

DISTRICT NEWS

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

September 2014

Issue 41-8

From Our DS

We are getting ready for Charge Conferences (a schedule is attached). Glen and I look forward to seeing you and sharing in the excitement of the new year (2015) and all that has happened in 2014.

Please put **November 9, 2014**, on your calendar. **District Conference will be at Bridgewater UMC at 3:00 p.m.** Dr. John Kinney will be our speaker. Dr. Kinney is the Dean of Virginia Union Seminary and a great-great preacher.

There are several very important attachments included with this newsletter. Please be sure to give each one of them your attention.

Silas has been at UVA hospital all week. He now has a g tube to help feed him and give him medicine. The ng tube in his nose is gone and we hope this will work better. He will be glad to get out of the hospital and home with his sisters. Please continue to pray for Silas and his family.

I want to share an article that Rev. Bob Throckmorton, pastor of Toms Brook United Methodist Church, wrote in his September Newsletter, entitled, "*Is it or Isn't It?*" Please read below.

Recently, while on my way to church - I experienced chest pains (again), so off I went to Winchester Medical Center for a day's worth of monitoring and tests. The trouble with having a heart attack in the past that didn't feel like one is that I still don't know what it is supposed to feel like. The good news about that is that my doctor in Harrisonburg three years ago, said that considering where my blockages were, if I had felt the "traditional" heart attack, it would have been all she wrote! There are numerous reasons a person can have chest pains, and so former heart patients always wonder: "Is it or isn't it?" when they have pains. Many chest pains have nothing to do with the heart. However, at the end of 24 hours of monitoring, the Winchester hospital physician said that it was not my heart (but he didn't exactly say what it was either!).

During my time in Winchester, I had time to ponder (especially in the ER where the bed was so narrow I didn't dare doze off!). I realized that many events in life bring us to the "is it or isn't it?" juncture. Is this the girl I am supposed to marry?...is this the right time to make this investment?...can we afford to have kids?...do I leave my current job for what this new one seems to offer? Wouldn't it be great if life came with crosswalk signs that signaled us to "Walk/Don't Walk"? I am thinking that a buzzer or something would be nice to warn us when we are approaching danger or when we need to alter course; perhaps a green light that would let us know we were on the correct path.

In truth, my wish for warning lights is simply an expression of my desire to be more self-sufficient. I like being independent as I am sure you do also. Since our teenage days, we have yearned to be more in control of our lives. The trouble is that we live in a world with 9 billion other individuals who want to be in control of their lives. And we live in a world that has more variables than we can possibly comprehend.

Fortunately, God has an answer - and sometimes it takes chest pains to remind me of this. The Lord knows that we can never reach the control level that we seek. So He created us to be *interdependent*. We are designed to depend on each other, and we were created to be dependent on Him. The Lord likes to be part of our life; He prefers that we have discussions with Him; He prefers that we learn to trust in His wisdom and love so that we can reach heights we never imagined possible.

It is humbling to realize that I don't know all the answers and cannot fix all of my problems. It helped to know that the doctors didn't know all the answers either (I still have chest pains). But God was able to use this moment (troublesome as it was) to strengthen my relationship with Him. It forced me to my knees when I have gotten so use to standing tall. The experience forced me to bathe in His spiritual presence and learn that it was okay. It forces me to trust in something besides myself and other human ingenuities. It taught me that with God, I can survive even when I am not in control.

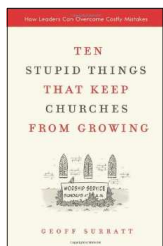
Sometime this week or this month you will face your next "is it or isn't it?" moment. As an expert and survivor at failing to recognize the signs, let me encourage you to: relax and let go of the controls for a minute - it will be okay. Allow the Lord to use His resources and His servants to be the strength and wisdom you are seeking. While you wait, watch for the power and wonder of His presence. And perhaps most of all, allow your faith to mature - it's a "muscle" that never grows tired of expanding.

