

# DISTRICT NEWS

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

*March 2019*

*Issue 46-3*



## From Your District Superintendent:

*Though we cannot think alike, may we not love alike? May we not be of one heart, though we are not of one opinion? Without all doubt, we may. Herein all the children of God may unite, notwithstanding these smaller differences. These remaining as they are, they may forward one another in love and in good works.—John Wesley*



Once upon a time there was a spring of cool, clear and refreshing water found on an open hillside. People would come from miles around to drink from the water and they would go away satisfied. The water was so good that they would tell their friends and neighbors to come and drink. More and more people came and soon there was always a crowd around the fountain. Some people began to complain that they would get sunstroke waiting on hot days or soaked on rainy ones. So a canopy was erected over the fountain. Then the complainers continued and some people found it inconvenient to bend over and lift up the water to drink, so the fountain spring was encased in stone and drinking faucets provided.

More and more people came and the canopy no longer allowed them all in, so a permanent building was erected with enough room for as many people as would come, benches and pews everywhere so people could sit down. 60" screens were installed to entertain the comers. People began putting pictures on the walls, worry began about the carpet. Worried more about the looks of the building, because what would visitors think if it was not kept in nice condition!

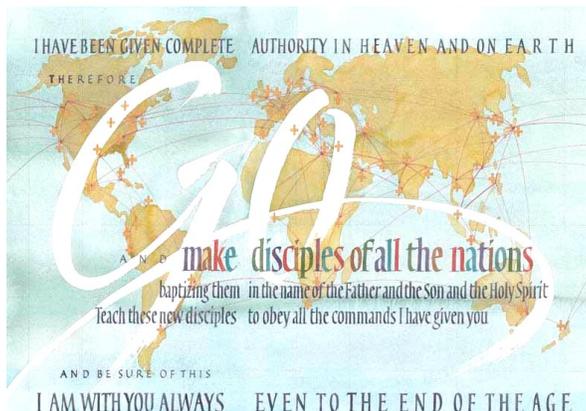
Others spent much money beautifying the stone building and drinking fountain with gold and jewels. And then those who had given much started to demand special rights and privileges to the water and decided to charge others to drink from the fountain. Special guardians and keepers of the fountain with special garments and insignia were called to keep the people orderly and obedient. . Shhhhhhh! Be quiet! No drinking or eating is allowed inside. And soon the focus shifted from the water to the gathering place. People began to forget that there was a fountain at all in the hustle and bustle of the assembly. Then the fountain went dry!

I heard this story before in a Christian convention and the meaning for us in the Christian Church is that we come together because we all have been offered "living water." As I am writing, I am reflecting on the General Conference about to take place, of course by the time we read this, General Conference is already finished and now we know the outcome.

After so many years dealing with the topic of human sexuality, the 2016 General Conference set up a Commission for a Way Forward. I know that some folks disagree with me, while many others shared what I am about to say. As I traveled around our Harrisonburg District last fall to officiate charge conferences, I asked our laity what is the Mission of The United Methodist Church. Unfortunately, very few knew it, which is based on the Great Commission as we Make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World.

We have been distracted by this very years, and seems that we have for me wrong and assume I do not be made it a priority and singled out this are here.

We have allowed this issue to distract our differences, we have a common mission in making disciples of Jesus World. We heard folks talking about tion. A way out is not a way forward. evil (or whatever you want to call it) to letting the fountain dry out!



issue of human sexuality for many gotten what is our Mission. Don't get lieve it is important, but we have issue and we have forgotten why we

us from what really matters. Despite denominator, which is our very mis-Christ for the Transformation of the separating or leaving the denomina-A way out is allowing the enemy or divide us and not to unite us. We are

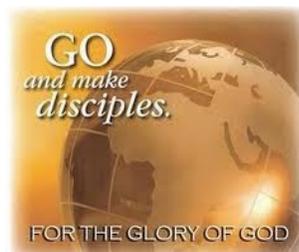
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As I reflect and pray for all, the words of a hymn come to my mind:

“Do not be afraid, I am with you,  
I have called you each by name.  
Come and follow me.  
I will bring you home.  
I love you and you are mine.”

