

DISTRICT NEWS

A Newsletter of The Harrisonburg District • Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church

February 2017

Issue 44-2

From Our DS

Dear Friends,

So much is happening in our District! This is the time we look to the new year and either ask for our pastors to return or be moved. We begin the Appointment Process on February 20, and will have a week in February, a week in March, and a week in April for appointment making. We worship everyday we are in Richmond and we pray over each appointment. I have met with every preacher and will now meet with S-PPRC Committees that have talked about a pastoral move. The process is long and complicated, but we strive to make every appointment the best for the church and the pastor. Please be patient. Churches will begin to know who their new pastor will be within the month the appointment is made.



Bishop Lewis has asked me to stay in Harrisonburg for another year. I am delighted to be your district superintendent until June of 2018. This will finish eight years and that is the limit allowed by Discipline.

Important
Information

Bishop Lewis will be with us on **February 26, at Asbury UMC** for “Chat and Chew”. All pastors are required to be at Asbury for a time with the Bishop from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. The Laity are asked to meet the Bishop from 6:15 - 8:15 p.m. Supper will be served from 4:15 - 6:15 p.m. We can feed up to 200 people and we ask that you call the District Office to make a reservation. We have printed some sample questions you might want to ask the Bishop (see page 2). Bishop Lewis will also entertain other questions during these two sessions. Please set this day aside and come to Asbury UMC. This will be the first time many

of you will have a chance to meet and greet our new Bishop.

Our District was the highest paying district with apportionments for the second year. I am proud of you for making apportionments important. This is the Mission Arm of the church. It means we can not only operate our conference, but we can reach out to those in need all over the world. We gave more than 95% of our Apportionments and I am proud of you. Thank you!

Carolyn and I gave our pastors and their families an Epiphany Party this past week. We had over a 100 at Dayton UMC. We are very proud of all our pastors and the work they do every day. I am grateful for Dayton UMC for allowing us to use their facility and thankful to all who worked so hard to make it a great success. Being a pastor is a 24/7 responsibility and I hope you will join me in thanking our pastors and their families. It is hard and almost impossible to make everyone happy in our churches, but our pastors are on duty to share the Word of God and Love of God.



I am back up to speed after my illness and I thank each of you who filled in for me and sent me cards and flowers. You are a great District and I love you!

Tommy

Visit Harrisonburg District on Facebook: [Harrisonburg District of VaUMC](#)



From the
Bishop

A challenge to read the Bible in 2017

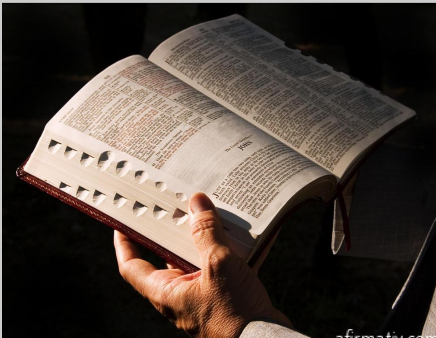
You are invited to tell Bishop Lewis that you are participating in her challenge to read the Bible in 2017. Go to the conference homepage, vaumc.org, click on Office & Staff, click on Bishop, then click on Bishop Lewis' 2017 Bible Reading Challenge and "Please take a short survey to let the bishop know if you are participating in the Bible reading challenge."

The survey asks for your name, your church, and your district. If you are participating in this challenge, we will appreciate you taking this survey and knowing how many in the

Harrisonburg District are joining this challenge.

February 1	Leviticus 1-4	February 15	Numbers 8-10
February 2	Leviticus 5-7	February 16	Numbers 11-13
February 3	Leviticus 8-10	February 17	Numbers 14-15
February 4	Leviticus 11-13	February 18	Numbers 16-17
February 5	Leviticus 14-15	February 19	Numbers 18-20
February 6	Leviticus 16-18	February 20	Numbers 21-22
February 7	Leviticus 19-21	February 21	Numbers 23-25
February 8	Leviticus 22-23	February 22	Numbers 26-27
February 9	Leviticus 24-25	February 23	Numbers 28-30
February 10	Leviticus 26-27	February 24	Numbers 31-32
February 11	Numbers 1-2	February 25	Numbers 33-34
February 12	Numbers 3-4	February 26	Numbers 35-36
February 13	Numbers 5-6	February 27	Deuteronomy 1-2
February 14	Numbers 7	February 28	Deuteronomy 3-4

