

# DISTRICT NEWS

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

*June 2019*

*Issue 46-6*

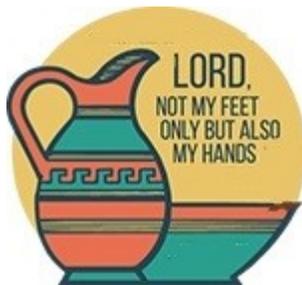
## From Your District Superintendent:

*Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.*  
Ephesians 3:20-21 (NIV)

Dear Brethren, I greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I cannot believe a year is almost gone. Many folks have asked me how this year has been for me. In general, it has been a year with lots and lots of blessings, but of course with challenges as well as disappointments. But again, lots of blessings. I am blessed to serve the Harrisonburg District where folks are eager to serve God. I am blessed to get to see how strong is the laity and the level of commitment. I am blessed to see such a faithful clergy. Yes, we have challenges ahead and we will have disappointments, but I am certain that we serve a God that has not given up on us. A God that sustains us. A God of love. We strive to love one another and to share God's love to all.



Sometime ago, I was reading an article about some of the reasons that churches grow. In the article, the writer challenges churches to look at their annual budget for the last five years and see where the money goes year after year. In many churches, he says, their budgets remain the same and there are no changes. Unfortunately, these budgets also reflect that most of the money stay within the four walls of the church such as maintenance, fundraisers, local events, the building, etc. Of course, there is nothing wrong in taking care of God's house and being good stewards of what God has entrusted to all of us. The problem is when that is the main focus and these churches forget that it is about making disciples for Jesus Christ, and serving those who live in the margins.



We must remember that we must be the hands and feet of Jesus. We must continue to find ways in making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. We begin right here within our communities and expand as far as we are able.

As a pastor, I often asked, "If the doors of the church were shut down tomorrow, would it matter to the community?" The answer to that question speaks about the vitality of the church. It speaks about how transformational we are. Church is not what we do on Sundays; Church is what we do from Monday to Saturday, and then on Sunday we gather in God's name and celebrate what God has done in our lives and the lives of others. We strive to do our best as the body of Christ in making disciples of Jesus Christ and transforming our community and the world.

My prayer each day is that all the clergy and laity of the Harrisonburg District give all honor and glory to God in everything we do. I invite you to join me and to continue making disciples everywhere we go. God is working within us and God has sent the Holy Spirit to lead us and to be with us. So let us go and make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world beginning right here in our churches, in our communities, and expand as far as we are able.

*In Christ, Victor Gómez*

*From the District Director of Congregational Vitality Gordon Meriwether:*

Congregational



And Angels We Shall Be.....

*May the Angel of the Lord of heaven hold us tight in this ever-corrupting world, to give us cause and courage to confront and challenge the evil we may find with love and compassion.*



*"I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I had heard and seen them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel that had been showing them to me. But he said to me, 'Do not do it! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers [sisters] the prophets and all who keep word of this book. Worship God!'" (Revelation 22:8-9)*

I was recently asked by a friend who suffers with various life challenging maladies, "I am afraid to be alone when I die, are you?" A shocking question from a man of God who I respect and love as a brother and saint among us.

My answer came from without my being. I considered for what end does company have in the dying process?...To comfort?...To honor?...To bid farewell?...all human expressions of this world...not the next. I had the joy of being with my father when he crossed over from this life to the next. I could offer no more than the compassion of hymn and prayer and unanswered conversation, holding his unconscious body until the glorious end. Did my presence make a difference in his final earthly journey? My own spirit was lifted in praise for the honor to companion his walk, but I will only know what my presence meant to him when I join him soon in the heavenly realm.

But there is no mystery to be unwrapped in his death walk, for my father had accepted Jesus as his Lord and Savior in his 70's embracing a new faith in his conversion to Roman Catholicism. He knew the Lord.



And consider this, my brothers and sisters. Do we cease to be only human, to call this world home, when we accepted Jesus Christ,...when we gave our lives in service to God? Then we became something of a "hybrid"; earthly angels, human, and yet filled in the Spirit; sent to do God's bidding among the children of God, to spread the Good News, to heal and comfort, to glorify God's Holy Name. Our body and mind are of this earthly dominion, yet our soul, our spirit is of a heavenly nature filled with the will and in the presence of God.

