

# THE CHANNEL MARKER

A Publication of the

ELIZABETH RIVER DISTRICT

Virginia Conference United Methodist Church

NOVEMBER 2011



## From our DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

When my children were little, more often than not we would watch “Mr. Rogers” on television in the late afternoon. I always enjoyed his segments on how things were made, i.e. crayons, peanut butter, and candy. I’m not sure that this new generation of

small children would have enjoyed the show if it were still on because Fred Rogers had the gift of moving slow, taking his time, and taking time to be silent and reflective.

Unlike Sponge Bob, Dora, and other shows today that move very fast in animation and ideas, Mr. Roger’s Neighborhood was very thoughtful and very reflective. Fred Rogers would take children through a segment or a demonstration and then with soft music in the background stop and invite children and adults to reflect in silence on what they saw and heard. He used a noisy medium, television, to teach about silence.

It wasn’t just the absence of noise Fred Rogers advocated, but silence that reflects on the goodness of God, the goodness of what and whom he made. He also believed in silence to think about those who have helped us. Fred Rogers knew that silence leads to reflection; that reflection leads to appreciation, and appreciation looks about for someone to thank. He once said that he hoped people would thank God for it is God who inspires and informs all that is nourishing and good.

I invite us to think about the need for silence in our lives and faith. We live in such a noisy world of information, of conversation, and of music that we take little time to reflect in silence on what we see and hear. The Psalmist wrote, “Be still and know God.” Oh how hard that is in today’s world. We are uncomfortable in silence. We don’t know how to deal with silence. I catch myself turning on the radio in the car for noise because so often the silence is deafening to my ears. I struggle many times to be silent and hear the voice of God. Perhaps that is a problem for many of us.

When I can struggle to be silent and reflect, I have the opportunity to know God deeper and better. We are well into autumn and the land and world is growing silent in growth and productivity. It is as if the world of nature takes a deep breath, grows silent, and reflects. So might we?

Love,

*Brad*

## ELIZABETH RIVER DISTRICT CONFERENCE

Saturday,

November 19th 10a.m.

OAKLETTE U.M.C.

520 Oaklette Dr, Chesapeake  
(757) 545-7434

We’ll have a time of Preaching by  
Rev. Dr. Patricia Riggs,  
Pastor of Foundry U.M.C. (V.B.),  
Music with Great Bridge Praise Team,  
& a Creative Worship Experience  
through Drama.

### Membership of the District Conference:

*all ordained & commissioned clergy,  
licensed local pastors, lay supply pas-  
tors, certified lay ministers, diaconal  
ministers, deaconesses and home mis-  
sioners related to the district;  
church lay leader, church council chair,  
church school superintendent, presi-  
dent of UMW, president of chartered  
UMM, each charge’s district steward,  
lay member to annual conference,  
three members at-large of district con-  
ference, one of whom shall be a youth  
elected by each charge conference.*

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## DISTRICT LAY LEADER

2011 seems to be passing before our eyes! hope you've had a wonderful summer and well into all this fall season is offering you.

November brings us Veteran's Day, a time for remembering and honoring all persons who have served in the U.S. military, past and present, and Thanksgiving. We have so much to be thankful for, things that we too often take for granted. My prayer this year is that all of us think more about the little things we overlook and be thankful for the blessings that we take for granted and learn to appreciate all the gifts that God continues to give us – especially his gift of love. May we always share that gift with our family, friends and with all those we look to, to help us along this path we call life.

Brad and I are well into this falls Charge Conferences, the theme this year being, "Vital Congregations." And what a pleasure it has been for me to visit all our churches again, especially those from the former Portsmouth District that are now part of the new Elizabeth River District, and meet the pastors and leadership of those churches. At these Charge Conferences, thus far, we've heard some wonderful stories of successes of the past year, and the plans for 2012 and beyond. I pray that, with the help of God, these plans will come to fruition and that, next year, we will learn of and hear many more success stories.

