

DISTRICT NEWS

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

May 2019

Issue 46-5



From Your District Superintendent:

'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'
Matthew 25:40 (NIV)

I am so excited about having such a great church family, and now with a church family that grew from 2 churches to 82 more churches. I am so blessed for being part of a church family in the Harrisonburg District that strives to be vital in the community. I believe, as I have experienced it, that a church that is active within the community is a vital church, and many of the churches in the Harrisonburg District have done exactly that.

See, church is not only what happens inside the four walls of a building. Church is not only worshipping on Sundays. Church is not a Bible study. Church is not pointing out our fingers and calling out the sins of others. Church is not a noun, but a verb that is constantly making Christ's body active everywhere. Church is being the hands and feet of Jesus. You don't have to go too far to be church, we start right where we are and expand as far as we are able. Church is being the body of Christ working together to be the kingdom of God, right here and right now. Church is sharing God's love, both inside and outside the building. Church is what we do from Monday through Saturday right where we are, and then we come together on Sunday to thank and worship our God Almighty.

As I go from church to church in the District, I see that many of our churches are looking for ways to be church. I recently read a church marquee with a special message: "Jesus lives in the community - He only visits the church." Dear Brethren, in Matthew 25, Jesus is telling us how to be church.

*"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat,
I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink,
I was a stranger and you invited me in.
I needed clothes and you clothed me.
I was sick and you looked after me.
I was in prison and you came to visit me."*

He also tells us that every time we do it for the least of these, when we feed the hungry, we give water to the thirsty, when we invite the stranger in, when we give clothes to the naked, when we visit the sick, when we visit those in prison, then we are doing it for Jesus himself.

These are just a few ways to be Church, and that is what makes me excited to be part of such a church family. We are a great family! Let us be the Church God wants us to be.



In Christ, Victor Gómez



From the Bishop

A challenge to read the Bible in 2019

Bible Readings for May

In 2017 participants were asked to read the Bible straight through and in 2018 you were asked to read the Bible chronologically. For 2019 the Bible challenge will be a blended style of reading, a mixture of Old Testament readings and New Testament each day.

May 1	Numbers 9-11; Revelation 18	May 16	1 Kings 10-11; Matthew 8:18-34
May 2	Numbers 12-14; Revelation 19	May 17	1 Kings 12-13; Matthew 9:1-17
May 3	Numbers 15-16; Revelation 20	May 18	1 Kings 14-15; Matthew 9:18-38
May 4	Numbers 17-19; Revelation 21	May 19	1 Kings 16-18; Matthew 10:1-20
May 5	Numbers 20-22; Revelation 22	May 20	1 Kings 19-20; Matthew 10:21-42
May 6	Numbers 23-25; Matthew 1	May 21	1 Kings 21-22; Matthew 11
May 7	Numbers 26-28; Matthew 2	May 22	2 Kings 1-3; Matthew 12:1-23
May 8	Numbers 29-31; Matthew 3	May 23	2 Kings 4-6; Matthew 12:24-50
May 9	Numbers 32-34; Matthew 4	May 24	2 Kings 7-9; Matthew 13:1-30
May 10	Numbers 35-36; Matthew 5:1-26	May 25	2 Kings 10-12; Matthew 13:31-58
May 11	Jonah 1-4; Matthew 5:27-46	May 26	2 Kings 13-14; Matthew 14:1-21
May 12	1 Kings 1-2; Matthew 6:1-18	May 27	2 Kings 15-16; Matthew 14:22-36
May 13	1 Kings 3-5; Matthew 6:19-34	May 28	2 Kings 17-18; Matthew 15:1-20
May 14	1 Kings 6-7; Matthew 7	May 29	2 Kings 19-21; Matthew 15:21-39
May 15	1 Kings 8-9; Matthew 8:1-17	May 30	2 Kings 22-23; Matthew 16
		May 31	2 Kings 24-25; Matthew 17

[resource: www.vaumc.org > office & staff > Bishop > 2019 Bible Challenge]

From the District Director of Congregational Vitality Gordon Meriwether:

May the Lord God, Sovereign to the Universe, bless our Holy Way

It started with an Angel and a Run (Matthew 28:1-8)

I have always been curious with how little attention has been paid in Christendom to the period between the Resurrection and the Ascension/Pentecost. After all Jesus walked among us for 6-7 weeks continuing to teach and prepare us for life without his physical presence, a life to be blessed in the Spirit. Why do we not celebrate His glorified presence more than as an afterthought?

