DISTRICT NEWS

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



From Your New District Superintendent

"Amazing Grace, How sweet the sound..."

As I am writing this, I have been blessed to have officiated a few charge conferences. I must tell you that it has been a blessing as we have been able to worship, to be in fellowship, to renew our baptismal vows, to pray for one another, and to celebrate ministry, but also to look ahead. Sev-

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eral people have told me that it has been a spiritual experience where we have allowed the presence of the Holy Spirit and I praise God for that.

During my pastorate, I have faced struggles in the ministry God has called me to serve as well as in my life. I look at the difficulties before me as a huge monster ready to devour me.

A couple of year ago, I received an email from a former student of mine from the Methodist Seminary in Havana, Cuba. In his email message, he said that he woke up around 2:00 o'clock in the morning and humming in his head the hymn, "Amazing Grace", and for some reason he said that he thought about me. He added, that he got up from bed, got on his knees and began to pray for me and at the same time, singing Amazing Grace. The title in Spanish is translated as "Subline Grace", which reminds me of the Divine and Holy Grace God has given us. He also 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 in God's Amazing Grace, in God's Divine Grace, in God's Holy Grace. After I read his email I started singing this beautiful hymn and at the end of the first verse, I was reminded that I am not blind anymore, that God's grace is so amazing that it allows me to see the light at the end of the tunnel and that indeed, God is with me - ALWAYS!

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 and difficulties throughout my life. I know that I worry, but more important, I know that God is with me, ALWAYS!

At times you may feel this is too far away from you. 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, God-with-us is the best news of everyday, not just one's final day, and that in Jesus, God has come to live with us and in us and share that Amazing Grace.



God is best, and God has promised to be with you even in the worst moments of life. God's presence is not the guarantee that the worse will not come, but that God's best for you will never leave.

God is with you, no matter what.

In God's amazing grace, Victor Gómez



Called to Serve God in the Harrisonburg District:

Rev. Dr. Victor Gómez, District Superintendent Office: (540) 433-2382 * Fax (540) 433-7587 Text/Call: (202)285-5767 HarrisonburgDS@vaumc.org



Visit Harrisonburg District on Facebook: Harrisonburg District of VaUMC

<u>NOTE</u>: <u>NEW Harrisonburg District webpage</u>: <u>www.harrisonburgdistrictumc.org</u>



Note: This is Part II of the 'Common Ground Essay'. Part I can be found in the August 2018 Harrison-burg District Newsletter.

Just what is our Common Ground as United Methodists? From the Commission On A Way Forward's Final Report, first and foremost, we have the statement, "Jesus is the vine and we are the branches." This Scripture comes from John 15:1-5. And in John 15:5 Jesus states, "Apart from me you can do nothing".

We then have the following eight things Methodists claim as our Common Ground:

The Apostle's & Nicene Creeds
Articles of Religion & Confession of Faith
The General Rules
The Wesley Hymns
Disciplined Engagement with Scripture
Works of Piety, Mercy and Justice
Sacraments of Baptism & Eucharist; and
Small Group Accountability & Support - to include Class & Band Meetings

Simply put, these eight statements are the Methodist way we put "Love God and Love your neighbor" (see Matthew 22:37-39, Mark 12:30-31, Luke 10:27) into action. Regardless of what else is going on around us, this is our mission as Christians. And we need to closely examine anything that distracts or diverts us from accomplishing these commandments.

No matter what may happen before, during, and after the upcoming called General Conference of the United Methodist Church in February 2019 in St. Louis, our task right here, right now, is <u>always</u> to "Love God and Love our neighbor." That is our task for today, tomorrow, and for the rest of our earthly life. With the Holy Spirit's help, we can all do this and then we will be truly at peace with God, each other - and ourselves.



I would encourage all United Methodists to be informed on the information available to us in the time leading up to the General Conference next February. Every United Methodist Church and individual member will be affected by whatever is decided - or even if nothing is decided.



