

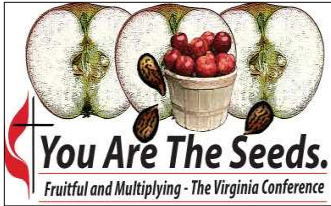
DISTRICT NEWS

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

July 2012

Issue 39-7

From Your District Superintendent:



Dear Friends,



Annual Conference is now over. Well over 3000 delegates converged on Roanoke this past week-end for the Virginia Annual Conference.

Rev. Kevin Poeckert has finished Licensing School and is now the pastor of the Blue Ridge United Methodist Charge. Rev. Glen Early has finished all his work to be an Associate Member and was recognized on Saturday night. Please take time to congratulate these two men. They have worked hard and are serving God where they are called.

Shirley Cauffman was recognized as the outgoing Conference Lay Leader for the past six years. Mr. Warren Harper was elected as the new Conference Lay Leader.

The Rev. Dr. Young Gin Cho was nominated as the Episcopal candidate for the Virginia Conference. Five new Bishops will be elected at our Jurisdictional Conference the week of July 15th at Lake Junaluska. We will receive a new Bishop on September 1, 2012.

More than 13,000 pounds of food was collected and given to the local Food Banks and the churches who distribute food. We received two tractor trailer loads of Kits: Health Kits - 19,151; School Kits - 11,586; Flood Buckets - 404; Birthing Kits - 3,981 and Layettes - 1,784. 39,915 kits in all for a value of \$473,846.

Bishop Kammerer retired and was honored many times during the weekend. She received a major gift from the conference for "All Things New", a bobblehead of herself, and a framed picture by P. Buckley Moss.

We watched three of our Harrisonburg District pastors walk across the stage and retire. Rev. Jim Grogan, Rev. Jim Mahaffey and Rev. Helen Zotolli. We will miss all three and thank them for their service. Jim Grogan and Jim Mahaffey are both retiring on our district. Helen Zottoli is retiring to her home east of Richmond.

Annual Conference for 2013 will be at Hampton. The dates are: June 21-23, 2013.

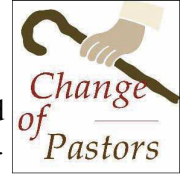
The first count of the Conference Offering was \$161,000 and by the end of conference they predicted we would be over our goal of \$2000,000.

We heard that there is still time to sign up for the five Talent Academy. The next event will be October 2 at Asbury UMC in Harrisonburg. All events will be broadcast live so we don't have to travel so far. We have applications in the district office or you can get them on line at www.vaumc.org

The Harrisonburg District gained members in 2011. We can be very proud of how we rated among the other Districts. We gained 134 new members, baptized 133 and had 17,395 members at the beginning of the year. The Harrisonburg District is a great district and as our Annual Conference winds down, we are excited to be "Fruitful and Multiplying". May you have a wonderful summer.

Tommy Herndon

The Harrisonburg District will have several appointment changes beginning July 1, 2012:



Annex UMC - Rev. Russell Heinrich will be leaving Annex Church and going to the Mt. Crawford Charge on the Harrisonburg District. Rev. Debra Copeland will be coming to be the pastor at Annex. Rev. Copeland comes from the Prices Fork Charge on the Roanoke District.

Parnassus UMC - Rev. Glen Langston will be retiring from the pastorate at Parnassus UMC, but he will continue as the Harrisonburg District Program Director. Rev. Vicki Barb, associate pastor at the Mt. Pleasant Charge on the Harrisonburg District, will be the new pastor at Parnassus Church.

Otterbein UMC - Rev. Jim Grogan will be retiring and Otterbein UMC will welcome Rev. Ed Pruitt as their new pastor.

Blue Ridge Charge - Rev. Nona Allen will be going to the Farmville District to the Prince Edward Charge. Rev. Kevin Poeckert, Assistant Pastor at the Blue Ridge Charge, will assume the Senior Pastor position at Furnace, Hensley, Jollett, and Mt. Pleasant Churches. Pastor Rick Robertson will be Blue Ridge Charge's new Assistant Pastor.

Fulks Run Charge - Rev. Joel Robinette will be leaving to be the pastor at Keezletown UMC on the Harrisonburg District. Rev. Randy Kiel from the Charlotte Charge on the Farmville District will be the new pastor at Riverside, Mt. Carmel and Caplingers Churches.

Keezletown UMC - Rev. Dawn-Marie Singleton will be going to Oakton Church on the Arlington District. Rev. Joel Robinette has been appointed as the new pastor at Keezletown Church.