- Christopher Wilcock



Imagine if our General Conference set up a Commission for a Way Forward in how to retake our Mission. Imagine that we seek a Way Forward with the focus to go back to our Wesleyan roots. Imagine that we pursue a Way Forward in taking back the Great Commission. Jesus shared his compassion and love to both the outcast and yes, to the observers of the law. We are all thirsty and Jesus is inviting all to come and drink. Let us move forward. Let us allow the Holy Spirit to move us forward. Let us retake our Wesleyan roots. Let us show the same compassion and love that Jesus showed to us all, as well as the outcast and the observers of the law. Let us make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. It is time! The fountain is drying out!

In Christ, Victor Gómez

District Co-

*From Harrisonburg District Co-Lay Leader Marquetta Mitchell:*



Recently, one of our church members brought the following article to my attention and asked if I would share it in our newsletter. The full article can be found in the January issue of the Mountain Courier newspaper. After reading it, I thought it would be a good idea.

*“As the Crow Flies. . .Miraculous Starling Murmurations”*

An enormous flock of starlings hung around our neighborhood two weeks before Christmas in 2017. One morning I decided to record a video from our bedroom window of the flock assembling by the hundreds in our back paddock and yard. Masses of starlings performed in unison as the flock seemed to somersault along. Wave after wave of birds landed momentarily as those behind them flew over the heads and landed in front of them.

Then, as if on command, the entire flock took off and flew past the window. The curving stream of birds swirled gracefully away in a continuous mass. The roar of their wings reached my ears where I stood inside the closed-up house. The flock darkened as it bunched and turned, and then lightened as the birds spread out and changed direction. It resembled a single organism convulsing and moving across the sky.



Originally coined as a collective noun meaning a bunch of starlings, 'murmuration' now refers to a flock of hundreds, even thousands, of birds moving through the sky in a series of highly coordinated patterns. Other birds, including shorebirds and even common street pigeons, murmurate. . .

Over the past 15 years it's been pretty well determined that the synchronized movements of a murmuring, pulsating flock of birds is based on the speed, direction, and spatial orientation of just six or seven individuals flying adjacently. These individuals convey the information, which moves through the entire flock almost instantly. . .

Many naturalists have observed that flocks of starlings murmurate when a predator such as hawk or falcon attacks. I've seen a flock of starlings bunch together and zigzag when chased by a Cooper's hawk. Bunching tightly and then twisting and turning in unison makes it hard for the aerial attacker to pick an individual target, and the attacker gives up. . . .”



As I allow my imagination to ponder about what these birds look like, I wonder several things as a Christian woman: I wonder how it would look if we Christians resembled a “single organism” looking like the body of Christ moving through this world as a unified body. I wonder how it would look if we as Christians moved through this world in “highly coordinated pattern” orchestrated only by God's principles. I wonder what it would look like if our Christian leaders shepherded us flock of Christian men and women “bunch tightly while we twist and turn” in unison carrying the armor of God making it hard for the “attacker” to target us.

Genesis 1:21 tells us that “God created. . .every winged bird after its kind; and God saw that it was good. Then in Genesis 1:26 God said, “Let us make men in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the. . .birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth. . .”

Lord, Let us learn something from the birds the You created and called good. Let us learn to work together more in unison as this is the only way that You, God created us to work. . .together. . .as Your Body. God, you sacrificed your only Son, Jesus, to teach us how to be sons and daughters; how to worship; how to make disciples and how to live together “in unison” as the boy of Christ. Amen.

Church, let's murmurate!

Your sister in Christ, Marquetta



From the Bishop

A challenge to read the Bible in 2019

Bible Readings for March

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.

March 1	Exodus 29-30; James 1	March 16	Job 28-29; 1 Corinthians 10:1-18
March 2	Exodus 31-33; James 2	March 17	Job 30-31; 1 Corinthians 10:19-33
March 3	Exodus 34-35; James 3	March 18	Job 32-33; 1 Corinthians 11:1-16
March 4	Exodus 36-38; James 4	March 19	Job 34-35; 1 Corinthians 11:17-34
March 5	Exodus 39-40; James 5	March 20	Job 36-37; 1 Corinthians 12
March 6	Job 1-2; 1 Corinthians 1	March 21	Job 38-40; 1 Corinthians 13
March 7	Job 3-4; 1 Corinthians 2	March 22	Job 41-42; 1 Corinthians 14:1-20
March 8	Job 5-7; 1 Corinthians 3	March 23	Proverbs 1-2; 1 Corinthians 14:21-40
March 9	Job 8-10; 1 Corinthians 4	March 24	Proverbs 3-5; 1 Corinthians 15:1-28
March 10	Job 11-13; 1 Corinthians 5	March 25	Proverbs 6-7; 1 Corinthians 15:29-58
March 11	Job 14-16; 1 Corinthians 6	March 26	Proverbs 8-9; 1 Corinthians 16
March 12	Job 17-19; 1 Corinthians 7:1-19	March 27	Proverbs 10-12; Titus 1
March 13	Job 20-21; 1 Corinthians 7:20-40	March 28	Proverbs 13-15; Titus 2
March 14	Job 22-24; 1 Corinthians 8	March 29	Proverbs 16-18; Titus 3
March 15	Job 25-27; 1 Corinthians 9	March 30	Proverbs 19-21; Hebrews 1
		March 31	Proverbs 22-24; Hebrews 2

