

THE CHANNEL MARKER

A Publication of the

ELIZABETH RIVER DISTRICT

Virginia Conference United Methodist Church

SEPTEMBER 2011



From our DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

Ubuntu!

This is the Zulu word for a greeting which means, “I am because you are”. It is the profound sense that we are truly human only through the humanity of others. I recognize your presence. So again I say, “Ubuntu”.

During this past month, Kay and I and five other persons from Virginia attended the 20th World Methodist Council and Conference in Durban, South Africa. There were over 2000 Methodists in attendance. It was winter season so leaving the 100 degree heat wave of Virginia and going to where the temperature never got above 70 degrees was wonderful. We even had cold nights down into the 30's.

The conference was a wonderful time of very creative worship with hymns and songs from all around the world. It was inspiring to hear the Lord's Prayer given in many different languages. There were over 50 nations represented many of which were from the African nations. Kay and I met Methodist people from Australia, Nigeria, Botswana, Germany, Korea, Hong Kong, and many other nations. Kay and I, as Anglo Americans, felt very much the minority and that was fine.

I came away from this experience with a new understanding of what it means to be Methodist. Methodists from all around the world have one thing in common and that is the Wesleyan tradition from the teachings of John Wesley. From there the diversity in tradition, in worship, in dress, and in structure is widely different. Most of the world does not understand terms like “United Methodist”. Not everyone has a district superintendent. Some groups do not even use the name Methodist in their denominational title. There were Wesleyans, Nazarenes, and the United Church. However, they have the Wesleyan tradition and understanding.

I also came away with how very rich a church we are as United Methodists. We have been given much, so much is expected, and we are generous in our giving to the church around the world. It was exciting to hear how fast the church in Africa and Asia is growing in numbers, while we are struggling in the west. Finally, it was significant to hear how the world church is reaching out to the poor, to those with AIDS, and those who live in political turmoil and oppression.

What a blessing it was to go and learn and to come home a different person.

Love,

Brad

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Campus Ministry	4
Church Events	7
Disaster Response Message	2
District Calendar	back cover
District Clergy Spouses	2
District Historical Society	7
District Superintendent	1
Holy Land Tour	3
Job Opportunities	7
Lay Speaker Training	5-6
PAUMCS Fall Event	4
Resource Center	2



To: The Elizabeth River District U.M.Churches

From: District Disaster Coordinator

As the Disaster Preparedness Month of September approaches us, I would like to introduce a few initiatives that the District Disaster Response Team (DDRT) has established.

The first initiative is that we **strongly encourage** each church to appoint a Disaster Coordinator who would serve as a member of the Board of Trustees. In the event of an impending disaster, this person would have the authority to coordinate preparations to secure the church property and implement the preparation phase of the church's disaster plan. During the recovery phase of the disaster, the Disaster Coordinator would also have the authority to initiate activities that would make the church property safe, sanitary, and secure. The local church disaster coordinator is also a welcomed member of the district disaster team and we invite them to meet with us every other month to benchmark ideas, processes, and procedures.

Second, we **strongly encourage** each church to have a disaster plan. If your church does not have a plan, the DDRT has a plan outline that can be easily edited to fit your specific needs.

Lastly, we requested that you send your Disaster Coordinator or other representative to the last meeting of the District Disaster Response Team on August 9th at Courthouse Community U.M.Church. At this meeting we will distribute kits that contain an informational video that can be shown to your church trustees as well as your congregation on disaster preparedness. This kit also includes other informational pamphlets as well as a disaster resource survey that we would like you to complete and return to the DDRT.

Should you have any questions regarding this matter please feel free to contact me at 434-4273.

Grace & peace,

Chris Safrit
District Disaster Coordinator
<http://elizabethriverdistrict.org/DRT>

DISTRICT CLERGY SPOUSES

Welcome to all clergy spouses as we meet for the first time under our new name, Elizabeth River District. The spouses will meet September 21, 10:30 am, at the home of Lou Reeves, 2000 Ealing Crescent, Virginia Beach, email: LOUBALL@pinn.net, phone number: 427-6749. Contact Lou Reeves a week in advance of the meeting date if you would like to join us.

We currently meet just a few times a year. We are open to ideas about programs. We have a business meeting and then share lunch. Most of the time we eat at the home of the hostess but restaurants are always an option.

Please do join us and we will have a good time getting to know one another. Retired clergy are welcome to be part of our fun time together! For more information, contact Phyllis Nuckols, president, at 416-9574 or email me, phylbill66@verizon.net. Be certain to put clergy spouses in the subject line of email so I won't delete the message. Blessings to each of you.

