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

March 2015

From Our DS

Dear Friends,

Last week the cabinet began the appointment making process for the next church year. We sat through a snow storm and worked all week long. The appointment process is one that REG many may not fully understand so permit me to try and explain it.

The process actually begins with each church's SPRC Committee and pastor sending in a tenure preference form suggesting whether they felt that the pastor and church would best be served if the pastor was to return or a new pastor assigned. From that I meet with all the SPRC committees suggesting a change and from that meeting I am able to have the information needed to help the cabinet make an educated decision. Carolyn and I visit a different church or two every Sunday so I am pretty familiar with what kind of worship and programs you have.

During the cabinet's February, March, and April weeklong meetings, we begin each morning with worship and we pray over every appointment. Because the United Methodist Church has a "sent pastor" system and not a "called pastor" system, the cabinet is obligated to send a pastor to each church each year. Many "called" system churches go for a year or more before they find a replacement pastor. Our pastors are "sent" for a year at a time but can be sent to the same appointment annually for a varied length of service and we all change pulpits on the same day. This year moving day is July 1, and Sunday, July 5, will be the first Sunday for new pastors.

I've been in the appointment making business for more than ten years now and there are several characteristics of the process that can help or hinder a smooth transition. 1) Not every pastor and church are a good match. 2) The best way to get the best out of a pastor is for the SPRC to be supportive and honest with the pastor regarding performance and relationships. 3) When there is disagreement with the pastor it should be brought to the pastor and not just circulated around the church. 4) Pastors need to get to know their congregation and visit and to do this effectively, they need laity help.

Nomination committees need to meet several times a year to fulfill their responsibilities to prayerfully recruit, train, and support church leaders. I hear way too often that the pastor "hand picked" the SPRC Committee but, in reality, while it is true that the pastor chairs the committee, the committee is responsible for filling those positions and the pastor has voting privileges only to break a tie. Also, the Nomination Committee should be composed of all ages, viewpoints, and interest groups. Everyone in the church should be represented.

Please pray for the Bishop and the Cabinet as we meet this spring to appoint pastors. Please support your pastor and guide your pastor to be the very best he or she can be. Pastors, you are under a calling by God to take care of the flock. I am praying that clergy and laity will work together to make the Church the best it can be!

I pray that you are safe in this winter wonderland. Please remember that expenses continue at your church, even when the roads are too slick to attend. Spring is on the way! *Tommy*

Visit Harrisonburg District on Facebook: Harrisonburg District of VaUMC



for the VA

UMC Cabinet,

Clergy, Laity

and Churches.

From Our District Program Coordinator Glen Langston:

A MONTHLY BOOK REVIEW - Ten Stupid Things That Keep Churches from Growing

Chapter 8 - Favoring Discipline over Reconciliation





Rev. Surratt chooses, in chapter 8, to address the church's response to actions of sin performed inside and outside the church by church leaders. In so doing, he begins with the two letters sent to the church at Corinthians in which Paul makes it very clear that church discipline is serious business ("hand this man over to Satan so that the sinful nature may be de-

stroyed and his spirit saved on the day of the Lord." [I Cor. 5:3-5] and "The punishment inflicted on him by the majority is sufficient for him. Now instead, you ought to forgive and comfort him, so that he will not be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. I urge you, therefore, to reaffirm your love for him." [2 Cor. 2:6-8]). Paul indicates that the overriding factor in dealing with difficult or wayward church members is

love expressed through grace and mercy and that with repentance comes restoration.

Rev. Surratt goes on to lift up a few of the more common responses to conflict in the church. First, there is the "Biting Sheep Syndrome." A leader or staff member is snipped at by another and cannot resist the temptation to bite back. Another is extending a "Free Pass for Everyone." Just ignore the sin and you avoid church conflict. And, I am sure, a favorite of us all is, "Family Ties." This one probes the question, "Is the church a business or a family? And if a family, doesn't this change the way we address the wayward?"

Rev. Surratt ends the chapter with the suggestion that effective discipline depends on the situation. Is the offense private or public and is the offender repentant or unrepentant? That leaves us with four possible appropriate responses. To get these confused and to extend the wrong discipline can only lessen the possibility of reconciliation, make the situation worse and effect the health and growth of the entire church.

Next month we will take a glance at Rev. Surratt's ninth chapter, "Mixing Ministry and Business."

