

# DISTRICT NEWS

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

July 2014

Issue 41-6

## From Our DS

Dear Friends,

Annual Conference is now over and what a wonderful conference it was! The theme of Annual Conference was “Lord, Renew Us with Your Spirit”.

There are so many highlights I know I will miss some but here goes:

Rev. David Burch won the Denman Evangelism award. David is the pastor of Vision of Hope UMC. David was the only clergy in the conference to receive this award.

Rev. Doug Martin retired after serving 37 years. He and his wife Ellen were on stage during the Retirement Service. Rev. Jim Radford will retire in November of this year.

Rev. Debra Copeland was ordained an Elder and Rev. Courtney Joyner was ordained a Deacon.

Pastors John M. Crawford, Melissa Fretwell, and Faith Evans were commissioned as Licensed Local Pastors.

More than 41,218 kits were collected for UMCOR for a total value of \$533,834. There were 30,844 Health Kits, 11,306 School Kits, 5,325 Birthing Kits, 1,666 Layette Kits, 228 Cleaning Kits, 394 Bedding Kits, and 1,455 Miscellaneous kits.

We kicked off a Campaign to raise enough money to buy Mosquito Nets to protect 100,000 children. These nets cost \$10 each and more information will be forth coming.

The Virginia Annual Conference was awarded the award for raising the most money for The Advance for Christ and His Church and for leading the Southeastern Jurisdiction in giving to Missionary support. We also gave \$1.1 million to UMCOR for disasters around the world. Bishop Robert Hayes praised the Virginia Annual Conference for being one of the most outstanding annual conferences in all of Methodism, if not the most outstanding!

Rev. Beth Downs retired as the Director for Clergy Excellence after 16 years.

Bishop Cho proposed a time of conversation about sexuality issues. The proposal was part of a four-point look at new things coming from the conference in the next church year. The other points include the expansion of Discipleship Circles, the start of three new faith communities and the Imagine No Malaria Campaign. Bishop Cho announced that more than 200 churches had signed the Bishop’s Prayer Covenant and more than 50 of these came from the Harrisonburg District.

Annual Conference ended with Bishop Cho telling us to “Get Out of Here”! Go forth and Make Disciples for the Transformation of the World.

*Tommy Herndon*



Welcome Back to Our District Program Coordinator Glen Langston:



After a wonderful year off serving as the interim pastor at Grottoes UMC, I AM BACK at the district office as the district program coordinator. As I return, I am looking forward to opportunities to work with your church in areas that deal with church leadership, organization, visioning, and program ministry development. I am also looking forward to meeting with colleagues new to our district this year, helping you get acclimated to what happens in this district, and the role you will play in it. Feel free to call me anytime if you need something and the dynamic duo of “Tommy and Glen” will be there for you. Together, let’s have a wonderful year of spiritual growth in the Harrisonburg District.

From Our District Mission Coordinator Melissa Fretwell:



A group of 14 from the Harrisonburg District will be going to Belize, **Saturday, June 28, to Sunday, July 6, 2014**, to help finish work on a High School in Belmopan, the capitol of Belize. Please consider supporting the team through your prayers and gifts. Connect with Melissa Fretwell ([melissaifretwell@gmail.com](mailto:melissaifretwell@gmail.com)) to support our Belize friends! Team Members are: Jeanne Bridgeman, Mt. Hermon; Lora Buracker, Stanley; Melissa Fretwell; Ann & Wes Ford, Keezletown; Rob and Scott Lee, Vision of Hope; Martha Mobley, Mt. Hermon; Rev. Brian Posey, Grottoes; Diane Secord, Vision of Hope; Ansel Seeds, Harriston; Shirley & Danny Trobaugh, Grottoes.

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

For the past five years Mount Olive UMC in Toms Brook has been sending cards to troops serving in the Middle East. Kermit and Frances Orndorff have facilitated these efforts with South Washington County Military Support Group. The Orndorffs welcome your support in writing cards to those who are away from family. To learn more the Orndorffs can be reached at 549-436-3144 or [Kermit@shentel.net](mailto:Kermit@shentel.net)

*Melissa*



Congratulations to . . .



