

# DISTRICT NEWS

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

*December 2018*

*Issue 45-12*



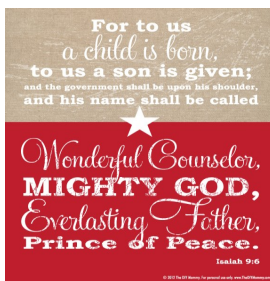
## From Your District Superintendent:

*For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders.  
And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
Isaiah 9:6 (NIV)*

The word Advent means coming. But what is coming? What is it that we are looking forward to? A couple of years ago, the Winchester Star Newspaper invited me to write a short article reflecting the Holiday season. In the article, I pondered on the question we will hear very often in the next few weeks: “Are you ready for Christmas?” What do we mean when we ask that question?

Rarely someone will say: “Yes, I am ready!” The majority would answer: “not yet!” while in their minds a long to-do-list, thinking about shopping, decorating the house, sending Christmas cards, preparing the Christmas meal, wrapping those gifts, attending that office exchange gift or the annual meal, going to the Christmas play, listening to Christmas songs on the radio, and the list goes on. At one point, we may be so overwhelmed that we want the season to be over or we become exhausted. It is supposed to be the most wonderful time of the year, and yet the joy of the season decreases as we get closer and closer to Christmas day.

So what is “coming” during Advent many times goes over our heads and we miss it all together. See, what is “coming” is not the gifts we will give or receive. What is coming is not Santa Claus. What is coming is not those Christmas cards. What is coming is not the meal. What is coming is not the singing of Christmas carols. What is coming is the celebration of the birth of Jesus. And we celebrate the birth of Jesus in each of our hearts.



We keep Christ in Christmas as we feed the hungry, clothe the naked, forgive the guilty, welcome the stranger or the unwanted, care for the ill, love our enemies, and do unto others as you would have done unto you.

Jesus is all around us and we have many opportunities to share God’s love. Let us slow down during this Advent season and take the time to enjoy His company and together celebrate Christmas with Christ.

May God’s love be shared as we celebrate Christmas.

*Victor Gómez*



*The Harrisonburg District Office staff. . .*

*District Superintendent Victor Gómez  
District Director of Congregational Vitality Gordon Meriwether  
District Treasurer JoAnn Liskey  
District Administrative Assistant Brenda Woods  
District Administrative Support Assistant Debbie Creech  
District Office Custodian Edward Stoops*

*. . . wish you a Blessed and Merry Christmas!*



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

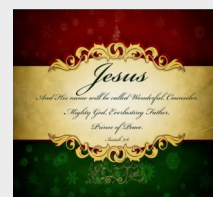
**NOTE: NEW Harrisonburg District webpage: [www.harrisonburgdistrictumc.org](http://www.harrisonburgdistrictumc.org)**



From the  
Bishop

## A challenge to read the Bible in 2018

### Bible Readings for December



December 1	1 Corinthians 9-11	December 16	Ephesians 1-6
December 2	1 Corinthians 12-14	December 17	Philippians 1-4
December 3	1 Corinthians 15-16	December 18	1 Timothy 1-6
December 4	2 Corinthians 1-4	December 19	Titus 1-3
December 5	2 Corinthians 5-9	December 20	1 Peter 1-5
December 6	2 Corinthians 10-13	December 21	Hebrews 1-6
December 7	Acts 20:1-3, Romans 1-3	December 22	Hebrews 7-10
December 8	Romans 4-7	December 23	Hebrews 11-13
December 9	Romans 8-10	December 24	2 Timothy 1-4
December 10	Romans 11-13	December 25	2 Peter 1-3, Jude 1
December 11	Romans 14-16	December 26	1 John 1-5
December 12	Acts 20:4-23:35	December 27	2 John 1,3 John 1
December 13	Acts 24-26	December 28	Revelation 1-5
December 14	Acts 27-28	December 29	Revelation 6-11
December 15	Colossians 1-4, Philemon 1	December 30	Revelation 12-18
		December 31	Revelation 19-22

[resource: [www.vaumc.org](http://www.vaumc.org) > office & staff > Bishop > 2018 Bible Challenge]

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

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

First let me say that I am honored and blessed to answer this call of Vitality among the people of God in the Harrisonburg District. I know the hand of God was present in bringing me to this mighty call!