In Christ's service, Pastor Bob Throckmorton

From Our District Program Coordinator Glen Langston:



A MONTHLY BOOK REVIEW - Ten Stupid Things That Keep Churches from Growing



Geoff Surratt has written a “field guide for pastors and church leaders” that highlights (or “lowlights”) the ten mistakes pastors make that keep otherwise healthy churches from reaping the harvest God has prepared. Each chapter spotlights a common mistake and provides a practical course of action to recover from the error. While this book targets pastors, lay leaders of the church will benefit also from reading it for they, too, make the mistakes.

The ten mistakes are 1) trying to do it all, 2) establishing the wrong role for the pastor’s family, 3) providing second-rate worship experiences, 4) promoting talent over integrity, 5) clinging to a bad location, 6) copying another successful church, 7) mixing ministry and business, 8) settling for low quality in children’s ministry, 9) favoring discipline over reconciliations, and 10) letting committees steer the ship.

Each month I will give a quick overview of a chapter and I commend the book to you. You will enjoy finding out you are not the only one who struggles.

Glen Langston, District Program Coordinator

From Our District Mission Coordinator Melissa Fretwell:



BELIZE, 2015! Interested in...walking together...making new friends...meals together... Holy conversations...a little hard work...singing frogs...crossing new territories...consider joining a group heading to Belize in 2015. Come to an interest meeting on **September 28, 2:00 p.m. at the District Office (40 Southgate Court, Suite 101, Harrisonburg, VA)**. For more information, Contact Melissa Fretwell at melissaifretwell@gmail.com

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

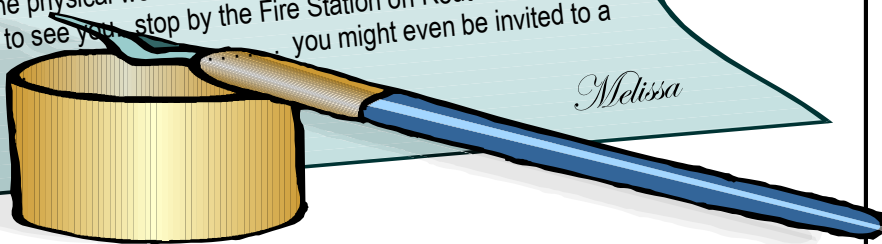
A Reflection from the Mission Trip to Hatteras...

As many of us were celebrating July 4, folks in the Salvo, North Carolina area were evacuating to higher ground in the midst of Hurricane Arthur. Working through the United Methodist Volunteers in Mission, nine individuals from the Harrisonburg District traveled to offer support about two weeks post the storm.

Jim and his wife were in the final stages of drying their basement. Larry and his wife were ripping out flooring. Tombstones needed to be placed back on their pedestals. Insulation in 3 foot crawlspaces needed to be removed. Snakes needed new friends. One homeowner needed a tarp put on her roof until the roofers arrived... (this is a great story to ask Cody Keatzer (Grottoes), Bill Lalla or Hope Bain (Vision of Hope), Scott Dodrill or Wes Ford (Keezletown) or David Hardesty (Brucetown-Winchester District).

Better yet, talk to Alissa Dodrill (Keezletown), Tierney Conley (First Assembly of God) or Melissa Fretwell about the snakes! Holy connections were made through out the week. Methodists interacted with Baptists, Virginians with North Carolinians, and little kids with big kids found space to play. The physical work on the island is nearly complete yet the people of Salvo would love to see you. Stop by the Fire Station on Route 12 and ask for the Hooper Family. you might even be invited to a fish fry.

Melissa



Partners in Ministry Retreat: On Monday, August 25, district pastors met at Overlook's Blessings Lodge for instructions on Charge Conferences and a retreat on time management, "*It's About Time*", presented by the Reverends Franklin Gillis, Tommy Herndon, and Glen Langston.



Pastors work long hours and have to struggle to keep control of their work week. Unfortunately, many have not taken the time to learn how to control those hours and how to manage their usage of time.

With that in mind, the Harrisonburg District Partners in Ministry [PiM] held a one day retreat at Overlook's Blessings Lodge to explore better time management.

Rev. Dr. R. Franklin Gillis, retired United Methodist minister, and author of the book, *It's About Time*, spent three hours with us, sharing tips on time management, delegating, and setting priorities.