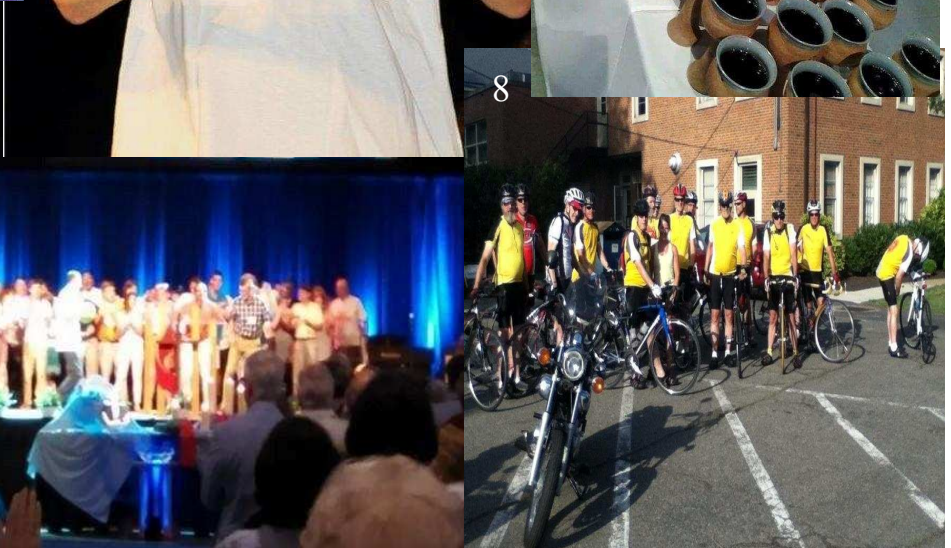
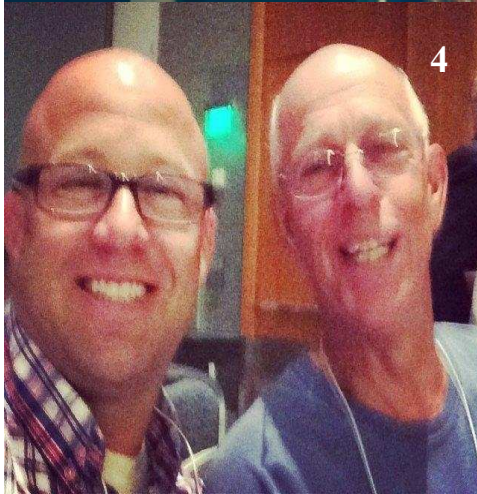
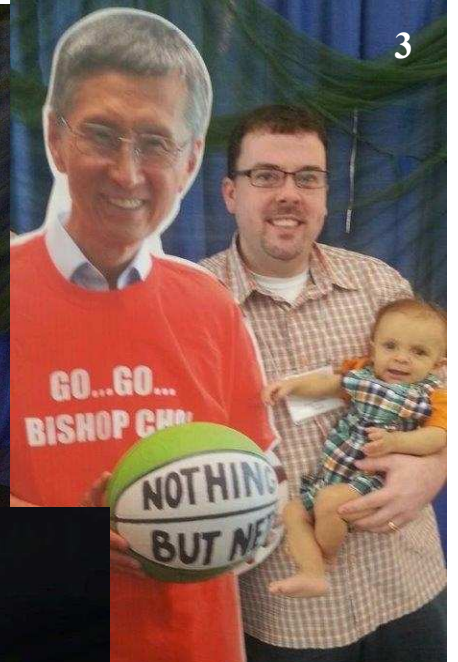
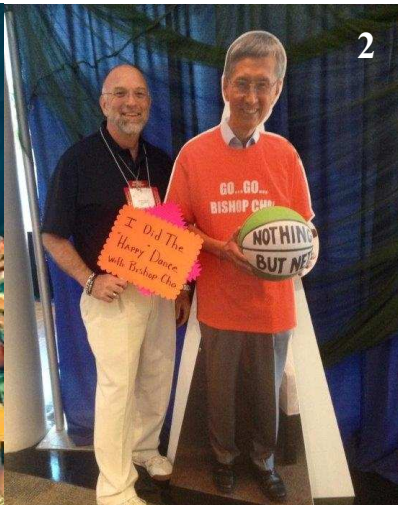
. . . The Reverend Laura and J.R. Stratton on the birth of their first child, a daughter Annabelle June, on June 12. Annabelle weighed 8 pounds and 8 ounces. The Stratton are the parsonage family at Page United Methodist Church.