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

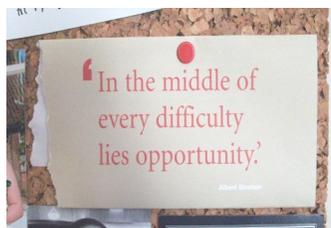
*From the District Director of Congregational Vitality Gordon Meriwether:*



**In the Middle with Adam**

May the Spirit of Compassion and Love rule this day!

First, let me complement Stephen Hay and Adam Blagg on their recent "Town Hall" to discuss the issues before this Special Session of the General Conference. Their openness and willingness to be vulnerable was refreshing and most appreciated. I think everyone in the fellowship hall at Asbury UMC found a place in the discussion. Thank you, both.



On a visit last weekend to my 92 year old Catholic mother in Pensacola, we discussed the trials and tribulations of her church and the upcoming perils faced by The United Methodist Church. After a lengthy and not so eloquent discussion of the issues facing the UMC, she interrupted me with, "Well, Gordon, what do you think?" I suppose I haven't been asked that question before. Everyone assumes that since I am a known provocateur, that I would identify with the so-called progressives. But something Adam said at the aforementioned "town hall" stirred me. Like Adam, I am firmly ensconced in the middle.

I love this church, its tolerance and openness for all things of the Spirit, its constant quest for knowledge and understanding of God, and its compassion and love for all of God's people. But most importantly, I am a Methodist with a primary call to "think and let think". Discussion and discernment of a wildly tough issue is what makes us a church, makes us different, and gives us a heart and soul in Jesus. I, personally, would not have it any other way. If I wanted to be told what to think there are plenty of other denominations eager to welcome me.

So now when I look at the history of our denomination and witness a split over slavery, a conflict over women's rights, and today's gender equality issues, I see a battle for basic human rights; all of which seem to be denied in the scriptures. I am flustered.

I love the Word of God. I study it everyday for fear that I will miss something. Under the grace of God, I wrestle through the Scriptures with issues that make no sense to me or my times. For that reason, I find myself in the middle with Adam. I find worth and value and the wonder in Spirit on all sides of our discernment. I see and understand and trust in the presence of the Spirit in work of the Bishops, the Way Forward, and all those who have struggled to be heard no matter their *Congregational* position.

Now with the work of our hands completed, the work of our hearts begins. Lord, Bless our church.

*In Christ, Gordon*

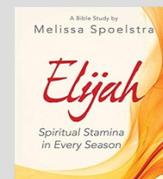




From Sue MacTavish, District Librarian

March 2019 featured item:

Elijah: Spiritual Stamina in Every Season  
by Melissa Spoelstra, 2018



Life is like a rollercoaster. One day it seems that everything in life is good, and the next day it can feel like everything is falling apart. Then there are those in between days when we are coasting along without much thought to the highs and lows. The prophet Elijah experienced this rollercoaster ride as well. One moment he was hiding out in the wilderness during a famine, being fed by the ravens, and the next he was on the mountaintop where God showed up in a powerful way with fire and then rain. Even Elijah grew weary of all the ups and downs, telling God, "I have had enough" (1 Kings 19:4). He needed *spiritual stamina* in order to keep on going and fulfill all the plans God had for his life. We do too!

This six-week study examines the life of the prophet Elijah, an ordinary man, who did extraordinary things for God in the midst of the highs and lows of life. The study looks at spiritual stamina secrets that helped Elijah including practical habits related to making decisions, caring for the soul, accepting circumstances, mentoring, and finishing well.