One way to keep up with the latest information is to subscribe to the United Methodist News Service. The service is FREE and is published weekdays and also has a weekly summary. Go to the following link to subscribe: http://e.umc.org/oOcrsOOFBOOyGJO5uQXk7rO or go to www.vaumc.org > News > United Methodist News Service. I have found that the United Methodist News Service is unbiased and presents a variety of views and opinions. Check it out. . .

Finally, we should always take heed to the church sign I once saw, "Love your neighbor, I'll sort'em out later - God" In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. AMEN.

Your Brother in Christ, Joe Amend Harrisonburg District Co-Lay Leader



The Shenandoah Valley Emmaus Community wants to sincerely thank all clergy and laity for the prayers and good thoughts for our Men's Walk (October 4th - 7th) and the Women's Walk (October 11th - 14th) this fall. As many are aware this is a life-changing time for Christians as they ex-

perience Christ and their faith with new eyes and transforming power of love.

Also, as each church meets this time of year where we are seeking leaders in our churches, please pray about and give thought to those Christians within your congregations that have attended an Emmaus Walk. They are more aware of their gifts and graces and will provide leadership and service that is fully focused on God and the mission that Christ gave us to "go into all the world making disciples". This mission has become more real to each Pilgrim in the moments spent on the mountain, and we encourage you to be in contact and conversation with these precious people. Your continued support means everything to this community, and we ask you to remember as you consider sponsoring, or being sponsored for a Walk. This is guaranteed a life-changing weekend that you will carry for the rest of your life here in God's Kingdom.

God bless and keep each of you! There will be two walks in the spring and we would love to have many Pilgrims at each of them. We are praying for you and what God will do in each of your lives as you meet Christ anew at Emmaus! Rev. Debra Colbert Cline



A challenge to read the Bible in 2018 Bible Readings for October



	October 1	Luke 1, John 1:1-14	October 16	Matthew 9-10
	October 2	Matthew 1, Luke 2:1-38	October 17	Matthew 14, Mark 6, Luke 9:1-17
	October 3	Matthew 2, Luke 2:39-52	October 18	John 6
	October 4	Matthew 3, Mark 1, Luke 3	October 19	Matthew 15, Mark 7
	October 5	Matthew 4, Luke 4-5, John 1:15-51	October 20	Matthew 16, Mark 8, Luke 9:18-27
	October 6	John 2-4	October 21	Matthew 17, Mark 9, Luke 9:28-62
	October 7	Mark 2	October 22	Matthew 18
	October 8	John 5	October 23	John 7-8
	October 9	Matthew 12:1-21, Mark 3, Luke 6	October 24	John 9:1-10:21
	October 10	Matthew 5-7	October 25	Luke 10-11, John 10:22-42
	October 11	Matthew 8:1-13, Luke 7	October 26	Luke 12-13
	October 12	Matthew 11	October 27	Luke 14-15
	October 13	Matthew 12:22-50, Luke 11	October 28	Luke 16-17:10
	October 14	Matthew 13, Luke 8	October 29	John 11
	October 15	Matthew 8:14-34, Mark 4-5	October 30	Luke 17:11-18:14
			October 31	Matthew 19, Mark 10
[resource:	www.vaumc.org > c	office & staff > Bishop > 2018 Bible Challenge]		



Sympathy is extended to the family of Carolyn and Tommy Herndon on the death of Carolyn's brother, Jerry Cameron, who passed away on August 28th. Mr. Cameron worked for Sears for 30 years and in retirement, he was granted a License to Preach and preached at churches for 12 years before he retired in the North Georgia Conference of The United Methodist Church. Services were held on September 6, at Gainesville UMC in Gainesville, Georgia.

Condolences are extended to the family of Lester Seal, who passed away on Sunday, September 2, 2018. He was a CPA and Director of Finance with the City of Harrisonburg from which he retired. He was a lifetime member of Furnace United Methodist Church and had served on the Harrisonburg District Board of Trustees and the District Finance Committee. Service were held at Furnace UMC on September 7, with burial at Elk Run Cemetery in Elkton.