Mt. Crawford UMC - Rev. Helen Zottoli is retiring and Rev. Russell Heinrich will assume the pastorate for Mt. Crawford and Mt. Sidney churches.

Ottobine UMC - Rev. Darlene Wilkins is leaving to become the Associate Pastor at the Mt. Pleasant Charge on the Harrisonburg District and Rev. Karen Kiel will be the new pastor at Ottobine Church.

Port Republic UMC - Rev. David Palmer will be going to Louisa UMC on the Charlottesville District. Rev. Tom Murphy will be the new pastor at Port Republic Church.

Sunset Drive UMC (Broadway) - Rev. Jim Mahaffey is retiring and Sunset Drive Church will welcome Rev. Don Hawks who is leaving Oakton UMC on the Arlington District.

Edinburg Charge - Rev. Stephen McMillion will become the pastor of Central UMC on the Staunton District and Rev. Robert Jones will be the new pastor at the St. John and Wesley Chapel Churches on the Edinburg Charge.

Mt. Pleasant Charge - Rev. Vicki Barb will leave the position as Mt. Pleasant Charge's Associate Pastor to become the pastor at Parnassus UMC and Rev. Darlene Wilkins will assume the position as Associate Pastor for Hawkinstown, Mt. Clifton, Mt. Hermon, and Otterbein Chapel Churches.



Please keep each of these pastors and their families in your prayers as they transition into new churches and ministries. Please keep each of the churches who are receiving new pastors in your prayers. May each new appointment be filled with God's grace as new beginnings enhance the Kingdom of God.



July 3 (Tuesday) - VUMCenter-Glen Allen & District Office closes at 1:00 p.m.

July 4 (Wednesday) - VUMCenter-Glen Allen & District Office closed for Independence Day

July 10 (Tuesday) - Voices of Youth, Verona UMC, 7:00 p.m.*

July 18-21 (Wed-Sat) - Jurisdictional Conference, Lake Junaluska*

July 26 (Thursday) - Partners in Ministry Welcome Picnic, Overlook Retreat & Camp Ministries, 6:30 p.m.*

July 27-29 (Fri-Sun) - Virginia Conference Mission Encounter, (formerly School of Christian Mission) Blackstone Conference and Retreat Center*

July 29 - Aug 3 (Sun-Fri) - District Mission Trip*

July 30-Aug 2 (Mon-Thurs) - Virginia Conference Mission Encounter, (formerly School of Christian Mission) Blackstone Conference and Retreat Center*

August 6 (Monday) - DCOM Age Level Ministry Team, District Office, 7:00 p.m.*

August 7-8 (Tues-Wed) - Tee-ology Golf Retreat, Overlook Retreat & Camp Ministries*

August 16 (Thursday) - DCOM Faith Development Ministry Team, Asbury UMC, 7:00 p.m.*

August 17-19 (Fri-Sun) - Healing Prayer Retreat, Overlook Retreat & Camp Ministries (note corrected dates)*

August 23 (Thursday) - DCOM, Asbury UMC, 7:00 p.m.*

August 26-27 (Sun-Mon) - Partners in Ministry Retreat, Blessings Lodge, Overlook Retreat & Camp Ministries*

August 31-Sept 3 (Fri-Sun) - Labor Day Family Camp, Overlook Retreat & Camp Ministries

August 31 (Friday) - VUMCenter-Glen Allen & District Office closes at 1:00 p.m.

September 3 (Monday) - VUMCenter-Glen Allen & District Office closed for Labor Day Observance

September 20 (Thursday) - DUMM Fall Dinner & Rally, Furnace UMC, 6:30 p.m.*

September 22 (Saturday) - Service of Welcome for new Virginia Conference Bishop, Reveille UMC-Richmond, 10:30 a.m.*

***Denotes related article elsewhere in this newsletter**



“Voices of Youth-Awakening the Church to Mission”, a choir of youth from the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church, will be in concert at **Verona UMC on Tuesday, July 10, 7:00 p.m.** The “Voices of Youth” choir is a group of high school youth from United Methodist Churches all across Virginia. These talented young people are committed to and excited about the mission outreach of the United Methodist Church. The choir will travel to Joplin, MO, July 1-7, for a week of mission and service followed by the conference tour. Their conference tour program will consist of choral and instrumental music, interpretative movement, and visuals aimed toward challenging congregations to BE in mission! There is no admission charge and is open to all persons in the community. An offering will be received in support of VOY.