So, we are no longer of this world but of the next, left here in bodily form to teach, to comfort, to lead those who would be called. We have been transformed by the simplicity of our call, "Jesus is Lord!" We are now earthly angels of the Lord God. When time comes for us to cross that thin membrane into the heavenly fold, crowded with the Angels and Saints at the foot of the Throne, death shall be as but a pause, without fear or apprehension in peace and joy of our own resurrection.

As earthly angels, we remain bound to this life to be further blessed and to bless all in the remaining days of this holy journey. Soon we shall be called to heaven in praise and glory, for death will bring a freedom that we have never known.

Finally, to my colleague, friend, and brother in Christ and to all those who would hear, I would answer, I do not carry fear to my deathbed, for I am already of the Christ and the Spirit. It is to be in the presence of the Triune God that I remain eager. As an earthly angel, this I truly believe.

So Be It! *In Christ, Gordon*

**Attention District Stewards and Pastors!**

**DISTRICT STEWARDS**

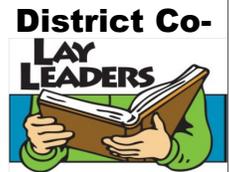
There will be a meeting of the District Stewards on Sunday, June 2nd at 2:30 p.m. at Mt. Tabor United Methodist Church prior to the Conference Orientation Session. The 2020 Harrisonburg District Budget will be reviewed and discussed. Stewards and Pastors, make plans to attend this meeting.



**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.

### From Harrisonburg District Co-Lay Leader Joe Amend:

I ran my first marathon on June 14, 1981 - the first-ever Windward Marathon in Kaneohe, Oahu in Hawaii. I was in the best physical condition in my life. A month earlier I had easily run 16 miles in two hours and I was eagerly looking forward to a fast (at least in my estimation) time in my first marathon. Things went well for the first two thirds of the race. At about the 17-mile point, I noticed that I just quit sweating - I had run out of body fluids for perspiration. Fortunately, I was smart enough to realize what had happened and I did the only thing I could do to keep from ending up in the hospital - I started walking and doubling and tripling up on water at every rest station and I did my best to get to the finish line standing upright - which I was able to do.



What is the point of this story? I have realized that my Walk with the Lord is a marathon not a sprint. We hear a lot of talk from the secular world about retirement and taking it easy. I can find no example in the Bible of where the Lord allowed anyone to retire this side of heaven - Moses, Elijah and his spectacular exit from earthly life, Peter, John and Paul. And, of course Our Lord and Savior, Jesus, who ministered to His Children, even from the Cross. The end of our earthly Ministry is the call to go home to be with the Lord for Eternity. The Lord expects us to persevere. Consider the statement in Hebrews 12:1-2: "...Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith..."

Perseverance is defined as: continuing in the face of difficulty and opposition, being steadfast in purpose and finally, persisting. All of these definitions imply some sort of work on our part. Perseverance takes effort, just as training for and running a marathon takes effort. One of the questions we need to consider is, "How can we persevere in our Christian life, especially when there are so many distractions around us?"

In my daily life, I am comforted by the Lord's Words in Isaiah 40:31, "*But those that hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.*" Our Lord knows we will have to persevere through our lives. He expects us to persevere. I've often claimed Isaiah 40:31 when going through my day-to-day life - when I am trying to put one foot in front of the other and make it through the day. And these words have never failed me. The Lord will continually refresh us in our walk with Him, if we allow Him.



Our Walk with the Lord is a journey, not a destination - even if our destination is out of this world! How can we expect to come closer to God if we are standing still? To quote South Texas sage, philosopher and friend, Tim Birkner, "We don't discover anything if we stay where we are."

God didn't design our Christian Walk to be a solo effort. We don't have to do it by ourselves, we should not do it by ourselves and we certainly shouldn't want to do it by ourselves. In Hebrews 10:24-25 we find, "... and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, ... but encouraging one another."

Engagement with other Believers is a critical part of our Walk with Jesus. In Eugene Peterson's "The Message", the writer of Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 says, "*It is better to have a partner than go it alone. ... and if one falls down, the other helps, but if there's no one to help, tough!*" The heart of Methodism is the Wesleyan construct of small group accountability through Wesley's classes and bands. Recently this concept has been expanded to include discipleship / accountability groups. The basis for both are similar. In Wesley's words, "a desire to flee from the coming wrath" and "watching over one another in love".

