



July - August 2014

THE DISTRICT CORE

A NEWSLETTER OF THE WINCHESTER DISTRICT • VIRGINIA CONFERENCE • THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
We envision churches where all God's people are welcomed at table, nurtured and transformed to be Christ to others in the world.

<i>Appointment</i>	<i>New Pastor</i>	<i>Coming from...</i>	<i>Previous Pastor</i>	<i>Going to...</i>
Amor y Paz	Victor R. Gomez	Shared Appt. with Mt. Bethel View - Winchester Dist.	Martha de la Rosa	Retiring
Duncan Memorial	J. Jeffrey Butcher	Stephens City - Winchester Dist.	R. Douglas Geeting	Wesley - Winchester Dist.
John Mann	Laetitia Schoeman	First Appointment	James E. Page, Jr.	Galloway - Arlington Dist.
Kernstown	Aaron W. Fitch	Relief-Hites Chapel Winchester Dist.	W. Clay Knick	Main Street (Waynesboro) Staunton Dist.
Macedonia	Michel Q. Mayton	Wesley - Winchester Dist.	Jason B. Duley	Galilee - Arlington Dist.
Marshall-Middleburg Charge	Leah A. DeLong	Wesley Chapel-Pine Grove Winchester Dist.	Edna F. Moore	Retiring
Pleasant View Charge	Haley E. Mills	First Appointment	Hung Su Lim	Returning to School (Princeton)
Rectortown	Charles N. Moore	Retirement	John A. Martin, Sr.	Leave of Absence
Reliance-Ridings Chapel Charge	Linda H. Lowe	East Nottoway Charge - Farmville Dist.	Mary Jane Lock	Leave of Absence
Relief-Hites Chapel Charge	J. Richard McDowell	Rodes - Charlottesville Dist.	Aaron W. Fitch	Kernstown - Winchester Dist.
Riverton	C. Marc Roberson	Welltown - Winchester Dist.	J. Michael Derflinger	New Town - York River Dist.
Short Hill Charge	Marcellus (Mark) H. Jagoe IV	First Appointment	Philip H. Brumback	Wesley Chapel-Pine Grove Charge Winchester Dist.
Stephens City	Robert W. Gochenour	Chestnut Memorial - York River Dist.	J. Jeffrey Butcher	Duncan Memorial - Winchester Dist.
Welltown	Wayne C. Moore	Fox Hill Central - York River Dist.	C. Marc Roberson	Riverton - Winchester Dist.

<i>Appointment</i>	<i>New Pastor</i>	<i>Coming from...</i>	<i>Previous Pastor</i>	<i>Going to...</i>
Wesley	R. Douglas Geeting	Duncan Memorial - Winchester Dist.	Michel Q. Mayton	Macedonia - Winchester District
Wesley Chapel - Pine Grove Charge	Philip H. Brumback	Short Hill Charge - Winchester Dist.	Leah DeLong	Marshall-Middleburg Charge Winchester Dist.

Report from 4 Cans 4 Conference Collection ~ 2014

Friends,

Here's the word from the "final" weigh in at the Peninsula Food Bank on Monday, 23 June, after the conclusion of the 2014 Virginia Annual Conference. We received - and transmitted to the Food Bank:



- + **9,820 pounds of food** - canned and dry goods
- + **\$845.00 - cash gifts**
- + This will mean that by your gifts, a total of **11,429 meals were provided** to the Hampton/Newport News local area Peninsula Food Bank!
- + 1 new - **12' x 12' canopy** (\$138.00)
- + **The U-Haul Company gave us a \$150.00 Gift Certificate**, which substantially underwrote the \$198.17 cost of the 27' truck! Bless them, too!
- + There were nearly **2 dozen different volunteers**, mostly from the local Langley US Air Force Base (Firefighters, *on their day off!*) who moved the hundreds of bags and boxes of food into the truck.

Donna Tighe, the Food Drive Coordinator for the Peninsula Food Bank has called the Virginia Conference Laity, Youth, and Clergy her "**new heroes!**" for your extraordinary generosity of your giving to help folks in need... at a annual time when their intake of food supplies is typically the lowest!

Many of you brought flats of canned goods - 12/24 cans/package - and more; many brought large boxes of cereals, rice, and mac-and-cheese! Peanut Butter and Jelly were there, too!

And all brought the grace of God, shared in the best Wesleyan / Methodist way of being concerned for "the least, the last, and the lost!"