Glen Langston

From Our District Mission Coordinator Melissa Fretwell: On Saturday, February 7th, Wesley Chapel and St. John's United Methodist Churches joined together to host the Festival of Missions: Celebrating Edinburg's generosity. A lot of effort went into bringing together over 25 wonderful services offered in Shenandoah County. The festival included talking with representatives, refreshments, door prizes, and concerts. One of the themes I heard from the groups represented was the need for volunteers. Friends, these are spaces we can meet God. The organizations talked about the many tasks it takes to offer life-giving ministries. Below are opportunities to * Charterhouse School, tsalley-goodwin@umfs.org, 540-984-6266 * Family Promise: A Community Response for Homeless Families, 459-3661 * Our Place: Respite Center, 1-800-883-4122 * SEARCH: Thrift Store, 540-477-2600 Shenandoah Area Agency on Aging, 540-635-7141 Clinic, 540-459-9333 Pregnancy Center, 540-984-4673 school tutoring, 540-984-9260 Shenandoah Community Health at Wesley Chapel & St. * Shenandoah County organized this effort. Spring Forward: After-Melissa Thank you to those John's who

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District Council on Ministries

The <u>District Council on Ministries</u> Executive Committee will meet on <u>March 26, 2015</u>, <u>District Office, 7:00 p.m.</u>; <u>April 25, 2015-Retreat 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.</u>, <u>Asbury UMC</u>; <u>May, 2015-6:00 p.m.</u> <u>Dinner at Overlook</u> (May date is scheduled with Camp Overlook); <u>August 27, 2015</u>, <u>District Office, 7:00 p.m.</u>; and <u>November 19, 2015, District Of-<u>fice, 7:00 p.m</u></u>. All members of the DCOM are expected to attend the retreat and the dinner at Overlook. Please see information on the Ministry Teams below. Bob Talbott, Chairperson



Faith Development Ministry Team: Plans are already underway for our **2015 District Leadership Training Event** scheduled for **November 15, 2015**, at **Bridgewater United Methodist Church**. Please put the date on your calendar now.

We have ordered Bible Study materials which will be available on loan through the District Office. All materials are by Dr. James "Micke" Efird. Please take a look at what we will have available: Genesis to Revelation (an overview); The Book of Acts; The Book of Romans; The Gospel of Matthew; The Gospel of Mark; The Gospel of Luke; The Gospel of John; and The Book of Revelation.

TEAM MEMBERS: Please note the dates of our meetings in 2015: <u>April 25, at Asbury UMC (Annual Retreat)</u> with DCOM; <u>September 17, District Office, 7:00 p.m.</u>; and <u>October 15, District Office, 7:00 p.m</u>.

Team members are: Kemper Dadisman, Scott Dillard, Dale Dodrill, Becky Downey, Phyllis Foltz, Edith Good, Dixie Miller, Annie Pierce, Kevin Poeckert, Ron Robey, Phil Secrist, Carrie Talbott, and Wes Van Pelt.

Carrie Talbott, Team Leader



<u>Mission and Outreach Ministry Team</u>: The District Mission & Outreach Team meetings are held at <u>Vision of Hope UMC at 7:00 p.m</u>. The next Ministry Team meeting will be <u>March 23rd</u>. Other meeting dates for 2015 are April 25 (Saturday retreat 9 - 2); August 24; and November 9.

MISSIONS Team members are: Artie Frederick, Melissa Fretwell, Louise Jennings, Bill Lalla, Sheila Orndorff, Mary Jane Rawley, Delores Reid, Valerie Ritter, and Lydia Weeks.

Please see information below on Mission and Outreach opportunities:

Lydia Weeks, Team Leader

Project Grows Greenhouse (located in Verona) to be built! Work days are scheduled for **Wednesday**, **March 4**, and **Saturday**, **March 7**. Some of the Project Grows staff will be working alongside volunteers. Let's give them a hand! We will be working with metal frames and connecting them with screws. Ladders (6 ft or 7 ft) and cordless drill/drivers are the required tools. The holes for the screws are predrilled which will make the work a lot easier. This is a good, worthwhile "local missions" project for churches in the southern part of the Harrisonburg District.



Read more about Project Grows at <u>http://www.projectgrows.org</u>/. Doug May of Verona UMC is the contact person. Contact him at 540-241-5605 or <u>dougem@outlook.com</u> Lydia Weeks

The annual **Foundations of Faith Community Nursing** course is being offered at **Shenandoah** <u>University</u>. It is a 2 part course offered <u>March 6-7th</u> and <u>April 17-18th, 2015</u>. Both parts must be completed. 36 Contact Hours are awarded. Cost is \$500 including materials, tuition and breakfast/ lunch. For more information you may visit: <u>www.su.edu/nursing/FCN</u> or contact faculty coordinator: Amy Brown MSN,RN; e-mail: <u>abrown3@su.edu</u>



An <u>online course</u> is also offered with <u>Eastern Mennonite University</u>, <u>March 2-June 16, 2015</u>. Cost of the course is \$400 offering 45 Contact Hours. You may check this link for more information and registration you may contact <u>http://www.emu.edu/msn/certifications/faith-community-nursing</u>/ or Tammy Kiser, <u>Tamelakiser@emu.edu</u>, or phone 540-433-4106.



