

DISTRICT NEWS

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

May 2014

Issue 41-4

From Our DS

Dear Friends,

A few weeks ago twenty of our churches/charges went to Dayton UMC for a workshop entitled, "How to Reach New People". It was a great opportunity to discover new ways to bring new people into our churches.

We discovered that churches that are not growing are waiting for people to come. Lifeway Research says that only 19% of the population will attend church this Sunday. The fastest growing segment of Americans is the group claiming no religion! 70% of people between the ages of 18 to 22 drop out of church. 80% of current churches are experiencing a numerical decline.

We discovered that growing churches focus on people outside the church. Growing churches know who is living in their community. Some of the things that were suggested were: 1) Conduct Official Meetings in the mission field. This would mean that we would meet in restaurants, coffee shops, etc. 2) The pastor should get out of the office and be seen and heard in the community. This may mean that Laity will have to *help* the pastor and free up at least eight hours a week for the pastor so he/she can be involved in community affairs, meetings and just plain meeting people in the community. 3) Have Prayer Walks or Vigils. Pray for the church - pray for the community. Mark your church boundaries and pray within the boundaries.

We discovered that ministry is a contact sport. We heard that every church should have a Care Team to take care of meals and folks when a death occurs, or a birth occurs, or surgery occurs. Every church needs a Care Team Chairperson and this person should not be the pastor.

We heard that Networking is the primary system by which the pastor spends significant time in the mission field to build relationships and gather new people into the church. Pastors (and laity) must interact with people physically. Pastors must break the community into separate ponds - there are different fish in different ponds. There must be a schedule (routine) for the pastor to be in the same places. Relationships must develop naturally and understand that trust and networking takes time. Reaching new people is a contact sport!

Church planters are taught that in the first two years they are in a new area that they should make 10,000 contact (visits). The same is true in an established church. The pastor and laity should make many, many visits and have many, many contacts.

I'll share more later but for now - let's make some contacts and do some visiting!

Silas is going to UVA this week. There is nothing new to report. I will send pastors an update when we know more. Please keep praying for our "little man".

Tommy



Our District Mission Coordinator Melissa Fretwell:



Taking the risk to engage with others invites a new movement. Often this movement leads each of us into new spaces, requires us to move into vulnerable spaces, and make sacrifices.

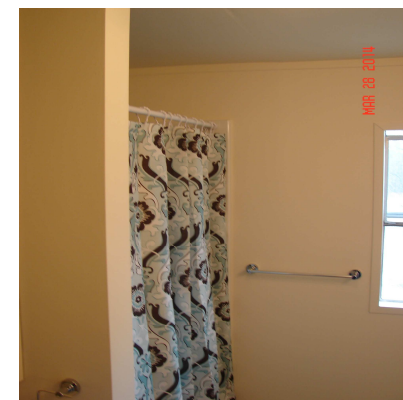
Throughout the last year, the Harrisonburg District has been planning efforts to support the community in Hickory Grove, South Carolina, by building a handicap accessible bathroom. This congregation is part of the North Carolina United Methodist Conference and sits in the boundaries of South Carolina. Crossing boundaries is never easy, just ask the contractor of this project who is licensed in North Carolina.



So our team traveled to the Lumbee Indian Community knowing that our original plan was moving towards "Plan B-ish", towards something new. The first team of individuals from Asbury and Keezletown arrived to meet Denise. She had been waiting for 'the truck' to show up for four years. Denise is a quiet, single mother of three (22, 17, and 1), a Lumbee Indian, and a self-employed house cleaner. The homes Denise cleaned were not like hers. . .they were without mold, they were without holes in the floors, they were without broken steps. They were with carpet, with stable pipes, and with usable bathrooms.



were without holes in the floors, they were without broken steps. They were with carpet, with stable pipes, and with usable bathrooms.



Initially, Denise was unsure of these strangers and spoke little to the group. She appeared to be a little reluctant to let these strangers into her situation. Together with these strangers a plan was developed to improve her bathroom and bedrooms. After a few trips to Lowes, pulling out walls full of mold, reconstructing walls, the house took on a new life. And, Denise began to be transformed and out she came with lemonade and snack cakes. Denise demonstrated transformation that takes hold when hope abounds.



Her daughter Cloe's smile (see picture below) communicates to us the joy of God's love for her.

So, what is next? There are many AND in OUR area longing for God's matter that God is with us and for us. with neighbors in need of support.



Denises and Cloes in the Lumbee Community hope. Hope that communicates that we all You are invited to pray about ways to connect

What is God's invitation to you, to nudged to take a risk to cross bounda-

your faith community? How are you being ries and experience God in a new place?

