



DISTRICT NEWS

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

August 2019

Issue 46-8



From Your District Superintendent:

“Be rooted in the faith... and grounded in Love” – John Wesley (1750)

As I am writing to you all, I am in Salisbury, England where I have the blessing to be part of Wesley Pilgrimage. Today, in particular, I visited Bristol, which is considered the birthplace of the Methodist movement. This past week, during this pilgrimage, I have especially been thinking about God’s purpose for the Harrisonburg District. During this past week, I have been in constant prayer and discernment.

I have been and touched the very places where John and Charles Wesley started this Methodist movement. Along with other pilgrims, I have been studying the history of the Methodist Church. I have been singing to God hymns by Charles Wesley. I have been reading Scripture.

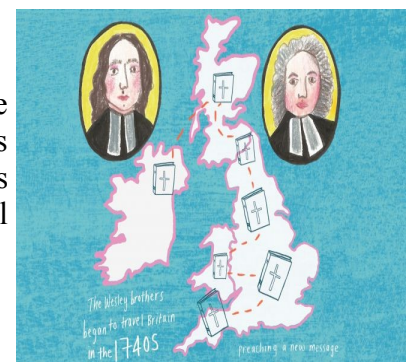
This morning I woke up remembering that in 2014, I received an email from a former student of mine in Cuba. In his email, he said that he woke up at around 2:00 O’clock in the morning, humming in his head the hymn Amazing Grace, and for some reason thinking about me. He said that he got up from bed and began praying for me and singing this hymn. Then he said in his email, that when we face our faith battles, even though we don’t see others sticking around, even when we feel that we are alone, even when we don’t see the light at the end of the tunnel... God is always faithful and God is with us.

After I read his email I started singing this beautiful hymn, at the end of the first verse, I was reminded that I am not blind anymore, that God’s grace is so amazing that allows me to see the light at the end of the tunnel and that indeed, God is with me.

John Wesley’s last words were exactly that: *“The best of all is, God is with us.”* I am reminded of God’s amazing grace and I am reminded of the presence of God without ceasing. I know that I will face struggles throughout my life. I know that I worry, but most important, I know that God is with me, all the time.

At times you may feel that God is not as close as we would like. What about now? What is your *best of all*? What are you holding onto to get you through today? I commend to you Wesley’s words that God-with-us is the best news of everyday, not just one’s final day, and that in Jesus, God has come to us to live with us and in us and share that Amazing Grace.

The Wesley brothers allowed the Holy Spirit to use them and consequently the Methodist movement became very strong in the name of Jesus. God has promised to be with you even in the worst moments of life. God’s presence is not the guarantee that worse will not come, but that God’s best for you will never leave.



GOD is *with you*. No matter what.

In God’s Service, Victor

From the District Director of Congregational Vitality Gordon Meriwether:

May the heavens part so we may hear clearly Your message of Hope and Promise

Congregational

Hebrews 10:24-24: *"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching."*



Matthew 28:19-20a: *"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."*



In my Sunday travels hither and yon to visit you and your temples of worship and praise spread throughout the Harrisonburg District (HBD) of the United Methodist Church, many suggestions have been forthcoming to revitalize our congregations to face a diminishing hope and uncertain future for our churches, our denomination and Christendom in general. One common element stands out as a critical standard for tomorrow, our congregations must be community-driven. By that I mean community inside the four walls of the sanctuary. . . and the neighborhood community. In my mind, community presence inside and outside are critical elements of our future. Without one or the other we are hopelessly mired in routine and tradition that offers hope to only few and eventual death by self-induced asphyxiation.

The Scripture I quoted above from Hebrews urges our congregations to meet together as community. We get a lot out of being together as a congregation, but sometimes it feels like a bunker-mentality, awaiting the next attack on our values. Meeting together, as the author of Hebrews suggests, is a valued source of encouragement for our day to day life and preparation for the Return of the King.