Today, it is as if we take time off to recover from the events of Holy Week, to rest and ponder days of the past and ready ourselves for Pentecost. But these in-between days are full of the glory of the Christ walking among us, a walking miracle continuing to spread the wisdom and the way. I look at this as an post graduate education, a residency of the faith, if you will, preparing each of us, then and now, to continue the quest for salvation, while teaching his followers to walk in His footsteps to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, give comfort to sick and visit to prisoner (Matthew 25:35-36)

All this starts, much like it began, with an Angel and an announcement to a woman named Mary. The Angel again announces that God has broken the bonds of humanity. The first time to a young mother, Mary, announcing the Blessed Conception, then to a disciple and friend named Mary Magdalene (Luke 24:10) to herald the Son of God has escaped the grips of death to rise and walk among us. What Glory! What Joy! Praise God! And then the Angel tells her (and us) to get up and run, to tell all who will listen that Jesus the Christ is Risen!

But now after so many years gone by, we tend to sit these days after Easter in wonder and awe of a story told of long ago, and still spent from the Crucifixion and this Resurrection wondering what do we do now. Is this but an ending of a great story from the pages of history and the word of God? NO!!!!

This is a beginning. . . called from the Angel to shout the Good News. . . Jesus the Christ is Risen! Go you now, run, tell your neighbor in this holy place. Go, now, run, tell your neighborhood, tell your community, tell all that come your way, all that will listen. . . Jesus the Christ has risen!

My Brothers and Sisters, this is not some event of the past relegated to Sunday Schools and Pulpit. This is about you, this is about now, here in the Shenandoah Valley, in the Commonwealth of Virginia, in these United States, throughout God's world. . .

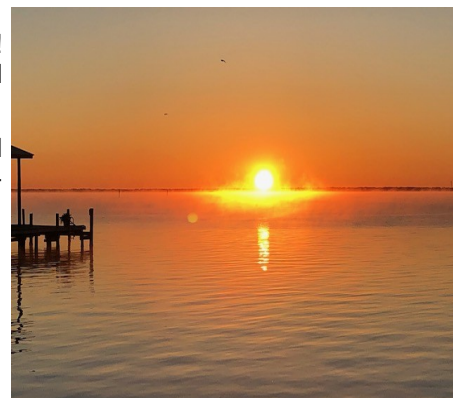
Now go, hurry, tell all who will listen that Jesus Christ is Risen! HALLELUJAH, HALLELUJAH, HALLELUJAH! And AMEN. . .

Congregational

Show me the Way, My Lord. . . and I will run. . .

Vitality

In Christ, Gordon



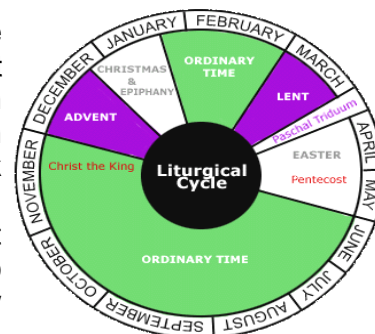
District Co-LAY LEADERS



From Harrisonburg District Co-Lay Leader Marquetta Mitchell:

As I share my thoughts regarding this newsletter it is during the time of Lent. I am aware that the district will be receiving this article after Easter Sunday. I pray you will find that the reasons may apply.

When I think of Lent, I cannot help but think about Advent at the same time. These two events bring to our attention the two most important events in the life of Christians. As a matter of fact, these two events point to the very foundation and core of the Christian faith. The facts that Jesus Christ, Son of God, was born of a virgin woman into this world and the fact that during his young ministry, He was killed and came back to life and walked the earth is a fact that no other faith or religion in this world can claim. When I read the scriptures that document these amazing events; it simply takes my breath away. It takes my breath away because God loved you and me so much that He sent His only son to come here and die a horrible death so that you and I may have an opportunity to live eternally with Him. I am so glad!



So each year we, as followers of Christ, prepare our hearts, minds and bodies for the Holiness of these events as we approach our calendars. The holiness with which we like to prepare ourselves for Lent is to remember the reason God allowed His son to come here. It is important to allow this Holy season to permit us to honor and prepare for all that it represents.