I began my work career as a teenager selling men's clothes in the local Belk Department Store in Montgomery, Alabama. There I learned that establishing trusting relationships with your customers was critical to any successful sale. I hope you won't consider me too crass if I offer that building those bonds of trust in Christ's presence, whether at the front door of the church or in the community at large, is also the first step in bringing congregational vitality into our church communities. This calling is not just of the pastor or the lay leader or committee chairs, but of every believing soul that ventures forth from our church into community of the needy and unchurched. Building such a team is paramount to establishing a robust, open and loving community of believers, who willingly present their bodies and their presence as a living sacrifice, a new creation, willing to go wherever, and make disciples of whomever. If such a band of believers is built there is no way we can't grow into vital congregations across the district and throughout the Commonwealth to take the word of God to places unimagined.



You will all get to know, if you don't already, that I am a traveler. I will be contacting each church to begin visits and discussions on your needs and how I can be of assistance infusing a new vitality into the church community.

**Congregational**

**Vitality**

In closing, let me share a conversation I had with the Superintendent on my first day. The gist was that I am not to be primarily the staff assistant to the Superintendent, but rather to work with each of you to build on the presence of Triune God in our church community, to find the bubbling spring of Vitality and Grace that will grow to a mighty sea of righteousness and spread the truth of Jesus Christ.

May the Lord Jesus Christ guide us this day and all those to come.

In Christ,  
Gordon

*"And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God."*

Philippians 1:9-11

So Be it.

## District Co-



## What Are We Gonna Do?

We are rapidly approaching the Liturgical Season of Advent—the time of preparation to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The question I would like to consider is what preparations should we make to celebrate the birth of Jesus? We decorate our churches - and few things are as beautiful as an Advent-decorated Church. And if you all are like my family, we also decorate our homes and depending on where you might work outside the home, you may even be able to decorate there, too.

As important as these physical preparations are, even more important is how we prepare spiritually to celebrate and announce the birth of Jesus. That is what I'd like to briefly discuss today—what are we gonna do to let the world know, not only that Jesus is born, but also his life, atoning sacrifice on the cross for our sins, his resurrection and promise to come back for us?

The events surrounding the birth of Jesus are recorded in two Gospels: Matthew, Chapters 1 and 2, and Luke, Chapters 1 and 2. The Gospel of Mark does not mention Jesus' birth at all and John's Gospel has only a passing reference in verse 1:14, *"the Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. . ."*

Other than Jesus being born in Bethlehem, there is very little repetition in the two stories. This isn't necessarily surprising because the Gospel of Matthew was written primarily to the nation of Israel and emphasizes Jesus' fulfillment of God's promises to Abraham. Luke's Gospel was written primarily to the Greeks and emphasizes Jesus' role as Savior to all people.

Jesus' birth, as detailed in these two accounts, is the same event but from two very different perspectives. But both narratives are necessary to the complete understanding of the story of the Nativity. It has always struck me as very interesting to whom the news of Jesus' birth was delivered and the various responses that are recorded to this glorious news.

In Luke's account we have the birth of John the Baptist, the Angel Gabriel's visit to Mary, Jesus' birth in the stable, the angelic proclamation of Jesus' birth to the shepherds and a few days later, encounters with Simeon and Anna at the temple. Luke also traces Jesus' lineage through King David for both Joseph and Mary. Mary's lineage is the critical lineage in the story as Jesus had no earthly father.

Matthew's account includes the story of Joseph and his obedience to God accepting Mary as his wife, even though she was pregnant. Matthew also details the visit of the Wise Men. Their visit probably occurred sometime after Jesus' birth because from Matthew 2:11, we learn the Wise Men visited Jesus in a house. The timing of the Wise Men's visit after Jesus' birth is the reason that the church celebrates Epiphany, or the coming of the Wise Men, after Christmas.