The SEJ Conference will be held **Wednesday, July 18-Friday, July 20, at Lake Junaluska, NC.** Harrisonburg District Superintendent Tommy Herndon, Rev. Amanda Garber, pastor of RISE, and Ms. Rachel Hundley, Coordinator of Church Ministries at Otterbein UMC, will be part of the Virginia Conference delegation. The Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference at Lake Junaluska, N.C. in July will elect five new bishops. Please keep these delegates to the SEJ Conference in your prayers as they make important decisions for the United Methodist Church.



Partners in Ministry’s Welcome Picnic for new and returning pastors and their families will be **Thursday, July 26, at Overlook Retreat & Camp Ministries at 6:30 p.m.** Clergy with new appointments will be guests of PiM. Returning clergy/families are asked to bring 1 side dish and 1 dessert.

The PiM Retreat has been scheduled for **August 26 & 27th at Blessings Lodge, Overlook Retreat and Camp Ministries.** All Harrisonburg District pastors are expected to attend. Please reserve these dates on your calendar!



The Harrisonburg District is planning a rebuilding/recovery trip **Sunday afternoon, July 29 to Friday, August 3, assisting the North Carolina Conference, most likely in Manteo, NC, on Roanoke Island.** There is a need for skilled and semi-skilled labor. Please contact Bill Lalla, billlalla@gmail.com, cell phone number (540) 448-0342, or leave a message on his home phone number, (540) 363-5915, if you are interested in becoming a team member. He will have details of this mission trip to share with you.



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church™



The Virginia Conference "Mission Encounter" (formerly School of Christian Mission) will be at **Blackstone Conference & Retreat Center, Blackstone, VA on July 27-29 and July 30-August 2nd**. Studies are "Haiti", "Immigration in the Bible", and "Poverty". This event is co-sponsored by Virginia Conference UMW and Board of Global Ministries. Registrations are available on line or call Dolly Huffman, (540) 896-5222 or e-mail janddhuff@msn.com, for information. Registration deadline is July 12, 2012.



The District United Methodist Men's Fall Dinner & Rally will be held on **Thursday, September 20, 6:30 p.m. at Furnace United Methodist Church**. Details will be forthcoming. Please put this event and date on your calendar and plan to attend.



Muffin Mania! "You all are the ones who give out muffins on the first day of class. You made me feel like I matter," a college student shared after visiting RISE. Expanding on the small act with great love shared by one amazing woman on the first day of classes. . . Muffin Mania meets students at Bridgewater, EMU, JMU, and others as they enter campus letting them know they are a gift and they are not alone! **Muffin Mania 2012 begins on August 27**. . .MANY simple, individually wrapped muffins are needed. Donations may be dropped off by 7:00 a.m. on August 27. Call Melissa Fretwell at (540) 271-2078 for more information!



The Harrisonburg District Council on Ministries next meeting will be on **Thursday, August 23, 7:00 p.m. at Asbury UMC**. District Council on Ministries Ministry Team News:



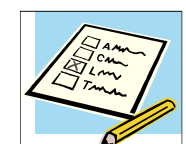
Age Level Ministry Team: The Age Level Ministry Team's next meeting date will be at the District Office, Monday, August 6, 7:00 p.m. Team Members are: Benton Berghuis, Edith Good, Pam Heinrich, Annie Pierce, Joel Robinette, Wes Van Pelt, and Lydia Weeks. *Lydia Weeks, Team Leader*



Faith Development Ministry Team: We are planning and implementing events, seminars, and workshops focused on offering you opportunities to strengthen and develop your faith in Jesus Christ. Team Members are: Charles and Martie Bruce, Linda Conrad, Becky Downey, Susan Michie-Bent, Tom Murphy, Ron Robey, and Carrie Talbott. Our team will meet on these dates: **August 16**, and **November 8**. All meetings will begin at **7:00 p.m.** and will be held at **Asbury UMC in Harrisonburg**. *Carrie Talbott, Team Leader*



Mission and Outreach Ministry Team: The Mission and Outreach Ministry Team of the DCOM meets at **Vision of Hope UMC** and the next meeting will be announced. Team Members are: Sandra Burks, Kemper Dadisman, Melissa Fretwell, Louise Jennings, Bill Lalla, Sheila Orndorff, Mary Jane Rawley, Delores Reid, Phil Secrist and Gayle Thornberry. *Bill Lalla, Team Leader*