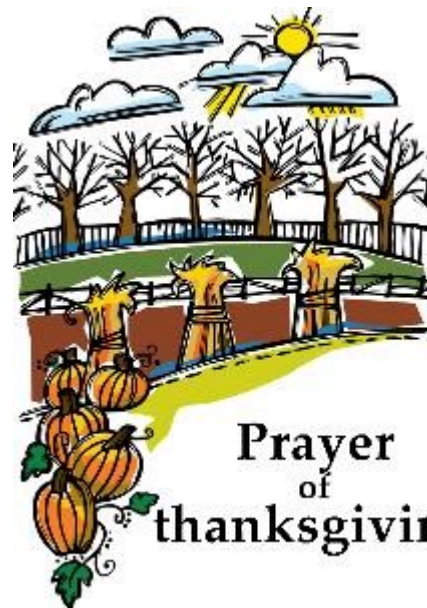
The Elizabeth River District Conference will be held at Oaklette UMC on Saturday, November 19 from 10:00 AM until noon. We will conduct the business of the district, electing our district officers and committees, and worship with Trish Riggs, Pastor of Foundry UMC as our worship leader. Oaklette UMC is at 520 Oaklette Drive, at the corner of Indian River Road and Oaklette Drive in Chesapeake, VA. Phone 545-7473.

On January 21, 2012 we will be gathering at Centenary UMC for our Elizabeth River District Training event. Registration and light refreshments will be at 8:30 AM, after which we will go to our designated training class. There will be training classes for most every committee chairperson and committee member in the local church. Watch your local church bulletin for further information and registration deadlines. Centenary UMC is located at 3312 Cedar Lane in Portsmouth, VA. Phone 484-5051.

Enjoy this beautiful fall season, and I will look forward to seeing you at your Charge Conference, and at the District Conference and the District Training Event.

Shalom,

*Keith*



*Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and do not forget all his benefits—  
who forgives all your iniquity,  
who heals all your diseases,  
who redeems your life from the Pit,  
who crowns you with steadfast love  
and mercy,  
who satisfies you with good as long  
as you live  
so that your youth is renewed like  
the eagle's.*

—Psalm 103:2-5, NRSV

The psalmist's all-encompassing list is a good example of all the gifts of God we should gratefully acknowledge. Personalize this ancient prayer by pondering your own experiences of God's forgiveness, healing, redemption, love, mercy and satisfaction of your daily needs.



November 24, 2011

## DISTRICT CLERGY SPOUSES

Attention Elizabeth River District Clergy Spouses!  
(Clergy Spouses' Mates welcome, too!)

Our daytime group will meet at the home of  
Mary Parrish, 909 Harrington Ave, Norfolk  
(Ghent area), phone # 622-6902.

Date: Nov. 16, 2011

Time: 10:30 a.m.

A program will be given by Kay Phillips on some of her travels overseas. We have a great time together. We'll have a business session, program and lunch. It would be great to have you join us for a good time of fellowship. We welcome all clergy spouses and their mates (if you have one). Please do join us and give Mary a call if you have not attended our group before to get instructions to her home.

In Christian love,

Phyllis Nuckols, President of the spouses' group  
416-9574

## DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Elizabeth River District

### HISTORICAL SOCIETY CHRISTMAS MEETING

Will be held at the  
Wesley Community Service Center  
In Portsmouth (399-0541)

Thursday, December 1, 6:15 pm

Our speaker will be  
John Hatcher, Executive Director of  
Wesley Community Service Center  
Members of the center will be providing  
musical entertainment.

Cost for this special holiday meal: \$10.00  
(All reservations must be paid.)

## District Resource Center

Located in the Library of  
Heritage UMC, 815 Baker Rd,  
Va Beach (same building of the  
district office)



OPEN Monday thru Thursday  
Mornings 9am—1pm

Recently we received a donation of  
YOUTH and ADULT SMALL GROUP  
Studies from GROUP. Come take a look.

