

# DISTRICT NEWS

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

June 2013

Issue 40-6

## From Our DS

Dear Friends,

Everywhere I go and everything I do - I hear about **Prayer!** Do you think God might be trying to tell me something? Annual Conference is right around the corner and the theme is "Lord, Teach Us to Pray." Bishop Cho recently gave all of us Cabinet members a book on Prayer. The conference just had a Bishop's convocation on Prayer last Saturday. Dr. Dwight Judy told more than 270 people, "Listen for God".



*Cammie & Sophie Herndon*

Dr. Judy told everyone last Saturday that contemplative prayer was all about listening for God's message. Bishop Young Jin Cho said that "no spiritual vitality means no vital congregations". Dr. Judy said that a movement was coming "quietly and unheralded" of being willing to "listen for God's prompting to us to be in a prayerful posture." The Biblical account of Pentecost was an "extravaganza where 3000 people were brought into the church", Judy said. "Our culture today only pays attention to the big stuff," and we keep hoping for another Pentecost, a 'grand fix' to help mainline churches fix all our problems." Judy talked about "Lexio Divina" or "holy reading", the notion that God will speak to us through reading the scriptures. He said he wished the United Methodist Church would stop worrying and hear the message of 'peace be with you.' Judy said, "Despite all the bad news for our denomination, a 'quiet Pentecost' is happening. There is a spiritual formation explosion happening, and our culture is transforming from the bottom up."

Judy gave examples of contemplative prayer being used in what we might consider unusual places and lauded the many different kinds of small groups that have sprung up in the past few years. Judy says, "Being still and listening for God's message will also open up new avenues for mission and evangelism." We are seeing this here in the Harrisonburg District with Wesley Class Meetings and Bible Studies springing up everywhere!

Judy called on Virginia Conference churches to create a Prayer Room in their facilities. "Let's invite everyone to learn prayer practices. The one complaint I hear over and over is 'no one ever taught me how to pray.'"

Let's join together on the Harrisonburg District to pray daily, to create a Prayer Room in very Church and to create Wesley Class Meetings and Small Groups that read the Bible and pray. Let's be part of this 'quiet Pentecost'.

May God bless you as you pray by yourself and seek others to pray with you!

*Tommy Herndon*



It is important that all annual conference members (district & charge) and all clergy attend the district's "**Orientation Session**" in preparation for the 2013 Annual Conference, Friday, June 21, to Sunday, June 23, in Hampton Roads Convention Center. There are important issues which clergy and laity will want to hear about and discuss. This year's orientation session will be held on **Sunday, June 2, 3:00 p.m. at Manor Memorial UMC-New Market**. [Expense checks for district members will be available at that time.]

*Tommy Herndon, District Superintendent*

There will be a **Laity Luncheon** this year at Annual Conference. The luncheon will be held on **Saturday, June 22, 2013, 12:00 noon at the Hampton Roads Convention Center**. Cost of the luncheon is \$22.00. If you would like to purchase tickets, please contact Rodney Bussard via e-mail: [seeker1959@verizon.net](mailto:seeker1959@verizon.net) or call 540-457-1417. Also, I will have tickets available at the Annual Conference Orientation Session on June 2. Deadline to purchase tickets is Wednesday, June 12th.

*Rodney Bussard, District Lay Leader*



The **District Council on Ministries dinner** during which the council will meet and commission the Overlook summer staff will be **Thursday, June 6, 6:00 p.m. at Overlook**. This will also be a time to review our 2014 calendar and budget. ALL members of the DCOM Executive Committee and Ministry Teams are invited.

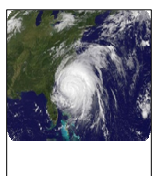


A seminar/workshop on **Congregational Health Ministry** is planned for **Saturday, June 8, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon at the Vision of Hope UMC, 1723 Port Republic Road, Harrisonburg**. Anyone involved in health ministry in the church or is interested in learning more about this vital program is encouraged to attend. You may contact Delores Reid, RN FCN with any questions at 540-383-6112 or 540-896-1207 or [dreid515@aol.com](mailto:dreid515@aol.com)



**United Methodist Day at Ferrum College is June 8th**. Registration is at 9:30 a.m. It is a day with a worship service, lunch and a play. This year's play is "Celebrating A Century," a music-filled, educational experience! The band is "Rootstone Jug Band" from Roanoke. Cost is \$15.00 for everything. Deadline for registration is May 27. Ferrum College is celebrating 100 years with the United Methodist Women of Virginia who had the vision for this school.

