

# THE CHANNEL MARKER

A Publication of the  
ELIZABETH RIVER DISTRICT  
Virginia Conference United Methodist Church

FEBRUARY 2012



## From our DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

When we do not want to say out loud an offensive word we generally say the first letter of that word, for example, the “s” word. This month I want to talk about apportionments or the “a” word.

I want to, first of all, thank all of the churches on the Elizabeth River District for their help in apportionment giving for 2011. The churches paid almost 75% of their Conference apportionments or \$2.3 million out of \$3.1 million apportioned. This is a little better than last year however, we are still last in Apportionment giving. I want to thank all of the churches who were able to give 100%, but I also thank all of the churches who made efforts, sometimes sacrificial efforts, to pay as much as they could. I would like to see all of the churches who paid some of their apportionments make strong attempts to pay even more during 2012. My other deep concern is for the churches that were unable to pay any Conference apportionments this past year. I hate to see a 0% by any church’s name. I am convinced that everyone can pay some towards their connection in the United Methodist Church. Your giving not only helps us here locally, but your dollars reach all around the world. Someone once said that the word, *apportionments*, really means a portion for someone else.

Let me also take this opportunity to thank everyone for paying all of their district apportionments. You were able to give over 100% of the asking. You also were generous in paying over 100% of the Board of Missions asking. Your generous giving last year helped youth on the district attend retreats, helped the two Wesley Foundations minister to students on their perspective campuses, helped VIM teams to go and help those in need. Your generous help allowed us to hire an additional person, Tammy Waters, to perform well the business of the district. Your generous help sent district delegates to Annual Conference, and your generous giving helped in our district scouting program. Your generous help allowed two of our churches to help with local hunger and tutoring issues. So again, thank you for all of your generous giving in 2011, and we look forward to your generous help in 2012.

As we have begun 2012, I want to thank you for being a part of the Elizabeth River District and I look forward to what God has in store for us as individuals, as churches, and as a district.

Love,

*Brad*

ANNUAL  
DINNER MEETING  
of the  
DISTRICT BOARD OF  
MISSIONS  
Sunday, February 12th  
5:00 p.m. Oak Grove UMC

GUEST SPEAKER:  
Glen Rowley, Director,  
VA Conf. Mission & Global  
Justice Office

If you are interested in attending, you must register with your church mission representative or pastor.

Cost of the Dinner is \$10

Your reservation is the cost of your ticket - One check from each church.

Reservation DEADLINE is  
**Feb. 6th**

If your church would like to share a small display (poster, pictures) of a recent or ongoing mission project, there will be tables along the side or back wall where you may put a little something. Please let us know so that we have ample space.

## Inside this Issue

Calendar .....	Back Cover
Church job openings.....	5
District Lay Leader .....	2
District Missions Dinner.....	Front Cover
MSABC's .....	4
Resource Center .....	3
United Methodist Men .....	2
United Methodist Women .....	3
United Methodist Youth .....	3

## FROM YOUR DISTRICT LAY LEADER



### Love

*Love is a nod from across the room, love is a knowing wink.*

*Love is a laugh from the heart's full bloom, love is a pause to think.*

*Selflessly, wholly of what it shares, threaded by man and wife,*

*Quietly weaving 'til unawares, love is the whole of life.*

*Love is an arm to support an arm, love wipes away a tear.*

*Love speaks of love with a special charm, love is a listening ear.*

*Love is the squeeze of a gentle hand, saying what words can't say.*

*Knowing such love makes one understand God in a wiser way.*

—Margaret Rorke

When you think of February, you can't help but think of Valentine's Day, and love! We find many references to love in the Bible John 3:16 tell us that "God so **loved** the world, that he gave his only begotten son; that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

According to the Apostle Paul in the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter of 1st Corinthians, love is patient and kind - it is never jealous, irritable or rude. Love never gives up, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance. Also, love will last forever. What a beautiful thought! As we share our lives with all those with whom we come into contact with each day, and all those who strive each day to serve and love us - let us never forget that we must love others as God loves us. I pray that, through love, we will learn patience, kindness, understanding, and to always reach out to those who need it the most. Christ said that to be served, we must first serve. I also believe that to be loved, we must first love. The love that we give will come back to us ten-fold.