He told us effective time management involved the use of principles and practices that result in the most efficient way to accomplish tasks and achieve goals.

He explained that most things we feel the need to accomplish fall into one of three categories: "have to, want to, ought to." Have tos get done because of pressure. Want tos get done because of pleasure. Ought tos do not get done because they are established by others and are of little interest to us.

He encouraged us to define our primary tasks, make time to get them done, and learn to delegate responsibilities that can and should be done by others.



Tommy Herndon spent an hour reminding us that one of our primary tasks is to spend time in the community and less time in the office. He reminded us that we need to be available to those beyond the local church and need to see to it that the church does the same.

Glen Langston concluded the five hour workshop with an hour presentation about why home visits by clergy are waning and why it is crucial that we reestablish that critical part of our pastoral ministries.

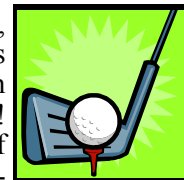
Glen Langston

District Opportunities



Asbury Youth in Harrisonburg will blast **BACK TO SCHOOL** with a **concert by 3 Shades of Blue** and **skits by ACTS of God**—our own skit troupe on **September 6, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. in Slaven Hall, Asbury UMC, 205 S. Main Street, Harrisonburg!** Admission is only \$5.00. 3 Shades of Blue is a Christian rock band from Philadelphia, PA. They are 3 brothers (Jeffery-19, Jesse-19, Austin-18) + a guy who has refrigerator rights at their house (Dane-19 who also happens to play bass)! They are known for their unique blend of rock and lyrics of hope. Contact Cynthia Hay at cynhay@verizon.net, Asbury UMC youth director, for additional information.

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



Once again, I have been encouraged by faithful men here on our district. One example from this past month is when I was invited to take part in men's ministry at Otterbein UMC in Harrisonburg. I attended their monthly breakfast meeting, sang with the men's choir and was asked to speak at their annual Men's Sunday worship service. It was wonderful getting to know some of the men who are faithfully serving the Lord through the Men's group there. The fact that they are faithfully chartered with the General Commission on United Methodist Men every year, meet on a regular monthly schedule, have missions that they support every year, and serve in many areas outside their group is evidence that they take this responsibility to make a space for men to grow in their relationship with Christ seriously. I was blessed by my time spent with them and I am hoping to be able to spend time with other groups in the upcoming months on our district who are just as committed!

Please remember that our **District Fall Rally** will be on **September 18th, 6:30 p.m., at Furnace United Methodist Church**. We will be blessed to have our own District Superintendent, Reverend Tommy Herndon, to speak with us that evening! Don't forget to register before **September 11th!!!** [Information and a registration form are attached with this newsletter.]

Also, keep in mind the **Annual Conference Men's Retreat** in **Blackstone, November 7-9**. You can register online at www.vaumc.org.
Your brother in Christ, Scott Dillard



The **District United Methodist Women** will have a **Prayer Breakfast at Furnace United Methodist Church on Saturday, September 20th, 9:00 a.m.** The guest speaker will be Lisa Nichols, a deaconess and director of Henry Fork Service Center. We will be bringing needed items for Lisa to take back to the center. You will find a registration form in this newsletter and also in "Pass It On", the District UMW newsletter. Deadline for registration is **September 13th**. Please urge your ladies to join us.

Mark **October 9th** on your calendar for the **District UMW Annual Meeting at Mt. Tabor UMC at 7:00 p.m.** This will include installation of new officers, approving a budget for 2015 and planning for next year. Also, the **Conference UMW Annual Meeting** will be at **Blackstone, October 25-26**. We need a good turnout for both of these events. Please see me for registration forms for the conference annual meeting.

Reminder: all reports are due to the district coordinators by **September 10th**. Also, please send a list of your officers for 2015 to the district UMW secretary as soon as possible for reports due at the end of the year.

Phyllis Foltz, District UMW President



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, or District Administrative Assistant Brenda Woods, brenda.woods@verizon.net to register for these courses.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO RISE

RISE is very excited to announce that we will be turning 4 years old this September! A birthday is such a special occasion; it is a time of celebration where family and friends come together to rejoice the day in which God breathed the breath of life into another of his sons or daughters. This month, an entire community comes together to celebrate the day in which God placed a desire in the hearts of a small group of people, a desire to truly live like Jesus lived and to show the world what love can really look like. This radiating love that knows no bounds, which seeks those who feel unworthy of such a love, and also those who think they are above his love.