From Matthew's account, we know Herod and all of Jerusalem were *"disturbed"* with the news of the Messiah's birth as announced by the Wise Men on their arrival in Jerusalem.

It is interesting to see who responded to this information. **Mary's** response to Angel Gabriel's news of her upcoming pregnancy is found in Luke 1:38, *"I am the Lord's servant, may it be to me as you have said."*

**Joseph** was noted as a 'righteous man' (Matthew 1:19) and obeyed God and didn't divorce Mary. He then married her and was the one who named Jesus - also in obedience to God.

The **shepherds** from around Bethlehem heard the angelic proclamation, and once they got over being terrified, went to the manger and responded *'joyfully' - and on their way back to their sheep they told everyone what they had seen and heard.*

The **Wise Men** traveled all the way from what is modern day Iran and *'bowed down and worshipped Him'* (Matthew 2:11).

**Herod** responded by having all the young boys in and around Bethlehem killed (Matthew 2:16). This act was part of the Flight to Egypt drama that occurred after Jesus' birth.

**Simeon and Anna** (Luke 2:25-38) both prophesied and glorified God when they saw the baby Jesus in the temple.

In the Biblical accounts, no one else is recorded as having responded to the news of Jesus' birth - not even the religious leaders of the time. . .

It would behoove us all to consider how we intend to respond this year to the glorious news of Jesus' birth. What Are We Gonna Do? I think the essence of what our response can be is found in the refrain of the great Christmas song from the Church's African American heritage, "Go Tell It On The Mountain":

*Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere.*

*Go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.*

(But don't forget to tell it down in the Valley, too - in Singers Glen, Toms Brook, Crimora, Stanley, McGaheysville - well, you get the idea. . .)

Marquetta and I hope and pray that everyone has a joyous and blessed Christmastide - always remembering that "Jesus is the reason for the Season."

*Joe Amend, District Co-Lay Leader*

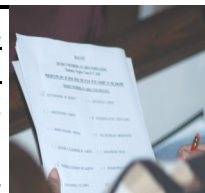


*Marquetta Mitchell & Joe Amend  
Harrisonburg District Co-Lay Leaders*

**JESUS** is  
the Reason  
for the  
Season.



**The following Harrisonburg District Lay Members-at-Large were elected on Sunday, November 18, 2018, at Bridgewater United Methodist Church to the 2019 Annual Conference, June 20-22, in Roanoke.** We appreciate all persons who placed their names in nomination and are willing to serve.



**20 District Lay Members-at-Large:** [In several cases, there were tie votes and in that event, the persons are listed in alphabetical order.] Dennis Rawley-Bridgewater; Lisa Coffelt-St. John's; Sharon Z. Benson-Mt. Jackson; Christine Cole-Keezletown; Marsha Gordon-Mt. Horeb; Joe Amend-McGaheysville; Kitty Bolinger-Mt. Hermon; Dolly Huffman-First (Timberville); Tamara (Tammy) Gordon-St. James; Phyllis L. Todd-Mountain Valley; Virginia (Ginger) Turner-Manor Memorial (New Market); Priscilla M. West-Mt. Zion (Strasburg); Graham Witt-Dayton; Katharine Layton-White Chapel; Esther Malloy-Sunset Drive (Broadway); Elizabeth (Betsy) Curry-Parnassus; Mona Kay Green Huffer-Bridgewater; Diana S. Miller-Fields; Gene Knicey-Asbury; Charles Wesley Curry-Parnassus

**The following Harrisonburg District Lay Members-at-Large were elected by previous District Conference action:**  
2 District Members-at-Large 1) JoAnn Liskey, District Treasurer-Otterbein; 2) Dale Dodrill, District Lay Servant Director -Keezletown