After considerable thought, I don't think we should dwell on a perceived cost of perseverance, but rather on "The Joy of the Journey". Our Walk with the Lord is a journey, not a destination. Our journey with the Lord takes the kind of commitment Ruth, the Moabite, displayed when she told her Mother-in-Law, "... *Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God ...*" (Ruth 1:16). The Lord rewarded Ruth's faithfulness in a marvelous way: she was King David's Grandmother.

In conclusion, Jesus didn't say that following Him would be easy. His promise to us is found in the last part of the last verse of the book of Matthew (28:20b) in "The Message" is, "... *I'll be with you as you do this, day after day after day, right up to the end of the age.*" What more assurance could we ever want - or need?

## CALLED CHARGE CONFERENCE

For those churches receiving new pastors effective July 1, 2019, there will be a **Called Charge Conference AFTER the Orientation Session Sunday, June 2, at Mt. Tabor UMC.** This meeting is to approve the new pastor's salaries. Churches, please bring your completed 2019 Mid-Year Clergy Compensation Form, signed by the SPRC Chairperson and Selected Charge Conference Secretary. Present pastors, SPRC Chairpersons and Selected Charge Conference Secretaries are asked to attend.

PLEASE NOTE

**ATTENTION Pastors & Local Church Treasurers:** Mission Central and Missions "ASKINGS" are to be sent to the District Treasurer: Mrs. JoAnn Liskey, 4856 Shen Lake Drive, Rockingham, VA 22801 or to the District Office. Please **DO NOT** send your church's "ASKING" amounts to the Conference Treasurer's Office with your Conference and District Apportionments. Thank you for your attention to this matter!



*From Sue MacTavish, District Librarian*

**June 2019 featured item:**

*Our Mission: To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World, sometimes gets lost in all the “noise of the world and the internal struggles of our denomination.”*

*This book, Does Your Church Have a Prayer? In Mission Toward the Promised Land by Marc Brown, Kathy Merry and John Biggs, 2009, is designed through coordinated bible study and sermons to help a congregation discern their mission, their prayer, and their way toward the promised land of discipleship.*

Congregations seeking revitalization can take heart. Jesus has already prayed for their unity so that they may share his love with the world! The *Does Your Church Have a Prayer?* presents a model of Christian transformation to guide a congregation through a journey of spiritual renewal in fulfillment of Jesus's prayer in John 17. The Leader's Guide begins with a number of biblical examples of spiritual leadership. Referring to these models, the authors offer pastors important thoughts on choosing, equipping, and encouraging leaders to collaborate with them as they enter a time of discernment. By apply biblical principles through this intentional process of congregational engagement, churches will understand their calling as they move from a wilderness of inward focus to God's Promised Land of Jesus' disciples.

*Does Your Church Have a Prayer?* can be found in the **Church Development/Evangelism** section of the District Library. We have both the Participant and Leader Books.



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

**The Library at the District Office contains a wealth of good resources that you and your church can use. Come, take a look!**

*Thanks, Sue*

**What is a Fresh Expression Church?** A Fresh Expression is a form of church for our changing culture, established primarily for the benefit of those who are not yet part of any church. Our world is rapidly changing. It needs a church, rooted in Scripture, orthodoxy and tradition; but fluent in the language and culture of the world today.

**Fresh Expressions Roundtables** serve as an opportunity for small groups from a church, denominational group or area to: Ask in-depth questions about the concepts, theological foundations, and the developmental process of fresh expressions; Envision the implications of fresh expressions for their specific congregation and community; Gain some experience with fresh expressions to get up close and personal guidance on how they take next steps on this journey.

**The Harrisonburg District has an opportunity to attend one of these Roundtable Discussions on Friday, June 14th from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Fishersville UMC in Fishersville.** To register for the event, go to [vaumc.org>Ministries>Center for Congregational Excellence>Fresh Expressions](http://vaumc.org/Ministries/Center%20for%20Congregational%20Excellence/Fresh%20Expressions). Go to the bottom of the page and “Click to Register” for the June 14th event.





A challenge to read the Bible in 2019

Bible Readings for June

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.