. . . The Reverends Doug and Ellen Martin on the birth of their granddaughter Bella Christian Kelley Martin born on June 6, weighing 5 pounds and 12 ounces to their son Jeremy Martin and his wife Hannah.



. . . The Reverend Andrew and Emily Peck-McClain on the birth of their second daughter Phoebe Nell on Friday, May 30. Phoebe has an older sister Zoe. The Peck-McClain family is the new parsonage family at the Mount Clinton United Methodist Church. Emily Peck-McClain will be the Preaching and Spiritual Formation professor at Eastern Mennonite Seminary.

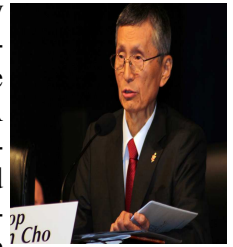
Pictures from 2014 Annual Conference  
June 20-22, 2014  
Hampton, Virginia  
(see page 7 for picture identifications)



## 2014 Annual Conference - June 20-22, 2014 - Hampton, Virginia

A brief synopsis taken from the **Daily News** from each Annual Conference Session follows below (for details go to [www.vaumc.org](http://www.vaumc.org), click on [Quick Link 2014 Annual Conference](#), then click on [Daily News](#)):

**Friday afternoon session:** The 232nd Annual Conference opened with separate clergy and laity sessions on **Friday, June 20, 1:00 p.m.** Bishop Young Jin Cho called the 232nd session of the Virginia Annual Conference to order promptly at 3:00 p.m. As is custom, the gathering sang “And Are We Yet Alive.” Bishop Cho gave his Episcopal address and gave thanks for his year a service. A prayer team has been meeting monthly to pray for the revitalization of the conference. He encouraged churches to become a Prayer Covent Congregation, a program begun last year. The second Bishop’s Convocation on Prayer was held with 400 plus people in attendance. The Board of Discipleship has designed regional gatherings for training on prayer. As the 2016 General Conference approaches, human sexuality issues will arise. Bishop Cho has asked the Common Table to develop a plan to address this issue in the coming year.



**Friday night session:** A Service of Remembrance and Holy Communion were part of the Friday night session at Annual Conference. The Reverend Rhonda Vandyke Colby gave the evening’s sermon. The Reverend Barry Foster issued the invitation to Holy Communion. Bishop Young Jin Cho led the service.



**Saturday morning session:** Dr. Elmer Colyer, professor of Historical Theology and Wesley Studies at University of Dubuque Theological Seminary in Iowa, led a “teaching session” on “Renewal is not a Program: The Triune God of the Gospel is the Primary Author of Renewal.” Conference Lay Leader Warren Harper delivered the Laity Address. Several reports were given from various boards, councils and commissions. Bishop Robert E. Hayes, Jr. from the Oklahoma Area led the morning worship.