Please mark your calendars and make plans to attend the **Harrisonburg UMC District** Conference and Leadership Training Event to be held at Bridgewater United Methodist Church on Sunday, November 18, 2018. District Conference will begin at 2:30 p.m. with the Leadership Training Workshops taking place from 4:15 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. The Reverend Dr. Victor R. Gómez, District Superintendent, will be the preacher for the forty-fifth session of the Harrisonburg District Conference. You are encouraged to come hear the District Conference message from Rev. Gómez.

District Members-at-Large to 2019 Annual Conference Nominations: The Harrisonburg District can elect 20 Lay Members-at-Large to the 2019 Annual Conference, June 20-22, 2019, in Roanoke, VA. In addition to the Lay Members-at-Large, 7 Alternate Members-at-Large need to be elected at District Conference on November 18, 2018, 2:30 p.m., Bridge- IMPORTANT water UMC. In an attached document, there is information on District Members-at-Large and a nomination form. All nomination forms must be completely filled out and returned to the District Office by Monday, October 15th.

LAY AND CLERGY NOMINATIONS TO 2020 GENERAL CONFERENCE: Lay General Conference, and Clergy Nominations are being secured for the 2020 General Conference, May 5-15, 2020, in Minneapolis, MN, All LAY Nominations for the 2020 General Conference, May 5-15, 2020, in Minneapolis, MN. All LAY Nominations for the 2020 General Conference and Southeastern Jurisdictional Conferences need to be voted

on at District Conference, November 18, 2:30 p.m., Bridgewater UMC. To place your name in nomination, please go to www.evc.vaumc.org and click on GREEN tabs: District Lay GC Nomination or Clergy GC Nomination.



HARRISONBURG DISTRICT 2018 LEADERSHIP TRAINING

To help your church leadership stay on course.

Sunday, November 18, 2018 9 4:15 p.m.- 6:00 p.m., Immediately Following District Conference Bridgewater United Methodist Church, 219 N. Main Street, Bridgewater, VA

WORKSHOP 1: We Believe That? – Marc Brown

What is unique about Wesleyan Theology? This training will focus on the belief structure that provides the foundation for the mission and ministry of The United Methodist Church.

WORKSHOP 2: How to Reach Young People: A Missional Approach to Discipleship - Paulo Lopes

Every church would love to reach more young people. What kind of changes would it take for our communities to become more effective in reaching younger generations with the gospel of Jesus? This workshop is designed to help participants begin to answer that question. We will also share some concepts and tools to help redirect ministries or simply get them off the ground.

WORKSHOP 3: When Serving Helps and Helping Hurts – Glenn Rowley

Whether you are a veteran of many mission teams or organizing and planning your first one we will explore many ways teams can with humility and hearts of service learn and grow from serving. At the same time we will look at the ways that well-meaning volunteers in mission can hurt those who we think we are "helping". Finally we will look at models for transformational mutuality in mission.

WORKSHOP 4: Legacy Giving/UM Foundation - Tommy Herndon

How to unlock the stewardship potential of your church to build God's kingdom!

WORKSHOP 5: Exploring Ministry – Erich Bennett and Stan Thompson

Have you ever thought that God was calling you to vocational ministry or being a pastor? Learn from others who have heard that call, answered, and can share requirements for candidates for ministry in the United Methodist Church.

WORKSHOP 6: Worship - Debbie Creech and Becky Wright

Do you enjoy how the message, the music, and even the worship setting all come together to create a truly spiritual worship experience? Learn how it happens through planning and preparation.

WORKSHOP 7: Work of the Nominating Committee – Tom Murphy

This workshop will acquaint participants with the Disciplinary requirements for the committee to provide a "year-round" approach to the process of the committee's work. Plus a Q & A time.

WORKSHOP 8: Laity Serving Communion to Shut-ins – Jim Harris

In this workshop you will learn the reasons for laity taking Holy Communion to those unable to attend church, and how to effectively meet this need in your congregation. Holy Communion will be offered.