*Phyllis Foltz, District UMW President*



Join the **Harrisonburg District Disaster Team** on **Sunday, June 9, 1:30 p.m. - Friday, June 14, evening in Swan Quarter, North Carolina** in "Helping the People of North Carolina find Their Way Back Home" from the damage of Hurricane Irene. Youth, ages 13 and above, are welcome and encouraged to participate. All skill levels needed. Contact Bill Lalla, Disaster Team Coordinator, [billlalla@gmail.com](mailto:billlalla@gmail.com), or 448-0342.



**Voices of Youth 2013: In Our Own Backyards Tour** is coming to the Harrisonburg District! VOY will be at **Otterbein UMC on Thursday, July 11, 7:00 p.m.** Plan now to come to a worship experience and support this vital mission choir of the Virginia Conference that is in its 28th year!



**District Mission Trip planned for fall 2013! October 27-November 2**. . .the Harrisonburg District Mission and Outreach Committee is sponsoring a mission trip to work among the Lumbee Indian Tribe in Pembroke, NC. The North Carolina Conference employs Gary Locklear, who works full-time coordinating mission opportunities in the Pembroke area. He arranges all the jobs and organizes supplies needed. All you have to do is show up with a heart for reaching out to the poor and needy! God is calling you and the Holy Spirit will enable you! Contact

Lydia Weeks, 540-886-1460, if you have questions. Come by yourself or bring a friend. You'll be blessed!



The 2013 Harrisonburg District Youth Retreat was held April 27-28 at Camp Overlook. There were 32 youth and adults from 5 churches on our district who came together for worship, fun, and mission. We had great messages on how "faith works" from Benton Berghuis, Rev. Brian Posey, and Rev. Robert Berghuis. We also had some great guests from the Society of St. Andrew, Together Opposing Poverty, and RISE to share about their experience in working faith. The youth worked on several projects at Camp Overlook to help prepare for summer camp season. We also packaged 10,000 meals with Stop Hunger Now. I am very thankful for the generous youth groups who brought funds for the Stop Hunger Now meals, the Youth Service Fund grant we received, and the Harrisonburg District for regularly providing funds for the retreat. We also raised \$63 for the Youth Service Fund through a concession stand and YSF offering.

*Rev. Joel Robinette, District Co-Youth Coordinator*



**Tri-District United Methodist Men Spring Retreat Recap!** Under the theme, "What Men Want and Need from Their Church," men gathered at Blessings Lodge of Camp Overlook for an informative program led by Reverends Glen Langston and Tommy Herndon. Andrew Davis of Crums UMC in Berryville led the men with inspirational praise music. We were hosted by Ron Robey and his delightful staff, as meals were plentiful and sumptuous. The setting was incredibly beautiful, as Camp Overlook is tucked in the grandeur of the Blue Ridge Mountains. That, in itself, was a "Witness to the Word!" With survey, video, and table discussions, Reverend Langston led the group in exploring how to get men back in church as disciples of Jesus Christ and spiritual models for their families. Gen used the "No Man Left Behind Model" as it takes men needing Christ to men becoming leaders in their church. This Tri-District Spring Retreat is an annual event. Men who attended this retreat were blessed to have taken part, and to have been in relationship with one another. Please consider joining us next year for this Camp Overlook retreat.



The changes made to Lay Servant/Speaking Ministries by General Conference has caused some confusion. Our district Lay Servant Committee had to have two meetings before we even got a basic understanding. Like most new ideas or structures, we are going through the normal process of understanding and implementing the new structure.

Johnnie Draughon, the Conference Assistant Lay Leader related to the Lay Servant ministry, sent out an email that included the following words: "With the exception of the name, nothing has changed for those who are now called Lay Servants. Lay Servants are still free to do almost anything they had previously done as Lay Speakers, including filling the pulpit if asked by their own pastor, the pastor of another church, or in a nursing home or retirement center."