The readings for February 2017



[resource: <http://www.vaumc.org/pages/bishop-lewis/biblechallenge>]



Harrisonburg District's "Chat and Chew" February 26, 2017 * Asbury UMC Bishop Sharma D. Lewis

Bishop Sharma Lewis will visit the **Harrisonburg District** on **Sunday, February 26, 2017**. She will be meeting with **clergy** in an **afternoon session, 2:00-4:00 p.m.**, and be in conversation with **laity** in an **evening session, 6:15-8:15 p.m.** There will be a meal (4:30-6:00 p.m.) for clergy and laity between sessions. The meal will be provided for \$9.00 per person, payable at the door. **Reservations required** by contacting the **district office: 433-2382 or harrisonburgdistrict@vaumc.org by Thursday, February 16th**. The menu will be roast Pork Loin, Potato Salad, Sweet and Sour Red Cabbage, Hot Rolls, Tea, Coffee, Black Forrest Cake, and Apple Strudel. Vegetarian option by request.

The following questions for the "Chat and Chew" have been provided for clergy and laity to think about before the event:

Questions for Clergy:

- *What are the biggest challenges that the Annual Conference is facing or will face in the near future?*
- *What are our promising, untapped, growth opportunities?*
- *What are your most creative ideas of taking advantage of our untapped growth opportunities?*
- *If you were the Bishop, what would you focus your attention on?*

Questions for the Laity:

- *What would you like to know about your new Bishop?*
- *What do you desire from the leadership of your new Bishop?*
- *How might we reach more laity in the Virginia Conference to be involved in their Local Church/District Level/Conference Level/General Conference Level?*
- *If you were the Bishop, what would you focus your attention on?*



Rev. Tommy and Mrs. Carolyn Herndon hosted an Epiphany Party for the Harrisonburg District Partners in Ministry [PiM] on Tuesday, January 24, at Dayton UMC. This was a time of fun and fellowship for clergy and their families and key district laity.

Special thanks to Rev. Bruce Carper and the congregation of Dayton UMC for providing their facility for this special event; to Rev. Stan Thompson, Mr. Eric Grendahl, and Rev. Laura Douglass for beautiful music; and to all those who helped make it a successful evening. We greatly appreciate Rev. Kevin Poeckert providing photos of this enjoyable evening.

In the spirit of Epiphany giving, those attending had an opportunity to bring gifts to Mission Central's Children's Clothing Closet. Many items were brought and donated to this special district mission project.





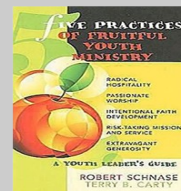
PLEASE NOTE! The Harrisonburg District Office Administrative Assistant Brenda Woods has a new office e-mail address: harrisonburgdistrict@vaumc.org To comply with a directive from the conference, please use only this e-mail address to contact the Harrisonburg District Office! [Please delete from your address book these addresses that have previously been used: brenda.woods@verizon.net; woodsrebrenda@comcast.net; and harrisonburgdistrictumc@gmail.com] Also all e-mail messages from the District Office will now only be sent to pastors at their vaumc.org addresses. Pastors, please make sure you check your vaumc.org e-mail address for important correspondence from the district office!



From Sue MacTavish, District Librarian

February 2017 featured item:

Five Practices of Fruitful Youth Ministry: A Youth Leader's Guide
by Robert Schnase and Terry B. Carty, 2009



Tried-and-true activities from youth groups across the country, these ten ready-to-use sessions teach the fundamentals of Christian living: Radical Hospitality, Passionate Worship, Intentional Faith Development, Risk-taking Mission, and Extravagant generosity. These five practices, designed to shape both heart and mind, will help youth grow in their discipleship as they transform the world. The book features ready-to-use interactive sessions for each practice; reproducible pages; scripture references; discussion suggestions; and planning helps.

Stop by the District Office and "check out" the library. Please remember to check out library items by signing the book card in the pocket with your name and church and date—you may keep items as long as you need—but remember to return items when finished so that others may borrow.
Thanks, Sue



Cokesbury Consultant:
Brian Koontz

Cokesbury, in addressing the needs for the Virginia Conference, developed a more dedicated structure for serving the needs of churches, within the Virginia United Methodist Conference.