CLERGY SPOUSES' DINNER —

Tuesday, October 11th at 6:30 pm please join us for dinner at the Janaf Olive Garden, 5920 E Virginia Beach Blvd, Norfolk 23502. Please RSVP to Kay Phillips, 757-464-5392 or kphillips53@cox.net, by Oct. 8th

District Resource Center



Open

Monday thru Thursday
Mornings 9am—1pm



NOW AVAILABLE:
UMW Reading Program
List 2007-2011

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Walk where Jesus walked...Cruise the Sea of Galilee...See Jerash, the Pompeii of the Middle East...Enjoy a day in the "Rose Red" city of Petra...Visit Nazareth...Climb the Mt. of Olives & view the Old City of Jerusalem...Walk the Via Dolorosa to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre...Visit Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity.

Informational Meeting

Thursday, September 22, 2011, 7:00 PM

Deep Creek United Methodist Church
141 N. George Washington Hwy. Chesapeake

For more details or a brochure, call or email:

Brad and Kay Phillips, Tel: (757) 464-5392, Email: kphillips53@cox.net

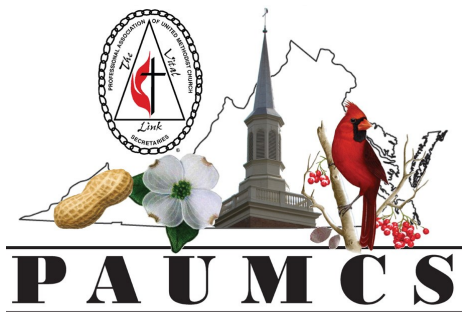
EXPERIENCE YOUR CONFERENCE CONNECTION 2011

The Virginia Chapter of the Professional Association of United Methodist Church Secretaries will host their fall event, Experience Your Conference Connection 2011, on Wednesday, October 5, at the Virginia United Methodist Conference Center, 10330 Staples Mill Road in Glen Allen.

Tami Wyrick, director of the Virginia Crime Prevention Association, will present the **latest precautions and tips for maintaining a safe working environment** at church and elsewhere. **Stephanie Davis**, Virginia United Methodist archivist, will lead a workshop that will include **church record keeping**, how to research a church history, what is available in the Virginia United Methodist Archives, and the mission and policies of the Archives.

The event is open to all church administrative staff, full-time, part-time, paid and volunteer, including but not limited to administrative assistants, financial secretaries, office managers and newsletter editors. Participants are welcome to join the conference staff before the event begins for a 9 a.m. chapel service. Rev. Mark Ogren, conference director of Congregational Development and Evangelism, will lead us in worship and communion.

Event registration begins at 9:30 a.m. Lunch is included in the registration fee of \$20 for VA PAUMCS members and \$25 for non-members. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity for knowledge and networking. A registration brochure is available at <www.vaumc.org> or call (804) 521-1124 for more information. <http://www.vaumc.org/paumcs>



CAMPUS MINISTRY MATTERS !



By the time that you read this, thousands of first year students will be settling into their first semester at our private and public colleges and universities. Faith will be at the back of many of these student's minds as they are learning the difference between high school and college, managing finances, and negotiating a social scene without parent supervision. Some students will be trying to figure out how God fits in with the college experience. They may even seek out your church.

The 18-25 year olds who make up the majority of students in the first year of college are looking for answers to three questions. 1. Who am I? 2. What am I going to do with my life? 3. Who will I love? If your church can provide a place, time and supportive environment where these questions are answered and explored, then you will be more likely to maintain a relationship with the students in your midst.

We are blessed in the Elizabeth River District with many institutions of higher education. Old Dominion University, Norfolk State University, Virginia Wesleyan College, Regent University, and Tidewater Community College have campuses throughout our area. In addition, there are many professional schools and degree programs offered at satellite campuses that are not "traditional colleges." I invite you to pray for all students and faculty, maintain contact with the students you know by sending notes and care packages, and continue to support Larry (Norfolk State), Greg (Virginia Wesleyan) and myself (ODU) as we meet and greet another generation of young adults.

P.S. – If you have not already done so, please let us know who is coming to college this fall. Check out this website to update your list of college students: <https://www.vaumc.org/studentinformation>.