Bob Talbott, pastorbob.asburyumc@gmail.com, and Melissa Fretwell, melissaifretwell@gmail.com, or 540-271-2078, would be glad to work with you to discover these spaces and navigate the holy journey.

And stay tuned next month to hear more about the second team's holy adventures!

Tell me a story of the Good News of Jesus Christ. . . Missions!

“Praise the Lord! How good it is to sing praises to our God; for he is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting. The Lord builds up Jerusalem; he gathers the outcasts of Israel. He heals the brokenhearted, and binds up their wounds. He determines the number of the stars; he gives to all of them their names. The power of a name. Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure. The Lord lifts up the downtrodden; he casts the wicked to the ground.”
 Psalm 147: 1-6

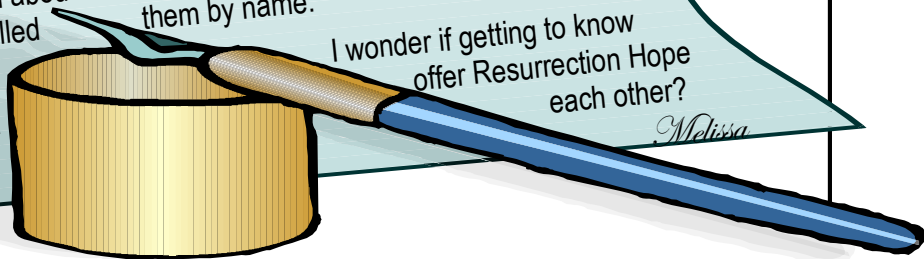
I recently realized that I had frequented a restaurant so much the workers knew my order. . . or at least what I like to drink because I never really know what I want to eat. Yet, none of us knew each other's name.

So I made a commitment to at least get to know one person by name each time I entered. With each visit, I would call the person by name and try to learn one more name. This went on for a few weeks. Then, I noticed something changing. One day one of the workers came out, sat down and talked about her family. Another day another worker came out, sat down, and talked about her family. I'm not sure how all this really happened. All I know is I called them by name.

In this season of Easter, others by name might to us and to

I wonder if getting to know offer Resurrection Hope each other?

Melissa



UMVIM Team Leader Recertification Training, **June 7th , from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Trinity UMC, 903 Forest Avenue, Henrico, VA 23229.** This training is required for all United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) team leaders who completed basic team leader training 5 years ago or longer. The focus of this training is to update leaders on the Va. Conference UMVIM policies and guidelines, to share best practices, and to answer any questions you may have. We must have five participants to offer this training. There is a \$25 registration fee for each participant, payable when you register. Lunch will not be provided. To register with a credit card, go to vaumc.org and click on Events, then June

7th and the UMVIM Event.



Kingsway Prison and Family Outreach has growing pains. Our client base is growing. **We are in need of a volunteer Social Worker.** This does not have to be someone with a college degree, but someone who enjoys helping people of all walks of life. The only requirements are that the person be over 18, Christian, and realize the meaning of Matthew 25.

As with all other ministries, we always need funding. Since we do not have a payroll and no paid director, our funds go to run the office (rent, phone, computer, lights, etc.). The balance goes to minister to the needs of clients, both inside and outside of prison. We now have over 1100 inmates on our card list and we sent Valentine Cards and Easter Cards. You are welcome to stop by our office in Duke's Plaza and see us. Our website is kingswayprisonfamilyoutreach.com. For more info call 540-433-5658 or cell 540-830-7000 or e-mail kingsway-outreach@hotmail.com

Louise Jennings, Director



UMW: The United Methodist Women had a very successful spiritual life retreat with over 50 ladies and several gentlemen attending. Ken and Linda Carty did the retreat on the ROMA of Europe, one of the classes held and also to be offered this summer at the school of mission. We enjoyed a lovely lunch by the ladies from Vision of Hope and Rev. Burch held communion to end our day. Many thanks to all of them.

On **May 15**, the executive committee will host all **local presidents at 6:30 p.m. for a meal at McGaheysville UMC**. If the president cannot attend, they are asked to send a representative.

Five of us are attending General Assembly the last of April. More on this after the event.

Please plan to attend the **Spiritual Life Retreat at Blackstone, May 16-18**. A registration form is attached to the district newsletter. There is also an attached form to attend **UMW day at Ferrum College on Saturday, June 7**.

If you plan to attend Annual Conference and the **UMW breakfast on Saturday, June 21**, please see me for tickets. They are \$17.00 each and I must turn in a number by **May 15**.