So, as we celebrate Valentine's Day this month, remember to share in that gift of love. You will be blessed for having done so!

*Shalom,*

*Keith Willyard <>>*

keith.willyard@cox.net  
(757) 479-0232

## Lay Servant Academy

Feb 24-26

Virginia United Methodist  
Assembly Center (Blackstone)



### Registration deadline Feb 10

Ten of the courses offered this year have been approved for 1.0 CEU by the Continuing Education Committee of the Board of Ordained Ministry. Participants in at least 5 hours can receive 0.5 CEU. Approved courses are: *This Holy Mystery*, led by Rev. Bert Cloud; *Bible for Lay Ministers*, led by Rev. Dr. Mike Browder and Rev. Jennifer Vestal Moore; *Bible Teaching Aids*, led by Rev. Dr. Tom Bryant; *Survey of Apologetics*, led by Charles G. Miller; *History of Christian Beliefs*, led by Dr. Allen Barnes; *Heritage of The United Methodist Church*, led by Hal Costley; *Discover God's Call*, led by Doris Hedrick; *Exploring Our Spiritual Gifts*, led by Rev. Linda Young; *Authentic Outreach*, led by Stuart Holt; and *Understanding Men's Ministry*, led by Gilbert Hanke. For more information and brochure contact David Bailey at (804) 338-3168 or [dwb.bailey@comcast.net](mailto:dwb.bailey@comcast.net).

## DISTRICT JOB OPPORTUNITY

### DISTRICT PROGRAM

**COORDINATOR:** Elizabeth River District is seeking to fill this a part-time (15 hrs/week) District position responsible for district program support and development. Primary function is to provide educational support for church staff and laity within the district and seek new programmatic opportunities. Will assist District Superintendent with district events such as Annual District Laity Training, District Conference, and clergy-related events, and develop spiritual growth opportunities for all ages. Displays Christian attitude and spirit of cooperation. Must be able to work as a team player with others across the district and within the District office. Proficiency in basic office administrative support skills and Microsoft Office required. Knowledge of the United Methodist Church preferred.

For job description, please contact the Elizabeth River District Office, 473-1592, [ElizabethRiverDistrict@vaumc.org](mailto:ElizabethRiverDistrict@vaumc.org).

Send resume to [ElizabethRiverDistrict@vaumc.org](mailto:ElizabethRiverDistrict@vaumc.org) no later than March 9, 2012.



## The Elizabeth River District Men's Ministry Team - 2012

The District is here to serve you - not the other way around! You are

what makes the Church and District go and grow and you are why we exist! To that end we have renamed and reorganized our District United Methodist Men. We are now the Elizabeth River District Men's Ministry (ERDMM) Team and I am your new leader.

Our team has two goals: **First**, *minister to you*. In this information age, that means keeping you informed of what's going on in *your* District and *your* Conference. We will do this primarily by e-mail and the ERDMM website. For those of you not regularly using cyberspace as your primary means of communication, we will continue to use our sub-district coordinators to contact you by phone. We will also continue to publish events in the District newsletter.

To minister to you, we have two types of ministries we coordinate at the District level. One is nurture oriented and the other mission oriented. Our nurture ministries include Wesleyan Building Brothers, Understanding Men's Ministries, and Letters from Dad. Our mission ministries include Heart Havens, Boy Scouts/Youth, Food Pantry, and Disaster Response.

Our **second** goal is to provide fellowship and program opportunities throughout the year. We will have at least four such events hosted by one of our churches. Two of those programs will be District focused while two will be host church focused. This will give churches with successful men's ministries the opportunity to showcase their programs at their own churches for the entire District. The two District centered meetings will focus on Heart Havens and the other mission ministries coordinated by the ERDMM.