As we lend ourselves to acts of holiness and sacrifice, I challenge each of us to not forget that holiness and acts of sacrifice does not begin and end with Lent and Advent seasons. Why? Because JESUS REALLY IS COMING BACK! Our acts of holiness and sacrifice (no chocolate; no smoking; giving up something that we like for Lent); honor and speak to our relationship with God. Even though recognizing Lent (and Advent) are very important seasons, *we should be honoring our relationship with God every day and prepare ourselves for Jesus' return and eternal life with Him.*

My challenge is, as we have experienced Lent 2019 and in not many months from now we will be talking about preparing ourselves for Advent 2019, *let us include at least one thing on those preparation lists for holiness and sacrifice that we can incorporate all during the year that continues to get us ready for His return.*

"But of that day and hour knoweth no man, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking; marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark. And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken and the other left. Watch therefore; for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. But know this, that if the good man of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. Therefore be ye also ready; for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh."

Matthew 24:36-44

Your sister in Christ, Marquetta



Annual Conference Orientation Session: It is important that all annual conference members (district & charge/church) and all clergy attend the district's "Orientation Session" in preparation for the 2019 Annual Conference to be held Thursday, June 20, to Saturday, June 22, at the Berglund Center in Roanoke, Va. There are important issues that clergy and laity will want to hear about and discuss. **This year's orientation session will be held on Sunday, June 2, 3:00 p.m. at Mt. Tabor UMC, 8337 North Valley Pike, Rockingham, VA (Rt. 11, eight miles north of Harrisonburg).** Expense checks for district members will be available at that time.



SAVE THE DATE! "Lord, Teach Us to Pray" Seminar presented by Aldersgate Renewal Ministries has the potential to change lives and to transform churches as participants are challenged to walk in intimacy with God through prayer. This seminar will be presented on **Friday evening and Saturday, October 4-5, 2019, at Manor Memorial UMC-New Market, VA.**

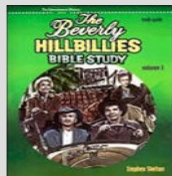


From Sue MacTavish, District Librarian

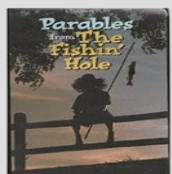
May 2019 featured items:

Two Fun Bible Studies for a summer Bible Study

If your church still has a VHS player - there are a couple of oldies, but goodies, Bible Studies in the District Library you might want to consider for a summer Bible Study.



1. Beverly Hillbillies Bible Study: *Focuses on a comical clash between morality and materialism. This hilarious study highlights a simply family in a world obsessed with money that stays true to their humble roots and values. District Library has volumes two and three. Each covers 4 "parables" from the TV show and have a VHS tape, Leader's guide and some student books.*



2. Parables from the Fishing Hole: *While every decade and locale has its unique concerns, human nature remains stubbornly consistent. That is why life in Mayberry is as relevant today as it was in the 50's. Its classic humor gently reminds us of our own follies and provides insight on how to overcome them. Four episodes of the Andy Griffith Show. District Library has 1 HVS tape with 2 cassettes.*



Stop by the District Office and "check out" the library. Please remember to check out library items by signing the book card in the pocket with your name and church and date—you may keep items as long as you need - but remember to return when finished so that others may borrow.

Thanks, Sue

IMPORTANT NOTICE

After the United Methodist Judicial Council meets in April, Bishop Peter Weaver, interim bishop of the Virginia Conference, will conduct Question and Answer Gatherings around the conference. Please e-mail your questions to harrisonburgdistrict@vaumc.org by **May 8th**. The Q & A for the Harrisonburg & Winchester Districts will be **Saturday, May 11th, 9:00 a.m. at Riverton UMC, 55 East Strasburg Road, Front Royal, VA 22630**. Please see letter from Bishop Peter Weaver, below.

EASTERTIDE DISTRICT DAYS

WALKING THE JOURNEY TOGETHER

"Jesus was talking to us on the road" (Luke 24:32)

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

JOURNEY is a theme throughout Scripture from Abraham and Sarah, Moses and Miriam, Mary and Joseph going to Bethlehem, and all the way to Jesus walking with the disciples to Emmaus after Easter. Our United Methodist Church around the world has been on a "Way Forward" journey from the 2016 General Conference through the 2019 Special General Conference in February. Another step along the way will come at the end of April with the decisions that our Judicial Council (Supreme Court) will make concerning the legislation that was passed at the 2019 General Conference. This may have important significance for your local church and our Virginia Conference.