Greetings,

My name is Brian Koontz, your Conference Community Resource Consultant. As your Community Resource Consultant, I am ready to assist you with your ministry resource inquiries and answer your questions regarding teaching and learning resources, small group studies, Bibles, books, church supplies, discipleship resources, which includes furnishings. I can help you place orders, as well.



Cokesbury Resources for the Christian Journey

As a clergy spouse, it was a revelation to learn the scope of all the Discipleship Resources that Cokesbury offers. From buses, playground equipment, LED signs to sound systems and steeples, furniture (sanctuary, classroom, meeting area, and office), Cokesbury has done the work for you. In short, our partners have been vetted for quality, pricing, and social principles.

Cokesbury also has a team of people to interface with architects and engineers, when you are building a new structure and want it furnished from steeple to worship and office furniture.

As a Methodist, serving Methodists, my charge is to assist you in ministry. I hope for the opportunity to gain a better understanding about each of your congregations and your ministries. My contact information is: phone - (804) 839-7105 and my e-mail address - bkoontz@cokesbury.com

Cokesbury remains your partner, committed to equipping the needs of your Methodist ministry.

2016 Milestones

- 280 years of Wesley's arrival in the Americas (1736)
- 250 years of Methodism in the United States (1766)
- 200 years since Francis Asbury's death (1816)
- 200 years of the Course of Study (1816)

- 150 years of the Board of Education (1866)
- 150 years of the Freedmen Aid's Society 1866
- 60 years of full clergy rights for women(1956)

District Council on Ministries

The District Council on Ministries will meet on March 23; April 22-Retreat @ Asbury UMC; May Dinner at Overlook-
date set by Overlook; August 24; and November 16, 2017. Unless noted, all meetings will be at the District Office, 7:00
p. m. Please see information on the Ministry Teams below.

Rev. Bob Talbott, DCOM Chairperson



Faith Development Ministry Team: The Harrisonburg District UMC Faith Development Ministry Team looks forward to a new year, new plans and projects. Our team members of 2017 are: Tommy Crosby, Kemper Dadisman, Scott Dillard, Dale Dodrill, Becky Downey, Sharon Harold, Annie Pierce, Kevin Poeckert, Blake Robertson, Phil Secrist, Wes Van Pelt and Carrie Talbott.

We will meet at the District Office at 7:00 p.m., on the following 2017 dates: February 16; March 16;
April 20; August 17; and October 19.

Rev. Carrie Talbott, Team Leader



MISSIONS

Mission and Outreach Ministry Team: Team members for 2017: Rodney Bussard; Scott Dodrill; Artie Frederick; Ann Homan; Louise Jennings; Bill Lalla, Mary Jane Rawley; Delores Reid; Valerie Ritter; and Lydia Weeks.

Mission Central's Children's Clothes Closet - Mission Central has much to be excited about in the coming months. Our needed buildings are on the horizon. During our first week of 2017, Mission Central Children's Closet served 62 families seeking clothing and diapers for 150 children. We can use more volunteers to help check folks in and out. Many do not speak English and it requires more hands and time to help them with their needs. Our current needs are for underwear, socks, and shoes. Our diaper needs are sizes 1, 2, 5, and 6. Thank you for all for your donations and support this past year. If you have any questions, please give me a call. Looking forward to hearing from you.



Artie Frederick, Children's Clothing Sub-Committee Chairperson, 208-7669



Mission Central's Equipment for Caring - (medical equipment loaner closet) is available FREE for those needing durable medical equipment (wheelchairs, bedside commodes, shower benches, hospital beds), wound care supplies, disposable adult diapers, and adaptive equipment and much more. Contact Delores Reid at dried515@aol.com or 540-383-6112 if you need any of these or have questions or wish to donate equipment, supplies, or time.

Delores Reid, Medical Equipment Sub-Committee Chairperson, 383-6112

Bill Lalla, Team Leader



Sympathy is extended to the family of Rev. Eddie Barnett. His mother, Elizabeth T. Barnett, passed away on Monday, January 9, 2017. A graveside service was held on Friday, January 13, at East Hill Cemetery in Salem, Virginia. Rev. Barnett is the pastor of Clover Hill UMC.

Retired pastor Lewis C. Armentrout, Jr. passed away on January 16, 2017. He is survived by his wife, Helen. A memorial service was held on Sunday, January 23rd at Fairview Church of the Brethren with burial at the Clover Hill Cemetery. Rev. Armentrout served several Harrisonburg District UMC churches. Our condolences are extended to the Armentrout family.