Many thanks to the folks who helped paint the lower level of Cedar Grove UMC on Saturday, February 8th. It looks so fresh and clean! <u>During the month of March, DS Tommy Herndon will be organizing folks to build moveable racks and shelving. Give him a call at 540-433-2382 for more information.</u> We are expecting to have a large turnout of folks needing children's clothing with the new central location. We need all sizes from infant 0-3months up to sizes 16-18 for both boys and girls. We have very few infant girls'clothing at this time. Any donations, winter or summer, will be greatly appreciated. We can



also use baby items, blanket, bibs, etc. If you have any clothing questions, please call Artie Frederick, 540-208-7669. If you would like to drop off a donation at Cedar Grove UMC, please call Rev. Valerie Ritter, 510-6907. Thank you for helping to launch the Harrisonburg District's Children's Clothing Closet.

District Opportunities



Attention all men! If you have a heart for men's ministry but have a lot of questions on what others are doing to make things work in other churches here is the opportunity for you!!! The **Conference** United Methodist Men are sponsoring a Spring Training Roundtable Event at three sites in our conference. For questions or to register, please e-mail Jim Butts at charlesdog1@cox.net

The District United Methodist Men's Spring Rally is scheduled for the evening of r Tuesday, April 21, at Dayton UMC. As always, we will enjoy a wonderful meal with lots of fellowship followed by a time of worship together. We are very excited to have back once again the musical talents of the Ambassadors of Joy from Strasburg and we are equally excited to have Rev. Jim



Harris as our speaker for the evening. We will be sending out the registration forms soon so please mark your calendars and invite your brothers in Christ to come with you to share in this fun event!!!

Scott Dillard, District United Methodist Men President, sandjdillard@aol.com



METHODIST NEW

District Youth Retreat, May 2-3, at Overlook! More information about the retreat will be coming soon. Please save the dates and encourage your church youth groups and individual youth to attend. Price will be \$45.00 per person. Adult chaperones are required to attend the retreat with youth.

Brian Posey, District Youth Coordinator



Due to inclement weather, the United Methodist Women postponed their Evening Together from February 19 to February 26th. The guest speaker will be Melodie Davis, local author whose book, Whatever Happened to Dinner, is on the UMW reading list.

The District UMW Spiritual Life Retreat will be on Saturday, March 14, at St. James UMC, The leader will be Mary Jane Rawley, a former District President and

member of the conference executive committee. Registration is due by Friday, March 6th. A form is attached. Please join us for a day of fellowship and worship. Any questions, please contact me.

Phyllis Foltz, District United Methodist Women President, phylfoltz@aol.com



The Spring Training will be on Saturday, March 14, at Manor Memorial United Methodist Church in New Market. Course offerings are: Basic, Living Our Beliefs, and Preaching.

The Fall Training will be on Saturday, September 26th, at First United Methodist Church in Broadway. Course offerings are: Basic, Discovering Our Spiritual Gifts, and Evangelism.

The hours for both training days will be <u>9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m</u>. The cost is \$15.00 payable on the day of the training. Contact District Director Dale Dodrill, 770-402-0752, <u>hdumc.layservants@hotmail.com</u> or District Administrative Assistant Brenda Woods, (540) 433-2382, brenda.woods@verizon.net to register.

Dale Dodrill, District Lay Servant Ministry Director



March 2015

DISTRICT NEWS & CALENDAR



A Journey Reflected

receive lo give love repeat.

In reflecting on what RISE has meant to me and how RISE has impacted my college career, I can only smile. My entire sense of meaning and faith have deepened far beyond I could have ever imagined. This community took me into a relationship with God that I could have never envisioned before. RISE has taught me what love looks like and what it means to live as a resurrection people. This community has taught me how to question everything I have ever known

and challenges me each day to love people like Jesus radically loved every person he came into contact with.

I have become a person that wants to mend every part of creation that I touch with love. Jesus put me here to jump in and love this world he created. RISE has taught me that I am transformed through relationships. RISE has shown me what it looks like to not give up even when loving Jesus is not the "popular" thing to do. RISE has helped me when I am broken and reminded me that I am enough and that God is enough. RISE has challenged me to jump outside of my comfort zone and trust that God is going to be there when I may fall flat on my face.