- |         |                                  |         |                                  |
|---------|----------------------------------|---------|----------------------------------|
| June 1  | Hosea 1-4; Matthew 18:1-20       | June 16 | Jeremiah 30-31; Matthew 26:1-25  |
| June 2  | Hosea 5-8; Matthew 18:21-35      | June 17 | Jeremiah 32-33; Matthew 26:26-50 |
| June 3  | Hosea 9-11; Matthew 19           | June 18 | Jeremiah 34-36; Matthew 26:51-75 |
| June 4  | Hosea 12-14; Matthew 20:1-16     | June 19 | Jeremiah 37-39; Matthew 27:1-26  |
| June 5  | Jeremiah 1-2; Matthew 20:17-34   | June 20 | Jeremiah 40-42; Matthew 27:27-50 |
| June 6  | Jeremiah 3-5; Matthew 21:1-22    | June 21 | Jeremiah 43-45; Matthew 27:51-66 |
| June 7  | Jeremiah 6-8; Matthew 21:23-46   | June 22 | Jeremiah 46-47; Matthew 28       |
| June 8  | Jeremiah 9-11; Matthew 22:1-22   | June 23 | Jeremiah 48-49; Philippians 1    |
| June 9  | Jeremiah 12-14; Matthew 22:23-46 | June 24 | Jeremiah 50; Philippians 2       |
| June 10 | Jeremiah 15-17; Matthew 23:1-22  | June 25 | Jeremiah 51-52; Philippians 3    |
| June 11 | Jeremiah 18-19; Matthew 23:23-39 | June 26 | Joel 1-3; Philippians 4          |
| June 12 | Jeremiah 20-21; Matthew 24:1-28  | June 27 | Deuteronomy 1-3; Acts 1          |
| June 13 | Jeremiah 22-23; Matthew 24:29-51 | June 28 | Deuteronomy 4-6; Acts 2:1-21     |
| June 14 | Jeremiah 24-26; Matthew 25:1-30  | June 29 | Deuteronomy 7-9; Acts 2:22-47    |
| June 15 | Jeremiah 27-29; Matthew 25:31-46 | June 30 | Deuteronomy 10-12; Acts 3        |

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

CONGRATULATIONS!

**Rev. Costello Forney**, Pastor of John Wesley UMC— who will be attending Licensing School to become a Part-Time Local Pastor.



**Rev. Todd Gess**, Pastor of the Shenandoah Valley Charge—who received his Master of Divinity from Virginia Union University this spring.



**Rev. Kevin Poeckert**, Pastor at Mt Clinton UMC—who received his Master of Divinity from Eastern Mennonite University this spring.



**Rev. Brian Posey**, Pastor of Grottoes UMC, who will become an Elder at Annual Conference this month.



**Ms. Ashley Oliver**, from Asbury UMC, who received her Bachelor's degree from JMU in May and will be attending Duke Divinity School this fall.



**Kingsway Prison and Family Outreach** Kingsway is looking for a small prayer group that will come by the Kingsway Office at least once a month and pray for us and get a prayer list for the month so we have continuous prayer covering. For more information, call Louise 540-830-7000. Don't forget to check out our website [kingswayoutreach.org](http://kingswayoutreach.org). Louise Jennings, Director

Update on Brenda Woods

As most of you know, Brenda had an accident on May 1st and spent two nights in the hospital. She sustained a broken wrist and a fractured shoulder, along with a nasty cut on her nose and a sprained ankle. She had surgery to put a plate in her wrist on May 7th then had shoulder replacement surgery on May 14th. She would like to express her deepest thanks to everyone for all their cards, phone calls, food and visits. She has a great caregiver in her husband, Rob. Brenda asks that you continue to keep her in your prayers during her recovery and physical therapy. She will return to the District Office as soon as possible..

You may send cards to her at 208 West College Street, Bridgewater, VA 22812





### Pictures from the HARRISONBURG DISTRICT FAREWELL BANQUET—THURSDAY, MAY 23RD AT CAMP OVERLOOK

Our District Superintendent, Victor Gómez, shared with the pastors and their spouses who is coming to the district, those who are moving and those persons retiring in 2019.

Rev. Shin Woo Hong, pastor of New Hope UMC, led in hymn singing.



The Harrisonburg District is proud to announce the following ministerial appointments for 2019-2020. We welcome our new ministers, rejoice with those that are retiring and will miss those that are moving.