The familiar Scripture from Matthew I quote focuses us, at the direction of Jesus, on the community outside the confines of our temples. In that context, it seems that we are very good, when asked by the Pastor or Mission Committee or some Spirit-filled entrepreneur, in responding to specific needs around us and beyond the horizons. These worth-while endeavors are feel good projects that have meaning for a time and energize the congregations, but as they loose momentum we falter and slide back into worry about the four walls. Now this is not to diminish the incredible local mission work of our churches (Mission Central comes to mind), but there is so much more to be done in participating in our community. Are we filling the guideline of "go and make disciples. . . teaching"? Or are we just showing how loving and generous we can be?



I believe we have to be part of the community to do that. Are we active in the growth of the city or town, the county or community, the school system or civic organizations? Shouldn't we have a say, be making disciples and teaching, in everything that goes on in our community? This is relevance and positive exposure that will ring with invitation and truth from and for our faith communities. While others are content to guarding our bunkers and serving only when called, should we not spread the Good News at every possible opportunity? No walls to be set, no characters to marginalized, no opinions to discounted. We followers of the Christ called to lean forward in all aspects of our resident communities, to have a say in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

So Be It.

In Christ, Gordon

"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).**

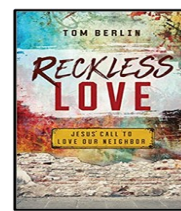
If you would like more information, you can go to: <https://aldersgaterenewal.org/events/local-church-events/lord-teach-us-to-pray>. The Steering Committee would welcome help in various areas such as welcome and hospitality, transportation, prayer, meals, child care, publicity and registration. If you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



From Sue MacTavish, District Librarian

August 2019 featured item:

New titles for the District Library have been ordered and they have started to come in! The featured item of August is Tom Berlin's new study, *Reckless Love*.



Reckless Love: Jesus' Call to Love Our Neighbor, Abingdon Press, 2019.

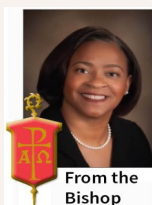
"How did Jesus teach the Greatest Commandment to his disciples? In his latest book *Reckless Love*, Virginia Conference author and Pastor, Tom Berlin writes that Jesus taught them to love neighbor first as a way to more deeply love God.

In his exploration of Jesus' teaching and travels with his disciples, Berlin suggests that Jesus teaches us how to love God with heart, soul, mind, and strength by showing us how to love our neighbor. While many hope to learn to be better family, friends, leaders, and neighbors by finding a deeper relationship with God, what if becoming a better neighbor leads you to that deeper love of God?

In *Reckless Love*, you will consider your life, and learn how loving the people around you will completely renew your faith and give you a new experience of loving God.

***Reckless Love*, a six-week study can be found with its DVD and Leader's Guide 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 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. Thanks, Sue



From the Bishop

A challenge to read the Bible in 2019

Bible Readings for August

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.

August 1 Psalms 57-59; Acts 21:18-40
 August 2 Psalms 60-62; Acts 22
 August 3 Psalms 63-65; Acts 23:1-15
 August 4 Psalms 66-67; Acts 23:16-35
 August 5 Psalms 68-69; Acts 24
 August 6 Psalms 70-71; Acts 25
 August 7 Psalms 72-73; Acts 26
 August 8 Psalms 74-76; Acts 27:1-26
 August 9 Psalms 77-78; Acts 27:27-44
 August 10 Psalms 79-80; Acts 28
 August 11 Psalms 81-83; 1 Peter 1
 August 12 Psalms 84-86; 1 Peter 2
 August 13 Psalms 87-88; 1 Peter 3
 August 14 Psalms 89-90; 1 Peter 4
 August 15 Psalms 91-93; 1 Peter 5