**NOW AVAILABLE:**  
UMW Reading List 2007-2011  
Questions, 464-6034



NOVEMBER 11, 2011

## MINISTER'S CONVOCATION

The 2012 Ministers' Convocation will be Jan. 17-19, 2012, at the Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center in Blackstone. Theme is "Bread for the Journey: A time for personal renewal and fellowship to regain joy and vitality in our lives and our vocation." Keynote presenter will be Wayne Muller, therapist, minister, community advocate, public speaker and best-selling author of Sabbath; A Life of Being, Having and Doing Enough and Legacy of the Heart: the Spiritual Advantages of a Painful Childhood.



# ELIZABETH RIVER DISTRICT YOUTH

Meet every month  
On the 2nd Monday

7:00-8:30 pm at St. Paul's UMC  
(437 W Providence Rd, Chesapeake)

The Elizabeth River District Youth Coordinator is Betsy Parsons. If you have any questions about what's going on, you may email her at

[ElizabethRiverDYC@gmail.com](mailto:ElizabethRiverDYC@gmail.com)

### The Conference Retreats

Nov. 11-13 for Middle School and  
Dec. 2-4 for High School.

The Retreats are at Eagle Eyrie.  
The total cost is going to be \$115.

Would you like to be a part of the  
Conference Council on Youth Ministries (CCYM)?

If so, contact Betsy or  
Katie Wax, [butterbeanwax@aol.com](mailto:butterbeanwax@aol.com)

Centenary United Methodist Church  
3312 Cedar Lane Portsmouth, VA

Contact person: 757-708-0603

## LIGHT YOUR SOUL FIRE

NOVEMBER 18TH  
TIME: 7PM-9:00PM



Our youth are hosting a free event to bring our church youth groups together. We will be celebrating "Light your Soul Fire" the amazing Grace God has given to us as His children.

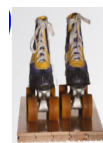
#### Highlights

- Music
- Testimonies
- Speakers
- Fun

Phone: 757-484-5051  
Cell: 757-708-0603  
E-mail: [cumcporityouth@verizon.net](mailto:cumcporityouth@verizon.net)  
Jill North-Youth Pastor



## CALLING ALL YOUTH ... LET'S ROLL!



Please join us for a night of Fun & Fellowship

Where: Greenbrier Family Skate Center

Date: Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup>

Time: 5:30 - 7:30

Cost: \$5.00 Each, includes skate rental



Concession will be open.

Bring money for snacks & drinks.

Please RSVP as soon as possible  
so we can know how many to expect.

Email: [youth@ncum.org](mailto:youth@ncum.org)

Phone: Bill Canady 615-6451

Hosted by —New Creation UMC Youth

## ELIZABETH RIVER DISTRICT UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



### The Purpose of United Methodist Women

The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

*Have you ever been asked, “Just what is a United Methodist Woman —aren’t all women that belong to the United Methodist Church, United Methodist Women?” How do you answer their question?*

*A good way to answer is: “Close to one million lay women have chosen to become a member of United Methodist Women. One does not even have to be a United Methodist, however just because you are a woman who belongs to a United Methodist Church, you have to choose to join .*

*United Methodist Women are:*

Centered in relationship with God through Jesus Christ.  
Support thru Mission Giving and love In Action ministries with women, children and Youth.  
Both locally and globally engaged in development and use of skills for service, leadership development and personal growth.

*“Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha (in Greek is Dorcas). She was devoted to good works and act of charity.” (Acts 9:36)*

### UMW DATES:

**November 18<sup>th</sup> 9 a.m.** District Prayer Breakfast “A Service of Thanksgiving” Speaker, Georgia Garrison, Vice President, Elizabeth River District UMW. Hosted by Community United Methodist Women, Va. Beach.