Jesus most often journeyed in the company of others. Even in our context, we can learn from each other and practice our Christian love for each other by journeying together. I am inviting you to join me in a District gathering (see the attached schedule) in May and early June so we may have conversation "on the road" together.

We will share in Communion, seek to care for one another, and look at the meaning of the Judicial Council decisions and their implications as your Bishop and Cabinet seek to follow the *Book of Discipline* which governs our church. Additional details about your district gathering will be available from your district office.

At the last Cabinet meeting, as we were "walking the journey together," we sang those great hymn words, "Christ is alive and goes before us, to show and share what love can do..." I believe it and look forward to walking the journey with you.

Grace and Peace,

Peter DeLoach



Mission Central Dedication
April 28, 2019 * 3:00 p.m.

Please enjoy pictures from the dedication of Harrisonburg District's Mission Central. Our thanks to Wendell Cochran for providing us photos of this important event.





Board of Laity issues letter to the Annual Conference

Virginia Conference Laity beyond the Special General Conference 2019

All God's people in all places,
and in all times,
are called to love and to serve.

Ministry of the Laity

⁴ Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵ and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; ⁶ and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. ⁷ To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

¹⁴ Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many.

²⁰⁻²¹ As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you."

1 Corinthians 12:4-7, 14, 20-21 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

Because lay ministry has been instrumental in the spread of the gospel from the earliest times and especially in the establishment of The United Methodist Church, and because God, through baptism and confirmation, continues to call each believer into ministry, the Virginia Conference Board of Laity lifts up the crucial importance of lay ministry and urges lay people to take this call seriously, committing themselves to grow in faith, mission, witness and ministry. We thank our pastors who commit themselves to leading lay people to discover and develop their ministries and who partner with them in this great adventure of faith and discipleship.

It is our continuing prayer at this time for our church and its people called United Methodists that our God will most assuredly lead us forward in His unfailing way. May we the Virginia Conference laity in partnership with all our clergy, District Superintendents, and Bishops be truly faithful to each other with the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ as we move forward together.

This is a critical time on our Christian walk together to stop and listen to our God and recognize, as Paul said, "there are many members, yet one body." If nothing else we the laity over the past six years in the Virginia Conference have been taught how to be in prayerful conversation, Christian conversation, transparent conversation. May we, the laity, all the laity now more than ever continue forward.

May Christ be with us,

The Virginia Board of Laity

[Warren R. Harper](#), Conference Lay Leader



PRAYING OUR WAY FORWARD

We are One in Christ

UMCprays.org • A UMC Prayer Community

Invitation to Post-General Conference Discussions: Reverends Adam Blagg of Otterbein UMC and Steve Hay of Asbury UMC will facilitate discussions in response to the General Conference. You are invited on Sunday afternoons, May 19th and May 26th from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. in Room 300/Slaven Hall at Asbury Church. These sessions are open to the entire district.

What do you fear most, coming away from GC 2019? What labels have been put on you because of your beliefs about same-sex weddings and ordination of practicing homosexuals? What do you hope for? Honestly, what do you see as the future of the denomination? Discuss these and other topics in a safe environment.

See you Sunday, May 19th and again on May 26th from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m.

Visit Harrisonburg District on Facebook: [Harrisonburg District of VaUMC](#)

NOTE: NEW Harrisonburg District webpage: www.harrisonburgdistrictumc.org



May 1 (Wednesday) - District Trustees, District Office, 10:00 a.m.

May 3-5 (Fri-Sun) - Conference UMW Spiritual Life Retreat, Eagle Eyrie, Lynchburg, VA*

May 6 (Monday) - Partners in Ministry [PiM], RESCHEDULED Meeting, Vision of Hope UMC, 9:00 a.m.*

May 7 (Tuesday) - District Superintendency Committee, District Office, 10:00 a.m.