August 16 Psalms 94-96; Galatians 1
 August 17 Psalms 97-99; Galatians 2
 August 18 Psalms 100-102; Galatians 3
 August 19 Psalms 103-104; Galatians 4
 August 20 Psalms 105-106; Galatians 5
 August 21 Psalms 107-109; Galatians 6
 August 22 Psalms 110-112; 2 Corinthians 1
 August 23 Psalms 113-115; 2 Corinthians 2
 August 24 Psalms 116-118; 2 Corinthians 3
 August 25 Psalms 119:1-88; 2 Corinthians 4
 August 26 Psalms 119:89-176; 2 Corinthians 5
 August 27 Psalms 120-122; 2 Corinthians 6
 August 28 Psalms 123-125; 2 Corinthians 7
 August 29 Psalms 126-128; 2 Corinthians 8
 August 30 Psalms 129-131; 2 Corinthians 9
 August 31 Psalms 132-134; 2 Corinthians 10

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

Holy Land with Bishop Lewis Feb 24 - March 4, 2020

Join Bishop Sharma Lewis and the VA UMC Conference on this 10-Day journey where you will visit all the major sites, such as the Sea of Galilee, Mt. of Beatitudes, Jordan River, Bethlehem, Nazareth, Jerusalem and more with Educational Opportunities Tour. Go to this address http://www.eo.travelwithus.com/tours/hl20022420#_XRI2vj9Kjm5 for a brochure and more information.



District Co-

From Harrisonburg District Co-Lay Leader Joe Amend:

LAY LEADERS



Make - Be - Intro

In the Great Commission, Matthew 28:19-20a, Jesus has given us our marching orders: *"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, (20) and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."*

Our marching orders are crystal clear: Go ! Make disciples ! Baptize! Teach ! I want to talk briefly today about #2 in this list: Make Disciples ! Remember, the first rule 'making disciples' is that we first have to be disciples ourselves.

To be a disciple, we must *"Love God and 'Love our neighbor as our self.'"* (Mark 12:30-31) And in case you're wondering, John the Apostle is very direct on his view of these commandments. From 1 John 4:20 - *"If anyone says, 'I love God,' and hates a brother or sister, they are a liar, because anyone who does not love a brother or sister who can be seen can't love God, who can't be seen."* This type of 'love' is the kind that considers another person's benefit and welfare at least as important as our own. The word translated *"brother or sister"* can also be translated *'neighbor'*. We cannot love God that way without loving our neighbors the very same way.

We must always remember, *"We love because God first loved us."* (1 John 4:19) We love a 'relational' God; that is, loving God is a two-way relationship: First, we talk (what we call praying) - God listens. Second, God talks, we listen. Or vice versa. Too often, we approach God, by praying and stopping there, but there is more. In Revelation 3:20 Jesus says, *"Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me."* In pictures of this scene, the door Jesus is knocking on doesn't have an outside handle, the person on the inside has to open the door for Jesus. One part of the interpretation is that each of us has to ask Jesus into our heart, but something much more literal is also happening: when we eat with someone, we don't eat in silence, we converse, we listen to each other - we exchange information ... That's what authentic disciples do with God - it is a two-way interaction.

As disciples, we need to consider opportunities for making the grace of Jesus real to people we come in contact with each day. Jesus died in our place for our sins, and for the sins of the whole world. This is something the entire world desperately needs to know.

We can start with the people we already know, including our families. They are the most fertile mission fields - what some would call 'low-hanging fruit'. Don't forget individuals we naturally come in contact with and already know, groups, clubs, organizations we already associate with and people we know who need assistance or support. Remember, our families are the most fertile area for discipling. Again, I suggest we just live our sermons.

A little over eight years ago I fell in love with my wife-to-be and asked her to marry me. When we announced our engagement to our immediate family, Kathy's adult daughter did not receive the news well at all. To say the least, she was not a happy camper. All I could say was, "Ashley, don't listen to a word I say, watch what I do and then make your assessment. Less than a year later, she admitted I was the 'father she never had'. I have loved her and her son like my own daughter and grandchildren and have been able to demonstrate that love by my actions. Brothers and sisters, talk is cheap. We need to Walk the talk, not just talk the talk. Again, that's what 'living our sermon' is all about.

Friendship is the style for offering Christ to others. All this is done by God, who through Jesus has changed us from His enemies into His friends, and gave us the task of making others His friends also.