Thank you, thank you, thank you! On behalf of the 11,000+ who will be eating one of the meals you've provided, Thank you.... and God Bless You, too!

Next year, when we gather in Roanoke, we'll do it again... and, hopefully, exceed the 10,000 pound level/goal on the 7th attempt! (We were really close this year!) If you'd like to help in 2015, please let me know! We need someone to help secure/bring the truck, make the publicity happen, enlist / schedule / coordinate the volunteers, receive the donations at the curb, put up the tent, bring lunch (!), etc. It's a great way of being in ministry on a couple of lovely days in mid-June in the Star City in 2015!

Grace to you, and peace.

Jim Earley
4 Cans 4 Conference Coordinator ~ 2014

2014 Virginia Annual Conference

June 20-22, 2014 at Hampton Roads Convention Center, Hampton, VA.

Virginia United Methodists were water washed and spirit born at the 232nd session of Virginia Annual Conference, held June 20-22 at the Hampton Roads Convention Center.

Presentations centered on the theme of “Lord, Renew Us With Your Spirit,” with most speakers touching on how the presence of the Holy Spirit can renew us and our local churches. Then during the closing worship, the 3,000 attendees remembered their baptism by touching water in small basins throughout the hall.

Members voted to “postpone indefinitely” a resolution that would have asked the 2016 General Conference to change language in the Book of Discipline related to human sexuality.

In his Episcopal Address during the opening session on Friday, Bishop Young Jin Cho called for a period of discernment throughout the conference on the sexuality issue over the coming church year. Cho said he changed his mind about dealing with the issue after speaking with members of the conference’s Common Table. “I had hoped to spend more time on mission and revitalizing the churches,” Cho said. He called the issues of same-sex marriage and other matters related to homosexual inclusion a “gathering storm” for the church, mentioning talk of schism and the counter proposals to keep the church together. “This is a time when we surely need to pay and seek guidance from our Lord,” Cho said, also asking members to “pray for the future of our United Methodist Church very seriously.”

The proposal was part of a look at things coming for the conference in the new church year. The others include the expansion of the new Discipleship Circles model – creating small groups composed of lay and clergy that participants from more than one church or district for spiritual vitality, personal accountability and collaborative learning – the start of new faith communities, and the conference’s jumping into the denomination’s Imagine No Malaria effort.

Cho challenged everyone to take on Imagine No Malaria as a spiritual discipline rather than just another fund-raising drive. The bishop said he would also like to see every church in the conference participating. After the positive vote on the Imagine No Malaria effort, Bishop Cho donned a t-shirt and broke into dance with youth and others to Pharrell Williams’ “Happy” song. Conference director of Mission and Social Justice the Rev. Glenn Rowley introduced Maria Maxwell, who will be the conference field coordinator for Imagine No Malaria. Cabinet members spelled out “Save 100,000+ Lives” with large letters on the back of their t-shirts. Bishop Cho then asked “after dancing, what next? ... Open your checkbooks!”

In recapping this past year, Bishop Cho also announced that more than 200 churches had signed the bishop’s Prayer Covenant, and his Convocation on Prayer was very well attended.

Three new faith communities were introduced, bringing to 26 the number of new faith communities that have been started since the adoption of an emphasis on planting churches six years ago.

Members approved a resolution calling for an appeal for a phased-in increase in the federal minimum wage, but defeated a measure asking the conference pensions and benefits agency to divest from fossil fuel companies.

Preaching for the Service of Remembrance, the Rev. Rhonda VanDyke Colby, vice president at United Methodist-related Shenandoah University, imagined Jesus as a gardener, not a carpenter. “It makes sense,” she said. “God’s world started in a garden. ... Jesus says a sower went out to sow, not a strategic planter. ... Jesus is betrayed in a garden and on the third day after his death, where does Mary go? (Murmurs of “a garden” throughout the crowd.) Of course she does. That was not a mistake.”

Dr. Elmer Colyer, professor of systematic theology and Wesley Studies at the University of Dubuque (Iowa) Theological Seminary, is leading “teaching sessions” during conference. Colyer said the Virginia Conference is doing something right after hearing of its financial successes in the past year. “Virginia is bucking the trend and you ought to be proud of it.”

But there is a malaise that is disturbing the larger Church, he said. “Fear propels congregations into survival mode. It’s often a self-fulfilling death spiral.”

Political battles and cultural controversies “hinder the church from moving forward,” he said. Colyer suspects the greater problem is “connection,” not the Book of Discipline. John Wesley said connection is deep and utterly real – a union and communion that unites us with God and others, Colyer said. “Connection is a gift that comes to us from God.”