The new designation of Lay Speaker is intended to identify for the District Superintendent, Lay Servant Coordinator, and pastors those Lay Servants who have taken courses intended to give them "an understanding of scripture, ...Methodist tradition, heritage and polity, and that their messages will not lead a congregation away from Methodist doctrine." (Johnnie Draughon) It might be said that Lay Servants have a bachelor's degree in preaching and Lay Speakers have a master's degree.

To become a Lay Speaker you are required to take or have taken six courses. These include 1. Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts; 2. Leading Prayer; 3. Preaching; 4. Living Our United Methodist Beliefs (UM Heritage); 5. Leading Worship; and 6. Life Together in The United Methodist Connection (UM Polity)

To reiterate, if you have taken a course on spiritual gifts, preaching, polity, UM beliefs, or prayer, you DO NOT have to take them again. Also, you have five years to complete the required list. In the meantime, once you complete two of them, you become an Interim Lay Speaker.

Like most things that seem complicated, this new identification is not as hard to understand as it is to explain. Very simply put, if you are a Lay Servant who is called to preach, you may. You may also strengthen and enrich your ability and knowledge around preaching by taking the designated six courses. If you choose to do that, then you will be classified a Lay Speaker which gives you all the privileges of being a Lay Servant and lets the "powers that be" know that you have taken advanced courses that have enriched your preaching understanding and ability.

The bottom line as a Lay Servant/Speaker is to pay attention to the Apostle Peter when he said, "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen." (I Peter 4:10-11)

Glen Langston, District Program Director & Dale Dodrill, District Director of Lay Servants

**June 1** (Saturday) - Lay Servants' Sermon Presentations, Asbury UMC, 1:00 p.m.

**June 2** (Sunday) - Annual Conference Orientation, Manor Memorial UMC-New Market, 3:00 p.m.\*

**June 6** (Thursday) - DCOM Dinner Meeting, Overlook-Blessings Lodge, 6:00 p.m.\*

**June 8** (Saturday) - Congregational Health Ministry Event, Vision of Hope UMC, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon\*

**June 8** (Saturday) - UMW Day, Ferrum College\*

**June 9** (Sunday) to **June 14** (Friday) - District Disaster Team Mission Trip, Swan Quarter, NC \*

**June 21-23** (Fri-Sun) - Virginia Annual Conference, Hampton Roads Convocation Center\*

**June 26** (Wednesday) - Virginia Conference Moving Day

**June 30** (Sunday) - New Pastors' first Sunday



**July 4** (Thursday) - VUMCenter-Glen Allen & District Office closed for Independence Day Observance

**July 5** (Friday) - District Office closed for

Independence Day Observance

**July 11** (Thursday) - Voices of Youth, Otterbein UMC, 7:00 p.m.\*

**July 18** (Thursday) - DCOM Faith Development Ministry Team, Asbury UMC, 7:00 p.m.\*

**July 25** (Thursday) - Partners in Ministry Welcoming Picnic, Overlook Retreat & Camp Ministries, 6:00 p.m.

**July 26-28** (Fri-Sun) - Virginia Conference Mission Encounter, Blackstone Conference Center

**July 29-Aug 1** (Mon-Thurs) - Virginia Conference Mission Encounter, Blackstone Conference Center

**August 19** (Monday) - DCOM Mission & Outreach Ministry Team, Vision of Hope UMC, 7:00 p.m.\*

**August 22** (Thursday) - DCOM Executive Committee, Asbury UMC, 7:00 p.m.\*

**August 28** (Monday) - Partners in Ministry Retreat, Overlook Retreat & Camp Ministries-Blessings Lodge, 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

*\*Denotes related article elsewhere in this newsletter*

The Harrisonburg District Council on Ministries dinner during which we will meet and commission the Overlook summer staff will be **Thursday, June 6, 6:00 p.m. at Overlook**. ALL members of the DCOM Executive Committee and the Ministry Teams are invited. See information on page 2.



Executive Committee meetings for 2013 are **August 22, November 14, 7:00 p.m.**, at **Asbury UMC**. Please see information on the Ministry Teams below.