**2 District Alternate Lay Members-at-Large:** Alexis Ward-RISE; and Amy Haloskey-RISE

**The following Harrisonburg District Lay Members-at-Large were elected by the District Council on Ministries:**  
2 District Young Adult/College Lay Members: Brooke DiCicco-Annex; Nicholas Zimmerman-Christ; 1 District Young Adult/College Alternate Lay Member: Sarah Jennings-Verona; and 2 District Youth Lay Members: Jacob Hall-Keezletown; Marcus Hall-Keezletown; 1 District Youth Alternate Lay Member: Lattinia Flesher-Annex

**The following are members of Annual Conference by Rules of Annual Conference:** District Lay Leader Marquetta Mitchell-Strasburg; District United Methodist Women President Sharon Harold-St. James; District United Methodist Men President Scott Dillard-Keezletown



From Sue MacTavish, District Librarian  
 December 2018 featured item:

New Playlist: Hearing Jesus in a Noisy World  
 By Jacob Armstrong, 2018



Whether we know it or not, we are living with a playlist. Caused by schedule overload and multiple distractions, the playlist sounds like this: *You have to do everything. You have to say, "yes" to everything. You are supposed to be in all places at all times.*

Jesus give us a different playlist. It says: *You are supposed to do two things: love God and love your neighbor. Saying no is often the best yes. You can only be in one place at a time.* This book addresses the anxiety, distraction addiction, and schedule overload that result from listening to the world's playlist and gives us permission to hear and live by Jesus' words.

The District Library has all the components for a six-week study including the book, a DVD featuring author and pastor Jacob Armstrong, and a comprehensive Leader Guide.

*New Playlist* can be found in the Nurture/Spiritual Development section of the District Library.



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 items when finished so that others may borrow.

Thanks, Sue

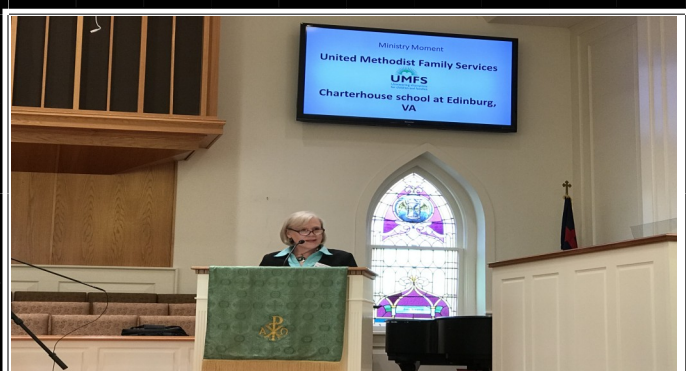


***The Harrisonburg District Office will follow the Harrisonburg City School closings for inclement weather this winter. If the Harrisonburg City Schools are closed, the Harrisonburg District Office will also be closed.***

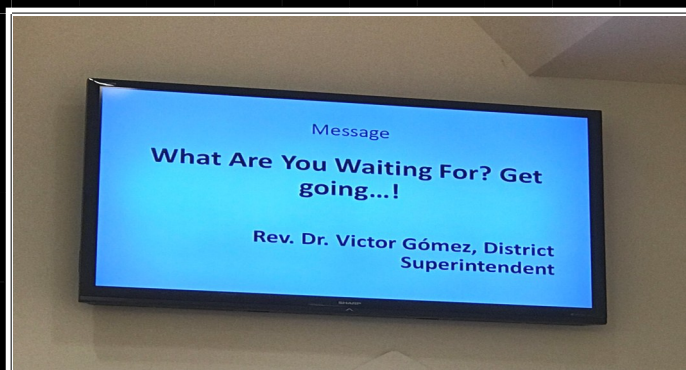
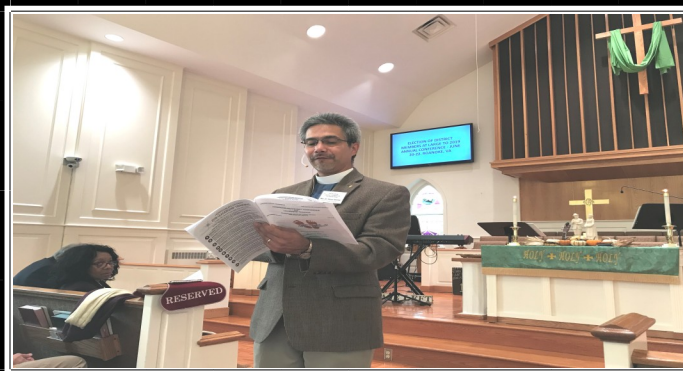
The Harrisonburg District Conference and Leadership Training Event were held on Sunday, November 18th at Bridgewater UMC. It was a day that celebrated the mission and ministry of the Harrisonburg District, had an inspiring speaker, the Rev. Dr. Victor Gómez, and special music by Karen Chamblee, violin, and Stage Left Music Ministry. Officers were elected for the district committees and boards and at-large lay members were elected to the 2019 Annual Conference, June 20-22, in Roanoke, Virginia. An offering of \$1,322.50 was collected to benefit Overlook Retreat and Camp Ministries and Mission Central.