Bishop Robert Hayes from the Oklahoma Area led Saturday morning worship and preached for the Service for the Ordering of Ministry. Hayes told ordinands that “there are no easy jobs in God’s kingdom if you do it right. We may as well say that here and now.”

George Howard, deputy general secretary of the General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM), handed out awards for having the highest giving to The Advance for Christ and His Church (\$2.5 million) in 2013, and for leading the Southeastern Jurisdiction in giving to missionary support. Howard also praised the conference for contributing \$1.1 million to the United Methodist Committee On Relief (UMCOR).

As Bishop Hayes said a few minutes later, “Virginia is one of the most outstanding – if not the most outstanding – conferences in the denomination in terms of reaching out to people.”

Bishop Cho commissioned the Rev. Pat Watkins as a missionary with the GBGM, working on the “Care of God’s Creation” through the Council of Bishops. Deaconesses Larni Bibay and Anselma Samson were also commissioned; they were consecrated as deaconesses in April in Louisville.

Members as always brought health kits collected for UMCOR to Annual Conference. The total number of kits collected was 41,218, with a total value of \$533,834. Specifically: 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. They also collected more than 85,000 pounds of non-perishable food items for the Peninsula Food Bank.

At the Service for the Ordering of Ministry, 13 were ordained as elders, one ordained deacons, 22 commissioned as provisional members, and 27 licensed as local pastors. One elder also had her orders recognized. Forty-one clergy took retired status this year.

Denman Evangelism awards went to the Rev. David Burch, pastor of Vision of Hope UMC, Harrisonburg District; David Bailey of Trinity UMC, James River District; and to Casey Heinlein, who attends Burnt Factory UMC, Winchester, and is the current chair of the Conference Council on Youth Ministries.

Members approved a 2015 budget of more than \$32.7 million, down by one percent from the 2014 budget.

Conference membership stands at 330,696, down 1,735 from the previous year. Worship attendance stands at 104,231, down by 897 persons.

In his sermon for closing worship, Bishop Cho talked about coming to the U.S. in 1979 from Korea. He compared that adjustment to how our churches are struggling in a new way of being that is very different from the culture of 20 or 30 years ago. “We are losing touch with the world and the communities in which we live. Truly, we are living in a foreign land. (Churches) are not gaining new members. They do not know how to reach out into their community. They sit and wait for people to come to them.

“Please, do not stop praying. Now, we go back to our mission field. 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.”

Learn more at www.vaumc.org/AC2014.

-Neill Caldwell is editor of the Virginia United Methodist Advocate



Rev. Raymond Wrenn and Noelle Schoeman (Winchester District) offer the opening prayers.



The Cabinet spells out 'Save 100,000+ Lives.



2014 Class of Retirees



Children's Choir from First UMC, Fox Hill, and First UMC, Hampton sing 'This Little Light of Mine'.



Annual Conference music leaders, Ebenezer Worship Team.



Rev. Rhonda VanDyke-Colby preaches during the Memorial Service.



Bishop Cho dances the 'Happy Dance' to 'Imagine No Malaria'.



Bishop Robert Hayes preaches for the Service of Ordination.



Happy dancing with the Bishop.



Bishop Cho with 2014 Class of Elders. Far right: Rev. Adam Sowder & Rev. Linda Lowe, Winchester District.



Learning Together for the Transformation of the World

Winchester District School of Christian Mission

MISSION ENCOUNTER
Saturday, September 6, 2014
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Stephens City UMC
5291 Main Street
Stephens City, VA 22655

REGISTRATION FORM
Registration Deadline August 26, 2014

Name: _____ Church: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____

ZIP: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Name tag should read: _____

Cost for Mission Encounter: \$15 per person (includes lunch)

Child Care will not be available for this event.

Make checks payable to: Winchester District United Methodist Women
Mail registration form and check to:

Judy T. Smith, 567 Shady Creek Rd, Clear Brook, VA 22624
Phone number: 540-667-0836

Indicate class preference

- Geographic Study: Roma of Europe
 Spiritual Growth: How Is It With Your Soul?
 Issue Study: The Church and People with Disabilities

Study books for your class **must be purchased in advance** from Mission Resource Center

United Methodist Women Orders
P.O. Box 742349
Atlanta, GA 30374-2349
Or
www.umwmissionresources.org
Or
1-800-305-9857

For Administrative Use Only: Amount Paid _____ Class _____ No. _____

CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING STUDIES

Geographic Study: Roma of Europe

This study will introduce us to the Roma, with an emphasis on Eastern Europe. You will explore their history, the ways they are treated in contemporary European culture, introduce their lifestyle and spirituality, and investigate ways the church and other organizations are working alongside them. Study Leaders: Linda Carty and Ken 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, and moves from the individual to the church to the world.