Start by **making a friend**. Take the initiative to get to know a person. Understand the person's life situation, needs and strengths. Listen to and support them. In the March 25, 2014 Upper Room Devotional we find this reference to 13th century Dominican Friar and priest St Thomas Aquinas: "Thomas Aquinas once stated that when you want to convert a person to your view, you go over to where they are standing, take them by the hand, and guide them. You don't stand across the room and yell at him." That is what we need to do: take the hands of those around us and guide them to and show them the love and salvation that Jesus offers every human being. There is no higher calling in God's kingdom than showing others the love of God as evidenced in his Son's life, death and resurrection.

Second, **Be that person's friend**. Share your own life. Make yourself available in tough times as well as good times. Reach out, help, offer assistance, and show true love. Again, true love is considering others at least as important as ourselves. ". This is a paraphrase of the second great commandment, *"Love your neighbor as yourself."* One word of caution, when we start letting people get to know us, they will see very quickly whether our words and our actions line up. Ever hear the saying, "Your actions are talking so loudly that I can't hear a word you are saying?" That's why it's vitally important we walk the talk and talk the walk.

Third, **Introduce your new friend to Jesus**. Show the person what God has done with your life. Share your relationship with the Source of life and love. Your new friend will need to have seen Jesus in your life for this introduction to be natural and authentic. Jesus calls us not to just witness but to be witnesses.

The summary of this process is simple, **Make a friend; Be a friend; Introduce a friend to Jesus**. Sharing Jesus becomes natural and authentic when we make it part of the course of our everyday interactions and sharing of ourselves in relationships. Remember, Live Your Sermon.

In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Amen. Joe Amend <><

Harrisonburg District Fall Encounters

This year the Harrisonburg District will have *Ministry Encounters*. These Encounters denote a holistic approach where we will worship and fellowship together, receive training, have a hands-on mission, and individual charge conferences. Each *Ministry Encounter*, as listed below, will be composed of 7-8 charges which will meet on a Saturday in the fall. 4 of the 8 Charges will meet in the morning and the remaining 4 in the afternoon. Each *Encounter* will have an individual Charge Conference (30 min), a missional practicum (30 min), and leadership training (60 min) based on Kouzes and Posner's *The Leadership Challenge*. The *Ministry Encounter* will rotate classrooms during the session in the fashion of Vacation Bible School.

The morning *Ministry Encounter* will begin at 9:30AM with a brief combined worship (Holy Communion) service and introduction, followed by the charge conference session, leadership training, and the missional practicum as described above. This morning *Ministry Encounter* will close around 1:00 PM with a covered dish lunch which will be shared in fellowship with the Charges of the incoming afternoon *Ministry Encounter*. The District will provide the meat.

In addition to the sanctuary, fellowship hall and 3 appropriately sized and accessible classrooms, the hosting church will provide place settings such as plates, knives, forks, spoons, and napkins as well as serving utensils and drinks. Additionally, the hosting church will identify an organization or individual to coordinate the meal activities. The other *Ministry Encounter* attending charges will provide the covered dish items. The District will provide the worship and communion accessories. AV requirements will be identified in the coming weeks.

The afternoon *Ministry Encounter*, slated for 12:00 PM-3:30 PM will repeat the above process and will also close with a communion service. The *Encounters* have been divided by geographic regions with a host church selected for proximity, size, and handicapped accessibility. The *Ministry Encounters* begin on September 14 and end on November 2.

Attention: Your charge conference material must be submitted via EVC no later than 10 calendar days prior to your Encounter.

This Ministry Encounter is a new way of providing for fellowship, worship, training and administration. Realizing Saturdays in the fall are full of competing activities and responsibilities, one half a Saturday seems a reasonable commitment.

I look forward to seeing you all in the fall.