WORKSHOP 9: Dementia-Friendly Congregations – Martha Stokes

Dementia-friendly churches are accessible and inclusive for people with dementia and their care partners; understanding how dementia affects a person physically, emotionally and mentally and the impact upon those who care for them. Churches have a vital role in helping create dementia-friendly communities, that demonstrate God's love for all people. Come explore the how to become a dementia-friendly church, from access of physical settings to continued spiritual formation needs.

WORKSHOP 10: Mission Central Visit – Artie Fredrick and Delores Reid 1704 Smithland Road, Harrisonburg

"Come and See What God has Done!" We will be giving tours of the building and explaining how the Children's Closet is operating. Drive up behind Cedar Grove church to the Green Building.

District Council on Ministries

The District Council on Ministries Executive Committee will be meeting on November 8, 2018 at the District Office, 7:00 p. m. Rev. Bob Talbott, DCOM Chairperson Please see information below on the Ministry Teams.

Faith Development Ministry Team: For 2018, Faith Development Ministry Team will be meeting with the DCOM Executive



Committee on the date listed above. The Harrisonburg District UMC Faith Development Ministry Team looks forward to new plans and projects. Our team members for 2018 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 will serve as the Faith Development Ministry Team leader in planning the Leadership Training Event on November 18, 2018, at Bridgewater United Methodist Church. Please put No-

vember 18, on your calendar for District Conference and also the district's Leadership Training Event at Bridgewater UMC. See page 4 and attached information for workshops that will be offered.



Mission and Outreach Ministry Team: Mission Central (7:00 p.m.) and Mission & Outreach Ministry Team (8:00 p.m.) will meet October 11, 2018, at Mission Central. Team members for 2018: Artie Frederick; Delores Reid; Scott Dodrill; Ann Homan; Rodney Bussard; Victor Gómez, Louise Jennings; Mary Lock; Elizabeth Neff; Mary Jane Rawley; Lydia Weeks; and Bill Lalla.



Mission Central's Children's Clothes Closet: Wonderful news. Mission Central is ready to open October Clothes Closet 10, 2018. There are so many to THANK, it is hard to know where to start. Our men and women of the Harrisonburg District are the most faithful and hardworking group imaginable. They have answered God's call to serve our community in the name of Christ with determination and gusto. We are in the process of getting water and plumbing to complete the Center. Mission Central belongs to all of our churches and it will be amazing

as we work together to see where God leads us. Blessings to all who have made this Center a reality. Come and see what God Artie Frederick, Sub-Committee Chairperson, 208-7669 has done!

Our regular hours open to the public are the 2nd and 4th Wednesday mornings from 10:00-1:00 p.m. and the 2nd and 4th Thursday evenings from 5:00-7:00 p.m. All other Wednesday mornings are work days sorting, tagging, and preparing for open days.



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, 540-383-6112, if you can help in any way.

Delores Reid, Medical Equipment Sub-Committee Chairperson, 383-6112

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



From Sue MacTavish, District Librarian October 2018 featured item:

Grounded in Creed by Jim Cowart and Matthew Hartsfield, 2018

New items for the District Library have arrived! This month's selection is the third of 4 new titles this summer.



The Apostles Creed has since the fourth century guided Christians as a statement of our basic Trinitarian beliefs. These beliefs help bind and unify followers of Christ into a shared life of grace and love together. In this six-session study, participants will learn more about our essential Christian beliefs and commitments, and our life-giving relationship with Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The six sessions are: I believe; In God; In Jesus; In the Spirit; In the Church; and In the Promise. A Participant/Leader Guide and DVD 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

October 1 (Monday)-Partners in Ministry [PiM], Christ UMC-Shenandoah, 9:00 a.m.*

October 4-7 (Thurs-Sun)-Emmaus Men's Walk, Overlook Retreat*

October 11 (Thursday)- DUMW Annual Meeting, Asbury UMC, 7:00 p.m.*

October 11-14 (Thurs-Sun)-Emmaus Women's Walk, Overlook Retreat*

October 15 (Monday)-Deadline for DCOM Reports for District Conference Booklet, District Office

October 15 (Monday)-Deadline for District Members-at -Large Nominations to 2019 Annual Conference, District Office*

October 17 (Wednesday)-Lay Servants Appreciation Dinner, Manor Memorial UMC, 6:30 p.m.*

October 18 (Thursday)-District Committee on the Ordained Ministry, District Office 10:00 a.m.