Although nineteen men have answered the call to serve you, we still need a few volunteers to complete the ERDMM Team. Please email me if you're interested in serving the churches in our District. My address is [Team.Lead.ERDMMT@gmail.com](mailto:Team.Lead.ERDMMT@gmail.com).

In His service,  
Andrew Kissell  
Elizabeth River District Men's Ministry Team Leader

**Website** [www.gb-gm-umc.org/elizabethriverumm](http://www.gb-gm-umc.org/elizabethriverumm)

**Facebook** [Elizabeth River District Men's Ministry Team](#)

**Twitter** [ERDMMT](#)

## The Wesley-Westminster Foundation



The Wesley-Westminster Foundation at Wesleyan University is very grateful to Rick Treherne, Webster Roberts, W. Goodrum, Lorenzo Modeste, Lois Simons and Diane Skinner-Mewborne who cleaned up the Campus Ministry House in December. They did an awesome job removing the nails and debris left after several work sessions over the past two years by other wonderful volunteers. Restoring the house has been a very slow process but the board members are determined not to give up.

During our January work sessions, we replaced termite-damaged structural wood and then put up insulation. Help is welcomed on our work days. Please call Larry Smith (478-4374) to volunteer.



**February is Heart Havens Month!** "Where will my child live when I am gone?" Heart Havens has been responding to that question since it was asked of a pastor in 1993. We support men and women with intellectual disabilities by building and operating 12 group homes throughout Virginia. This February, help support this mission in your own backyard by donating, volunteering or advocating for Heart Havens [www.hearthavens.org](http://www.hearthavens.org)

For more information or if you would like a Heart Havens speaker at your church, please contact us at: 804 237 6097; 1 877 442 8368; [info@hearthavens.org](mailto:info@hearthavens.org)

## DISTRICT United Methodist WOMEN



### The Purpose of U M 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.*

**February 24<sup>th</sup>—9 am**

Prayer Breakfast—Call to Prayer,  
Beech Grove (4251 Driver Ln, Suffolk)

**March 24<sup>th</sup>—9 am-3pm**

Day Apart, Christ UMC  
(1601 E Bayview Blvd, Norfolk)

The Elizabeth River District UMW invites all district women to “Scouting the Divine: A Search for God in Wine, Wool and Wild Honey,” a day of retreat and spiritual growth on Saturday, March 24, 2012 at Christ UMC in Norfolk.

This spiritual retreat is inspired by Christian author and speaker Margaret Feinberg’s book of the same title, *Scouting the Divine*. Most of us today do not tend sheep nor harvest grapes, yet we constantly read scripture references to sheep and wine. The retreat will lead us on a journey through pastures and vineyards with guidance from Ms. Feinberg’s book, a team of spiritually mature retreat leaders, and the Creator, with an ear and an eye to ‘those ordinary and extraordinary moments when God intersects our world.’

The retreat includes a continental breakfast and lunch. Three spiritual growth group sessions and smaller break out discussion sessions will be offered, concluding with Holy Communion. A Book Room offering a selection of Reading Program titles and small items will be open during the retreat. Childcare will be provided.

The retreat fee is \$15 plus a donation of cleaning supplies (Windex, Simple Green, paper towels, and such) for the Wesley Community Service Center in Portsmouth.

Please contact Margaret Spencer at [writer714@juno.com](mailto:writer714@juno.com), or call 757-483-9361 for additional details and registration information.