Elizabeth-River District

LAY SPEAKING TRAINING

When: Friday, October 14th ~ 6:00-10:00 PM
Saturday, October 15th ~ 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Where: Community United Methodist Church
1072 Old Kempsville Rd, Virginia Beach, VA

Cost: \$12 Registration

Here's your opportunity to attend a Lay Speaking Ministries Training Even without having to leave town, and with a minimal investment. All interested lay persons, Local Church Lay Speakers, and Certified Lay Speakers are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity. **Certified Lay Speakers must take an advance course every three years to maintain certification.**

Basic Course: The Basic Course is for certification to become Local Lay Speaker. The local church lay speaker may serve his/her local church in which membership is held, by witness of the spoken work, vital leadership service, and caregiving ministry. All Lay Leaders should take this course to enhance knowledge of the ministry of the baptized, leading, caring, communicating, and into the world. Will need to purchase the participant book *Lay Speaking Ministries*, bring to class along with your Bible. Taught by Betty Marshall

Advance Courses:

- 1. *Spiritual Gifts and Our Call to Be the Church:*** We have been equipped, empowered and gifted for success. God's Word proclaims it! Yet the question is, "In whatever role we have or by whatever means that we serve. You will start by finding your Spiritual Gifts as you complete the Spiritual Gifts inventory prior to class using the booklet "Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts" by Kenneth Cain Kinghorn (ISBN Number 9780310750611). We'll continue together on this wondrous journey learning to use your gifts, talents, resources, and more in building-up the Body of Christ and God's Kingdom. Please bring your Bible and completed Spiritual Gifts Inventory to class. Additional materials and resources will be provided. Taught by Janet Moore
- 2. *Survey of Apologetics for Lay Speakers:*** There are many believers and skeptics who have questions about logic, philosophy, science, and truth related to Christianity. These questions are often stumbling blocks to faith and belief. We will identify the most common questions. The text is **Holman QuickSource Guide to Christian Apologetics by Doug Powell**. ISBN – 10: 080549460x or ISBN-13:9780805494600The text is not an optional purchase. The text is the course outline and notes. We will work through the text in class, reading from the text. Taught by C. G. Miller
- 3. *United Methodist Heritage:*** Topics covered in this course will be: Our Methodist Roots; Our United Brethren Roots; Our Evangelical Roots: United Methodist Beliefs; Standards of Doctrine and Discipline; A connectional Church. The text book recommended, but not necessary is "The United Methodist Primer." Taught by Rev. Tom Strohecker
- 4. *Go Preach: A Primer for Beginning Preachers:*** This advanced class will help you understand the workings of answering a call to serve in the pulpit. We will examine the place of the sermon, the use of the lectionary, preparing a sermon, and the follow-ups. You will need the text, your Bible, and a devotional that you have already used at least once. In the class we will prepare a short sermon and deliver it to our congregation. The name of the book is "Go Preach" by John Gilbert. Cokesbury has it for about \$14.00, but Battlefield Blvd has one copy, will need to order the book on line. Taught by: Arnold Lindblad
- 5. *This Holy Mystery:*** What's so mysterious about Holy Communion? What is the United Methodist understanding of the theology and experience of the sacrament of Holy Communion? This Holy Mystery contributes to the congregational understanding of Holy Communion. It shows the connection between sacrament and evangelism, the response to Jesus' command to extend the gospel to all people. It reminds us again of the holy mystery of our life in God's grace. Book is "**This Holy Mystery – A United Methodist Understanding of Holy Communion**" by **Gayle Carlton Felton**; which is \$11.20 on the Cokesbury website (20% off \$14.00). Taught by Rev. Bert Cloud

Continued on next page —>

(Please submit no later than September 30, 2011)



Lay Speaking Training – October 14-15, 2011

Please return registration to:

ELIZABETH RIVER DISTRICT OFFICE

Lay Speaking

P.O.Box 12654

Norfolk, Va 23541-0654

Please Print:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip _____

Phone: () _____ Email: _____

Church: _____ U M C

Basic Course

Pastor's Signature _____
(Pastor's Approval Signature required for 1st time attendees – Basic Course)

Advance Course: (Indicate preference: 1-2-3-4-5)

___ Spiritual Gifts ___ Go Preach ___ Apologetics
___ This Holy Mystery ___ UM Heritage

\$12.00 Enclosed (check# _____; payable to Elizabeth River District UMC)

Signature _____

For additional information contact: Barbara St.Jean – CLS, Co-District Director LSM
Cell Phone: 650-1577 email: bstjean@cox.net

All are invited – you can take the class and not be Lay Speaker.

There are a number of excellent eating establishments near Community UMC for Saturday lunch.

IN THE EVENT OF A LOCAL DISASTER (refresher...)