Over the past four years this community has been love to not only the Harrisonburg community, but to the world. When a child of God shows up on our doorstep in need, we have given him soap and diapers from our RISE and Shine ministry. We started a backpack ministry so when a child is hungry we send food to her school, which she can take home so her brothers and sisters will not go hungry that weekend. And when we see that there are people in the world who are starving and have nowhere to turn, we package 40,000 meals to send, not only to stop hunger, but as a sign of hope and love. There are a great many people in this world who hunger for love, who hunger to make a difference and this month we are celebrating a community of people who have come together through God's love to fulfill the desire that He has placed inside of us.

We would like to thank the entire district for your fervent support over these past four years. Without your generous contributions of soap, food, and money, our ministries would not have the ability to be as successful as they have been.

Alexis Ward, RISE intern

September 1 (Monday) - VUMCenter-Glen Allen & District Office closed for Labor Day Holiday

September 5 (Friday) - "Stained Glass Windows of the Shenandoah Valley", Asbury UMC, 7:00 p.m.*

September 6 (Saturday) - Back to School Concert, Asbury UMC, 7:00 p.m.*

Sept 8 - Nov 10 (Mondays) - Divorce Recovery Workshops, Otterbein UMC, 7:00 p.m.*

September 14 (Sunday) - Keezletown UMM Golf Challenge, 2:00 p.m.*

September 18 (Thursday) - District UMM Fall Rally & Dinner, Furnace UMC, 6:30 p.m.*

September 20 (Saturday) - District United Methodist Women Prayer Breakfast, Furnace UMC, 9:00 a.m.*

September 25 (Thursday) - District Committee on The

Ordained Ministry, District Office, 9:00 a.m.

September 27 (Saturday) - Lay Servant Training, Mt. Tabor UMC, 9:00 a.m.*

September 28 (Sunday) - Belize 2015 Interest Meeting, District Office, 2:00 p.m.*

October 3 (Friday) - Deadline for District Members-at-Large Nominations to 2015 Annual Conference/Nominations for General & Jurisdictional Conferences to District Office

October 6 (Monday) - Partners in Ministry [PiM], Otterbein UMC, 9:00 a.m.

October 30 (Thursday) - District Committee on The Ordained Ministry, District Office, 9:00 a.m.

November 9 (Sunday) - District Conference & Leadership Training, Bridgewater UMC, 3:00 p.m.

* Denotes related article elsewhere in this newsletter

The **District Council on Ministries** will meet on **November 20**. Please see information on the Ministry Teams below.
Bob Talbott, Chairperson



Faith Development Ministry Team: The Faith Development Team last meeting for 2014 is **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 Poekert, 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 last meeting date for 2014 is **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



We have just finished a busy summer here at **Lighthouse Children's Center**; we have enjoyed water days, movie days, making crafts, Bible stories, singing and dancing, organized games and free play. Our county school children are reluctantly heading back to school. We are now gearing up for our 2014-2015 school year. Please share with your family and friends that we currently have openings available in our Pre-K program for children 4 years old by September 30. The Pre-K course is for children who will enter Kindergarten next fall. We also have a number of openings for 2 and 3 year old children. Please keep Lighthouse students, families, and staff in your prayers.

Sheila Morris, Director

Otterbein United Methodist Church will be holding a **Divorce Recovery Workshop** open to anyone in the community who is separated, in the process of divorce or in the process of adjusting to a divorce. The workshop offers these persons a safe, loving and open place to go where others will listen if they want to share and try to understand. The ten-week sessions will be held **7:00 - 9:00 p.m. every Monday from September 8th through November 10th**. Registration is held during the first two weeks and child care is provided. The church is located at the corner of West Market and High Streets in Harrisonburg. To pre-register OR for more information call Otterbein Church at (540) 434-7747.