Laitly had an opportunity to attend one of ten workshops at the Leadership Training Event following District Conference. We appreciate the work of Rev. Jim Harris for planning and implementing this event and the assistance of the DCOM Chairperson Rev. Bob Talbott and the Faith Development Ministry team.

Please enjoy pictures of District Conference & Leadership Training, courtesy of Rev. Stan Thompson. If you have not attended a District Conference or participated in a District Leadership Training, you are encouraged to take advantage of these important district functions in 2019.







**Ten 2018 Leadership Training Workshops were offered on Sunday, November 18th at Bridgewater United Methodist Church:**

1. We Believe What? - Marc Brown
2. How to Reach Young People - Paulo Lopes
3. When Serving Helps and Helping Hurts - Glenn Rowley
4. Legacy Giving/UM Foundation - Tommy Herndon
5. Exploring Ministry - Erich Bennett & Stan Thompson



6. Worship - Becky Wright
7. Work of the Nominating Committee - Tom Murphy
8. Laity Serving Communion to Shut-ins - Jim Harris
9. Dementia-Friendly Congregations - Martha Stokes
10. Mission Central Visit - Artie Frederick & Delores Reid

### District Council on Ministries

The **District Council on Ministries Executive Committee** will be meeting in 2019 on January 24; March 28; April 27-Retreat at Asbury UMC 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.; DCOM Dinner at Camp Overlook-Date set by Overlook, Arrive at 5:30 p.m., Dinner at 6:00 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, Scott Dillard, Dale Dodrill, Becky Downey, Victor Gómez, Sharon Harold, Annie Pierce, Kevin Poeckert, and Phil Secrist. Many thanks to Rev. Jim Harris who has served as the Faith Development Ministry Team leader in planning the **Leadership Training Event on November 18, 2018, at Bridgewater United Methodist Church.**



### MISSIONS



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

**Mission Central's Children's Clothes Closet:** Wonderful things have happened at Mission Central this year.

Our building is open and if all goes well, we will have plumbing by the end of the year. Thank you to so many who have made this possible. Please consider volunteering when we are open. It is a time to share God's love one on one, as you treat each person with kindness and care. We are open the **2nd and 4th Wednesday mornings, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. of each month and those same 2nd and 4th weeks on Thursday evenings from 5:00-7:00 p.m.** If you are interested, please come and shadow one of our volunteers. One of our faithful volunteers, Phyllis Foltz, made a New Year's resolution to help with the Children's Clothes Closet when it was still housed in McGaheysville UMC in 2000. Because of her witness others came to serve. You could be that witness in your church. "Love God, Love your Neighbor". Mission Central give us the opportunity to do both together.

