



March 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.*



Dr. Marcia McFee

## **Worship Workshop**

*With*

**Dr. Marcia McFee**

**Saturday May 31, 2014**

**8:15 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

**Macedonia UMC**

**1941 Macedonia Church Road**

**White Post VA**

**Morning Sessions:** 1<sup>st</sup> Creating Worship in Deep Soul Intentional Design.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Think like a Film Maker—Doing this without a big budget

**Afternoon Sessions:** Dynamics of Flow – Politics of change and how to move congregation along - Planning Worship

**M**arcia McFee is an author, worship designer and leader, professor, preacher and artist. Her engaging and interactive style has been called “refreshing,” “inspiring,” and “unforgettable.” Marcia combines her background and experience in professional companies of music, theater and dance with a variety of worship and preaching styles in order to bring a fresh experience of the Gospel to each worship setting.

Marcia has provided worship design and leadership at numerous international and regional gatherings. Marcia’s passion for helping the church to worship God fully is especially directed toward the education of local congregations. *She travels extensively in order to teach regional workshops that are accessible to congregational leaders and worship teams. Participants have commented that these workshops are inspirational as well as practical.*

As well as her experience with local church worship, Marcia specializes in designing and leading conference worship. Over the last 18 years, she has coordinated worship for countless regional and agency conferences. Most recently, she designed and led 29 worship services over a 10 day period for the international quadrennial General Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Dr. McFee received a Master’s of Theological Studies degree at Saint Paul School of Theology with a concentration in Preaching and Worship, where she recently received the Outstanding Graduate Award from the Alumni Association. She earned a Ph.D. in Liturgical Studies at the Graduate Theological Union with an allied field of Ethics. She has been a guest lecturer and adjunct faculty at twelve seminaries. Marcia is an avid skier and the co-author of “Spiritual Adventures in the Snow: Skiing and Snowboarding as Renewal for Your Soul”

# **Winchester District United Methodist Church**

presents

## **Worship Workshop**

with

### **Dr. Marcia McFee**

### **Teaching Day**

*Open to all (laity and clergy)*

## **Saturday, May 31, 2014**

### **8:15 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.**

### **Macedonia United Methodist Church**

1941 Macedonia Church Road

White Post, VA

Cost: \$15.00 per person



### **Teaching Day Registration Form—Registration Deadline May 23**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Church \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Number for lunch \_\_\_\_\_ Special Dietary needs \_\_\_\_\_

Childcare registration: first name and age of child \_\_\_\_\_

Do you want a lunch for your child? yes \_\_\_ no \_\_\_

**Make checks payable to Winchester District UMC**

**and designate for Marcia McFee Event**

Mail registration to:

Winchester District UMC

21 South Kent Street

Winchester VA 22601

Phone number : 540-662-7332



## Voices of Youth 2014 tour to be July 3-20

The 2014 Voices of Youth (VOY) tour, a Virginia Conference mission program designed to connect high school students with those in need through music and mission, will be **July 3-20**. After a time of orientation, group building and rehearsal, the choir will travel to Nassau in the Bahamas to work with Bahamas Methodist Habitat for one week.

Choir members will then return to Virginia to present worship experiences in host churches throughout the conference. VOY still needs several adults interested in travelling as a part of the adult staff for the trip.

For applications and more information, go to [www.voyva.org](http://www.voyva.org) or contact VOY Coordinator Jenn Dixon at [coordinator@voyva.org](mailto:coordinator@voyva.org) or [jennydpt07@gmail.com](mailto:jennydpt07@gmail.com) or (757) 348-7084.

## Ethics II training offered for clergy, church professionals

All Virginia Conference clergy and church professionals are required to attend Ethics II training, sponsored by the Board of Ordained Ministry, which focuses on boundaries and ethical use of technology and social media. Training events are being offered on four different districts each year, and training will be completed by 2016.

Events have been scheduled: ; Lynchburg District, Timberlake UMC, **April 3, 2014**; Elizabeth River District, Oak Grove UMC, **Sept. 24, 2014**; Alexandria District, Fairfax UMC, **Nov. 13, 2014**; Staunton District, St. John's UMC, **Feb. 19, 2015**; Farmville District,

To register, go to the [calendar of events on the conference website](#) and click on the date of the event you wish to attend.