In Christ,
Victor

Fall Encounters Dates & Locations Churches

SARAH'S ENCOUNTER Saturday, September 14, Strasburg UMC 8 Charges (13 churches)

9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Christian Newcomer Charge: Christian Newcomer & Mt. Hebron

Edinburg Charge: St. John's & Wesley Chapel

Fort Valley: Oak Level & White Chapel

12:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Mt. Olive-Shiloh Charge: Mt. Olive & Shiloh

Shenandoah Valley Charge: Mt. Zion (Strasburg) & Mt. Zion (Woodstock)

Strasburg

Toms Brook

Woodstock

NICODEMUS' ENCOUNTER

Saturday, September 21, Manor Memorial UMC-New Market

7 Charges (12 churches)

9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Columbia Furnace-Union Forge Charge: Columbia Furnace & Union Forge
Luray

Manor Memorial-New Market

Mt. Jackson Charge: Mt. Jackson & Quickburg

12:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

Mt. Pleasant Charge: Hawkinstown, Mt. Clifton, Mt. Hermon, & Otterbein Chapel
Page
Stanley

MARY MAGDALENE'S ENCOUNTER

Saturday, September 28, Mt. Tabor UMC

8 Charges (14 churches)

9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Fellowship-Linville-Edom Charge: Fellowship, Linville, & Edom
First (Timberville)

Fulks Run Charge: Caplingers, Mt. Carmel, Riverside
Mt. Clinton

12:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Mountain Valley-Cedar Grove Charge: Mountain Valley & Cedar Grove
Mt. Tabor

Singers Glen Charge: Cherry Grove & Donovan Memorial
Sunset Drive (Broadway)

HANNAH'S ENCOUNTER

Saturday, October 12, Asbury UMC

8 Charges (8 churches)

9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Asbury

John Wesley

Keezletown

Vision of Hope

12:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Clover Hill

Mt. Horeb

Otterbein

RISE

BARTIMAEUS' ENCOUNTER
Saturday, October 19, Bridgewater UMC
8 Charges (9 churches)

9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Bethany
Bridgewater
Dayton

McGaheysville

12:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

Mt. Crawford Charge: Mt. Crawford & Mt. Sidney
Port Republic
St. James
Sangerville

ELIJAH'S ENCOUNTER
Saturday, October 26, Evangelical UMC
8 Charges (16 churches)

9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Blue Ridge Charge: Furnace, Hensley, Jollett & Mt. Pleasant
Elkton
Evangelical
Grottoes
St. Paul

12:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Massanutten Charge: East Point, Mt. Zion, St. Peter's & Trinity
Shenandoah Charge: Christ & Fields
Shenandoah Circuit: Grove Hill & Oak Grove

ANANIAS' ENCOUNTER
Saturday, November 2, Verona/Aisle 7 UMC
8 Charges (10 churches)

9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Annex-Crimora Charge: Annex & Crimora
Harriston-Mt. Bethel Charge: Harriston & Mt. Bethel
Mt. Pisgah
Mt. Zion (Mt. Solon)

12:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

New Hope
Parnassus
Verona/Aisle 7
Weyers Cave

August 2-4 (Friday-Sunday) - Lay Servant Academy at Randolph Macon College*

August 3 (Saturday) - District UMW Executive Committee, Mission Central, 9:00 am-1:00 pm*

August 6 (Tuesday)-District Committee on Lay Servant Ministries, District Office, 7:00 pm*

August 11 (Sunday)-Partners in Ministry [PiM] Welcome Picnic, Overlook Picnic Shelter, gather 4:30 pm- eat at 5 pm*

August 15 (Thursday)-Deadline for PiM Clergy & Laity Retreat (Headcount for lunch)*

August 20 (Tuesday)-District UMM, District Office, 6:00 p.m.*

August 24 (Saturday)-Partners in Ministry [PiM] and Laity Retreat at Manor Memorial, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm*

August 29 (Thursday)-District Council on Ministries, District Office, 7:00 pm

September 7 (Saturday)-UMW Prayer Breakfast, St. James

UMC, 9:00 am*

September 13-14 (Friday-Saturday)-UMW Young Women's Event at Camp Overlook*

September 14 (Saturday)-Sarah's Encounter, Strasburg UMC, 9:30 am-1:00 pm; 12:00 pm-3:30 pm*