*Artie Frederick, Sub-Committee Chairperson*



**Mission Central's Medical Equipment for Caring Loaner Closet:** We are now at Mission Central, 1704

Smithland Road, Harrisonburg, VA, and are open to the public **Mondays, 9 AM - 12 Noon** and **Thursdays, 5 PM - 7 PM**. We are still accepting donations of equipment and supplies as we continue to give these to those needing them. Our medical equipment includes walkers, wheelchairs, bedside commodes, shower benches, hospital beds, Hoyer lifts, and over the bed trapeze bars. We deliver and set up hospital beds if these are needed. We also have disposables such as dressings, wound care supplies, disposable briefs and diapers. We need volunteers to help keep our loaner closet open and to clean and organize the equipment, and organize the disposables. We also need strong persons to help the bed delivery group. Please contact Delores Reid, if you can help in any way.

*Delores Reid, Medical Equipment Sub-Committee Chairperson*

*Bill Lalla, Mission & Outreach Ministry Team Leader, [billlalla@gmail.com](mailto:billlalla@gmail.com)*



To reach Mission Central's Children's Clothes Closet and the Medical Equipment for Caring Loaner Closet by phone is as easy as calling the District Office at **433-2382**! You will be connected to a voice mailbox for each of these ministries to leave a message. If you call the district office and no one answers, you may leave a message by **pressing 300 for the Medical Equipment for Caring Loaner Closet** and Delores Reid will pick up your message and return your call. You may leave a message for the **Children's Clothes Closet by pressing 301** and Artie Frederick will receive your message and return your call. We hope this will make your correspondence with these two vital district ministries easier.



*With Deepest Sympathy*

Sympathy is extended to the family of the Rev. James W. Reynolds, Jr., who passed away on October 30, 2018, at the Hermitage Roanoke Retirement Community. He is survived by his son, the Rev. David T. Reynolds and wife, Charlette, of Massanutten, VA, on the Harrisonburg District. A memorial service was held on Monday, November 5, at First United Methodist Church in Salem.

The Rev. Edward Sims "Ned" Van Dyck passed away on Saturday, November 3, 2018, at Sentara RMH Medical Center. Rev. Van Dyck, retired from the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church in 2010 with 33 years of ministry service. Rev. Van Dyck is survived by his wife, Carolyn, their children, Kate (Eugene) and Tim (Lucia) and grandchildren, Jed, Mellie, and Winnie, and sister, Leila. A memorial service was held on Friday, November 9th, at Bridgewater United Methodist Church. Condolences are extended to the Van Dyck family.





**Nov 30-Dec 2** (Fri-Sun)-Wounded Hearts-Healing Love Spiritual Retreat, Overlook-Blessings Lodge

**December 3 & 5** (Mon & Wed)-UMW lunch & entertainment, 12:00 noon

**December 4** (Tuesday)-Charge Conference Make-up Day, Manor Memorial UMC, 7:00 p.m.

**December 6** (Thursday) - Partners in Ministry [PiM] Christmas Covered-dish Dinner, Mt. Tabor UMC, 6:00 p.m. gather; 6:30 p.m. dinner\*

**December 21** (Friday) - VUMCenter-Glen Allen & District Office closes at 1:00 p.m. for Christmas Holiday

**December 24-26** (Mon-Wed) - VUMCenter-Glen Allen & District Office closed for Christmas Holiday

**December 27-28, 31** (Thurs, Fri, Mon) - District Office Staff vacation



**New Year's Blessings January 1, 2019** (Tuesday) - VUMCenter-Glen Allen & District Office closed for New Year's Day Holiday

**January 4-5** (Fri-Sat) - DUMM Tri-District Retreat, Overlook-Blessings Lodge\*

**January 7** (Monday) - Partners in Ministry [PiM] Donovan Memorial UMC, 9:00 a.m.\*

**January 10** (Thursday) - DUMW Executive Officers, Vision of Hope, 7:00 p.m.\*

**January 10** (Thursday) - Deadline for Joint Pastor & S/PPRC tenure form to District Office; also deadline for Pastor, Church-Community Profiles on EVC

**January 18** (Friday) - Last date to remit 2018 Conference & District Apportionment Funds to the Conference Office.

*\*Denotes related article elsewhere in this newsletter*



**Partners in Ministry's** next meeting will be on **Thursday, December 6, at Mt. Tabor UMC**, (gather at 6:00 p.m. and dinner at 6:30 p.m.) for a **covered-dish Christmas Party**. The Gómez family will provide the program. All clergy and family members, and key district leaders and their family members are invited and encouraged to attend.



