

DISTRICT NEWS

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

January 2017

Issue 44-1

From Our DS

Dear Friends,



So much has happened since our last newsletter. First, I want to thank everyone for the cards, calls, and emails. The doctors diagnosed me with bacterial meningitis. I lost seven or eight days of my life. I don't remember a thing. When I began coming to I was in VCU Hospital in Richmond. The doctors don't know how one gets bacterial meningitis or where it comes from. I am very grateful for the doctors at Sentara-RMH and VCU and my wife, Carolyn, who has taken great care of me. I am working on a full recovery and my hearing is even getting better. When I got back to the office I had more than 13,000 emails and they were from many of you. Thank you for praying and caring for me.

Glen was in the hospital at the same time and he, too, is getting better and stronger. We both want to thank Rev. Tom Murphy, Rev. Jim Tongue, Rev. Steve Hay, and Rev. Bob Weeks for finishing up Charge Conference for us. Brenda and Debbie did a wonderful job of keeping everyone informed and getting all of the records finished. Thanks go to these and many others. Thank you!

As we settle into 2017, we have some exciting news. Mission Central's New Addition is underway! We have signed an agreement with Bill Neff to put six modular units at Cedar Grove UMC. Bill has donated a good portion of the project and we thank him for his generosity. The total cost to us will be about \$60,000 for 4,350 square feet of space. These six units will start going in almost immediately and we hope to have Mission Central located in them within about 60 days. We will need as much help as we can get to underwrite the \$60,000. If you or your church can help us, please send a check designated to Mission Central to the District Office. We will be doing some of the work ourselves and we will need helpers. We will let everyone know when help will be needed.



The Bishop is asking everyone to read the Bible through in 2017. We have more information in this newsletter and there is a lot more information on the vaumc.org webpage. I'll be asking Richard Grendahl to put this information on the district webpage.

It is a New Year! I'm feeling much better and I am excited about 2017. Evangelism will be our theme this year. I hope to see where every church has a revival or some kind of special emphasis to attract people to church and to a new relationship with Jesus. Rev. Carrie Talbott and her DCOM Faith Development Ministry Team and I are planning a Pulpit Swap on April 30. I pray everyone will be reading their Bible everyday and inviting friends and co-workers to do the same thing.



**New Year's
Blessings**

Happy New Year!

Tommy & Carolyn

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From the Bishop

A challenge to read the Bible in 2017

Dear Virginia Annual Conference,

I think you would agree with me that every New Year there are individuals who decide to make a New Year’s resolution. I googled “New Year’s resolution” to discover that there are several articles written on this popular subject.

All of us have made New Year’s resolutions ranging anywhere from losing 10-20 unwanted pounds, starting a new exercise program, paying off our credit cards and giving up a bad habit.

I’ve always found it interesting that people will go to great lengths to make a New Year’s resolution—throwing away food that tempts their cravings, buying expensive exercise equipment with a voice-active trainer or being the first person to join a gym. Unfortunately, it has been proven that New Year’s gym resolutions are normally broken in 90 days, and the gym equipment becomes the new and latest clothes rack in our homes.

I’ve always wondered when individuals are making resolutions if they ever considered making a “Christian resolution.” For example, resolving to pray daily for your church, to become an active agent in inviting people to your church or to increase their participation in a ministry in their local church.

As your new bishop, I would like to challenge you to look at this yearly tradition from another perspective.

Let’s make a “Christian resolution” by joining me in reading the Bible together this year:

- Choose your own translation to make this experience engaging and exciting.
- Invite others to join you in this journey.
- Commit to sticking to the outlined plan at this link:
<http://backtothebible.org/reading-guide/15/1>.

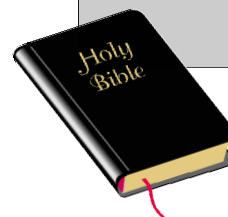
January’s outline is at the right.

Let’s become Bible scholars in 2017.

Peace and Blessings,

Bishop Sharma D. Lewis

The readings for January	
January 1	Genesis 1-3
January 2	Genesis 4-7
January 3	Genesis 8-11
January 4	Genesis 12-15
January 5	Genesis 16-18
January 6	Genesis 19-21
January 7	Genesis 22-24
January 8	Genesis 25-26
January 9	Genesis 27-29
January 10	Genesis 30-31
January 11	Genesis 32-34
January 12	Genesis 35-37
January 13	Genesis 38-40
January 14	Genesis 41-42
January 15	Genesis 43-45
January 16	Genesis 46-47
January 17	Genesis 48-50
January 18	Exodus 1-3
January 19	Exodus 4-6
January 20	Exodus 7-9
January 21	Exodus 10-12
January 22	Exodus 13-15
January 23	Exodus 16-18
January 24	Exodus 19-21
January 25	Exodus 22-24
January 26	Exodus 25-27
January 27	Exodus 28-29
January 28	Exodus 30-32
January 29	Exodus 33-35
January 30	Exodus 36-38
January 31	Exodus 39-40



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



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; woods_brenda@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 address for important correspondence from the district office!