*Bob Talbott, DCOM Chairperson*



**Faith Development Ministry Team:** Our meeting schedule for the upcoming year is as follows: **July 18; September 19; and October 17**. All meetings begin at **7:00 p.m.** and will be held at **Asbury UMC in Harrisonburg**. Team members are: Linda Conrad, Dale Dodrill, Becky Downey, Susan Michie-Bent, Tom Murphy, Kevin Poeckert, Ron Robey, and Carrie Talbott.  
*Carrie Talbott, Team Leader*



**Mission and Outreach Ministry Team:** Meeting dates for 2013 will be: **August 19; and November 11**, held at **Vision of Hope UMC**. Team members are: Sandra Burks, Melissa Fretwell, Louise Jennings, Bill Lalla, Sheila Orndorff, Mary Jane Rawley, Valerie Ritter, Delores Reid, and Lydia Weeks.  
*Lydia Weeks, Team Leader*

A seminar on **Congregational Health Ministry** is planned for **Saturday, June 8, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon at the Vision of Hope UMC, 1723 Port Republic Road, Harrisonburg**. More information on page 2.

A **District Mission Trip is being planned for October 27-November 2**. Information is also available on page 2.



We extend sympathy to Rev. James Tongue pastor of Bridgewater Church. His father, Rev. Wrighton Samuel Tongue, died May 2, 2013. Wrighton served 40 years in the Virginia Conference and then 20 years as a retired pastor. He lived with his wife, Elizabeth, in Colorado Springs, Colorado. A Memorial Service was held in Colorado Springs. Please keep Rev. Jim and Judy Tongue in your prayers.





Disaster Response  
(For the everyday United Methodist)

People are already calling as to when they can go to Moore, Oklahoma. Right now emergency workers are correcting dangerous situations, and after that, early response teams may be called if needed. Regular rebuilding teams are months away from being needed, if at all.

DO: PRAY!

DO: Donate - The best way to donate is to write a check to your local church and designate it for UMCOR.

DO NOT: Just show up! Self-deployment is NEVER a good idea.

DO NOT: Call agencies to see when help is needed. A request will go out if and when the need arises.

DO NOT: Take part in food, clothing or other drives. If items are specifically needed, a request will go out for those items. Well meaning people donated **STUFF** after Hurricane Katrina and eleven landfills were filled up with the items. Among first responders, donations are called the second disaster. Understandably people want to help, but there aren't people to receive, clean, sort, catalog, and store truckloads of items, most of which aren't needed and will never be requested.

REMEMBER – Pray and give to UMCOR through your church!

*God Bless, Bill Lalla, Harrisonburg District Disaster Response Team Coordinator*



Please take a look at our Harrisonburg District website:

[www.harrisonburgdistrict.org](http://www.harrisonburgdistrict.org) for the latest events around the district.

*Rev. Robert Berghuis,  
District Webmaster*



**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!**



**The 2013 session of the Virginia Annual Conference is being held at the Hampton Roads Convention Center in Hampton, VA, Friday, June 21, to Sunday, June 23.**

Laity and Clergy sessions will begin at 1:00 p.m. on Friday. Ending time should be around noon on Sunday.

**Offering goal is \$200,000** and is focused on children's mission work internationally and locally.

- BRAZIL - Shade and Fresh Water programs for at-risk "street" children: \$50,000
- MOZAMBIQUE - Classroom construction and building repairs for Janene Pennel Secondary School: \$50,000
- CAMBODIA - Christian education materials, scholarships and other projects with children focused on growing the young church: \$50,000
- VIRGINIA - \$50,000 divided among three children's ministries: One Family "Una Familia," a new Eastern Shore District tutoring ministry for Hispanic children; The Henry Fork Center in rural Franklin County, and All God's Children Camps for children of incarcerated parents.



**DISTRICT NEWS**  
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Virginia Conference on the web at  
[www.vaumc.org](http://www.vaumc.org)

**4 Cans 4 Conference collection!** For the fifth year, each clergy and lay member of Annual Conference is encouraged to bring '4 Cans 4 Conference,' canned goods or boxed dry foods to benefit local area food banks. This year, the food will go to the Peninsula Food Bank. Please visit [www.vaumc.org](http://www.vaumc.org) > Annual Conference > scroll down & click on '4 Cans 4 Conference' to see how you can help feed the hungry.

**Kits for Conference:** The 2013 Virginia Conference kit collection is being conducted to replenish the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) supply. UMCOR's Sager Brown Depot reports there is a need for all types of kits. Local churches are encouraged to collect items and bring them to Annual Conference. Go to [www.vaumc.org](http://www.vaumc.org) > Annual Conference > scroll down & click on 'Kits for Conference' for individual kit items.