

DISTRICT NEWS

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

August 2013

Issue 40-8

From Our DS

Vacation Bible School

Dear Friends,

I recently read an article about Vacation Bible School being a staple for summer programming for local churches. The article said, "Not only does it keep the church bustling at a time when attendance traditionally decreases, it also fills a niche in the community by providing God-centered fun for children who might never set a foot inside a Sunday School door." This article told about Ginghamburg UMC in Tripp City, Ohio. Ginghamburg UMC had 363 children and more than 100 volunteers at VBS. They had not had VBS in ten years but this year it was a great success.

Our own Port Republic UMC had a great week of VBS, July 8-12. For the last two years the numbers have been so large they have had to rent the South River Elementary School in Grottoes. This year they touched 225 children with an average of 180 per night. The two directors were Dinah Watson and Susie Hardy. The pastors, Tom Murphy and Marlene Chandler, worked hard each night and Glen Langston came to help. It took about 125 volunteers to make everything run smoothly. The crafts were amazing. This year VBS participants completed the wood nativity set by adding 3 kings, 1 shepherd, 1 sheep, 1 cow, 1 angel and 1 star. For the children that did not attend in previous years another 50 stables, Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus' were made so that everyone could have a completed set. Parents said their children play with the sets all year long. Others said they set them up every Christmas and still others say their children slept with Jesus. Precious memories were made and shared.



It was reported by one Mom that her four year old son woke up at 2:00 a.m. to get dressed and go to Vacation Bible School. He could not understand why VBS wasn't twenty-four hours a day. Now that's excitement and that's the Holy Spirit moving. I'm so proud of what happens every summer at Port Republic UMC. Port Church will start now planning next year's VBS.

I hear about other VBS's all over our district. It is amazing how many children and adults are being touched by Jesus this summer. Busses and vans are picking up children who might not have a chance to experience the love of Christ. Camp Overlook has bussed in children from many churches for Day Camp and over 500 children and youth have spent a week at our Camp Overlook.

Let's together thank all those who have worked so hard this summer for Vacation Bible Schools and all those who will begin now preparing for VBS in 2014. God is at work at Ginghamburg UMC, but also at Port Republic UMC and all across the Harrisonburg District.

Tommy Herndon

A future VBS participant, Noah Andrew Dettmer, 1 month old son of Rev. Michael Dettmer and Gabriella Mirabilio. Rev. Dettmer is the pastor of the Mt. Jackson Charge which consists of Mt. Jackson and Quicksburg Churches. Noah has a big sister Hannah.



Our District Mission Coordinator Melissa Fretwell:

Melissa is a student at Eastern Mennonite Seminary and working part-time with the Harrisonburg District Mission projects. She is also currently doing her Clinical Pastoral Education required for a Masters of Divinity at EMS. Her internships are being done at Rockingham Memorial Hospital and Bridgewater Retirement Community.



“The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet.”

--- Frederick Buechner

I was introduced to Frederick Buechner’s words over the past three years and continue to be nudged to this intersection.

Where is my deep gladness?

Where do I find joy?

Where do I find energy?

Where do I find life?

Where is the world’s deep hunger?

Where is the pain?

Where is the struggle?

Where is death?

Where do these meet?

Where does Jesus hang out?

When I’ve found this intersection, I’ve found resurrection hope.

Hope that brings joy.

Hope that brings peace.

Hope that brings love.

This summer I’ve been fortunate to be at one of the intersections of my deep gladness. . . Storytelling and the world’s deep hunger. . . Elderly longing for visits. Out of the experience comes a story I’ll call. . . Resurrection Bingo!

It was a Friday morning, I was at the hospital on rounds as a seminary intern and I went to visit a 90+ year old patient who resides at the retirement community that I was also interning. . .

The person’s family and I thought. . .well, you know. . . It’s about the end.

So I did the good “Chaplain” thing, gathered everyone around the bed, let her share her story, discovered all the ways she has given and given and given. Given so much. Then we prayed. And I left.

