both middle school and high school students. Applicants possess the ability to direct and supervise youth and volunteers with regard to evaluation, planning, and implementation for all youth-related programs. Programs include the areas of education, worship, outreach, service, fellowship and recreation that provide opportunities through which young people are nurtured in their faith and in the United Methodist beliefs while learning to apply that faith to all areas of their lives. Candidates will possess a love of God, growing maturity in faith and a passion for youth. Experience with youth, demonstrated competence in working as a member of a team with staff, parents, and youth leaders, good communication skills, and an ability to create a balanced mix of spiritual and relational activities are required for this approximately 5hour/week position plus planning, retreats, special events and mission activities throughout the year. Salary based on education and experience. To receive a detailed job description or to respond with interest. Please contact Bonnie Hammer at thebuddy34@yahoo.com or at 757-488-2784.

P/T SET-UP/MAINTENANCE [Jolliff, Chesapeake] is seeking individuals with a flexible weekly schedule having the ability to perform on-demand tasks. Job assignments and hours will vary depending on specific events, needs and seasons of the church year. Duties will include the following: Lawn Care, Building Set-Up, Building Maintenance, some custodial duties. To receive a detailed job description or to respond with interest please contact Bonnie Hammer at thebuddy34@yahoo.com or at 757-488-2784.

PROGRAM DIRECTOR [Deep Creek, Chesapeake] responsible for the administrating, coordinating, planning, promoting, and conducting of church programs that will guide the families of DCUMC in developing a deeper Christian understanding and lifestyle through fun, fellowship, and learning. Interested candidates should contact Rev. Mike Plasters at pastor@deepcreekumc.org.

YOUTH DIRECTOR [Deep Creek, Chesapeake] to grow young disciples for Christ by developing and implementing a comprehensive approach to youth ministry in the areas of discipleship, mission, and outreach while serving as a spiritual leader and role model for youth ages 6th-12th grade. Interested candidates should contact Rev. Mike Plasters at pastor@deepcreekumc.org.

WORSHIP LEADER [Community, VB] Full-time position provides oversight to all music, worship design and technology for a growing contemporary/modern worship service with an average attendance of 80-100 persons per week. The music is in the style of Hillsong, Bethel Music, Chris Tomlin, and Kari Jobe. The ideal candidate will have experience in leading contemporary worship with a praise band, sound systems and multi-media, and working with volunteers. Competitive salary commensurate with education and experience and a benefit package that includes insurance, retirement and earned time off. For more info go to church website cumcvb.org.

YOUTH MINISTRY LEADER [Centenary UMC, Portsmouth] is seeking a Youth Ministry Leader who will serve as a spiritual leader and role model to help build young disciples for Christ. Position is part time. Applicants may call or email the church at 484-5051 or centenaryumc@verizon.net or Pam Kelly at 484-7158 or pamkelly1@verizon.net.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR [Resurrection UMC, Chesapeake] a multi-cultural environment needs a part-time Christian Education Director for young adult, youth & children to lead Christian programs; recruit/or train, empower & equip volunteers. Plan meaningful worship, devotions & prayer time. This position combines faith and service to church and society. For more details & qualifications, email (resurrectionumc@cox.net) or call the church office (479-0452), or look on elizabethriverdistrict.org.

MUSIC DIRECTOR [Resurrection UMC, Chesapeake] needed for adults, youth, & children in this multi-cultural environment. Lead Praise Band, adult & children's choir. Plan meaningful music for worship. Backup for morning worship pianist. For more details & qualifications, email (resurrectionumc@cox.net) or call church office (479-0452), or look on the District website jobs page.

For more employment opportunities & details, visit the Virginia Conference Website at www.vaumc.org/jobs

Brig Brigham Golf Challenge

Have fun, meet some wonderful Christian people,
and support our church

18 holes ~ Shotgun Start ~ Best Ball
September 4, 2015 8:30 am

\$60.00 per player
Includes 18 holes, cart,
"goodie-bag", lunch, and great prizes!!

Mulligans: \$5 each (limit 2)

Raffle tickets

Sponsors:

Gold - \$300.00

Silver - \$150.00

Hole - \$50.00

Ocean View Golf Course

Contact Frank Hill for
more information at
757-651-9699 or
hillfg@hotmail.com



www.milesmemorial.org



On behalf of residents,
families, and team
members of the seven
senior living communities
of Virginia United
Methodist Homes, Inc.,

thank you for raising awareness of the Samaritan Program during our special offering emphasis. Even if you missed the opportunity between Mother's Day and Father's Day to give to the 2015 Samaritan Offering, you can still support the residents who have been blessed with longevity but have outlived their financial resources. Contributions can be made through the church office or online at www.vumh.org.