Mrs. Ruth Reynolds passed away on Sunday, January 23, 2017, in Roanoke. She is survived by her husband, retired clergy Rev. James W. Reynolds, and her son, Rev. David Reynolds, pastor of Elkton UMC. A memorial service was held on Monday, January 30th at First United Methodist Church in Salem, VA. Sympathy is extended to the Reynolds family.



Asbury UMC in Harrisonburg is planning a Flood Recovery Mission Trip to Lumberton, NC, February 15-22, 2017, to help with the flood recovery efforts there. Over 5,000 homes need to be rebuilt in the wake of Hurricane Matthew. Contact Pastor Bob Talbott for more information: pastor-bob.asburyumc@gmail.com or 540-421-2500.

District Opportunities



February 2 (Thursday) - United Methodist Day at the General Assembly, Bon Air UMC

February 6 (Monday) - Partners in Ministry [PiM], Keezletown UMC, 9:00 a.m.*

February 7 (Tuesday) - District Lay Servants Committee, District Office, 7:00 p.m.*

February 11 (Saturday) - Commission on the Status & Role of Women (COSROW) Conversation, Chamberlayne Heights UMC-Richmond, 10:00 a.m.*

February 16 (Thursday) - DCOM Faith Development Ministry Team, District Office, 7:00 p.m.*

February 23 (Thursday) - District Committee on the Ordained Ministry, District Office, 9:00 a.m.

February 26 (Sunday) - Bishop Lewis on the Harrisonburg District; 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. - Clergy Session; 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. - Dinner; 6:15 - 8:15 p.m. - Laity Session; 8:15 p.m. - Closing Prayer*

March 3-4 (Fri-Sat) - Clergy Spouse Retreat, Richmond Hill Retreat Center, Friday-3:00 p.m. -

Saturday-12:30 p.m.*

March 6 (Monday) - Partners in Ministry [PiM], Wood Grill Restaurant-Harrisonburg, 11:00 a.m.

March 16 (Thursday) - DCOM Faith Development Ministry Team, District Office, 7:00 p.m.*

March 18 (Saturday) - District United Methodist Women, Spiritual Life Retreat, Vision of Hope UMC, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.*

March 23 (Thursday) - District Committee on the Ordained Ministry, District Office, 9:00 a.m.

March 23 (Thursday) - District Council on Ministry, District Office, 7:00 p.m.*

March 31-April 2 (Fri-Sun) - Conference Lay Servant Academy, 4H Educational Conference Center, Wirtz, VA*

April 1 (Saturday) - Bishop's Convocation on Prayer, Trinity UMC-Henrico, 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.*

May 8-10 (Mon-Wed) - 2017 Ministers' Convocation, Wyndham Hotel & Conference Center-Glen Allen.*

**Denotes related article elsewhere in this newsletter*



Partners in Ministry: The next **PiM meeting** will be held on **Monday, February 6, 9:00 a.m., at Keezletown UMC**. The Reverend Andy Peck-McClain will present a program on "Spiritual Deepening." All clergy are encouraged to be present.

PiM Executive Officers



Ladies of the Harrisonburg District are invited to attend the **United Methodist Women's Spiritual Life Retreat on Saturday, March 18, at Vision of Hope UMC from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.** Nancy Walsh, former Spiritual Life Coordinator for the Virginia Conference, will be our speaker. Nancy has done an excellent job at the conference level and we are excited to have her share her message, "I Give You Joy". The registration form will be an attached to this newsletter. Please share it with your units, friends, and church members and then make plans to attend! You may contact me anytime at sharold714@aol.com or my home phone: 540-879-2270 for additional information.

Sharon Harold, District UMW President



In spite of a little snow, the **Annual Tri-District United Methodist Men's Retreat** was held at **Camp Overlook's Blessings Lodge on January 6th and 7th**. We were encouraged to spend time with brothers in Christ who gathered together to worship God, learn from each other, and challenge each other in our walk as disciples of Jesus Christ. We heard three sermons from our speaker Rev. Matt Swope, followed by times of group sharing and discussion. We engaged in a HEATED game of Bible jeopardy, which was a ton of fun. We ate lots of good food and we sang lots of great songs. And generally renewed our souls for the upcoming year. I was blessed as usual. If you missed this event try to catch the **Conference United Methodist Men's Spiritual Advance this June 9-11, at Randolph Macon College**.