Partners in Ministry will begin the new year meeting at **Donovan Memorial UMC in Singers Glen on Monday, January 7, at 9:00 a.m.** with **programs presented on Emmaus and Habitat for Humanity**. All clergy are asked to put this meeting on their calendars and plan to be present.

*PiM Executive Com-*



The District UMW finished the year with an informational meeting on November 10. In 2019 we will be celebrating our 150 Anniversary. We invite everyone to join us as we celebrate during all of our events next year. Our first event will be the **Spiritual Life Retreat on March 2 at McGaheysville UMC**. Rev. Laura Douglass, the District UMW's new Spiritual Growth Coordinator, will present our program, "Sisterhood of Grace". I will include a registration form with the January newsletter. Everyone is invited to attend.

A big thank you to all of our units who have hosted our district events and provided refreshments and meals this year. Also, congratulations to everyone for all of the work that has been done in missions for 2018 and to the units who have completed reading programs, mission giving and their, "Living into our Purpose" forms.

We invite all ladies of the Harrisonburg District to join us as we continue to serve women, children, and youth in our communities and around the world in 2019. Please contact me for more information. The **UMW District Executive Committee will meet on January 10, at Vision of Hope at 7:00 p.m.** All Committee members, please plan to attend. Wishing everyone a wonderful Christmas and blessed New Year.

*Sharon Harold, Harrisonburg District UMW President, [sharold714@aol.com](mailto:sharold714@aol.com) or 540-879-2270*



Our **Tri-District UMM Retreat** is coming up **January 4-5, 2019**, at **Overlook Retreat and Camp Ministries**. We are excited to have Rev. Peter Moon, Richmond District Superintendent, as our leader for the weekend who asks us, "Does the Gospel still work?" We will be affirming that the gospel is still as powerful as it always has been! Register online at [www.campoverlook.org](http://www.campoverlook.org). Additional information is included in an attachment.

*God Bless, Scott Dillard, Harrisonburg District UMM President*



We had 22 Lay Servants and their guests present at the Lay Servant Dinner on Wednesday, October 17th.

This event was hosted by Manor Market. We were given a warm welcome by Ginger Turner, a Lay Servant, and Mrs. Wanda Shoe-Chairperson, and decorated the china and crystal. delicious Thanksgiving.

The program consisted of greetings by District Superintendent Victor Nancy Bassett and Tammy Gordon, and a message by Becky Downey, a Lay Servant at Bridgewater UMC. It was a blessing for all of us in attendance.



They served a very ing meal and the family atmosphere made us feel at home.

*Dale Dodrill, District Director of Lay Servant Ministries*





## KINGSWAY Prison & Family Outreach

### **Kingsway Prison Ministry-Volunteers are need for Wrapping:**



We deeply appreciate the help provided to this ministry each year for The Apple Tree Project and Inmate Christmas. You may also want to consider volunteering with wrapping and packaging this year. Wrapping begins in December. Call the office to find times available during the day, or arrange to bring a group at a time convenient for your group.