In college, it is easy to get caught up in the bubble that is the whole university life. RISE has beautifully torn those bubbles away to show me the Jesus that passes me on every street and whispers to me, "THAT person has something incredible to show you, if you let them." Maggie Nave, RISE Worship Leader





Audio-Visual Coordinator - Verona United Methodist Church (Verona, VA) announces an opening for an Audio-Visual Coordinator who will use media and technology in innovative ways to bring people to Christ. Presently, Verona UMC holds two Sunday services with an average attendance of 250. The position is part-time, involving a commitment of 10-15 hours per week, including 4 to 5 hours on Sunday mornings. Responsibilities include: maintain all audio-visual equipment at the ready for all services and other church activities requiring A/V support, enlist and train church members to serve on an A/V team and administer team members to provide A/V support when needed, procure and repair (when necessary) media equipment. Experience and proficiency

with audio-visual equipment including soundboards, computers, projectors/screens, microphones, amplifiers, and other media peripherals is required. Applicants must also be a practicing Christian familiar with United Methodist beliefs and practices, have administrative and teaching skills, relate equally to adults and youth, and show an ability to work with others in a team atmosphere. A thorough background check is required. Salary - \$138 / week. Please e-mail a cover letter, resume and 3 references to <u>shiner@veronaumc.com</u> or mail to: Verona UMC, Attn: SPRC; PO Box 47, Verona, VA 24482.



Reminder: Local Church Treasurers! The Local Church 2015 District Apportionments need to be sent to the Conference treasurer's office [PO Box 5605, Glen Allen, VA 23058] along with 2015 Conference Apportionments this year. You may write one check, but you need to send in the remittance form provided each month by the conference treasurer's office designating what amount goes to the Conference Apportionments and the District amount.

District "Askings" for Missions and Lighthouse Children's Center still need to be sent to District Treasurer: Mrs. Jo Ann Liskey, 4856 Shen Lake Drive, Harrisonburg, VA 22801.



Spring Samples of Cokesbury children and youth curriculum have been received at the district office. Drop by anytime we are open (most days 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.) to review or take them back to your church for others to review. The sample pack includes samples of Grow Preschool, Early Elementary, Older Elementary, One Room, Youth Dated, and Bible Lessons for Youth. The elementary samples include story pak and leader's guides.

Autographed copies of Rev. Jerry John's latest two volume novel, <u>Best Friends: Lazarus and</u> Jesus, have been donated by Jerry to the library. You are welcome to borrow a set after clearing it with either District Program Director Glen Langston or Administrative Assistant Brenda Woods.

Conference & Related Opportunities



Attention all clergy spouses! <u>Clergy Spouse Retreat will be on March 5-7, 2015, at Blackstone</u> <u>Conference and Retreat Center</u>. The topic is Wellness and will feature keynotes on spiritual, mental, and physical well-being as well as exciting breakout sessions on a range of topics. Please plan to attend this spiritually enriching and fun-filled event. For more information, contact Judy Hall at <u>Jirbhall@aol.com</u> or 804-264-0524.



Bishop's Convocation on Prayer will be held **Saturday, March 21, 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.,** <u>Trinity UMC-Richmond</u>. The Reverend Sue Nilson Kibbey, Director of Missional Church Initiatives in the West Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church, will be the plenary speaker. There will also be small group learning opportunities in the areas of prayer and Wesleyan spiritual disciplines. Both laity and clergy are invited to attend. Registration cost is \$10 and includes lunch. <u>Deadline to register is March 16</u>. For details, visit <u>www.vaumc.org</u>, click on Events and then the date of the event.



A Virginia Conference <u>United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) Team Leader Training</u> <u>Event</u> will be held on <u>Saturday, March 28, at Cave Spring UMC, 4505 Hazel Drive, Roanoke, VA</u> <u>24018</u>. Training will begin promptly at 8:30 a.m. and end at 2:30 p.m. Team Leader Training is required for all first time team leaders, but all interested persons are welcome to attend whether leading a team or not. All participants must pre-register by 12:00 noon, Monday, before the training event. Fee is \$55.00. Visit the conference website <u>www.vaumc.org</u>; click on Events; and then the date on the calendar for additional information.