The Asbury Sacred Arts Committee presents D. Lee Beard and the premiere public viewing of his 2014 **documentary film, "Stained Glass Windows of the Shenandoah Valley,"** on **Friday, September 5th** in the **Asbury UMC sanctuary at 7:00 p.m.** Filmed at 17 locations in the Shenandoah Valley, the film includes footage of glass restoration of Asbury Church's windows by Raynal Studio in Natural Bridge. The presentation includes brief introductory remarks by Mr. Beard and a time for questions following the presentation. Contact (540) 434-2836 or e-mail: www.asburyumc.cc for additional information. Free admission and handicap accessible.



Inmate Christmas:

Christmas may be four months away but we have to plan ahead. We need items for Inmate

Christmas such as **chap-stick, 6 oz. size toothpaste and any kind of plastic tube, 5" x 8" mini pads must have wide binding at top and #2 yellow pencils unsharpened.** Last year we provided 3,000 inmate Christmas bags. These items are greatly appreciated by inmates. If you or your church group could begin collecting now it, would be greatly appreciated.

The Apple Tree Project: Kingsway sends out paper apples with a child's name, age, gender and gift requests to churches every year. Churches respond well to these requests. Thank you! However, Kingsway receives requests for children's gifts all year and we try to keep some extra gifts on hand. These are some gifts that come in handy: Axe & Calgon Shower Sets for older boys and girls; Barbie dolls; winter hats, scarves & gloves for girls; fleece covers, and balls.

Contact Pat at 540-433-5658 or e-mail KingswayOutreach@hotmail.com



Sincere sympathy is extended to the Rev. David R. Burrough, pastor of First UMC in Broadway, and his family. The Rev. David Burrough's father, the Rev. Austin Burrough, passed away on Tuesday, August 5, 2014, in Fairmont, West Virginia.

Calculations and information have been received from the Conference Connectional Ministries Office for the **District Lay Members-at-Large to the 2015 Annual Conference** in Roanoke, June 19-21, 2015. The Harrisonburg District will be allowed to elect a total of **25** District Members-at-Large and **8** District Alternate Lay Members-at-Large. By previous District Conference action, 2 of the total 25 District Members-at-Large will be the District Treasurer and the District Director of Lay Servants Ministries; therefore, **23** District Members-at-Large will be voted on at District Conference, **Sunday, November 9, 2014 at Bridgewater United Methodist Church.** District Clergy and Local Church Lay Leaders have been sent detailed information and nomination forms. The deadline for nomination forms to be received in the district office is **Friday, October 3, 2014.** Please check with your pastor and/or Lay Leader for copies of the nomination form.



At the Harrisonburg District Conference, nominations will be received for lay members to General and Jurisdictional Conferences in 2016. Each district may nominate up to one person for each 2,000 lay members. Harrisonburg District Membership = 17,422 (or 8.71) = **9 lay nominations may be made from the**

Harrisonburg District to General and Jurisdictional Conferences. District nominees need not be from the district which nominates them. A nomination form for General and Jurisdictional Lay Members has been sent to District Clergy and Local Church Lay Leaders. Deadline for nominations to be received in the district office is **Friday, October 3, 2014**, in order for information to be included in the district conference booklet.

Clergy nomination forms will be posted on the conference website in January 2015. Completed nomination forms must be returned to the director of Connectional Ministries no later than **March 1, 2015.** The deadline is non-negotiable.

The Virginia Conference will elect 22 delegates to the 2016 General Conference (11 clergy and 11 laity) and an additional 11 clergy and 11 laity to join the General Conference delegates for the 2015 Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference. The **2016 General Conference** will be held at the **Convention Center in Portland, Ore., May 10-20, 2016.** The theme is "Therefore go," based on the Great Commission in Matthew 28:19-20.



DISTRICT NEWS
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The United Methodist Church

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Virginia Conference on the web at www.vaumc.org



Attention pastors: The local church pictures that have been received in the district office have been sent to be framed. We would like to have pictures of all the Harrisonburg District churches soon to be able to decorate the new district office walls. If an 8 x 10 picture of your church has not been sent to the district office, please have someone in your church do this immediately. Thank you for your assistance in helping us complete this project!



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!