Also, our **District UMM Executive Committee** will be meeting **January 31**, for a planning session so stay tuned for announcements of upcoming events!!!

Scott Dillard, District UMM President



The **District Lay Servants Committee** will meet on **Tuesday, February 7, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. at the District Office**. We hope all committee members can be present.

Dale Dodrill, District Lay Servant Director



It's a new year and Kingsway is off to a good start. Our President for 2017 is Linda Boyce, the wife of a man that spent 23 years in prison for a crime

he did not commit.

We don't just do things at Christmas, we are year around. Apple Tree is just one of the many programs. We are still receiving thank you notes for what you all did with Apple Tree. As a result of the inmate Christmas bags, Kingsway has been invited into Cold Springs Detention Center to start church services.

Kingsway will also be doing a training on Prison Ministry, Drugs, and Gangs at the Lay Servants Academy.

Kingsway has speakers available to share with your church organizations. You can contact us at 540-433-5658 or e-mail kingswayoutreach@hotmail.com Check out our web page: kingswayprisonfamilyoutreach.com or Facebook: [pafokingsway](https://www.facebook.com/pafokingsway) Louise Jennings, Director

Pastors, please make copies of the monthly issues of the district newsletter and have them available to your parishioners who do not receive the newsletter by electronic mail. Thank you!

DISTRICT NEWS
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The United Methodist Church

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Harrisonburg District on Facebook at [Harrisonburg District of VaUMC](https://www.facebook.com/HarrisonburgDistrictofVaUMC)
Virginia Conference on the web at www.vaumc.org

Conference Opportunities

Bishop's Convocation on Prayer: Bishop Sharma Lewis will host a **Bishop's Convocation on Prayer on April 1, 2017, 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., at Trinity UMC, 903 Forest Avenue, Henrico, VA.** The Rev. Juanita Rasmus, co-pastor of St. John's UMC in Houston, Texas, will be the plenary speaker for the convocation. Workshops on a variety of topics will be offered as part of the convocation. A brochure with additional information is one of the attachments. Please refer to this brochure for details.



Lay Servant Academy to be held March 31-April 2, 2017, 4H Educational Conference Center, Wirtz, VA: The Lay Servant Academy is about equipping laity to carry out the mission of the church of making disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. All courses are open to everyone.

Each course is designed to help those serving the local church to learn more about leadership, personal faith development and a deeper understanding of the UMC. Courses offered support those seeking to become Certified Lay Servants and Lay Speakers. More information is detailed in an attachment.

Clergy Spouse Retreat: The Clergy Family Enrichment Committee invites you to step away from your busy schedule for a brief time of personal renewal, networking with other clergy spouses, and reflection. The keynote speaker, Martha Stokes, will lead participants through "Reflections of General Conference & Supporting the Future." The breakout times will include making and learning to pray with prayer beads, lead by Rev. Lisa McGehee, and exploring creative devotional writing, led by Gayle Urban. **The event begins Friday, March 3, at 3:00 p.m. and will conclude with lunch at 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 4.** The registration fee (\$100) includes meals and lodging at **Richmond Hill Retreat Center** as well as supplies for the breakouts. For information and to register, go to www.vaumc.org, then to the **Events** (Conference Calendar) and click on the date in the calendar.



The **Commission on the Status and Role of Women (COSROW)** of the Virginia Conference is holding a time of conversation on **Saturday, February 11, from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon at Chamberlayne Heights UMC-Richmond** in light of the recent political atmosphere and justice issues relating to women. Everyone is welcome and registration is not a requirement, but helpful for facilitators. [To register: marydadisman@vaumc.org or 804-733-7349]

The **2017 Ministers' Convocation** will once again be held at the **Wyndham Hotel and Conference Center in Glen Allen from May 8 - 10th.** The theme is "Making Space for Yourself and Others." Dr. Amy Oden, Professor of Early Church History and Spirituality at Saint Paul School of Theology (Oklahoma University), will be the leader. Bishop Sharma Lewis and Rev. Dr. Joel LeMon, Associate Professor at Candler, will lead the worship. All clergy, diaconal ministers, and professional/paraprofessional certified ministers in the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church are invited. Registration is available at www.vaumc.org/MinistersConvocation.