Phyllis Foltz, District UMW President



Greetings from your District United Methodist Men!!! Well, spring has finally sprung and things seem to be getting busier and busier. We are so blessed to have committed Christian men here on the Harrisonburg district who have a passion to be in service for our Lord. I have heard about so many good things happening around the district such as dinners being served, golf tournaments being held, yard sales being sponsored, and the list could go on. All of these things are being done by our local men's groups to raise funds for various reasons but with one common thread. And that is to strive to give others a greater awareness of the love of Jesus Christ. So if you hear of one of these events coming up in your area, please get out there and support your local men. There are good things happening.

On another note, I would like to thank everyone who came out and supported our Spring Rally at Dayton UMC. It was truly a wonderful evening with great food, fellowship, and encouraging worship together. Rev. Derrick Parson delivered a very challenging message for us to "Wake up!!!". He reminded us that this world is full of young men and women who are without a positive male figure in their life. It is up to us to stand in the gap and build a relationship with these vulnerable young folks. I would like to ask all of us to look around our churches and community for opportunities to mentor anyone who could benefit from time spent in Christian fellowship. There are many different ways to accomplish this. One idea that my local church men's group at Keezletown UMC has been doing is to sponsor kids to summer camp at Overlook. I am sure if you get your men together and discuss mentoring you will think of lots of ways to move forward with this challenge. Pray about it!!!!

Your Brother in Christ, Scott Dillard



Phil Secrist, Scoutmaster for Troop 8 in Shenandoah, received the Cross and Flame Award from Rev. Tommy Herndon at the Harrisonburg District United Methodist Men's Rally Tuesday, April 22nd at Dayton UMC. This award recognizes adult leaders who have given exceptional service in the use and promotion of Scouting programs for young people or have served children and youth through the United Methodist Church. Pictured left to right are: Kemper Dadisman, District Scouting Co-Chairperson, Phil Secrist, District Scouting Co-Chairperson and recipient of the Cross and Flame Award, and Tommy Herndon, District Superintendent of the Harrisonburg District. Congratulations to Mr. Secrist!



Mt. Tabor UMC (Route 11 in Lacey Spring, north of Harrisonburg) will be holding a yard sale on May 31 from 7:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. All proceeds will go toward items for the church's Christmas Fair Auction. Food will be available.



District Opportunities



Older Adult Recognition Sunday this year is May 4, 2014. Through a Recognition Sunday, United Methodists are invited to show appreciation and support for older adults who continue to enrich and strengthen our faith communities. This Sunday should also call the church to action in addressing the needs of older adults in the congregation and community.

On **Tuesday, May 15, 2014, the Older Adult Council will present a day workshop at Camp Overlook** on "Living Well, Creating a Legacy." This event will be open to the Winchester, Harrisonburg, Staunton and Charlottesville Districts.
Annie Pierce, DCOM Faith Development Team

The Harrisonburg District Lay Servants Training for 2014 will be held on May 17 and September 27th. The hours are 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. The cost is \$15.00 per session.

Spring - May 17th at Sunset Drive United Methodist Church in Broadway

Course Offerings and Teachers are:

Basic - Bruce Johnson

Leading Prayer - Ellen Martin and Carrie Talbott

Preaching - Robert Berghuis and Tommy Herndon

Fall - September 27th at Mount Tabor United Methodist Church in Lacey Spring

Course Offerings and Teachers are:

Basic - Glen Langston

Leading Worship - Robert Berghuis and Bruce Johnson

Understanding The Discipline (UM Polity) - Tommy Herndon & Carrie Talbott

Advanced **registration is requested by May 3rd for the Spring Session** with District Director of Lay Servants Ministry Dale Dodrill, hdumc.layservants@hotmail.com, or District Administrative Assistant Brenda Woods, brenda.woods@verizon.net.



Partners in Ministry will gather on **Tuesday, May 20th, 10:00 a.m. (note correction of time) at Verona United Methodist for a Tri-District meeting with Bishop Cho.** All pastors are encouraged to put this date on your calendars and plan to be present.

Partners in Ministry (PiM) will meet on Thursday, May 22, 6:30 p.m. at Overlook Retreat & Camp Ministries' Blessings Lodge for a Farewell Dinner to honor the service of those clergy and clergy families that have served appointments on the Harrisonburg District and are going to new appointments. ALL clergy are encouraged to be present.