The District Library has the book, leaders guide and the DVD and they can be found in the Bible/Bible Studies 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 when finished so that others may borrow.

Thanks, Sue



Bishop Sharma Lewis will be holding her **Chat 'n Chew** sessions around the conference with clergy and laity once again in 2019. The Harrisonburg District's session will be on **March 23, 2019** (Charlottesville, Harrisonburg, Staunton, Winchester Districts) at **St. Paul's UMC in Staunton**. Time to be announced.



Please reserve this date!



**SAVE THE DATE!** Further details to follow. . .

*This event has the potential to change lives and to transform churches as participants are challenged to walk in intimacy with God through prayer.*

**What:** "Lord, Teach Us to Pray" Seminar presented by Aldersgate Renewal Ministries

**When:** Friday evening and Saturday, October 4-5, 2019

**Where:** Manor Memorial United Methodist Church, New Market, VA

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

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



*Our Deepest Sympathy*

*Sympathy is extended to the family of Ruth Hedrick who passed away on Thursday, February 14th. On November 29, 1945, she married the Rev. Roy Hedrick who preceded her in death in November of 2015. Rev. Hedrick served churches on the Harrisonburg District. Mrs. Hedrick is survived by her children: Nancy Harper and husband Harvey; Wilma White and husband, Fred; and Paul Hedrick and wife, Ruby; a son-in-law Brady Miller; 11 grandchildren; and 17 great-grandchildren. She was a member of Mt. Clinton United Methodist Church where a funeral service was held on Monday, February 18th. Burial was at the Hedrick Family Cemetery in Seneca Rocks, WVA.*

*Rev. & Mrs. Hedrick's daughter, Wilma White, also served as a pastor on the Harrisonburg District.*



**HAVE YOU REGISTERED FOR A CLASS?**

The **Spring District Lay Servant Training** will be held on **Saturday, March 30, 2019**, at **Woodstock United Methodist Church** in Woodstock. The hours will be **9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.** The cost is \$20 that includes: textbook/materials, snack and lunch. Payable on March 30th.

The following courses being offered and teachers are:

- Basic - Linda Conrad
- Living Our Beliefs (UM Heritage) - Rev. Gordon Meriwether
- By Water and the Spirit (Baptism) - Rev. Stan Thompson

The classes are open to **ANYONE**, not just Lay Servants. To register contact Dale Dodrill, cell 770-402-0752, or home 540-828-3925, e-mail: [hduc.layservants@hotmail.com](mailto:hduc.layservants@hotmail.com); or contact Brenda Woods, District Administrative Assistant, 540-433-2382, or e-mail: [harrisonburgdistrict@vaumc.org](mailto:harrisonburgdistrict@vaumc.org) **To teach a course, we need a minimum of 6 people registered by March 15th. REGISTER EARLY!**

A **District Lay Servant Advanced Course on Preaching** will be taught by District Superintendent Victor Gómez. The first session will be on **April 10th, 7:00 p.m. at the District Office**. The dates for the next meetings will be announced at that time. Cost is \$10. Register by March 30th at information sites above.

*Dale Dodrill, District Director of Lay Servant Ministries*



*Are you being called to lead District Men's ministry on the Harrisonburg District?*



**United Methodist Men Mission:** Our mission is to support spiritual growth among men, helping men to mature as disciples as they encourage spiritual formation in others. . .

**Goal:** Our goal is to empower the ministry of Jesus Christ through men within the congregations of the UMC. . .

**Pathway:** Our pathway is a lifelong commitment to spiritual growth to maturity as Christ followers. Our spiritual formation is marked by spiritual reproduction as our faith passes on in others. . . through prayer, study, mentoring, fellowship, and service.

[source: General Commission on United Methodist Men, Nashville, TN & Harrisonburg District Rally Brochures]

*If you are interested in District United Methodist Men leadership, please contact the District Office at 433-2382 or [harrisonburgdistrict@vaumc.org](mailto:harrisonburgdistrict@vaumc.org) for additional information.*

**BREAKFAST**

The United Methodist Men at Christ UMC in Shenandoah (211 Central Avenue) invite all men in the Harrisonburg District to a **district-wide FREE breakfast** on **Saturday, March 30, 10:00 a.m.** Please reserve this date and plan to be present for fellowship with your brothers in Christ.