Well, the weekend past and Monday morning came and I discovered she was. . .not dead. She was back at the retirement community

What was I to do? Well, a good Chaplain would follow up. . .so off I went. . .

When I go to the room. . .she wasn’t there. . .

I looked in the hallway. . .not there. . .

I went to physical therapy. . .not there. . .

Where in the world was she?

Well, it was about 10:30ish and I knew I was late for the excitement. . . BINGO.

Mondays at 10:30 a.m.: rain, shine, sleet or snow. . .it is BINGO!

And not only is it BINGO. . .it is JESUS Bingo. . .

It is free. . . and you can play as many cards as you like.

Everybody is welcome. . .cheaters included!

Everybody wins. . .no sharing the pot at these tables!

The room was packed. . .

Four to a table.

Some even playing three cards.

The prize cart was full of jewels and stuffed animals and exciting goodies.

It felt just like the lawn party.

And. There. For the first time. In her life.
 With eyes wide open. . .
 A smile a mile wide. . .
 A chip in hand. . .
 “Bingo!”



“The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet.”

At this intersection, I found my friend. . .
 Receiving joy.
 Receiving love.
 Receiving abundant life.

As a result we both experienced. . .Resurrection Hope.

Hope that says, “we are not alone.”
 Hope that says, “we matter.”
 Hope that says, “we are loved.”

As a result of receiving God’s grace,

We are able to share God’s love with each other.
 We are able to share God’s joy together.
 We are able to share abundant life together.

As the Harrisonburg District Coordinator of Missions, I look forward to joining you at intersections across this district. I long to connect with you! You may reach me at 540-271-2078 or melissaifretwell@gmail.com

The District Council on Ministries Executive Committee meetings for 2013 are **August 22, November 14, 7:00 p.m.**, at **Asbury UMC**. On **August 22**, the DCOM Executive Committee will elect Youth and Young Adult Members to the 2014 Annual Conference. See information on page 6 on making nominations. Completed nomination forms need to be returned to the district office by **August 15**.

Please see information on the Ministry Teams below.

Bob Talbott, Chairperson



Faith Development Ministry Team: Our meeting schedule for the remainder of this year is as follows: **September 19; and October 17**. All meetings begin at **7:00 p.m.** Team members are: Linda Conrad, Dale Dodrill, Becky Downey, Susan Michie-Bent, Tom Murphy, Kevin Poeckert, Ron Robey, and Carrie Talbott.

The Harrisonburg UMC District Faith Development Team held a meeting on July 18, 2013 at St. James UMC to begin planning for our **Annual District Conference** to be held at **Manor Memorial UMC on November 17, 2013**. Our Keynote Speaker will be Dr. James M. “Mickey” Efird, Professor Emeritus at Duke Divinity School. We will be sharing more about Dr. Efird in next month’s newsletter.

Our next event will be the **District Pulpit Exchange**. This will be held in churches across the district on **Sunday, September 22, 2013**. Clergy assignments and further information will be shared at the Annual PiM Retreat on **August 26, 2013**, as well as, via correspondence from the District Superintendent.



The next meeting of the Faith Development Team will be **Thursday, September 19, 2013** at **Manor Memorial UMC**. Our last meeting for this calendar year will be **October 17, 2013, 7:00 p.m.** PLEASE NOTE: This meeting will be held at **St. James UMC**.

Carrie Talbott, Team Leader



MISSIONS

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.

See information on Missions on the page 5!

Lydia Weeks, Team Leader

August 6 (Tuesday) - Lay Servants Committee, Manor Memorial UMC-New Market, 7:00 p.m.

August 8 (Thursday) - District Committee on the Ordained Ministry, Luray UMC, 10:00 a.m.

August 8 (Thursday) - Joint Meeting District Superintendency Committee & District Trustees, Dayton UMC, 7:00 p.m.

August 15 (Thursday) - Deadline for Youth and Young Adult Nominations to District Office*

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 25 (Sunday) - Bishop Young Jin Cho preaching at Port Republic UMC Homecoming

August 26 (Monday) - Partners in Ministry Retreat, Overlook Retreat & Camp Ministries-Blessings Lodge, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.*

August 29 (Thursday) - District Committee on the

Ordained Ministry, Asbury UMC, 9:30 a.m.