It is important that all annual conference members (district & charge) and all clergy attend the district's "**Orientation Session**" in preparation for the 2014 Annual Conference, Friday, June 20, to Sunday, June 22, 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 1, 3:00 p.m. at Mount Tabor UMC** (Rt. 11, eight miles north of Harrisonburg in Lacey Spring - 8337 North Valley Pike). [Expense checks for *district* members will be available at that time.]

The **Clergy Spouses Luncheon** at Annual Conference will be held on **Saturday, June 21, 2014, at the Hampton Roads Convention Center at 12:30 p.m.** Tickets are \$20.00. The Speaker is Rev. Kiok Cho, Spouse of Bishop Cho. The theme is, "Let's Celebrate!" To register and pay by credit card, go to vaumc.org; click on Events, then June 21, and the Clergy Spouse Luncheon.

The **Laity Luncheon** at Annual Conference will be held on **Saturday, June 21, 2014, 12:00 noon, at the Hampton Roads Convention Center.** Rev. Bert Cloud will be the Keynote Speaker. Tickets are \$22.00. Please contact Rodney Bussard at seeker1959@verizon.net or 540-457-1417 prior to June 9th to purchase tickets.



The **Board of Laity** is in need of **pictures showing the many ways that Lay Servants serve. These are for a slide show that will be shown during the Laity Session at Annual Conference.** If you have pictures of our lay servants in action, please e-mail me the photos at seeker1959@verizon.net by May 27, 2014. I know our lay servants are very active, and I appreciate the many ways that each of you serve. *I want to be sure the Harrisonburg District is represented in this slide show.*

Rodney Bussard, District Lay Leader

May 4 (Sunday) - Older Adult Sunday*
May 15 (Thursday) - Local Church UMW Presidents' Dinner, McGaheysville UMC, 6:30 p.m.
May 17 (Saturday) - Lay Servants' Training, Sunset Drive-Broadway, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.*
May 17 (Saturday) - Light the Fest at Overlook, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
May 19 (Monday) - District Superintendency Committee Meeting, District Office, 7:00 p.m.
May 20 (Tuesday) - Partners in Ministry (PiM) Tri-District Meeting with Bishop Cho, Verona, 10:00 a.m.*
May 21 (Wednesday) - District Finance Meeting, District Office, 7:00 p.m.
May 22 (Thursday) - Partners in Ministry (PiM) Farewell Dinner, Overlook Retreat & Camp Ministries-Blessings

Lodge, 6:30 p.m.*
May 26 (Monday) - VUMCenter-Glen Allen & District Office closed for Memorial Day Holiday
May 29 (Thursday) - District Committee on the Ordained Ministry, District Office, 9:00 a.m.
May 29 (Thursday) - District Council on Ministries dinner at Overlook's Blessings Lodge, 6:00 p.m.*
May 31 (Saturday) - Tri-District Mac Fleming Overlook Benefit Golf Tournament, Shenvalee Golf Resort, 2:00 p.m.
June 1 (Sunday) - Annual Conference Orientation Session, Mt. Tabor UMC, 3:00 p.m.
June 20 - 22 (Fri-Sun) - Annual Conference, Hampton
June 25 (Wednesday) - Virginia Annual Conference Moving Day

**Denotes related article elsewhere in this newsletter*



Light the Fire - May 17, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at Overlook! There will be something for everyone at this event!!! Live music will include "Scatter Love", "Fade", "P3B", and the Fellowship UMC Praise Band. There will be classic and antique cars, crafts, baked goods, door prizes, activities for kids, a silent auction, food, food and MORE FOOD!

The **District Council on Ministries** will meet on **May 29 at Overlook's Blessings Lodge**. Other meeting dates for the year are: **August 28** and **November 20**. Please see information on the Ministry Teams below.

Bob Talbott, Chairperson



Faith Development Ministry Team: The Faith Development Team meetings for 2014 are: **May 29 at Overlook's Blessings Lodge; August 21; and October 16**. All meetings are at **7:00 pm. at the District Office (note change of location)** unless otherwise noted and each of you will be notified about meetings. Team members are: Kemper Dadisman, Scott Dillard, Dale Dodrill, Becky Downey, Phyllis Foltz, Edith Good, Dixie Miller, Wanda Miller, Annie Pierce, Kevin Poeckert, Ron Robey, Phil Secrist, Carrie Talbott, and Wes Van Pelt.
Carrie Talbott, Team Leader



MISSIONS

Mission and Outreach Ministry Team: The District Mission & Outreach Committee meeting dates for 2014 are: **May 29 at Blessings Lodge; August 25; and November 17**. Meetings are held at **Vision of Hope UMC at 7:00 p.m.** Team members are: Artie Frederick, Melissa Fretwell, Louise Jennings, Bill Lalla, Sheila Orndorff, Mary Jane Rawley, Delores Reid, Valerie Ritter, and Lydia Weeks.
Lydia Weeks, Team Leader