**Saturday afternoon session:** The Annual Conference Retirement Service was the first event to take place Saturday afternoon. The Rev. Jim Noland, pastor of Reveille UMC, Richmond, represented the 41 retiring class members and delivered a sermon entitled “Renewed by Remaining.” Dr. Elmer Colyer returned for another teaching session and his subject was “The Triune God and Trinitarian Gospel: The Heart of Renewal.” A video asking people how they would “Imagine No Malaria” was shown. When asked for ideas on how to “Imagine No Malaria, Bishop Cho said, “I would dance!” and he broke into dance on the stage with the youth and members of the conference to Pharrell Williams “Happy” song. The Cabinet spelled out Save 100,000+ Lives. Rev. David M. Burch, pastor of Vision of Hope UMC on the Harrisonburg District received the Denman Evangelism Clergy Award. Two other Evangelism Awards were given for Laity and Youth.



**Saturday evening session:** Saturday evening featured A Service for the Ordering of Ministry. This year, 27 persons were licensed as local pastors; 22 were commissioned as provisional members, one was ordained a deacon; 13 were ordained as elder; and one had orders recognized. From the Harrisonburg District: Rev. Debra Copeland was ordained an Elder; Rev. Courtney Joyner was ordained a Deacon; and Pastors John M. Crawford, Melissa Fretwell, and Faith Evans were commissioned as Licensed Local Pastors.



**Sunday morning session:** Bishop Cho concluded the 2014 Annual Conference with a sermon entitled, “Sing the Lord’s Song in a Foreign Land.” “For the past three days we have conferenced under ‘Lord, Renew us with Your Spirit.’ This prayer should be continued,” the bishop said. “Please, do not stop praying. Now, we go back to our mission field and we will be asked to sing the Lord’s song in a foreign land. If we truly listen and discern the will of God in prayer, we can faithfully and effectively sing the Lord’s song in a foreign land.”

## District Opportunities



**Ugly Quilt Workshop - July 10, 2014!** Come help make an “Ugly Quilt” sleeping bag to be given to a homeless person **Thursday, July 10, 2:30 - 4:30 p.m. at Manor Memorial UMC in New Market.** Every pastor and church should have one on hand to give to someone in need! No experience necessary. We will be “tying” knots with large needles. Questions? Contact Lydia Weeks at 540-886-1460 or [Lydspot@yahoo.com](mailto:Lydspot@yahoo.com).

**Lawn Party to Benefit Overlook on Saturday, July 19 4:00 p.m. until . . . at Keezletown Ruritan Park sponsored by Keezletown United Methodist Church.** *Great food: deep fried chicken, country fried ham, homemade ice cream; Great fun: cake walk, bingo, white elephant sale, children’s games; Great Entertainment: Walnut Ridge Boys. Hope you can join us!*



**Partners in Ministry’s Welcome Picnic** for new and returning pastors and their families will be **Thursday, August 14, at Overlook Retreat & Camp Ministries at 6:30 p.m.** *Clergy with new appointments will be guest of PiM.* The district will provide hot dogs, hamburgers and drinks. Returning clergy families are asked to bring 1 side dish and 1 dessert.



The PiM Retreat has been scheduled for **Monday, August 25 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!

**Keezletown UMMen** will host the 2nd annual Par 3 Golf Challenge at Packsaddle Ridge Golf Club, **Sunday, September 14, starting at 2:00 p.m.** The entire course will be set up as par threes. Entry fee is \$50 and includes green fees, cart, dinner and door prizes. All proceeds will go to support the Salvation Army Shelter of Harrisonburg. The goal is to raise enough money to sponsor one bed for an entire year! (Approximately \$5,000). We are encouraging groups and businesses to pray about a hole sponsorship of \$100. Space is limited so reserve your spot early. Contact Jim Dillard, 540-269-4481, or [ktowndillards@aol.com](mailto:ktowndillards@aol.com)



**Harrisonburg District Lay Servants Training will be held on September 27th, at Mount Tabor United Methodist Church in Lacey Spring. The hours are 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.** The cost is \$15.00 per session. Course Offerings and Teachers are: *Basic* - Glen Langston; *Leading Worship* - Robert Berghuis and Bruce Johnson; and *Understanding The Discipline* (UM Polity) - Tommy Herndon & Carrie Talbott. Contact District Director of Lay Servants Ministry Dale Dodrill, [hdumc.layservants@hotmail.com](mailto:hdumc.layservants@hotmail.com), or District Administrative Assistant Brenda Woods, [brenda.woods@verizon.net](mailto:brenda.woods@verizon.net) to register for these courses.