United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) Response Team (ERT) certification training: Early Response Teams respond during the first phase of disaster relief, providing Christian presence. Train to be ready to respond and know the first steps to help. Registration is \$55, which includes training manual, UMCOR ERT badge, T-shirt and background check fee (forms

will be handed out at training. Checks should be made out to the Virginia Conference and brought the day of the training. Tom and Linda Cooper will be teaching an <u>Emergency Response Training (ERT) class at</u> <u>Galilee UMC, 45425 Winding Road, Sterling, VA 20165, on Saturday, April 11, 2015</u>. Online registration is available at <u>http://campscul.active.com/orgs/CampGalilee?season+838901</u> Call 703-430-2203, ext. 46; e-mail <u>Natalie.jaquith@galileeumc.org</u>

Conference & Related Opportunities continued on next page

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ing closely with Reentrv (released inmates)

we can use some mentors as well as food cards (Martins or Food Lion) that we can purchase and prepare food for our Thursday night Fellowship & Bible Study.

Kingsway Ministry invites your church groups to consider providing a meal for 12-17 people on Thursday evenings. For more details, contact 433-5658 or 830-7000 or 746-1176 Louise Jenninas



Pastors, please make copies of the monthly ssues of the district newsletter and have them available to your

parishioners who do not receive the newsletter by electronic mail. Thank you!



DISTRICT NEWS Harrisonburg District Virginia Annual Conference The United Methodist Church

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

Conference & Related Opportunities continued



The Winchester District and Shenandoah University's Faith Seeking Justice Christian Leadership Program invite you to attend Thy Kingdom Come: Where Our Mission in the Commonwealth of God Is Justice on the campus of Shenandoah University. Check-in will begin on Friday, April 17, at 5:00 p.m. in Goodson Chapel. The Keith Elgin band will get us started at 6:30 p.m. Dinner will not be provided, so please eat

before you arrive. The program will conclude on Saturday, April 18, at 3:30 p.m. It is open to Senior High Youth Groups and Young Adults. The cost of the event is \$10.00 per person which will go to Imagine No Malaria. Registration is required, registration deadline is April 6, 2015. We invite you to spend Friday night camping out on the field at Shenandoah University. Bring a tent, raise money for Teens Opposing Poverty and Imagine NO Malaria. Think creatively for ways church members can sponsor you as you sleep out under the stars. For information, contact Martha Reynolds, marthareynolds@vaumc.org, or Rev. Dr. Justin Allen, jallen3@su.edu



Courageous Dad's Retreat, June 12-13, Overlook Retreat and Camp Ministries - Father's Day is June 14th. Make this Father's Day more than a day of celebration, make it a day of renewed commitment to your family. Fellowship with other dads and discover a new enthusiasm for being a father. Based on the hit movie, "Courageous", the

retreat will utilize small and whole group sessions and sharing to inspire you and move you to consider what fatherhood means in your lift! THIS RE-TREAT IS NOT FOR YOU! It is a GIFT to your family! There is a registration feel of \$53 to \$98 (depending on your choice of room occupancy). Register before May 30 and save \$10! Fee includes 3 meals, lodging, and program materials. Contact Overlook at (540) 269-2267 or e-mail: campoverlook@gmail.com for additional information.



Funding for Church Projects: If your church has projects planned, the Virginia United Methodist Credit Union has CREDIT UNKIN the solution. Use a VUMCU project loan to fund painting, parsonage repairs, kitchen upgrades, parking lot improvements & heating/AC systems. We have a fast and easy application process (48 hours with a completed application)

and there is no fee to apply. Our project loans are unsecured and for amounts up to \$50,000 with rates as low as 4.00% APR (All loans are subject to approval. Credit restrictions apply and rates are subject to change.) Contact Mike for details at 866-657-0004 or mhaydon@vumcu.org

VUMCU 2015 College Scholarships: Calling ALL High School Seniors. . . Membership at the Virginia United Methodist Credit Union (VUMCU) gives students access to apply for the following scholarships: \$1,000 VUMCU Scholarship; \$1,000 Richmond Chapter of Credit Unions Scholarships (2) Any member of a United Methodist Church or organization within the Virginia Conference is eligible for membership at VUMCU and just \$5.00 opens an account. The scholarships are for freshmen entering college in the Fall 2015. Applications are due late March. E-mail jhightower@vumcu.org to request an application. Janie Hightower, Marketing Manager

Virginia United Methodist Credit Union, 804-672,0200, www.vumcu.org



Do you know a high school senior who you think has the gifts for or has expressed interest in the ministry? Randolph-Macon College in Ashland, VA, has several scholarships for students experiencing a call to some form of ministry. For details contact Margie Turbyfill, mturby576@aol.com, or 804-368-7276.