Study Leader: Darlene Runalduie

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 multisensory worship and education. Study Leader: Rev. Elizabeth von Trapp Walker:

WHAT IS IT?

An opportunity for men and women, as well as clergy to learn about being partners in God’s global mission and to grow spiritually through study and worship.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

For anyone who has wondered how we do mission, where we are in mission and most importantly why we are called to live out missional lives as disciples of Jesus Christ.

WHY SHOULD I COME?

Men and Women – Mission learning and involvement for young and old alike.

Clergy – Learn about the Wesleyan Theology of Mission and implementation in the local church.

~ The day will begin with morning worship.

~ Participants will receive material that will be helpful in teaching the studies in the local church.

~ Please bring Bible, notebook, pencil & textbook.

CONTINUING EDUCATION CEU credit offered for clergy upon request.

PLEASE NOTE

9:00 AM: Registration and Gathering

9:30 AM -10:00 AM: Plenary – Rev. Denise Bates of the Front Royal UMC

10:00 AM -12:30 PM: 1st half of class

12:30 PM -1:30 PM: Lunch with mission presentation by Martha Reynolds

1:30 PM - 4:00 PM: 2nd half of class and dismissal

This event is sponsored by the Winchester District United Methodist Women.

Burial Plots for Sale

The Winchester District Board of Missions has been the recipient of two (2) burial plots that are located in Shenandoah Memorial Park. Both plots are located in the Garden of Gethsemane, Lot 11B, plots 1 & 2. We are asking \$1500 a piece for the burial plots. They are valued at \$1880 each.

If you are interested or need more information please call the district office at (540) 662-7332 and ask for Sheryl or Melanie.



Winchester District United Methodist Churches Change the World Mission Fair

SAVE THE DATE

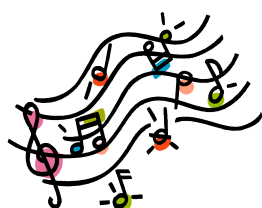
Saturday, October 11, 2014 Clarke County Fair Grounds

An Afternoon of:



Mission Opportunities,

Music - Fellowship Preaching



Voices of Youth concerts scheduled for July 13-20

Members of the [Voices of Youth](#) 2014 "Forward, Upward, Onward, Together" tour will spend time in Nassau, Bahamas, working with Bahamas Methodist Habitat, then return to spread the word through worship and music.

Concerts are scheduled for Sunday, July 13, 7 p.m., Arlington District, Herndon UMC, 701 Bennett St., Herndon; **Monday, July 14, 7 p.m., Winchester District, Braddock Street UMC, 115 Wolfe St., Winchester;** Tuesday, July 15, 7 p.m., Staunton District, Central UMC, 14 North Lewis St., Staunton;



Bishop Cho shows the two Awards presented to the Virginia Conference by GBGM.

DISTRICT CALENDAR

- ♦ July 3 - District Office Closes at 1 PM
- ♦ July 4 - District Office Closed
- ♦ July 14 - Voices of Youth Concert, Braddock St. UMC - 7 PM
- ♦ July 22 - Clergy Welcome Dinner, Shenandoah University - 6 PM
- ♦ July 29 - District Committee on Congregational Excellence, District Office - 10 AM



- ♦ August 17-18 - Clergy Retreat, Camp Overlook



The District Office will close at 1 PM on Fridays, beginning July 12th and continuing through August 29th!!



**Lay Servant
Training**

**Friday,
September 26
&
Saturday,
September 27**

Braddock Street UMC

**The Basic Course and Four
Advanced Courses will be offered!**



DISTRICT CORE

**Winchester District
Virginia Conference
The United Methodist Church
21 S. Kent Street
Winchester, VA 22601
Phone: (540) 662-7332
Fax: (540) 722-6780
Email: sherylpifer@vaumc.org**

Young Jin Cho-Area Bishop
Larry Thompson -District Superintendent
Martha Reynolds - Director of Congregational Excellence
Sheryl Pifer-Administrative Assistant
Melanie Melester-Financial Administrator
Larry Scheuble-District Lay Leader

Website:
www.winchesterdistrictumc.org