September 19 (Thursday)-DUMMen's Fall Dinner & Rally, Furnace UMC*

September 21 (Saturday)-Nicodemus' Encounter, Manor Memorial UMC-New Market, 9:30 am-1:00 pm; 12:00 pm-3:30 pm*

September 21 (Saturday)-Bishop's Convocation on Prayer, Trinity UMC-Richmond, 9:00 am-3:30 pm*

September 28 (Saturday)-District Lay Servant Training, Bridgewater UMC*

September 28 (Saturday)- Mary Magdalene's Encounter, Mt. Tabor UMC, 9:30 am-1:00 pm; 12:00 pm-3:30 pm*

**Denotes related article elsewhere in this newsletter*

The **Partners in Ministry** will hold their Welcome Picnic on **Sunday, August 11**, at the **Overlook Picnic Shelter** at 4:30 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.

The **PiM Clergy Retreat** will include **Laity** this year and have a different setup. Mark your calendar for **Saturday, August 24th, 9 to 4 p.m. at Manor Memorial**. A head count for lunch is needed by August 15th. Pastors, you are asked to reserve this date on your calendars and be in attendance.

Pastors, please note: PiM monthly meetings are being scheduled for **Tuesdays** (instead of Mondays) for the remaining months of 2019 and for 2020.



UMW New: A reminder to all **Executive Committee Members**, we will meet for our **2020 planning on Saturday, August 3 at Mission Central, 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.** We will approve our 2020 budget and work on our calendar for the coming year. All members of the Executive Committee, please plan to attend and be prepared to report on your work area.

Please mark your calendar for upcoming events:



September 7 at 9:00 a.m. — UMW Prayer Breakfast at St. James UMC-Pleasant Valley: Brenda NeSmith, VA Conference UMW E & I Coordinator, will be our speaker. Many of you will remember Brenda from her husband, Sam, who served as Harrisonburg District Superintendent. Please join us in welcoming Brenda back to Harrisonburg. The cost is \$12.00 and includes breakfast served by the St. James UMM. Deadline for registration is August 29. See the attached registration form. *Everyone is welcome to attend.*

September 13-14 — VA Conference UMW Young Women's Event at Camp Overlook: The Rev. Genevieve Bowles will be presenting the program. Please let your 40ish and under ladies know of this event and help support them in attending. There are scholarships available from the district and conference, please contact me for more information. The deadline for registration is September 6. See the attached registration form.

The VA Conference UMW Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, October 26, at Reveille UMC in Richmond. Plan to join us celebrate our 150 Anniversary with our speaker Harriet Jane Olson, Chief Executive Office for the United Methodist Women. Registration fee is \$15.00 which includes lunch. You have an option for dinner and a program on Friday evening, October 25, and staying at the Holiday Inn Express on Friday night. Hotel information and directions are included on the registration form. Hotel reservation deadline is September 24.

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



UMM News: District UMM will meet on **Tuesday, August 20, 6:00 p.m. at the District Office.**

Please mark your calendar for the **Harrisonburg District United Methodist Men's Fall Rally, Furnace UMC, Thursday, September 19th.** Details will be forthcoming.



Registration is now open for the **2019 UMMen's Conference Spiritual Advance at Baylake UMC in Virginia Beach on September 27-28.** Featured speaker is the Rev. Dr. Kevin Watson, author of The Class Meeting and Bible study teacher at the 2019 Virginia Annual Conference. Special rates are available for pastors, early birds, spouses, and, if you attended last year. Bring One Get One (BOGO) for first timers. New this year, church sponsorships are targeted for churches who have never attended the event or those currently with no formal UMMen organization. Open to all churches. Registration fees: UMMen Early Bird \$80 until August 27; \$99 begins August 28. Spouses: \$40; Clergy: \$50. Contact: Andrew Kissell, President, VA Conference UMMen, 757-839-0790, or Andrew.Kissell@aecom.com



The District Committee on Lay Servants Ministry will meet on Tuesday, August 6, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. in the District Office.