From the District Youth: We want to say thank you to all who attended the district youth retreat. We had groups from the Massanutten Charge, Grottoes UMC, Vision of Hope UMC, Toms Brook UMC, Strasburg UMC, Port Republic UMC, and Fellowship UMC. God is Great! We had a wonderful turnout, we learned about God's "Relentless Pursuit" of David even as a youth and how God is pursuing each one of us, even as children and youth, to be anointed by the Holy Spirit to live a life that glorifies God in all that we do. We engaged in fellowship, fun, learning, and mission work together during the weekend. Collectively, we packed 10,000 meals for Stop Hunger Now! We also want to thank all of the churches and people throughout the district who held us up in prayer this weekend. We could feel the difference while on the mountain. We hope next year we will have 100 youth participants in the district youth retreat. Begin planning now for next April's retreat. HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!
Brian Posey, District Youth Co-Coordinator



Harrisonburg District Office @ 40 Southgate Court, Suite 101 has a 20 foot long wall in the hallway that needs pictures. We would like to ask that each church designate someone in the church to send us an 8 x 10 unframed, color picture (vertical) of your church. This can be a photo taken by someone in your congregation - please send us only 1 photo. You may ask as many people to take a photo of your church as you wish and then choose the photo you like best to represent your church at the new district office. We appreciate you helping us decorate the new office space! *To date, we have received only 1 church picture.*



“The mission of the Virginia Annual Conference is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by equipping local churches for ministry and providing a connection for ministry beyond the local church.”

Virginia Conference Mission Statement



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!



DISTRICT NEWS
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The United Methodist Church

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

Conference Opportunities



The Communications office developed a logo for the 2014 session of the Virginia Annual Conference. The theme is “Lord Renew Us with Your Spirit.” The logo, designed by Cathryn Wooten, features red elements of fire representing the Holy Spirit and blue elements of water representing the renewal of Christian baptism.

The logo will be used on Annual Conference materials, beginning with the mailing about housing that has been sent to lay and clergy members of Annual Conference. The **2014** session of the **Virginia Annual Conference** will be held at the **Hampton Roads Convention Center in Hampton, VA, Friday, June 20, to Sunday, June 22**. Laity and Clergy sessions will begin at 1:00 p.m. on Friday. First plenary session begins at 3:00 p.m. Conference ending time should be around noon on Sunday. **Harrisonburg District’s Annual Conference Orientation will be held on Sunday, June 1, 2014, at Mt. Tabor UMC in Lacey Spring-Rt. 11 north of Harrisonburg.**

Annual Conference Offering: The 2014 Annual Conference Offering has been announced by Bishop Cho. The offering goal is \$200,000 with the following as details:

Imagine No Malaria Initiatives of Hope	\$50,000
Cambodia - <i>Church Construction, Christian Ed</i>	\$50,000
Mozambique - <i>Lay Leadership, Communication</i>	\$25,000
Brazil - <i>Shade and Fresh Water</i>	\$15,000
Engaging/Connecting to God’s Mission - <i>Funds to promote mission engagement of small membership churches</i>	\$10,000

Annual Conference Kits: All types of kits are welcome, but there is an increased need for sewing kits, layette kits, and bedding kits. Kit instructions may be found on the UMCOR website: <http://www.umcor.org/UMCOR/Relief-Supplies>

4 Cans 4 Conference:

- Did you know that most of the hungry in our country are children?
- Did you know that the need for food support via the Peninsula Food Bank in Hampton, where Annual Conference will be held, continues to grow to new higher levels?
- Did you know that in 2013, the clergy and laity of Virginia United Methodist Churches brought 9,700 pounds of canned goods to the Hampton Roads Coliseum during our Annual Conference?
- Did you know that in 2014 our goal is to give more than 5 tons of food (10,000 pounds!) to the Peninsula Food Bank by Conference end?

In the best of the Virginia United Methodist traditions, you are encouraged to bring an offering of **4 Cans 4 Conference!**

Please bring:

1. 1 can of Veggies or Fruit
2. 1 can of meat or Fish
3. 1 can of Soup or Stew
4. 1 can with a Pop-top (for easy opening) - contents of your choice!



In addition, you might bring dry goods (boxed mac-and-cheese, spaghetti, pasta, grits, beans, cereal, flour, sugar, etc.) or preparation mixes (Hamburger Helper, soup starter, powdered milk, etc.)