**December 10<sup>th</sup> 9 a.m.** District Prayer Breakfast and Advent Service, Speaker TBA. Hosted by Great Bridge United Methodist Women, Chesapeake

**January 28<sup>th</sup> 9 a.m.** District Prayer Breakfast and Officers Training. Hosted by Wesley Memorial United Methodist Women, Norfolk.

Sow for yourselves  
righteousness,  
reap the fruit  
of unfailing  
love ...

Hosea 10:12, NIV



REMEMBRANCE SERVICE  
FOR FAMILIES WHO HAVE  
LOST A CHILD

Thursday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 pm



If you are interested in attending this Worship Service, send your child's name, date of birth, date of passing, and any special musical requests you have to the address below by November 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Lynnhaven United Methodist Church**  
1033 Little Neck Road  
Virginia Beach, VA 23452  
757-340-5682

For additional information contact Jerrilynn Gleason at [jgleason@lumcvb.org](mailto:jgleason@lumcvb.org)

# Join Us!

United Methodist Women & United Methodist Men  
as they sponsor the...



*\*All proceeds to benefit  
local and district missions.*

**Saturday,  
November 12th, 2011**  
9:00AM to 3:00PM

Something for the whole family.

Fun, Food, and Thousands  
of Unique Craft Items.

Bring a non-perishable food item  
& receive an additional chance  
to win a door prize.

## Courthouse Community United Methodist Church

**2708 Princess Anne Road, Virginia Beach**  
*Located between the Virginia Beach Municipal Center and  
Landstown Commons or 3.6 miles from the intersection of  
Lynnhaven Pkwy., and Princess Anne Rd.*  
For more info call 421-2102 or 971-3390



## DIVORCE

*Someone you know is hurting.  
Make sure he or she knows about*

### **DivorceCare,**

*A weekly seminar and  
Christ-centered support group  
For people who are  
Separated or divorced.*

*DivorceCare begins Sunday,  
October 23, 4:00-5:30 pm  
At Lynnhaven U.M.C.*

### **DC4K**

*DivorceCare for kids 5-12 years  
Will be offered at the same time.*

*For more information or to register,  
Call Heather at 440-3612 or  
Debbie at 463-6278.*

### FOR SALE

**Allen digital computerized organ**  
\$1,500.00  
**Upright piano**  
\$200.00

at Norfolk United Methodist Church

Contact Ms. Brenda Turner, Trustee Chair  
at (757) 513-4646

If you would like to see the instruments,  
call the church office at (757) 628-6543  
to make an appointment,  
and a trustee will be more than happy  
to meet you.

## The Dick Barnes Collection of more than 150 Nativity sets

will be on display at  
**Cottage Place UMC**

442 Jamestown Ave, Portsmouth, VA  
beginning Sunday, November 6, 2011.

The display will be open for viewing  
On Sundays through January  
from 1:30 to 4:00 p.m.

Groups or individuals may make arrangements  
to view the collection at other times  
by contacting Dick Barnes at 397-3925.

For directions  
contact the church office at 399-1015,  
office hours are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Tuesday - Thursday.

## Visit the Holy Land and Jordan Hosted by Pastor Brad and Kay Phillips

**October 1-11, 2012**

Walk where Jesus walked...  
Cruise the Sea of Galilee...  
Visit Jerash, Petra, and Nazareth...  
Climb the Mount of Olives and  
view the Old City of Jerusalem...  
Walk the Via Dolorosa to the  
Church of the Holy Sepulchre...  
Visit Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity...  
and much much more.

**Reservations are now being accepted.**

For a brochure or to reserve your space,  
contact Brad and Kay Phillips  
(464-5392) [kphillips53@cox.net](mailto:kphillips53@cox.net).

Don't let this spiritual journey pass you by...

Truly the trip of a lifetime.