The Harrisonburg District and the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church have scheduled three training sessions for all laity, not just lay servants this fall. They are:

1. **August 2-4, 2019, Lay Servant Academy at Randolph Macon College in Ashland, VA:** Six 10 hour required courses for Lay Speakers Certification, five 10 hour enrichment courses for renewal, and seven two hour mini courses. For information contact David Bailey, Director, at e-mail: dwbailey@comcast.net
2. **September 28, 2019, Harrisonburg District Lay Servant Training at Bridgewater UMC in Bridgewater, VA:** Courses being offered are: Basic; Understanding The Discipline (UM Polity); and Lay Pastoral Care Giving. To register contact Dale Dodrill, Director, at e-mail: hdumc.layservants@hotmail.com or 770-402-0752.
3. **October 4-5, 2019, Harrisonburg District is sponsoring "Lord Teach Us To Pray" at Manor Memorial UMC in New Market, VA.** For information contact Virginia Turner, Committee Chairperson, at e-mail: vabellat@gmail.com or 540-740-4516.
Dale Dodrill, Director, District Lay Servants

MISSION CENTRAL NEWS

The **Children's Clothes Closet** has remained very busy. We are in need of size 4 diapers, baby lotion, baby shampoo, newborn undershirts, sanitary napkins, all sizes of boys underpants (2 thru 15). We are in need of volunteers to help watch the children, both inside the building and outside. This could be an adult and/or youth. Youth leaders, we need you! We are placing our Little Tykes play equipment in the outside fenced play area and need volunteers to watch children as they play and go between the building and play area. In June, we served 149 families, 360 children and gave 4,150 diapers. God is using Mission Central in a mighty way. Thank you to all who are making this possible.



Artie Frederick, 208-7669

The **Medical Equipment Loaner Closet** continues to depend on your donations and the grace of our Lord to be able to loan medical equipment to those needing these in Harrisonburg and surrounding counties. We continue to seek volunteers to help during times we are open to the public: Mondays 9-11 AM and Thursdays 5-7 PM. We also need persons who can help deliver and set up hospital beds. We are especially needing wheelchairs, shower chairs and benches as well as seated walkers and transport wheel chairs. Donations of money are always appreciated as this can be used to purchase needed equipment and supplies. An ongoing popular item is disposable adult pull-ups in large and extra large sizes.

Please call Delores Reid, 540-383-6112 if you are interested in helping or have questions.

Otterbein United Methodist Church 1894-2019 125th Anniversary Celebration

All year long, Otterbein UMC has been reflecting on the founding and history of the congregation which began as a United Brethren in Christ church in 1894. Activities commemorating the 125th Anniversary are planned for the weekend of September 21 & 22, 2019:

On Saturday evening, guests will have the opportunity to gather in Memorial Hall to view historical memorabilia displays, fellowship, and enjoy hors d'oeuvres and refreshments. Immediately afterward, a concert in the sanctuary will feature guest musicians, Anthony VanPelt and his bluegrass band, Blue Ridge Thunder, sharing their talents.

Sunday morning begins with brunch at Memorial Hall. Guest speaker, Rev. Dr. Victor Gómez, Harrisonburg District Superintendent, will deliver the message at the worship service. Inspirational musical selections are planned by the Sanctuary Choir, The College Chorale, including Chorale Alumni, and the JMU Graduate Brass Quintet. A special event will be the debut performance of a commissioned anthem, composed by Anthony VanPelt, exclusively for Otterbein UMC.

The weekend will be a celebration. Our work continues as we prayerfully and faithfully seek God's guidance as we continue the journey. *Otterbein UMC, 176 West Market Street, Harrisonburg, VA, 540-434-7747, www.oumcharrisonburg.org*



Thank you to Rev. Jim Harris who has designed a new logo for the Harrisonburg District. Jim is well-known for his artist abilities and we appreciate his time and talent in developing this beautiful district graphic!