The District Council on Ministries needs to elect two youth (between the ages of 12 & 17 years of age) and two young adults (18-35 years of age) at their August meeting to represent the Harrisonburg District at the next Annual Conference (2013). The election of the youth and young adults shall be by the DCOM. The DCOM has received a request that churches be able to contact college students when they are home for the summer for nomination purposes. Not all young adult nominees must be college students. Please be sure your youth and young people nominees can attend Annual Conference, June 21-23, 2013 in Hampton. Nomination forms are available in the district office and will be sent to pastors and lay leaders or upon request by e-mail. All Youth Member and Young Adult Nominations must have been members of churches in the Virginia Annual Conference for at least two years. **Please note all nomination forms must be completed in full including the nominee's signature and returned to the District Office by August 17**, for election by the District Council on Ministries at their meeting on **August 23, 7:00 p.m. at Asbury UMC**.



Save The Date: There will be a service to welcome the new Bishop to Virginia on **Saturday, September 22, 10:30**

a.m. at Reville United Methodist Church, 4200 Cary Street Road, Richmond, VA. A reception will follow in the church social hall. Please mark your calendars & plan to attend.



Harrisonburg District Website
harrisonburgdistrict.org

NEW DISTRICT WEBSITE: Pastors, please put the new Harrisonburg District website address harrisonburgdistrict.org in all your bulletins and newsletters.

Thank you,
 Tommy Herndon



PASTORS - WE ARE COUNTING ON YOU!

We are counting on our pastors and local churches to get the Harrisonburg District Newsletter distributed to those who do not have e-mail addresses. 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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 Virginia Annual Conference
 The United Methodist Church

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Harrisonburg District on the web at
harrisonburgdistrict.org
 Virginia Conference on the web at
www.vaumc.org



The Virginia Conference offices at The United Methodist Center in Glen Allen will close at **12:30 p.m. each Friday from June 29 through Labor Day.** The Harrisonburg District Office follows the conference policy on closings.



The Jubilee Assistance Fund (JAF) is a loan program where a local church establishes an account at the Virginia United Methodist Credit Union to provide collateralized small, short term loans for individuals who would not qualify for loans otherwise. To qualify for JAF, the borrower agrees to receive financial counseling, loan monitoring and payroll deduction. The program is a way to provide your church members short term help during a financial crisis and financial management tools to assist them with long term financial stability. For information on partnering with VUMCU to establish a fund at your church call 866-657-0004 or email: creditunion@vumcu.org.



“Tee-ology” will use golf to understand faith, **Tuesday August 7 - Wednesday, August 8 at Packsaddle Ridge & Retreat.**

Participants will stay and dine at Blessings Lodge at Overlook Retreat & Camp Ministries.

Play golf and share insights that use the joy and challenge of golf to help you better understand your faith. The Rev. Dan Garrett (pastor, seminary professor, and golf enthusiast) will reflect on the book inspiring the retreat, *Tee-ology* by John Freeman. Visit the Overlook website for a brochure: www.campoverlook.org

“Connect with God” a weekend retreat to focus on your spiritual journey will be held **August 17-19, at Blessing Lodge at Overlook Retreat & Camp Ministries.** Listen to God, pray, share in small groups, experience creative worship and find space for your own deeper reflection. Theme of the retreat is based on James 4:8a, “Come near to God and He will come near to you.” Visit the Overlook website for a brochure: www.campoverlook.org



Have you ever wondered why the hymn “And Are We Yet Alive” is always sung at the opening of Annual Conference? It happens at this time of year all over the world at United Methodist sessions of annual conference and other gatherings. Clergy and laity, members, guests, and friends stand and sing the great Charles Wesley hymn, “And Are We Yet Alive.” It is a moment of celebration of common heritage and common mission and the ties that bind United Methodists in the faith and connection, and it is a moment of thanks to God for the experiences since the last gathering. *Where did the custom arise in singing this hymn at the opening of conferences?* “And Are We Yet Alive” first appeared in the Wesleys’ 1749 hymnal, *Hymns And Sacred Poems*. In 1780 John Wesley included it in his *A Collection of Hymns for the Use of the People Called Methodist* as the first hymn in the section titled, “For the Society. . . at the meeting.” It was John Wesley who began the custom of opening the annual meeting of Methodists by singing this hymn. The practice was picked up by Methodists around the world, and it largely continues today. There is no requirement that this be the opening hymn at annual conference, but it is a cherished custom. [article by Dean McIntyre, Director of Music Resources for the General Board of Discipleship, copied from www.GBOD.org with permission]