**Bethany UMC**—Rev. John Lock will be moving to the North Frederick Charge on the Winchester District, while Rev. Susan Reaves will be the new pastor. She comes from Trinity UMC on the Rappahannock River District.

**Dayton UMC**—Rev. Bruce Carper is retiring and Rev. Jennifer Day will be coming from Bon Air UMC as Associate Pastor in the Richmond District.

**Evangelical UMC**—Rev. Larry Jent will be moving to Grace UMC on the Rappahannock River District and Rev. Kyle Bomar, from the West Tennessee Conference, will be the new pastor.

**Fellowship-Linville-Edom Charge**—Rev. Dr. Patricia Meadows will come out of retirement and become the new pastor and Rev. Marlene Chandler will retire.

**First UMC (Timberville)**—Rev. Daniel Purdom, Jr., from Mt. Elbert on the Roanoke District will be the new pastor and Rev. Ed Pruitt will return home!

**Massanutten Charge**—Rev. Kam Stabler will take his first appointment while Rev. Steve Bird will return home!

**McGaheysville UMC**—Rev. Jim Wingert is retiring and Rev. Kotosha Griffin will be coming from the Louisiana Conference as the new pastor.

**Mount Crawford Charge**—Rev. Bertrand Griffin, from the Louisiana Conference, will be replacing Rev. Russell Henrich to become the new pastor.

**Mount Olive-Shiloh Charge**—Rev. David Nesselrodt from the Alexandria District will become the new pastor, while Rev. Kathleen Haynes will be on family leave.

**Mountain Valley-Cedar Grove Charge**—Rev. Eduardo Carrillo from the Lunenburg Charge on the Farmville District will be the new pastor, replacing Rev. Mary Lock, who will be moving to Hites Chapel on the Winchester District and Rev. Janet Davis who will be retiring.

**New Hope UMC**—Rev. Michael Reaves, from Fletcher's Chapel on the Rappahannock Driver District will be the new pastor, while Rev. Shin Woo Hong will be moving to Bupyeong Methodist Church in South Korea.



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

**NOTE:** *NEW Harrisonburg District webpage:* [www.harrisonburgdistrictumc.org](http://www.harrisonburgdistrictumc.org)

**“Lord, Teach Us to Pray” District Event - Manor Memorial UMC, New Market, VA  
Friday Evening and Saturday—October 4-5, 2019  
Lay Servants Approved Course!      Clergy CEU Approved Course!**

The Harrisonburg District is sponsoring a special event to be held at Manor Memorial UMC, New Market. The Aldersgate Renewal Ministries (ARM) will be providing the leadership and teaching this event. ARM equips local churches to minister to the world in the power of the Holy Spirit. Volunteers who are trained by ARM go to churches to provide teaching and group facilitation. Mary O. Jones of Front Royal, will be our ARM Coordinator and lead “Lord, Teach Us to Pray” with her volunteer team of 4 or 5 volunteers. This event is “designed to encourage God’s people to become people of prayer.” Mary was trained shortly after the “Lord, Teach Us to Pray” seminar was created and has successfully led many of these events.



From **Friday evening through Saturday evening, October 4-5, 2019**, the vision is to have each participant grow and/or establish a vibrant prayer life by employing various tools and teaching to be offered and energized by the Power of the Holy Spirit. The event will be open to all who wish to grow in their relationship with God through prayer. This event has the potential to change lives and to transform churches as participants are challenged to walk in intimacy with God through prayer. We hope that you will mark your calendars and plan to attend. We are fortunate that it will be on the Harrisonburg District! Although there will be an affordable registration fee to help defray meal and handbook expenses, the exact amount has not yet been determined. Specifics on registration and expenses will be published later this summer.

A local Steering Committee has been formed to help plan and prepare for this. Ginger Turner of Manor Memorial UMC is the chair of this committee which is comprised so far of Robert Talbott, Advisor; Faith Carlson, Ellen McDorman, Dale Dodrill, and Lee Pugh. **Rev. Dr. Gomez in concert with ARM has approved one Continuing Education credit for clergypersons attending the event. In addition, he also approved this event to count toward Lay Servant certification or recertification (as a substitution for the Prayer course).**

If you would like more information, you can go to: <https://aldersgaterenewal.org/events/local-church-events/lord-teach-us-to-pray>. The Steering Committee would welcome help in various areas such as welcome and hospitality, transportation, prayer, meals, child care, publicity and registration. If you would like to help with this wonderful opportunity, please contact Ginger at [vabelat@gmail.com](mailto:vabelat@gmail.com) or call her 540-740-4616.