August 30 (Friday) - VUMCenter-Glen Allen and District Office closes at 1:00 p.m.

September 2 (Monday) - VUMCenter-Glen Allen and District Office closed for Labor Day Observance

September 16 (Monday) - **November 26** (Tuesday) - Local Church Charge Conferences

September 17 (Tuesday) - District UMMen's Fall Rally & Dinner, Furnace UMC, 6:30 p.m.*

September 19 (Thursday) - DCOM Faith Development Ministry Team, Manor Memorial UMC, 7:00 p.m.*

September 21 (Saturday) - District UMWomen's Prayer Breakfast, Dayton UMC, 9:00 a.m.*

September 22 (Sunday) - **District Pulpit Exchange***

September 28 (Saturday) - Lay Servants Training, Manor Memorial UMC-New Market, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.*

September 28 (Saturday) - UVMIM Team Leader Training Event, Vision of Hope UMC, 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.(

**Denotes related article elsewhere in this newsletter*



The PiM Retreat has been scheduled for **Monday, August 26 at Blessings Lodge, Overlook Retreat & Camp Ministries, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.** All Harrisonburg District pastors are expected to attend. Please reserve this date on your calendar!



District United Methodist Men News! Although there is still much grass to be cut, chores to be done, and for some, golf to be played or mission trips to be taken, summer is rapidly drawing to a close and fall will soon be here. There are two UMMEN's events planned for the fall. They are:

Harrisonburg District UMM Fall Rally, Tuesday, September 17, 2013, at Furnace UMC: Information about the cost, the speaker, and the special music are currently being arranged. *However, please reserve this date on your calendar now!*

2013 UMM Spiritual Retreat, United Methodist Assembly Center, Blackstone, Va, November 1-3, 2013:

The retreat leader will be Tom Berlin and the topic will be "Profiles in Courage." The cost for registration, two nights lodging and six meals is \$180 if postmarked by September 30. For the athletic, there will be a golf outing and horseshoe tournament on November 1. There was also a 5K run/walk and a corn hole tournament last year and I anticipate both will occur this year. You can also visit the hundred of scouts who will be camping on the grounds. For more information, see <http://www.vacumm.org/retreat/>

Tom DeVore, District UMMen President



The annual **United Methodist Women Prayer Breakfast** will be on **Saturday, September 21, Dayton UMC, 9:00 a.m.** Registration forms will be in the mail soon with all details including cost, information on speaker, etc. Contact me with any questions at Phyl-Foltz@aol.com

Phyllis Foltz, District UMW President



Lay Servants Training will be held on **Saturday, September 28, Manor Memorial UMC-New Market, 9:00 - 5:00 p.m.** Classes offered: "Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts", "Transforming Evangelism", and "Life Together in The United Methodist Connection" (UM Polity) Registration requested by September 20th to Dale Dodrill, District Director of Lay Servants Ministry, 828-3925, or hdumc.layservants@hotmail.com



Kingsway Outreach is beginning to look towards Christmas. We are collecting toothpaste, regular size or sample size, mini legal note pads, yellow #2 pencils and chapstick for in-mate Christmas Bags. We need more churches to get on board with our Apple Tree Project (gifts for children). Get in touch with Pat, 540-433-5658, to find out how you can help or e-mail: kingswayoutreach@hotmail.com for more information. Kingsway has several board member that are happy to provide a program in your church.

Louise Jennings, Director



Please take a look at our Harrisonburg District website:

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!



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The United Methodist Church

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UMVIM Team Leader Training to be held in Harrisonburg! The Harrisonburg District really has a heart for missions. Many churches on the district have been taking teams to other states and even other countries. Here is an opportunity to get more leaders

trained without having to leave the district for training. We hope every church on the district will have at least one member UMVIM Team Leader!