From Sue MacTavish, District Librarian

January 2017 featured item:
Beyond the First Visit: The Complete Guide to Connecting Guests to Your Church
 by Gary L. McIntosh, 2006



Does your church put out the “Welcome” mat or the “Do not disturb” sign?

We all like to think that our church is the friendliest one in town. But do visitors see it that way? Church consultant Gary McIntosh invites you to take another look at your church through the eyes of a first-time guest to identify the things that might be holding them back from a second visit.

This very practical book offers sound advice on assessing and improving the ways in which your church attracts people, welcomes them, does follow-up, and brings them into the church family. More than simply offering mere techniques, it gives suggestions for making a welcoming attitude part of the very fabric of your church.

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



The following Harrisonburg District Members-at-Large were elected on Sunday, November 13, 2016, at Broadway Sunset Drive United Methodist Church to the 2017 Annual Conference, June 16-18, in Hampton.

25 District Members-at-Large: [In several cases, there were tie votes and in that event, the persons are listed in alphabetical order.]

Kitty Bolinger-Mt. Hermon; Edith H. Good - First (Broadway); Phyllis L. Todd - Mountain Valley; Joe Amend, III - McGaheysville; Vickie Barnes - Weyers Cave; Lisa Coffelt - St. John’s; Dennis Rawley - Bridgewater; Christine Cole - Keezletown; Janice Bussard - Verona; Fay Cochran - Mt. Jackson; Marsha Gordon - Mt. Horeb; Sue MacTavish - Verona; Carter S. Ritchie - Otterbein; Ginger Turner - Manor Memorial; Alice A. Holden - St. John’s; Gene Knicely - Asbury; Audrey Nicholson - Wesley Chapel; Wendell Cochran - Mt. Jackson; Annie Leigh Pierce - Christ; Katharine Layton - White Chapel; Diana Miller - Fields; Michael Terndrup - Strasburg; William Conlin - Asbury; Priscilla M. West - Mt. Zion (Strasburg/Woodstock); Sarah H. Kline - St. John’s **The following Harrisonburg District Members-at-Large were elected by previous District Conference action:** 2 District Members-a-Large 1) JoAnn Liskey, District Treasurer - Otterbein; 2) Dale Dodrill, District Lay Servant Director - Keezletown

2 District Alternate Members-at-Large: Grenell Johnson - St. Paul; Tom DeVore - Asbury

The following Harrisonburg District Members-at-Large were elected by the District Council on Ministries: 2 District Young Adult/College Members: Sarah Jennings - Verona; Alex Osinkosky - Asbury; and 1 District Youth Member: Jacob Hall

The following are members of Annual Conference by Rules of Annual Conference: District Lay Leader Rodney Bussard - Verona; District United Methodist Women President Sharon Harold - St. James; District United Methodist Men President Scott Dillard - Keezletown

District Council on Ministries

The **District Council on Ministries** will meet on January 26; 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 continues to grow. A big Thank You to everyone who has supported us this past year. Our ministry would not have been possible if it were not for the gifts of your time, material, and monetary donations. We continue to need underwear, socks, shoes, baby blankets, size 1-2-5 diapers, and wipes, and all sizes of children's clothes. Our United Methodist Churches together have made a difference in the lives of many folks in our community. Please keep Mission Central in your prayers as we grow into the ministry God wants us to be. Thank 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



Mountain Valley UMC invites you to join us Wednesday evenings beginning January 27, at 7:00 p.m. for COVENANT. COVENANT is an in-depth group Bible study in which people read and discuss the Bible together, learning how to love God and each other - better. Each of the three 8 week segments (Creating, Living, Trusting) explores a different aspect of Covenant life. Each will examine what covenant means and the progression of a

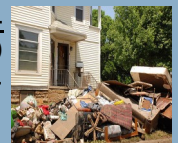


covenant relationship with God.

We will meet at Mountain Valley UMC (11583 Mountain Valley Road, Rockingham). Each student will be responsible for obtaining a participant guide and Meditation book. Contact Pastor Valerie Ritter at revvwr@gmail.com or 540-810-6907 for additional information. A daytime group will also be offered if there is enough interest.



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: pastorbob.asburyumc@gmail.com or 540-421-2500.



District Opportunities



January 2 (Monday) - VUMCenter-Glen Allen closed for New Year's observance

January 6-7 (Fri-Sat) - Tri-District UMM Spiritual Renewal Retreat, Overlook- Blessings Lodge. 6:30 p.m. Fri - 2:00 p.m. Saturday*

January 9 (Monday) - Partners in Ministry [PiM], St. James UMC, 9:00 a.m.*

January 14 (Saturday) - 25th Anniversary of United Methodist Day, [1992-2017] Centenary UMC*

January 15 (Sunday) - Statistical Table I due (Membership) on Conference EVC site.