May 8 (Wednesday) - Partners in Ministry [PiM] Executive Officers' Planning Meeting, District Office, 10:00 a.m.*

May 9 (Thursday) - UMW Dinner for All Unit UMW Presidents, Mountain Valley UMC, 6:30 p.m.*

May 11 (Saturday) - Bishop Weaver's Q & A Gathering for Harrisonburg and Winchester Districts, Riverton UMC-Front Royal, 9:00 a.m.*

May 16 (Thursday) - Deadline for dinner reservations for Partners in Ministry [PiM] Farewell Dinner, Overlook-Blessings Lodge, 6:00 p.m.-arrive; 6:30 p.m. dinner*

May 19 (Sunday) - Post-General Conference Discussion, Room 300/Slaven Hall-Asbury UMC, 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.*

May 22 (Wednesday) - District Finance Meeting, District Office, 7:00 p.m.

May 22 (Wednesday) - Vitality Group & DCOM Faith Development Ministry Team meeting, location and time to be announced.

May 23 (Thursday) - District Committee on the Ordained Ministry, District Office, 9:00 a.m.

May 23 (Thursday) - Partners in Ministry [PiM] Farewell Dinner, Overlook-Blessings Lodge, 6:00 p.m.-arrive; 6:30 p.m. dinner*

May 24 (Friday) - VUMCenter-Glen Allen & District Office closes at 1:00 p.m.

May 26 (Sunday) - Post-General Conference Discussion, Room 300/Slaven Hall-Asbury UMC, 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.*

May 27 (Monday) - VUMCenter-Glen Allen & District Office closed for Memorial Day

May 29 (Wednesday) - District Nominations Committee, District Office, 7:00 p.m.

May 30 (Thursday) - District Council on Ministries Dinner, Overlook-Blessings Lodge, 6:00 p.m.-gather; 6:30 p.m.-dinner*

June 2 (Sunday) - Annual Conference Orientation Session, Mt. Tabor UMC, 3:00 p.m.

June 20-22 (Thurs-Sat) - Annual Conference, Berglund Center, Roanoke

June 23 (Sunday) - Pastors leaving Harrisonburg District last Sunday

June 26 (Wednesday) - Virginia Conference Moving Day

June 30 (Sunday) - Pastors coming to Harrisonburg District first Sunday

July 3 (Wednesday) - VUMCenter-Glen Allen & District Office closes at 1:00 p.m.

July 4 (Thursday) - VUMCenter-Glen Allen & District Office closed for 4th of July holiday

** Denotes related article elsewhere in this newsletter*



A rescheduled PiM meeting with Rev. Carol Bookwalter on "Healing Prayer" will be held on **Monday, May 6th, Vision of Hope UMC, 9:00 a.m.** All clergy are encouraged to attend.

The **PiM Executive Committee** is asked to put the annual planning meeting on their calendars for **Wednesday, May 8, 10:00 a.m., at the District Office.**

The **Partners in Ministry [PiM]** will meet on **Thursday, May 23, at Overlook's Blessing Lodge at 6:00 p.m. for fellowship and dinner at 6:30 p.m.** This fellowship and dinner event is to honor the service of those clergy and clergy families who have served appointments on the Harrisonburg District and are going to new appointments within the district or to new districts. Dinner will be served for \$15.00 per person (Dinner will be at no cost to those clergy moving to new appointments.) Reservation deadline for dinner reservations is Thursday, May 16th to harrisonburgdistrict@vaumc.org or (540) 433-2382. **All clergy families are encouraged to be present.**

- PiM Executive Committee



Thank you to Cedar Grove UMC for hosting our "Evening Together on April 7. Also, to Artie Frederick and Delores Reid for providing updates and a tour of Mission Central and to our speaker Kimberli Collett from UMFS Charterhouse School for providing a wonderful program.

All unit presidents are invited to attend a dinner provided by the District UMW Executive Committee on May 9, at Mountain Valley UMC. Dinner will start at 6:30 p.m. with a business meeting and a time of sharing following the meal. Please plan to send a representative if your president is unable to attend.

June 1st will be UMW Day at Ferrum College. The cost is \$17.00 which will include registration and lunch. A form will be attached to this newsletter. The deadline for registration will be May 15. Contact Sharon Harold for car pool information.