A Virginia Conference United Methodist Volunteers In Mission (UMVIM) Team Leader Training Event will be held on **Saturday, September 28, 2013, at Vision of Hope UMC, 1723 Port Republic Road, Harrisonburg, VA 22801.** Each training session will be from **9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.** with registration beginning at 8:45 a.m. Team Leader Training is required for all first time team leaders, but all interested persons are welcome to attend whether leading a team or not. All participants must pre-register by 12:00 noon, Monday, September 23. There is a \$55 registration fee for each participant. Registration is available on line: go to www.vaumc.org and click on conference calendar, select September and click on date. Registration information is listed.



Harrisonburg District Mission Trip, October 27-November 2! Who are the Lumbees? The 55,000 members of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina live primarily in a four county region where they have resided since the 1700s. They are the largest tribe east of the Mississippi River. The summer of 2012 saw more than 80 persons from the Harrisonburg District helping out with home and building repairs, and other ministries. Join our District team to continue the work! All jobs and supplies needed will be arranged in advance. Pastors, there may be one or two persons in your church that are feeling called to missions but are not able to organize an entire team for a trip. Encourage them to sign up for this District sponsored trip! Contact Lydia Weeks, 540-886-1460, if you have questions. Come by yourself or bring a friend. You'll be blessed!



District Youth News: Apply for CCYM! Calling youth in our district who love Jesus, mission, and having a passion for leading other youth. The Harrisonburg District Youth may send a youth representative and youth alternate to our Virginia Conference Council on Youth Ministry (CCYM). CCYM does planning for conference youth and directs Youth Service Funds for missions for youth by youth. CCYM meets two weekends each year. Applications are due August 11 to the district office and you may get an application from your pastor or Joel Robinette at joel_robinette@hotmail.com or 269-8531. Please apply!

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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 2014 Annual Conference. 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 adult nominees can attend **Annual Conference, June 20-22, 2014, 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 Member Nominees 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 15, for **election by the District Council on Ministries at their meeting on August 22, 7:00 p.m. at Asbury UMC.**



Wounded Hearts—Healing Love Spiritual Retreat will be hosted at **Blessings Lodge on November 29-December 1**. This is a special retreat for those who are single again from divorce, separation, or death of a spouse. You may know of someone who may benefit from this spiritual retreat and perhaps your church can sponsor that person. The leadership team for this event will be in training and prayer at Manor Memorial UMC in New Market in the early fall. For more information call Overlook Retreat & Camp Ministries at 540-269-2267.



RISE & Shine continues to grow and meet a significant need in our community. Thanks to recent donations from area churches and a local BB&T branch, we received a significant donation of diapers, which are always in high demand! Each week we see 20-30 families in need of basic hygiene items and the need continues to grow. If you are looking for a way to give back (either via donation or volunteering) we would love your help! Contact us at rise-harrisonburg@gmail.com or 540-434-3490.



Meals to Vietnam: The 2013 Harrisonburg District Youth Retreat packaged 10,000 meals for Stop Hunger Now which is a hunger ministry based in Lynchburg. We received an update from Stop Hunger Now that those meals have been shipped with others totaling 285,000 to the ministry, Children of Vietnam in Vietnam. Those meals will bless children involved in COV's medical, education, and nutrition ministries. Thanks again to Harrisonburg District Youth, the Youth Service Fund, and our district for aiding in this mission project!



What's new in the library? Check the district website under "Resources" to find an updated content list for the library located at the district office. The following are new titles.

- under Bible / Studies - DVD's dramatizing the actual scriptures
 - "The Book of Acts", "The Book of Matthew", "The Book of John"
- under Health—books related to Parish Nursing in your local church
 - "Faith Community Nursing", "How to Start a Wellness Committee in Your Church", "Faith Community Nursing: Scope & Standards of Practice"
- under Music
 - "United Methodist Hymnal" keyboard edition
- under Nurture / Spiritual - devotional material
 - "Great Living: Every Day a Victory" by Jerry John
 - "Meditations on the Ministry of All Christians"
- under U.M.Men
 - "Go for the Guys Sunday", "No Man Left Behind" with CD

Linda Conrad, Librarian