Louise Jennings, Director  
Kingsway Prison & Family Outreach  
2217 S. Main Street  
Duke's Plaza Shopping Center  
PO Box 2335; Harrisonburg, VA 22803  
Office: 540-433-5668  
Director's phone: 540-830-7000  
Website: [kingswayoutreach.org](http://kingswayoutreach.org)



**DISTRICT NEWS**  
Harrisonburg District  
Virginia Annual Conference  
The United Methodist Church

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Rev. Dr. Victor Gómez  
District Superintendent  
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Rev. Gordon K. Meriwether  
District Director of Congregational Vitality  
[GordonMeriwether@vaumc.org](mailto:GordonMeriwether@vaumc.org)

Brenda Pack Woods  
Administrative Assistant  
[harrisonburgdistrict@vaumc.org](mailto:harrisonburgdistrict@vaumc.org)

Harrisonburg District on the web at  
[www.harrisonburgdistrictumc.org](http://www.harrisonburgdistrictumc.org)  
Harrisonburg District on Facebook at  
Harrisonburg District of VaUMC  
Virginia Conference on the web at  
[www.vaumc.org](http://www.vaumc.org)

## Conference Opportunities & News



**United Methodist Family Services (UMFS) is honored to be the official conference offering for December.** Local churches have been faithful partners for over 118 years. It is because of Virginia Conference support that this ministry has continued to grow and bear good fruit. Today UMFS serves high-risk children and families across the commonwealth, providing foster care and community based services, specialized therapeutic education, and residential treatment services. Support for UMFS creates brighter futures for high-risk children. UMFS thanks you for your partnership in this ministry. Bulletin inserts and offering envelopes were recently mailed to each church to assist with the officering. You can order additional bulletin inserts and offering envelopes or download an electronic copy of the bulletin insert at [UMFS.org/church](http://UMFS.org/church) or contact Brenda Foster at [bfoster@umfs.org](mailto:bfoster@umfs.org) or 804-254-9450 for assistance. *Source: e-Advocate; November 21, 2018*

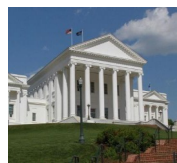
**100% with**  
UMCOR  
United Methodist Committee on Relief



**Disaster Funds:** The outpouring of support for the victims of Hurricane Florence and Michael have been outstanding! Please use the following fund numbers if you wish to send monetary support.

982450 UMCOR Disaster-International  
901670 UMCOR Disaster-United States  
901440 UMCOR Material Resources-Kits

**Please be sure to write your check to VAUMC (not UMCOR) if you are remitting to the Conference Treasurer's office.** The fund number designation indicates to the treasurer's office where to send the funds and how to designate it. *Source: Dollar\$ & Sense; November 2018*



Register now for **UM Day at the General Assembly to be held on Thursday, January 31, 2019.** Learn more about how our Commonwealth's Legislature works, meet with people who work there, and learn more about issues before them at this next session. Register: <https://www.eiseverywhere.com/umday2019>. Please note there are NO paper registration form. Please see attached flyer for more information.

The Council of Bishops has called a **Special Session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church to be held February 23-26, 2019,** at The Dome, part of the America's Center Convention Complex in St. Louis, Missouri. The purpose will be to act on a report from the Council of Bishops based on the recommendations of the Commission on a Way Forward.



The 32-member Commission was appointed to examine in *The Book of Discipline* concerning human sexuality and exploring options to strengthen the unity of the church. Resources about this special session are available on the Virginia Conference website at <https://www.vaumc.org/GC2019>. This includes the archived livesteam from the September 26 Q & A session featuring Bishop Sharma Lewis, Rev. Tom Berlin, and Ms. Martha Stokes, direct link: <https://livestream.com/VAUMC/COWFQA>. Links to the three proposed plans: <https://www.vaumc.org/document.doc?id=3289>

**Public Service Announcement:** The Shenandoah Valley Choral Society, under the direction of Curtis Nolley, will present its 49th annual Christmas concert on Friday, December 14th at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, December 16th, at 3:00 p.m. at Bridgewater Church of the Brethren. The concert entitled, "Welcome All Wonders" will feature a variety of new and traditional carol settings accompanied by brass, percussion, organ, and piano. Tickets are available at the door, locally at Red Front Supermarket in Harrisonburg, Bridgewater Foods, and on-line at [www.singshenandoah.org](http://www.singshenandoah.org). Admission is \$15 for adults/\$12 for seniors and students.