October 26-27 (Fri-Sat)-40th Annual UMM Spiritual Advance, Baylake UMC-Virginia Beach*

October 27 (Saturday)-Conference UMW Annual Meeting, Chestnut Memorial UMC-Newport News*

October 30 (Tuesday)-5 Talent Academy, Bridgewater UMC*

November 5 (Monday)-Partners in Ministry [PiM], New Hope UMC, 9:00 a.m.*

November 8 (Thursday)-District Council on Ministries, District Office, 7:00 p.m.*

November 9-11 (Fri-Sun)-Middle School Retreat, Eagle Eyrie-Lynchburg*

November 10 (Saturday)-District UMW "Looking Forward Together", Mt. Crawford UMC, 9:00-11:00 a.m.*

November 18 (Sunday)-District Conference and Leadership Development Training, Bridgewater UMC, 2:30 p.m.*

November 21 (Wednesday)-VUMCenter & District Office closes at 1:00 p.m. for Thanksgiving Observance

November 22-23 (Thurs-Frid)-VUMCenter & District Office closed for Thanksgiving Observance

November 29 (Thursday)-District Committee on the Ordained Ministry, District Office, 9:00 a.m.

Nov 30-Dec 2 (Fri-Sun)-High School Retreat, Eagle Eyrie-Lynchburg*

*Denotes related article elsewhere in this newsletter



<u>Partners in Ministry [PiM] will meet on Monday, October 1, 9:00 a.m. at Christ UMC in Shenandoah, VA</u>. A program entitled "A Veteran's Story, Bringing Down Walls" will be presented by Rev. Darin Busé, pastor of the Fulks Run Charge.

The <u>next PiM meeting</u> will be held on <u>Monday, November 5, 9:00 a.m. at New Hope UMC</u>. Rev. Melissa Fretwell will present a program on "End of Life Ministry". Clergy are encouraged to attend the Partners in Ministry meetings.

Partners in Ministry Executive Committee



Harrisonburg District UMW News: The UMW Harrisonburg District Annual Meeting will be held at Asbury UMC on Thursday, October 11, at 7:00 p.m. Special entertainment is being planned for that evening in celebration of our upcoming 150th anniversary. Please mark you calendar and plan to attend.

Women on October 27, the UMW Conference Annual Meeting will be held at Newport News at Chestnut Memorial UMC. A registration form with more information will be attached with this newsletter. Please contact me for car pool information if you are interested in attending. This will be a training year, all district officers both old and new, please plan to attend.

For our last event of the year, we are planning something new. We are calling it "Looking Forward Together." This will be held at Mt. Crawford UMC on November 10, from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. Registration will start at 8:30 a.m. We will be updating on what is new for UMW in 2019, introducing our new officers and answering any questions that you might have for the upcoming year and we will have 2019 forms available. Our speaker will be Heather Gómez, our District Superintendent's wife. Please plan to be there to meet Heather as she shares her work with the immigrant resettlement program.

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



Harrisonburg District UMM News: I have already registered, have you?? If you haven't, you r-e-a-l-l-y should!!!!

The Virginia Annual Conference UMM 40th Annual Spiritual Advance begins on Friday, October 26th at 6:00 p.m. through October 27th at 9:00 p.m. at Baylake UMC in Virginia Beach. This event features speakers Bishop James Swanson, Mississippi Conference UMC, and Gregory Koukl, Author and Apologist. Lots of workshops and great fellowship. Go to vaumc.org/umm to register. I am hoping to see your there!

Also, remember our <u>Tri-District UMM Retreat</u> coming up <u>January 4-5, 2019</u>, at <u>Overlook Retreat and Camp Ministries</u>. 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 <u>www.campoverlook.org</u> Additional information is included in an attachment.