**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. If there are time delays in opening, the District Office will be also be delayed in opening.**

**District Council on Ministries**

The **District Council on Ministries Executive Committee** will be meeting in 2019 on March 28; April 27-Retreat at Asbury UMC 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.; DCOM Dinner at Camp Overlook, May 30, arrive at 6:00 p.m., dinner at 6:30 p.m. [note change in date and times]; 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, Gordon Meriwether, Annie Pierce, Kevin Poeckert, Phil Secrist, and Gordon Meriwether, Chairperson.



**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:** The Children's Clothing Closet has been very busy. We are in need of summer clothes. Boys shorts, sizes 2 to 16, or Small, Medium, and Large. Also winter pants of all sizes for both boys and girls are needed (we are looking forward to next season). Thank you for all your support. A special thank you to Chloe for all the beautiful stuffed animals she wanted to share with other children. Our clients' children were excited to choose one to take home.

*Artie Frederick, Sub-Committee Chairperson, 208-7669*



**Mission Central's Medical Equipment for Caring Loaner Closet** is open **Mondays 9 a.m.—12:00 noon** and **Thursdays 5-7 p.m.** (We are closed if Rockingham County schools are closed due to bad weather.) We are still in need of donations for shower chairs and benches. We did buy several last month since we were totally out and none were being donated. Just a reminder, if you borrow equipment and no longer need it, we ask that you return it so someone else can use it. If you are interested in volunteering during our open hours and can help with cleaning equipment or delivery and set up of hospital beds, we would love to have your help. You may contact Delores Reid, 540-383-6112, with questions or information.

*Delores Reid, Medical Equipment Sub-Committee Chairperson*

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



**DONATIONS NEEDED FOR Mission Central's Clothes Closet: Summer Clothes; Boys shorts, sizes 2 to 16 or Small, Medium, and Large**

**DONATIONS NEEDED FOR Mission Central's Medical Equipment for Caring Loaner Closet: shower chairs and benches**



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.



**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!



**March 2** (Saturday) - DUMW Spiritual Life Retreat, McGaheysville UMC, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.\*

**March 30** (Saturday) - District-wide UMM Breakfast, Christ UMC-Shenandoah, 10:00 a.m.\*

**March 4** (Monday) - Partners in Ministry [PiM], Vision of Hope UMC, 9:00 a.m., Program: Livestream presentation by Bishop Sharma Lewis\*

**March 30** (Saturday) - District Lay Servant Training, Woodstock UMC, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.\*

**April 1** (Monday) - Partners in Ministry [PiM], Charter House School, Edinburg, 9:00 a.m.

**March 7** (Thursday) - DUMW Executive Committee, St. John's UMC-Edinburg, 7:00 p.m.

**April 4** (Thursday) - DUMW "Evening Together", Cedar Grove UMC, 7:00 p.m.\*

**March 8-9** (Fri-Sat) - Clergy Spouse Retreat, Blessings Lodge-Camp Overlook\*

**April 10** (Wednesday) - District Lay Servant Advanced Course on Preaching, District Office, 7:00 p.m.\*

**March 23** (Saturday) - Bishop Lewis' Chat 'n Chew Session, St. Paul UMC-Staunton, time to be announced\*

**April 18** (Thursday) - VUMCenter-Glen Allen and District Office closes at 1:00 p.m.

**March 28** (Thursday) - District Committee on the Ordained Ministry, District Office, 9:00 a.m.

**April 19** (Friday) - VUMCenter-Glen Allen and District Office closed, Good Friday Observance

**March 28** (Thursday) - District Council on Ministries, District Office, 7:00 p.m.\*

*\*Denotes related article elsewhere in this newsletter*



Partners in Ministry [PiM] will meet on **Monday, March 4th at Vision of Hope UMC, 9:00 a.m.** On March 4th, the program presented will be a livestream address by Bishop Lewis related to General Conference. The title of the livestream will be "State of the Church: Where Do We Go Now?" The program originally scheduled for March 4th with Rev. Carol Bookwalter on "Healing Power" will be rescheduled. All clergy are encouraged to be present.

PiM will meet on **Monday, April 1, 9:00 a.m., at Charter House School in Edinburg.** A program on "United Methodist Family Service at Work" will be presented by Rev. Elfie Finn-McKinzie and Rev. Darlene Wilkins. All clergy are asked to be present.

**SAVE THE DATE**

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.**

*PiM Executive Committee*



A big thank you to McGaheysville UMW for hosting the District Spiritual Life Retreat held in March and for the delicious lunch. Also, to Laura Douglass, District Spiritual Growth Coordinator, for presenting our program.