The next **UMW District Executive Meeting** will be on **Saturday, August 9, Grottoes UMC, 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.** to do planning and scheduling for next year. If you have suggestions for changes, speakers, etc for next year, please let someone on the district executive committee know so we can consider your ideas.

The **UMW Prayer Breakfast** will be held at **Furnace UMC on Saturday, September 20, at 9:00 a.m.** Please encourage everyone in your unit to attend. *Phyllis Foltz, DUMW President, [PhylFoltz@aol.com](mailto:PhylFoltz@aol.com)*



What a wonderful time of fun and Christian fellowship was had at this year’s annual Tri-District United Methodist Men’s Mac Fleming Memorial Overlook Benefit Golf Tournament in New Market. God smiled upon our efforts by giving us one of those unbelievably beautiful days. 12-four person teams entered and it was great to spend time with brothers having fun and raising money for Overlook. At the end of the day approximately \$7,500 was raised to go to the Overlook Endowment fund. This money will be used to make a difference in the lives of others for years to come. Thanks so much to Monty Cox and his crew of helpers for making all of this possible. Men, keep up the great work in our district!  
*Your brother in Christ, Scott Dillard*



[ pictured are Ron Robey, Monty Cox, and Scott Dillard ]

**June 28** (Saturday) - **July 6** (Sunday) - Harrisonburg District Mission Trip to Belize\*

**July 2** (Wednesday) - Pastors Meeting, Manor Memorial UMC-New Market, 2:00 p.m.



**July 3** (Thursday) - United Methodist Center-Glen Allen & District Office closes at 1:00 p.m.

**July 4** (Friday) - United Methodist Center-Glen Allen & District Office closed for Independence Day Holiday

**July 10** (Thursday) - Ugly Quilt Workshop, at Manor Memorial, New Market, 2:30 - 4:30 p.m.\*

**July 25-27** (Fri-Sun) - Mission Encounter, VA United Methodist Conference & Retreat Center, Blackstone\*

**July 28-30** (Mon-Wed) - Mission Encounter, VA United Methodist Conference & Retreat Center, Blackstone\*

**August 5** (Tuesday) - Lay Servants Committee Meeting, District Office, 7:00 p.m.

**August 9** (Saturday) - UMW District Executive Board Meeting, Grottoes UMC, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.\*

**August 14** (Thursday) - Partners in Ministry Welcome Picnic, Overlook, 6:30 p.m.\*

**August 21** (Thursday) - DCOM Faith Development Ministry Team, District Office, 7:00 p.m.\*

**August 25** (Monday) - Partners in Ministry Retreat & Charge Conference Instruction Session, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.\*

**August 25** (Monday) - DCOM Mission and Outreach Ministry Team, Vision of Hope UMC, 7:00 p.m.\*

**August 28** (Thursday) - District Council on Ministries Executive Committee, District Office, 7:00 p.m.\*

*\*Denotes related article elsewhere in this newsletter*



The Virginia Conference offices at The United Methodist Center in Glen Allen will close at **1:00 p.m. each Friday through Labor Day**. The Harrisonburg District Office follows the conference policy on closings.

The **District Council on Ministries** will meet on **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 **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 **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*



Pictured is the Reverend Doug Martin at his Retirement Dinner on June 14, 2014, at Strasburg United Methodist Church. The Reverend Ellen Martin, wife for Rev. Doug Martin is pictured along with District Superintendent Tommy Herndon and Mrs. Carolyn Herndon who were present for this event.



**Youth Director Opening!** Toms Brook United Methodist Church is accepting resumes for the position of Youth Director. The position requires 15 hours per week and the annual salary range is \$8,000 to \$11,000. A full ministry description is available upon request. Send resume to Toms Brook UMC, Post Office Box 99, Toms Brook, VA 22660 or e-mail to: [tbumc@shentel.net](mailto:tbumc@shentel.net) or fax to 540-436-3428.