Remember as well that we would welcome the opportunity to connect with your local church in mission and ministry in additional ways such as:

- Providing opportunities for volunteers
- Speaking in your church for worship, Older Adult Ministry programs, UMM fellowship gatherings, UMW Circles or other group. Team members at each of our communities are willing to offer programs on a wide variety of topics - from right-sizing for retirement living to caregiving and everything in between.
- Offering space for church meetings or retreats
- Being present for mission, health, or other resource fairs
- Extending the opportunity for your church ministries to offer musical programs, Bible studies, prayer groups and other activities for residents.

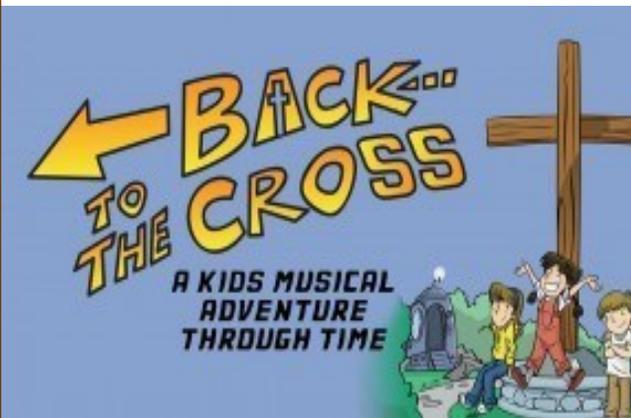
If you are close to one of our communities, we would love to host a visit or have your groups participate in community programs that might be of interest.

For more information, call us at 804-474-8700 or 800-673-1031 toll free.

Martha

Martha Stokes
Director of Church and Community Relations
Virginia United Methodist Homes, Inc.
7113 Three Chopt Road, Ste. 300
Richmond, VA 23226-3643

THALIA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH SUMMER MUSICAL THEATER CAMP AUGUST 10-14 9 AM - 1 PM

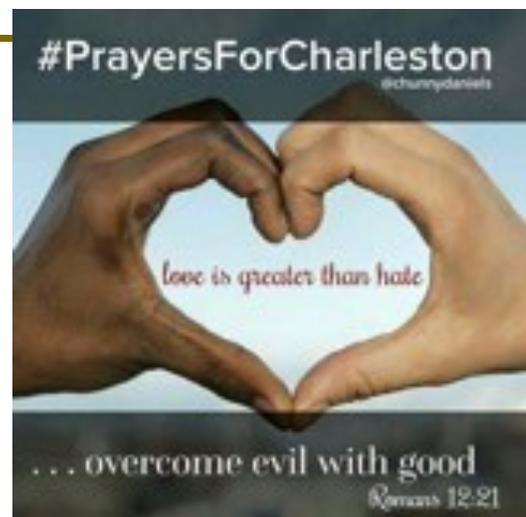


open to all children who have completed

1st through 8th grades

full details and registration forms
available at

www.thaliaumc.org or call 340-5015





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

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 District Program Coordinator Ellen J. Clements
 District Treasurer Mary R. Stroh
 District Lay Leader Gary G. Denette
 District Webmaster Julianne Rosas

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



ElizabethRiverDistrict@vaumc.org

[D.O. = District Office]



6 OFFICE CLOSED for holiday

*(your church is free to choose
 Friday or Monday holiday)*

- 1 MOVING DAY
- 9 District FINANCE, 4pm D.O.
- 18 UMM BREAKFAST, 8Aam St. Andrew's (VB)
- 24-26 MISSION ENCOUNTER, Blackstone

26 CLERGY WELCOME PICNIC, 5pm, Virginia Wesleyan College



CLERGY LUNCHES
No clergy lunches Jul & Aug.

- 1 THANK GOD FOR KIDS MINISTRY, 12-3pm, St. Paul's, Chesapeake
- 4 WESLEY COMMUNITY CENTER — OPEN HOUSE, 10:30am
- 14-15 SCHOOL OF CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, Norfolk UMC
- 25 CHARGE CONFERENCE SET-UP, 10am, Heritage UMC**
- 27 District Committee on Ministry, 8:30 D.O.

COMING UP...

- GOODSON PREACHING ACADEMY—September 21-24
- 5-TALENT ACADEMY—November 10th
- DISTRICT CONFERENCE—November 14th**

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