**On Thursday, April 4,** we will hold our **District "Evening Together" at Cedar Grove UMC, at 7:00 p.m.** Our speaker will be Kimbert Collertt, principal, at United Methodist Family Services Charter House in Edinburg. Artie Frederick, Mission Central's Clothes Closet Coordinator, and Delores Reid, Medical Supply Closet Coordinator, will also update us on Mission Central and provide a tour of the Mission Central building. Refreshments will be provided by the Executive Committee. Everyone is invited to attend and learn more about these important ministries of the Harrisonburg District.

The **Virginia Conference UMW** will hold their **Spiritual Life Retreat on May 3-5, at Eagle Eyrie in Lynchburg.** Rev. Dawn-Marie Singleton, pastor of Oakton UMC, will be the retreat leader. Many of you will remember Dawn-Marie when she served as a pastor on the Harrisonburg District. A registration form will be attached to this newsletter. Please contact Sharon Harold for more information and car pooling information.

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

**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.

[source: [www.vaumc.org](http://www.vaumc.org)]



**Kingsway's Programs in 2018:**

- 320 Children received Christmas Gifts through the Apple Tree Project (Christmas for Inmate Children)
- 300+ Children's Birthday Cards sent
- 6,000 Inmate Christmas Bags
- 50 Weekly fellowship meetings
- 30 Ex-offenders were supplied with hygiene products, canned food, paper products and household items, sleeping bags, towels and washcloths to those who are making a new start
- 200 Inside Prison Church Services and Bible Studies
- Women in the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Regional Jail and Middle River Regional Jail were visited weekly
- 1,560 Birthday Cards were sent to inmates
- 6,000 Holiday Cards were sent to inmates
- Encourager program (letter writing)
- Over 265 request letters from ex-offenders and inmates
- Assisted 37 ex-offenders and their families in obtaining birth certificates, drivers licenses, photo ID's, and household assistance
- Helped 20 ex-offenders purchase a Tracfone phone or minute cards for their phones

**Conference Opportunities & News**



On **March 4, from 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. Bishop Lewis will conduct a livestream event related to the General Conference.** The title of the livestream is "State of the Church: Where Do We Go Now?" It will include an address by Bishop Lewis.

Livestream Website: <https://livestream.com/VAUMC/StateoftheChurch>

**Clergy Spouses Retreat:** *Are you anticipating some kind of major transition in 2019? Maybe a new appointment, or retirement, or the results of the February's denominational vote?* This session is designed exclusively for you - the clergy spouse! In confidential and group discussions, prepare your mind and heart with healthy habits and strategies for each phase of a transition. Have fun with other clergy spouses solving real-life scenarios about saying goodbye, dealing with the chaos, and planting new roots. Walk away with meaningful, supportive connections with other clergy spouses.

Julie Anderman has been a clergy spouse in the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference for 20 years. She co-founded Artos Retreats two years ago out of a calling to improve the well-being of clergy spouses through connection and learning.



This year's retreat is entitled, "Healthy Transitions for Clergy Spouses". Please mark your calendars now for **Friday, March 8 - Saturday, March 9, 2019, at Blessings Lodge at Camp Overlook.** Cost is \$100 for accommodations and meals, based on double occupancy. Space limited. Questions?

Contact Judy Hall at (804) 264-0524.



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

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Rev. Gordon K. Meriwether  
District Director of Congregational Vitality  
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Harrisonburg District on the web at [www.harrisonburgdistrictumc.org](http://www.harrisonburgdistrictumc.org)  
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)

The 2019 Robert F. Boyd Institute at Virginia Wesleyan University presents "**Leadership: On the Journey with Mission, Vision and Purpose**" with **Bishop Sharma D. Lewis on April 8-9, 2019.** Bishop Lewis will lead participants in exploring the building blocks of developing, communicating, and



implementing a vision. Cost is \$75 (accommodations not included). The seminar will award one (1) CEU for clergy from the Virginia Conference. For more information, please contact Kelly Roenker Cordova at 757-455-5709 or [kcordova@vwu.edu](mailto:kcordova@vwu.edu)



**2019 Annual Conference Offering**

The offering goal of \$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

Just Neighbors Matching Funds Grant for Immigrant Legal Counsel in four districts - \$30,000