January 17 (Tuesday) - Final Date to remit 2016 Apportionments to the Conference Office

January 24 (Tuesday) - Partners in Ministry [PiM] Epiphany Banquet, Dayton UMC, 6:00 p.m.*

January 26 (Thursday) - District Council on

Ministries, District Office, 7:00 p.m.*

January 31 (Tuesday) - Statistical Tables II & III due (Expenses/Income) on Conference EVC site

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

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 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*

**Denotes related article elsewhere in this newsletter*



Partners in Ministry: The **Partners in Ministry [PiM]** will meet at **St. James UMC** on **Monday, January 9th**. A program on “Human Trafficking” will be presented. On **January 24**, PiM will have an **Epiphany Banquet at Dayton UMC, 6:00 p.m.** All pastors and their families are encouraged to attend.
PiM Executive Officers



*New Year greetings! I am Sharon Harold your new district UMW president. I am excited to be serving in this position and about the programs that we have planned for 2017. The first will be our **Spiritual Life Retreat on March 18**. I will include more information next month with registration forms. Reminder to **executive members**, we will meet on **January 12, St. James UMC, at 7:00 p.m.***
Sharon Harold, District UMW President



Attention Men, Let's start 2017 off right!! With all the uncertainty and division in the world today, it feels like unity in Christ is needed more than ever. We need men who want to make a difference for Christ!! Our annual Tri-District Men's Spiritual Renewal Retreat will be held on **January 6-7 at Overlook's Blessings Lodge**. Our speaker will be the Reverend Matthew Swope. He will be leading us with the theme, “We all have a choice to make and a race to run”. We will have uplifting music and worship led by Andrew Davis. We will begin with supper at 6:30 and conclude with worship at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday. Let's come together as men of God and challenge each other to make a difference in our world by introducing Christ to those who don't know Him yet!
Scott Dillard, District UMM President



With the new year brings new beginnings! Brian Posey will be contacting and setting up a District Youth Meeting in January/early February to begin visioning/planning for this year's district youth ministries.



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



Thank you to Rev. Kevin Poeckert for the wonderful pictures in the December District Newsletter of District Conference and the District Leadership Training Event on November 13, 2016, at Sunset Drive UMC. We greatly appreciate Kevin's providing us with photos of these two important district events.





Kingsway would like to thank all of the churches for their support throughout 2016. The Christmas Apple Tree Project and the Inmate Gifts Program went very well. We were able to add 3 new facilities for gifts to the inmates. This could only have happened with the wonderful support from you. This year we had support from every UM District in our conference either for the children or the inmate packages. Kingsway looks forward to a great new year and some great opportunities for volunteers. Stop in to see us at 2217 S. Main Street, Harrisonburg in Duke's Plaza Shopping Center. For more information check out our web page at kingswayprisonfamilyoutreach.com or our Face Book Page kingswaypafo. You can e-mail us at kingswayoutreach@hotmail.com. Our office hours for 2017 will be Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. or by appointment. We wish you a Happy New Year.

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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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



The **Office of Justice and Missional Excellence at the Virginia United Methodist Conference** is currently accepting applications for ministry organizations to be considered as a **Conference Advance Special**. Information on Conference Advance Specials can be found in paragraph 656, page 492, of the 2012 Book of Discipline. If you are interested in qualifying as an Advance Special ministry group, please review the guidelines and **complete an application by January 13, 2017, to be considered**. Guidelines and applications (in pdf format & in WORD) may be found at www.vaumc.org > Justice & Missional Excellence > Advance Specials > Va. Conference Advance Specials.

25th Anniversary of UM Day at General Assembly Celebration: The Conference Legislative Committee is hosting a **25th anniversary celebration of United Methodist Day at General Assembly, Saturday, January 14, 2017, at Centenary UMC, 411 E. Grace Street, Richmond, VA.**

The event will begin with registration at 11:00 a.m., lunch at noon followed by a program at 1:00 p.m. Pre-registration is necessary and child care will be available. Cost for the day is \$15 or \$35 for both this event and the UM Day in February, if you register by January 5. Registration information is found at www.vaumc.org/UMDay.

(e-Advocate, 11-17-16)



UM Day at General Assembly

The **Conference United Methodist Day at General Assembly is February 2, 2017**. It is an avenue of faithful advocacy that helps participants look beyond mercy ministry and join together with elected officials to make a difference and exercise the Social Principles of the UMC. **Early bird registration and payment of \$25 per person must be received by Friday, January 15. Final registration will be Friday, January 29 and will cost \$35.** Registration questions may be directed to Rev. Barbara Lewis at BarbaraLewis@vaumc.org To register and for additional information, please visit www.vaumc.org/UMDay

(e-Advocate, 11-17-16)



Bishop Sharma Lewis is scheduled to 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 between sessions. More details to follow, but please reserve this date on your 2017 calendar now!



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 in an exploration of hospitality as practice and spiritual discipline. 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. More information and registration is available at www.vaumc.org/MinistersConvocation.