**NORTH AMELIA CHARGE UMC HOSTS MISSION TEAM FROM TOMS BROOK VIRGINIA.**

On May 1st – 5th, Jetersville, Epworth, and Salem United Methodist Churches welcomed fellow Christians from 300 miles away. Pastor Stan Thompson led the TBUMC mission team from the Shenandoah Valley to Amelia so they could share the mission of “Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World” through their vision of “Becoming the Community’s Church.”

The two mission teams scraped, painted, cut trees, secured handrails, fixed plumbing, secured clotheslines, power washed siding and tore down an old building. Cookies were also delivered to the neighbors of our neighbors. No strings attached.



Jesus shared with us in the Gospel of Matthew that the most Important Commandment is to “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul and all your mind.” This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

Showing the unconditional love of God by Loving our Neighbors is what we accomplished over our 5-day mission. Both teams and our neighbors were certainly blessed. Lots of sweat, achy muscles were shared, and a few miracles proved that God was the leader of our teams.

Submitted by: Pastor Linda Hudgins, The North Amelia Charge, Amelia



**Mission Central's Children's Clothes Closet**

What an exciting month May was for Mission Central. Our dedication was a wonderful success. Thank you all for coming and being a part of what God is doing in our District. We are preparing for a busy summer, The children being out of school will require more helpers to watch over them. I can't say enough about the UMW women who come each week to help take care of the little ones while their Moms shop. I know a call has been made to our youth groups to help with this, please check with your youth leaders to see if they have the information. Mission Central has just received their 501(3) (c), this will help us explore community grants for the future of Mission Central. This week Mt. Pisgah UMM purchased and installed a new washer and dryer; they also gave us the first set. If you have not had the chance to visit Mission Central, please come and visit. P.S. The abundant and delicious food you donated to the grand opening was super.



Artie Frederick, DCOM Sub-Committee Chairperson 208-7669

Tickets are still available for the **UMW Breakfast** at Annual Conference. It will be held on **Saturday, June 16, at 6:45 a.m. at the Hampton Roads Convention Center**. Please contact me for more information. The **deadline for purchasing tickets is June 3**.

**Mission Encounter—"Radical Discipleship—Then and Now"** will be held at **Smith Mountain Lake 4H Center again this year on July 26-28**. 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](mailto:sharold714@aol.com) or 540-879-2270



**The District Committee on Lay Servants Ministry will meet on Tuesday, August 6, 7:00 p.m. in the District Office.**



**Harrisonburg District United Methodist Men's Rally at Furnace UMC**

**Thursday, September 19th**

More information to follow soon!



**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 disposables (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 DCOM Sub-Committee Chairperson

**The Partners in Ministry**



**The Partners in Ministry** will hold their Welcome Picnic on **Sunday, August 11**, at the **Overlook Picnic Shelter at 4:00 p.m.** The meal will begin at 5:00 p.m.

All returning pastors are encouraged to be present to welcome new pastors to the Harrisonburg District. Additional information will be sent out in July.

The PiM Clergy Retreat will include Lay this year and have a different setup. Mark your calendar for **Saturday, August 24th, 9 to 4 p.m. at Manor Memorial**. Details will be forthcoming. *Pastors, you are asked to reserve this date on your calendars and be in attendance.*

**News about the Advocate!**



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.

**In Case You Didn't Know!**

The Harrisonburg District has scholarships available for those in Scouting. If you have scouts, boys or girls, who would like to attend camp but funds are limited, please contact the District Office to apply for a scholarship!



**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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:mikangkim@vaumc.org) or Heather Case at [heathercase@whumc.roacoxmail.com](mailto:heathercase@whumc.roacoxmail.com).

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**DISTRICT NEWS**  
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The United Methodist Church

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Harrisonburg District on Facebook at [Harrisonburg District of VaUMC](https://www.facebook.com/HarrisonburgDistrictofVaUMC)  
Virginia Conference on the web at [www.vaumc.org](http://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**



(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](mailto: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.