Pastors should respond in this manner: 1) If mandatory evacuation is ordered, lead by example and go . When you arrive at your evacuation location, call the District Disaster Coordinator, **Chris Safrit at 757-434-4273**. If you cannot reach him, call the District Superintendent, 615-7479. and give him your location. 2) If evacuation is not mandatory, **report within 24 hours to the district office any damage to church and/or parsonage** . The District Office number is 757-473-1592; parsonage, 464-5392. If these phones are down, call one of the numbers above. 3) Check on members of your congregation to see if they are okay and report any injury or loss of life in the congregation as a result of the storm to the district office. This is not just for statistical purposes, but will help us prioritize how we can best use the recovery assets available. 4) It is important for us, as a district and conference, to have an indication of the damage in the various areas of the district. Since you live in these communities, it will be helpful if you also provide us with information on what you know about the damage in your area.

. . . Read the rest before the chance of losing power. It can be found at: <http://elizabethriverdistrict.org/DRT>



CHURCH POSITIONS AVAILABLE

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP LEADER, Grace Harbor Church, a new U.M. faith community in northern Suffolk and a campus of New Creation UMC, is actively seeking an experienced leader to model authentic Christian worship, lead and engage a diverse congregation. For more information about this part-time position, to apply, or see full job description go to www.graceharborva.org under "Leadership, Employment Opportunity."

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.

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



Sales Galore 2011



Thursday, Sept. 15th

4pm-7pm

Friday, Sept. 16th

8am-6pm

Saturday, Sept. 17th

8am-1pm

CLOTHINGT & ACCESSORIES (Hardy Hall)

All Seasons~All Sizes~Men~Women~Children

MINI-FLEA MART (Hardy Hall)

Junque to junk

SPECIALTY SHOPPE (Library)

UMW CAFÉ (Room 105)

Donuts, Muffins,

Grilled Hot Dogs & Mary Lou's Chili,

Chicken Salad & PBJ Sandwiches, \$1,000,000 Pie,

Brownies, Coffee, Tea, Cold Drinks

Sponsored by Centenary U.M. Women

3312 Cedar Ln, Portsmouth

484-0790, 484-1182, 484-4509

Annual Fall **BRUNSWICK STEW** Sale

Community UMM (VB)

1072 Old Kempsville Rd, Va Beach

The UMM will be making their homemade

Brunswick stew again this year.

One quart will feed two people.

The cost is \$6.00 a quart again this year.

All orders placed prior to September 11th will be available at \$5.50 per quart.

Orders can be placed via the church web site

at www.cumcvb.org or by email to

douglasmillsjr@gmail.com.

ORDER EARLY and SAVE!

(Deliveries begin September 11th).

Regular sales begin on Sunday September 11 through October 30 and we will be taking orders and making deliveries every Sunday.



All proceeds are used for UMM supported missions.

DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Elizabeth River District U.M.C. HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Next meeting:

Thursday, September 15, 6:15 pm

McKendree UMC

6870 N. Military Hwy, Norfolk 23518

Telephone: (757) 853-0680

Cost for meal: \$6.00

(All reservations must be paid.)

Program will be on the History of Blackstone
Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center
(VUMAC)

This will be the first meeting of the
Elizabeth River District Historical Society.

EVERYONE INTERESTED IN HISTORY
WELCOME



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 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
 District Website: ElizabethRiverDistrict.org
 Conference Website: 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

UPCOMING DATES:

2011 DISTRICT CONFERENCE

Nov. 19th ~ Oaklette UMC

2012 DISTRICT TRAINING

Jan. 21st ~ tba

SEPTEMBER

- 5 LABOR DAY– district office closed
- 14 District Clergy Meeting, Monumental UMC, Portsmouth 9am
- 15 District Historical Society, McKendree UMC, Norfolk 6:15pm
- 21 Clergy Spouses, 10:30 am (see page 2 for location)
- 22 District Committee on Ministry, 9am at district office
- 22 2012 Holy Land Informational meeting, Deep Creek UMC, 7pm

OCTOBER

- 5 PAUMCS Fall Event, Conference Center
- 11 Clergy Spouses' Dinner, Olive Garden at Janaf, 6:30 p.m.
- 12 District Clergy Meeting, Portlock UMC, Chesapeake 9am
- 14-15 Lay Speaker Training, Community UMC VB
- 18 District Nominations, 7pm at district office
- 20 District Committee on Ministry, 9am at district office
- 20 District Historical Society, Francis Asbury, Va Beach 6:15pm
- 27 District Committee on Ministry, 9am at district office