## Bishop's Convocation on Prayer

The Rev. Tom Albin, Dean of the Upper Room Ministries and Ecumenical Relations, will be the plenary speaker at the Bishop's Convocation on Prayer on Saturday, March 29, 9:30 AM - 4 PM, at Trinity UMC in Richmond. There will also be small group learning opportunities in the areas of prayer and Wesleyan spiritual disciplines. For more information or to register online go to [www.vaumc.org](http://www.vaumc.org); click on Upcoming Events and then going to March 29 on the calendar. You will be asked to choose one workshop from the following:



- **Centering Prayer** – Rev. Kiok Cho
- **Wesleyan Spiritual Disciplines: Means of Grace and Acts of Mercy** – Rev. Sarah Locke and Rev. Taylor Mertins
- **Viviendo para orar y orando para vivir**, Living to pray and praying to live – Rev. Lydia Rodriguez (Taught in Spanish)
- **Journaling: Best Tool for Spiritual Growth** – Rev. Young Bong Kim
- **Prayer Covenant Congregations** – Bishop Young Jin Cho
- **Lord, Teach Us to Pray** – Rev. Tom Albin
- **Body Prayer** – Rev. James Melson
- **How to Pray With Children and Youth** – Rev. Derrick Parson
- **Praying With the Scriptures: Lectio Divina** – Rev. Judy Worthington
- **Introducing Silent Prayer in Worship** – Rev. Janet Salbert

Both laity and clergy are invited to attend (450 limit). Registration cost is \$10 which includes lunch. Registrations will be received at [www.vaumc.org](http://www.vaumc.org). The registration deadline is March 24. For more information, contact Marc Brown at [marcbrown@vaumc.org](mailto:marcbrown@vaumc.org) or (800) 768-6040, ext. 133.

## 5 Talent Academy speaker: Church must show impact on investment



Rev. Clif Christopher

HERNDON - In a folksy, plainspoken style, the Rev. Clif Christopher told participants in the latest 5 Talent Academy teaching session that the biggest sin in our churches is that people love their money more than they love their God.

Christopher, CEO of Horizons Stewardship and considered among the foremost United Methodist authorities on giving, spoke live on March 8 here at Floris UMC and via video link to multiple sites around the Virginia Conference.

Throughout the day, Christopher drew a clear distinction between “rich” and “poor” churches, a difference that has nothing to do with the size of the church budget or how much money is in the bank. He defines a rich church, Christopher said, as one “that fully spends its time on mission and ministry,” while a poor church is one that “spends its time seeking more money.”

“We have not learned how to convince people that they need to give to the church,” he said. “The question is not ‘why give?’ but ‘why give to us?’ People want their money to change other people’s lives and they want to see evidence of the outcomes.”

We must do a better job, Christopher said in his Arkansas twang, communicating how that is happening.

“I see websites and newsletters with announcements about bazaars. Where is the testimony about people’s lives being changed? How do people have a clue what we’re doing?”

Christopher cited several examples where people have given more of their money to nonprofit groups or universities than to their church. Giving to nonprofits expands by about 5 percent each year, while church giving is on the decrease. “The pie is the same size, but someone is not getting any pie! It’s the church, and (people) are not choosing us anymore because they’re not convinced the church is still changing lives.”

Stories of how the church is constantly losing membership are not helping, he said.

“If that’s your track record, why should I want to invest in you? ‘Because your grandfather did’ doesn’t work anymore. Wake up! The church does stupid stuff like saying how broke we are. You think people are saying ‘Halleluiaah, I’ve found a bankrupt church to join!’ ... If we’re not broke we pretend like we are. ... Givers back winners, not losers.”

Some churches refuse to talk about money, or if they do, treat it as an evil thing. “The church believes money is evil so they keep all that evil stuff with the lay people. They won’t ‘taint’ clergy with that stuff. It’s the dumbest thing on the planet that you pastor doesn’t know what the people are giving. That is mind-boggling, and 180-degrees wrong.”

Christopher said “impact” is the biggest word to remember. “Our ‘product’ is a changed human being. Tell people ‘here is the impact of what we’re doing right now,’ how the world is being made better. We need to spend more time with that rather than on how we’re going to trim the budget this year.”

“If people see evidence that people’s lives are being changed, they’ll keep shopping at your store,” Christopher added. “If not, they won’t come back. It’s as simple as that. If a shoe store says they don’t carry your size, you won’t go back.”

It used to be that two-thirds of Americans gave to their religious institution. Today it’s down to 32 percent. Among United Methodists, 30 percent give nothing to their church, and among those who do give, it’s only an average of 1 percent of their total income. (Compared to Mormons, who give 4.7 percent of their income, the highest rate of giving.)