## The United Methodist Women of Nimmo United Methodist Church

Invite All ladies, ages 18-180,  
of the Elizabeth River District

### To SAVE THE DATE

For a day of  
*Renewal and Reflection on  
our purpose in God's glory and design*

**Saturday, February 25, 2012**  
(specific times to be announced)

Please plan to attend.  
Further information will be available on our  
website [www.nimmochurch.org](http://www.nimmochurch.org)  
or through the office at (757)427-1765

## CHURCH POSITIONS AVAILABLE

**ORGANIST/CHOIR DIRECTOR, Monumental UMC** in Portsmouth. This part-time position includes traditional Sunday worship with pipe organ and 30 member choir. Job description and resume information found at [www.monumentalumc.org](http://www.monumentalumc.org).

**CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP LEADER, Great Bridge UMC** in Chesapeake is hiring a new Worship Director for the Connexions Service. This part time position is for someone who is energetic, enthusiastic and strong in their own faith and their understanding of worship. A background in music and worship band dynamics is required, as well as experience with CCLI, Media Shout and PowerPoint. Please submit resumes to Staff Parish thru [gbumcassociate@verizon.net](mailto:gbumcassociate@verizon.net), Fax: (757) 482-0432 or Mail: 201 Stadium Drive Chesapeake, VA 23322.

Please keep Job Announcements at  
60-words or less.  
More church jobs can be found  
on the conference webpage  
[vaumc.org](http://vaumc.org) / select Resources / Job Opportunities  
Or <http://vaumc.org/Page.aspx?pid=498>



Virginia Conference  
 United Methodist Church  
 P.O. Box 12654  
 Norfolk, VA 23541-0654

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VA Conference Bishop Charlene P. Kammerer  
 District Superintendent ..... Bradford L. Phillips  
 District Secretary ..... Deborah L. Hanson  
 District Finance Secretary ..... Tammy A. Waters  
 District Treasurer ..... Mary R. Stroh  
 District Lay Leaders ..... Keith E. Willyard

**Office Location:**

815 Baker Rd. Suite 301, Virginia Beach  
 Phone: 757.473.1592 Fax: 757.473.1790  
 Email: [ElizabethRiverDistrict@vaumc.org](mailto:ElizabethRiverDistrict@vaumc.org)  
 District Website: [ElizabethRiverDistrict.org](http://ElizabethRiverDistrict.org)  
 Conference Website: [vaumc.org](http://vaumc.org)

## DISTRICT CALENDAR

**Newsletter Articles Deadline**

is the **15th** of every month

All articles should be submitted by email  
 to address above

Job Announcements should be 60-words or less  
 Events 100-words or less or 1/4 page flyer-format  
 District Officers try to limit a half-page



Send your request to

[ElizabethRiverDistrict@vaumc.org](mailto:ElizabethRiverDistrict@vaumc.org)

**UPCOMING DATES:**

**2011 DISTRICT CONFERENCE**  
**Nov. 19th ~ Oaklette UMC—10am**

**2012 DISTRICT TRAINING**  
**Jan. 21st ~ Centenary UMC**

## November

- 9 District Clergy, Ghent UMC, Norfolk 9am
- 14 District Youth, St Paul's UMC, Chesapeake, 7pm
- 16 Clergy Spouses', Mary Parrish's home (see page 2)
- 17 Committee on Ministry, district office, 9am-noon
- 18 UMW Prayer Breakfast, Community UMC-VB (see page 5)
- 19 District Conference, Oaklette UMC, Chesapeake 10am
- 24 -25 OFFICE CLOSED for THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY



- 1 Historical Society, Wesley Community Service Center, 6:30pm
- 5 Dist. Clergy Christmas Dinner, 6:30 TBD
- 10 UMW Advent Breakfast, Great Bridge UMC
- 12 District Youth, St Paul's UMC, Chesapeake, 7pm
- 13 District Finance, district office, 7pm
- 26-30 DISTRICT OFFICE CLOSED for CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY
- JAN 2 DISTRICT OFFICE CLOSED for NEW YEARS HOLIDAY