Ticket are available for the **United Methodist Women's breakfast at Annual Conference.** The cost of the breakfast is \$18.00 and will be served buffet style. It will be held at **Holiday Inn-Valley View at 6:45 a.m., Friday, June 21.** Our speaker will be Darlene Amon, former Conference UMW President and member of the 2019 Virginia Delegation to General Conference. The deadline for purchasing tickets will be June 7, and can be purchased from Sharon Harold or any District UMW president. Please contact Sharon for further information.

Mission Encounter will be held at **Smith Mountain Lake 4H Center again this year on July 24-28.** A registration form and more information is attached to this newsletter. Everyone is invited to attend and CE credit is available.

Sharon Harold, Harrisonburg District UMW President, sharold714@aol.com or 540-879-2270

District Council on Ministries

The **District Council on Ministries Executive Committee** will be meeting in 2019: DCOM Dinner at Camp Overlook, May 30, arrive at 6:00 p.m., dinner at 6:30 p.m.; August 29; and November 21. All meetings, unless otherwise noted, will be at the District Office at 7:00 p.m. Please see information below on the Ministry Teams.

Rev. Bob Talbott, DCOM Chairperson



Faith Development Ministry Team: The team members for 2019 are: Tommy Crosby, Kemper Dadisman, Dale Dodrill, Becky Downey, Victor Gómez, Sharon Harold, Gordon Meriwether, Annie Pierce, Kevin Poeckert, and Phil Secrist. **Please note:** The Faith Development Ministry Team and the Congregational Vitality Committee will meet together on **Wednesday, May 22nd.** Location and time to be announced.

Gordon Meriwether, Ministry Team Leader



MISSIONS



Mission and Outreach Ministry Team: Team members for 2019 are Artie Frederick; Delores Reid; Brian Posey; Ann Homan; Victor Gómez, Louise Jennings; Bill Lalla, Mary Lock; Elizabeth Neff; Mary Jane Rawley; and Lydia Weeks.

Mission Central's Children's Clothes Closet: Mission Central is just about ready for Dedication. We hope to have a good turn out to see "What God has Done". Our first week to offer spring clothes brought us 90 families and 204 children. We are seeing new families all the time. Thank you for your donations. We look forward to seeing you on April 28th at 3:00 p.m.

Artie Frederick, Sub-Committee Chairperson, 208-7669



Mission Central's Medical Equipment for Caring Loaner Closet is open **Mondays 9-11:00 a.m.** and **Thursdays 5-7 p.m.** We always are in need of donations of medical equipment, especially shower benches and rollators (walkers with seats for resting). These are always appreciated and at times we buy needed equipment with your monetary donations. We welcome volunteers for the hours we are open and also to help in delivering and setting up hospital beds. Please call Delores Reid, 540-383-6112, if you are interested or have questions or need equipment. Let your neighbors know we have medical equipment to loan and dispos-

ables (adult diapers, pull-ups, dressing supplies, etc.) to give to those who need these items. We serve Harrisonburg and the surrounding counties, so spread the word.

Delores Reid, Medical Equipment Sub-Committee Chairperson

Bill Lalla, Mission & Outreach Ministry Team Leader, billlalla@gmail.com



Kingsway Prison and Family Outreach can use help with postage stamps! We now have over 1500 inmates on our Birthday Card list. We make our own cards, but have to purchase our envelopes and stamps. Mary Earman is the volunteer that handles sending these cards and she averages sending about 30 cards per week. We have 2 new volunteers in the office now and were blessed with 2 additional computers.



Kingsway is growing and needs your help and prayers. We would love to have a prayer group that would commit to praying for us and would come in once a month and pray with our volunteer staff. If interested, please contact Louise at kingswayoutreach@hotmail.com or call 540-830-7000. Check out our website kingswayoutreach.org.

Louise Jennings, Director



Please take note of changes at the Conference Office:

The Conference IT Department will be moving the conference over to a new phone system. This change will make the toll-free phone (1-800-768-6040) inoperative. The target date for the phone system conversation was Friday, April 19. The conference's main phone number 804-521-1100 will remain the same.

The Conference Communications staff, in consultation with the conference Board of Communications, has decided to end production of the *Advocate* magazine with the December 2019 issue. This board voted unanimously at its February 2019 meeting to end production. This decision was approved by Common Table of the Virginia Conference.

4Cans4Conference - We 'Can' Make a Difference!



As annual conference members gather in Roanoke this June, the plan is to bless that community with five tons of non-perishable foods for the Roanoke Rescue Mission.