God Bless, Scott Dillard, Harrisonburg District UMM President



The Lay Servant Appreciation Dinner will be on Wednesday, October 17. This dinner will be held at Manor Memorial UMC in New Market with dinner at 6:30 p.m. and program at 7:30 p.m. Each Lay Servant may bring one guest. Reservations need to be made by October 3rd to Dale Dodrill. This is a time of great fellowship, music, and worship. Mark your calendar now and plan to attend. Information has been mailed to each Lay Servant.

Dale Dodrill, District Director, Lay Servant Ministries



Kingsway Prison Ministry:

Our Thursday night group is growing and we need more space, but it will take do-Please consider how your nations. church can help. If your women or men's groups would like to furnish a meal on Thursday nights, please let us know.

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 E-mail: info@kingswayoutreach.org

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Brenda Pack Woods Administrative Assistant 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 Opportunities & News



5 THINGS YOU CAN DO FOR DISASTER RESPONSE:

- 1. Pray for those whose lives have been impacted by this disaster. Please also pray for Early Response Teams, disaster coordinators, and the many volunteers who are working tirelessly to provide relief.
- Make relief kits. Download the packing list and shipping label at umcor.org/UMCOR/ Relief-Supplies.
- Give to UMCOR's relief and recovery efforts at umcor.org/donate (U.S. Disaster Response, Advance #901670; International Disaster Response, Advance #982460; Undesignated, Advance #999895).
- Donate requested items only. To keep relief supplies in stock, give to Material Resources, Advance #901440 at umcor.org/donate.
- Please wait for an invitation to volunteer.

Rev. Bob Pihlcrantz, Virginia Conference disaster response coordinator, shared that all Early Response Team (ERT) members and churches should not self-deploy in response to Hurricane Florence. "This is such a large event that all response efforts must be closely coordinated. I know that there are congregations that have relationships with churches in NC, SC, and GA and even those desires to jump in immediately to do something should be discouraged at this point," said Pihlcrantz. "It is simply not safe and many communities are still cut off and are not accessible. We must, I repeat must, not become a second disaster by going to help when resources are not in place to support our desires to assist." You can make a donation to disaster response through United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). [See information above.] Use the toll free line 1-866-264-8488 for questions regarding Early Response Team (ERT) deployments or issues. Call Rev. Pihlcrantz at 757-408-6653 for disaster-related questions or concerns. The Virginia Department of Emergency Management has offered instructions and tips for donating to help with Hurricane Florence Relief efforts. Visit http:// www.vaemergency.gov/get-involved/ to learn the best ways to get involved (and what not to do).



The 2018 Virginia Five-Day Academy for Spiritual Formation. Sunday, October 14, 11:00 a.m. - Friday, October 29, 12:00 p.m. will be held at the Roslyn Retreat Center in Richmond. This for spiritual formation retreat is open to clergy and laity who are seeking to deepen their relationship with God through prayer, learning, and worship. The

Academy uses a Benedictine model with periods of silence, morning and evening prayers, daily Eucharist, and covenant groups. This year, Dr. Luther Smith, Professor Emeritus at Chandler School of Theology, and Dr. Amy Oden, St. Paul School of Theology at Oklahoma City University, will be faculty leaders. Register at: http://academy.upperroom.org/events/214



COMING THIS FALL! INFLUENCE 2018: WORSHIP October 30, 2018 **Presenters:**

Bishop Sharma Lewis, Virginia Conference Greg Moore, Executive Director of New Faith Communities, NC Conference Matt Miofsky, Lead Pastor of The Gathering UMC, St. Louis, MO Jason Byassee, Professor of Preaching, Vancouver School of Theology

REGISTER NOW: www/vaumc.org/5talent

Fall Youth Retreats

Middle School Retreat—November 9-11, 2018 Register: https://www.eiseverywhere.com/ms18 High School Retreat—November 30-December 2, 2018 Register: https://www.eiseverywhere.com/hs18