**We still need YOUR help in decorating the Harrisonburg District Office @ 40 Southgate Court, Suite 101!** We are asking each church to designate someone in the church to send us an 8 x 10 unframed, color picture of your church. This can be a photo taken by someone in your congregation. We appreciate you helping us decorate the new office space! We would like to have all pictures before we begin to decorate this wall. *To date, we only have pictures of Donovan Memorial, Harriston, Manor Memorial, McGaheysville, New Hope, Oak Level, Stanley, and Strasburg United Methodist Churches. Please add your church to this list. Thank you!*

**From page 3:**

**Picture 1:** Former Harrisonburg District Superintendent Susan Garrett and Rev. Dan Garrett with "Bishop Cho"

**Picture 2:** Rev. Kevin Poeckert, pastor of the Blue Ridge Charge, with "Bishop Cho"

**Picture 3:** Rev. Chad Herndon and Silas Herndon, son and grandson of District Superintendent Tommy Herndon, with "Bishop Cho"

**Picture 4:** Former Harrisonburg District Superintendent Ed Pruitt and his son Rev. Gordon Pruitt

**Picture 5:** The real Bishop Cho

**Picture 6:** Preparations for Holy Communion

**Picture 7:** "Happy Dance" on Annual Conference Stage

**Picture 8:** Holy Rollers leave Charlottesville to ride to Annual Conference

**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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[www.vaumc.org](http://www.vaumc.org)

**Conference Opportunities**



**"Learning Together for the Transformation of the World"** is the theme for Mission Encounter, **July 25-27th and July 28-30th, Blackstone Conference & Retreat Center**. This is an opportunity for clergy and laity, youth, and children to learn about being partners in God's global mission and to grow spiritually through study and worship. The

following studies will be offered.

**Geographic Study: Roma of Europe** - This study will introduce the Roma, with an emphasis on Eastern Europe. Participants will explore their history, the ways they are treated in contemporary European culture, their lifestyle and spirituality, and ways the church and other organizations are working along side them. **Study Leader:** Linda Carty

**Spiritual Growth Study: How Is It With Your Soul?** - This study is framed within four verbs, "pray", "learn", "mentor", and "transform". This study will give an overview of the setting for this question, "How Is It With Your Soul?" in Methodist class and band meetings. **Study Leaders:** Rev. Richard Geoghegan, Rev. Judy Fender, and Darlene Runaldue.

**Issue Study: The Church and People with Disabilities** - This study will focus on Awareness, Accessibility, and Advocacy. Provides for hands on experience completing an accessibility audit and engaging in multi-sensory worship and education. **Study Leaders:** Rev. Elizabeth von Trapp Walker, Rev. Jo Ellen Hetherington, and Brenda Connelly

**Children's Study: Making a New Picture: Welcoming Persons with Disabilities Into Our Lives.** **Study Leader:** Mrs. Phyllis Geoghegan

Registration deadline is **July 13, 2014**. Online registration is available at [www.vaumc.org](http://www.vaumc.org) under Calendar. Registration forms are available at the district office.



Individual United Methodists from across the conference have an opportunity to assist in the ministry of Virginia United Methodist Conference and Retreat Center through a "partner" gift. Every year, for more than 60 years, the Blackstone Center has been serving hundreds of children, youth, and adults providing facilities for educational and spiritual experiences in missions, evangelism, discipleship, stewardship, music, and worship involving lay persons and clergy. Lives have been changed here. Hearts have been warmed. Wounds have been healed. Careers have been changes. You can be a part of this ministry by becoming a partner with Blackstone Conference and Retreat Center. Please see an attached document for details.

**"Virginia is one of the most outstanding - if not the most outstanding - conferences in the denomination in terms of reaching out to people."** - Bishop Robert Haynes of the Oklahoma Area, speaking during 2014 Virginia Annual Conference in Hampton.