The reason, Christopher said, is lack of commitment. An Army tank veteran of the 1991 Gulf War, he described Iraqi troops surrendering en masse as soon as they saw American forces. “They quit because they had no real commitment to stay and fight,” he said. “I’m afraid what we’ve done in The United Methodist Church is recruit the Iraqi Army. We must rise to the cause of the Savior. But people say ‘No, I joined for the potlucks, I don’t want to be in the fight.’ We must tell people what is expected of them is to be a disciple. Nothing in the Bible says ‘go forth and make members...’ We have to require classes that will tell people exactly what is expected of them.”

In the opening sermon for the day, Floris UMC senior pastor the Rev. Tom Berlin said that most churches and church members say that “one day” they will be generous. “If you’re waiting for generosity to ‘break out,’ it’s not going to happen,” Berlin said. “Generosity happens by design. You have to want it. You have to plan it. Your ‘rich uncle’ is not going to die. ... This is the day the Lord has made.”

Berlin said Floris is a church of generosity not because its members are wealthy – “The second-largest free lunch program in the region is at a school one mile from us, and we’ve had a relationship with that elementary school for years,” he said – but because the members think the best thing they can do is to invest in the things that will advance God’s kingdom.

“You want your church to be vital?” Berlin asked. “Then address generosity. Build someone a home. Lift up the poor. The church won’t be truly vital until the Finance Committee says ‘let’s do something crazy!’ and people can look at that and say they’re excited about going to church.”

The next scheduled session of the 5 Talent Academy will be on Oct. 4, with Dr. Maria Dixon Hall, a professor of Organizational Communication at Southern Methodist University, speaking about evangelism. Then next spring, the topic will be ministry with the poor, with minister and author Shane Claiborne, leader of The Simple Way, a faith community in inner-city Philadelphia.

*-Neill Caldwell, Editor The Virginia United Methodist Advocate*

## All God’s Children Camp offers mission opportunity

Looking for a great mission opportunity? Collect and donate supplies for All God's Children Camp, a camp for children of incarcerated mothers or fathers. An easy and meaningful opportunity for all ages: wonderful for UMM, UMW, Vacation Bible Schools, and youth groups!



Steps: 1. Decide if you can **Adopt a Cabin**

2. Email Casey to sign up for a cabin.

3. Collect all supplies and organize.

4. Deliver to camp (Aug 2 for Occohannock & Aug 9 for Westview)

A sample of supplies you will need to collect: *(Please email Casey to sign up and get the final list)*

Flannel Blankets, Pillows, Twin Sheet Sets, Towels, ponchos, mesh laundry bags, Bath Kits: (one of each): toothbrush, toothpaste, washcloth or shower puff, comb, deodorant & Cabin Survival Kit (ONE ONLY):

In one large plastic container with lid including: bug spray (spray bottle), paper towel roll, sun screen, container of clorox wipes, wasp/bee spray, Hand sanitizer, pump bottle, Box of tissues

If you cannot Adopt a Cabin; consider donating for all Camps:

-Outside games/balls (soccer balls, basketballs, Frisbees, etc)

-Children's DVD's (PG or G rated only)

-Age-appropriate board games/activities/books/crafts (Ages of campers are 7-12 years old)

-New socks and underwear (various sizes from children’s 6-adult sizes)

-New elastic waistband shorts (various sizes from children’s 6-adult sizes)

Please email Casey Torrence, Director, All God's Children Camp, at [caseytorrence@vaumc.org](mailto:caseytorrence@vaumc.org) with any questions. Check the web site for more details [www.vaumc.org/agcc](http://www.vaumc.org/agcc)

## DISTRICT CALENDAR

- ◆ March 18 - District Committee on Ordained Ministry, District Office - 9:30 AM
- ◆ March 19 - District Finance Committee, District Office - 9:30 AM
- ◆ March 19 - Committee on Superintendency, District Office - 11 AM
- ◆ March 20 - District Board of Missions, District Office - 10 AM
- ◆ March 29 - Bishop's Convocation on Prayer, Trinity UMC in Richmond - 9:30 AM - 4 PM



- ◆ April 7-10 - Cabinet meets in Richmond
- ◆ April 9 - District UMM Exec. Committee, District Office - 7 PM
- ◆ April 11-12 - Confirmation Camp at Camp Overlook
- ◆ April 14 - Clergy Luncheon, Bowling Green Country Club - 12 PM
- ◆ April 15 - District Committee on Ordained Ministry, District Office - 9:30 AM
- ◆ April 18 - District Office Closes at 1 PM
- ◆ April 20 - EASTER DAY
- ◆ April 21 - District Office Closed
- ◆ April 29 - Dist. Committee on Congregational Excellence, District Office - 10 AM



### 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](mailto: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](http://www.winchesterdistrictumc.org)