Visit Harrisonburg District on Facebook: [Harrisonburg District of VaUMC](https://www.facebook.com/HarrisonburgDistrictofVaUMC)
Harrisonburg District webpage: www.harrisonburgdistrictumc.org



**Save the Date
And
Come Join Us!**

Kingsway Prison and Family Outreach Annual Benefit Banquet will be held on August 22, 2019, at Keezletown UMC. Smokey Wilson will be our music feature. Some ex-offenders will be sharing testimonies. Come join us for an evening of celebration, good food, entertainment and learn how you can help in our mission of helping people make a turnaround following Jesus. Call 540-433-5658 for reservations. If it is after hours, leave a message or e-mail: kingswayoutreach@hotmail.com

We are celebrating 36 years!



DISTRICT NEWS
Harrisonburg District
Virginia Annual Conference
The United Methodist Church

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Rev. Dr. Victor Gómez
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HarrisonburgDS@vaumc.org

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District Director of Congregational Vitality
GordonMeriwether@vaumc.org

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harrisonburgdistrict@vaumc.org

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

CONFERENCE NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR DANVILLE DISTRICT FLOOD RECOVERY

Contact Rev. Jon Woodburn, ddumcdisastercoordinator@gmail.com



Back-to-School is a great time to find discounted pieces on many of the items needed for School Kits being received by The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). Below is the complete list should you choose to assemble them.

[A friendly reminder. . . please do not include anything beyond the items listed. Several of the kits that were received at the 2019 Annual Conference this summer had to be discarded because candy bars had been included in them—turning these kits into plastic bags of chocolate soup.]

SCHOOL KIT MATERIALS

One pair of blunt scissors

Round tips only
No plastic scissors

One box of 24 crayons

Only 24-count boxes are accepted

Three one-subject notebooks

No marble composition books
No 3 or 5 subject notebooks

One pack of loose-leaf paper

100 or 200 page packets are acceptable
Wide or college rule accepted

One ruler

12 inches or 30 centimeters long
Sturdy or flexible material accepted

Six un-sharpened pencils

One eraser

Two inches or larger

One two gallon re-sealable plastic bag

Assembly Instructions: Stack all items on top of each other. Place all loose items on top of paper. Small loose items may be placed in a smaller re-sealable bag. Place kit inside of re-sealable bag and seal.

IMPORTANT NOTES: Homemade or purchased cloth bags are no longer being accepted; All items must be new; Please do not include any personal notes, money, food, or additional materials in the kits; Contents of kits or the container of kits should not be imprinted with cartoon characters, advertisements, religious, patriotic, military or camouflage symbols.

Packing Instructions: School kit item can be packaged inside of the larger plastic re-sealable bag.

Thank you for all your efforts in making this year's Kits for Conference a record-breaking year!
Morris V. Fleischer, 540-544-7183, nmoumc@pemtel.net (Source: Clergy Net e-mail July 10, 2019)



Bishop's Convocation on Prayer: Laity and Clergy are invited to attend (450 limit) the **Bishop's Convocation on Prayer, Saturday, September 21, 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., Trinity UMC in Richmond, VA.** Dr. Terry Tekyl will be the plenary speaker. There will be small group learning opportunities in the areas of prayer and Wesleyan spiritual disciplines. Registration cost: \$10 -includes lunch. Registrations received at <https://www.eiseverywhere.com/bishopsconv19> Deadline is **September 13th**. Contact TedSmith@vaumc.org for more information.



ENGAGE 2019: COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION
NOVEMBER 14, 2019

ALSO: CLERGY PRE-EVENT - NOVEMBER 13, 2019
A day with Bishop Carter and colleagues

Register NOW: www.vaumc.org/5Talent
Woodlake UMC (Host site) + 11 Satellite Locations
[Bridgewater UMC is the Harrisonburg District satellite location.]

See 5 Talent Academy attachment to the newsletter.