Suggested items:

- 1 can of meat
- 1 can of vegetables and/or fruit
- 1 can of soup and/or stew
- 1 can that may be opened with a pop-top

Boxes of non-perishables such as pasta, rice, beans, cereals are also welcome. Please do NOT bring home-canned items, out of date cans, glass jars, damaged cans, fresh fruits/veggies, or already opened or partially used supplies.

For additional information,
please contact Herb Brynildsen at
herbbrynildsen@vaumc.org

Conference Opportunities & News



2019 Annual Conference: Moving Forward in God's Mission -
Matthew 28:18-20 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) 18

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember I am with you always, to the end of the age."

The 2019 session of the Virginia Conference will be held June 20-22, at the Berglund Center in Roanoke, VA. The conference preacher will be Bishop Tracy S. Malone, resident bishop of the Ohio East Area, the Conference Bible Study Teacher will be Dr. Kevin Watson, and the Conference Musician will be Ms. Christal Heyward.

Please note: The laity and clergy sessions will be held on Thursday morning, June 20, at 10:00 a.m. Election of General Conference and Jurisdictional Conference delegates will be on Thursday afternoon and evening.

For the latest Annual Conference information, visit www.vaumc.org/AC2019



Childcare at Annual Conference will be provided for children ages 0-12 years old at **South Roanoke UMC, 2330 Jefferson Street, SE, Roanoke, VA 24014**. Registration is now open if you wish to register your child(ren). The deadline for registration is May 31. Due to safety concerns, walk-ins or children over the age of 12 cannot be accommodated. Please provide any meals or snacks for your children during the day. NO meals or snacks will be provided by the church. Please register early as your registration will help with an appropriate number of childcare staff. For times and cost, please contact Mikang Kim at mikangkim@vaumc.org or Heather Case at heathercase@whumc.roacoxmail.com.



DISTRICT NEWS
Harrisonburg District
Virginia Annual Conference
The United Methodist Church

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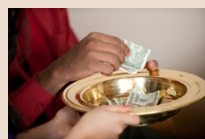
Call/Text DS: (202) 285-5767

Rev. Dr. Victor Gómez
District Superintendent
HarrisonburgDS@vaumc.org

Rev. Gordon K. Meriwether
District Director of Congregational Vitality
GordonMeriwether@vaumc.org

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Administrative Assistant
harrisonburgdistrict@vaumc.org

Harrisonburg District on the web at
www.harrisonburgdistrictumc.org
Harrisonburg District on Facebook at
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Virginia Conference on the web at
www.vaumc.org



2019 Annual Conference Offering - the offering goal is \$150,000 and recipients will be: Africa University Student Scholarships-\$40,000; Cambodia Pastors Leadership Training-\$40,000; Mozambique Lay Leadership Training- \$20,000; Brazil "Shade and Fresh Water" Children's Program-\$20,000; and Just Neighbors Matching Funds Grant for Immigrant Legal Counsel in four districts-\$30,000

2019 Kits for Conference



Moving Forward in God's Mission
Roanoke, Virginia



(United Methodist Committee on Relief) is currently focusing efforts on **Cleaning Kits** (aka Flood Buckets), **Hygiene Kits**, and **School Kits**. See attached PDF's for specific item listing and assembly instructions.

Collection of the kits will begin **Wednesday, June 19, 4-8p.m.** and continue **Thursday, June 20, from 8:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. and Friday, June 21, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.** Contact Kit Collection Coordinator, the Rev. Morris Fleischer (Newport-Mt. Olivet UMC/Roanoke District), at 540-544-7183 or morrisfleischer@vaumc.org with any questions.

If you prefer to make a financial contribution to enable UMCOR to purchase relief kits, you can contribute \$75 for each cleaning kit; \$12 for each health kit; and \$11 for each school kit. Additionally, UMCOR asks for \$1 per kit (\$1.50 for cleaning buckets) to cover processing and shipping and \$1 for toothpaste for each health kit. **PLEASE do NOT bring checks to Annual Conference.** All checks (for processing and shipping, for toothpaste, and in lieu of providing kits) should be made payable to "Virginia Conference UMC," earmarked for "kits" and mailed to Treasurer, Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church, PO box 5605, Glen Allen, VA 23058 any time prior to Annual Conference and no later than August 31, 2019.