## ELIZABETH RIVER DISTRICT YOUTH

Meet every 2nd Monday  
of the month

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

If you have questions about what’s going on, you may email The Elizabeth River District Youth Coordinator, Betsy Parsons at [ElizabethRiverDYC@gmail.com](mailto:ElizabethRiverDYC@gmail.com)



## DISTRICT RESOURCE CENTER

### District Resource Center



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

OPEN Monday thru Thursday  
Mornings 9am—1pm



NOW AVAILABLE:

UMW Reading List  
2008-2012  
Questions, 464-6034

## CHURCH POSITIONS AVAILABLE

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**—**Princess Anne Plaza UMC [Va Beach] & Resurrection UMC [Chesapeake]** a 2 church charge needs an administrative assistant. The position will be 16 hours a week, with 2 four-hour shifts at each church. The Administrative Assistant will provide clerical support for the pastor, deaconess, council, organist, choir director, and various committees. The essential skills required for the position are competency with the Internet, proficiency in Microsoft Word and Microsoft Publisher, ability to operate copiers, printers and office equipment, and good communication/people skills. In addition, the assistant needs to be flexible and responsible. Please send resume to: [PAPlazaUMC@attglobal.net](mailto:PAPlazaUMC@attglobal.net).

**CHURCH MUSICIAN**—**Jolliff UMC [Chesapeake]** to accompany both Praise Band and Sanctuary choir on keyboard. Rehearsals are Tuesdays from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. (Praise Band) and Wednesdays from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. (Sanctuary Choir);Sundays also from 7:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.; 8:30 Contemporary Worship with Praise Band; 11:00 Traditional Worship playing hymns, accompaniments for choir and soloists and prepared preludes, offertory and postlude pieces. Attendance at other special services and events required. They include but are not limited to: Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday. Please send resume to the Director of Congregational Ministries [resourcecoordinator@jolliffumc.org](mailto:resourcecoordinator@jolliffumc.org). Salary based on experience and education.

**DIRECTOR OF FAMILY MINISTRIES**—**Monumental/TheBridge UMC [Portsmouth]** This part-time position entails overseeing and initiating quality Christian education and formation programs for children, youth, and families for our church and surrounding community. He or she will work with pastors, volunteers, and the Intentional Faith Development Team to determine short-term and long-term goals for the church s children, youth and family ministry. Part-time salaried(\$12,500 per year)15-17 hours per week (no more than 800 hours per year.) Weekly hours will be greater during some events such as Vacation Bible School and retreats. Work hours are flexible but must include Sunday mornings (4 Sundays off per year.) Those interested in applying for consideration please send your resume and cover letter by close of business Wednesday, February 15, 2012 to [Monumentalumc@gmail.com](mailto:Monumentalumc@gmail.com) All resumes will be kept confidential

**DIRECTOR of MUSIC**—**Baylake UMC [Virginia Beach]** (20 hours/week, including Sundays) has an opening for a Director of Music. We are looking for someone who has a heart for serving God and a desire to produce the highest quality music for the glory of God. The Director of Music would be leading the musical aspect of worship by planning, managing, and executing all musical components including selection/arrangement of music. Candidate should have an ability to teach music to our adult choir. Music degree and/or professional music background/experience is preferred but not required. Submit cover letter and resume: [MusicDirectorSearch@baylakeumc.org](mailto:MusicDirectorSearch@baylakeumc.org), 4300 Shore Dr., Va Beach 23455.

**MODERN WORSHIP LEADER**—**Community UMC [Virginia Beach]** This full-time position entails planning and coordinating two Worship Services a week and technical support (audio/video) for all worship services. A solid Christian faith, strong communication skills and a passion for worship are required. The salary range is \$25,000 to \$30,000 with benefits. For a written job description, visit website 'cumcvb.org' and click on 'get connected' tab. Resumes should be addressed to Community UMC, Attn: SPR Committee, 1072 Old Kempsville Rd. Va. Beach, VA, 23464.

**MUSIC DIRECTOR**—**Chesapeake Avenue UMC [Chesapeake]** is seeking a part-time music director to lead and accompany its adult choir and congregational hymns. Currently the church has one traditional service at 10:50am each Sunday. Candidates should have an ability to teach music to adult choir as well as play both organ and piano. For more details, visit [vaumc.org/jobs](http://vaumc.org/jobs)

**SECRETARY**—**Baylake UMC [Virginia Beach]** is seeking a Secretary to support the Church Office functions. This is a part-time position (24 hrs/week, Monday-Friday). Duties of the position include serving as the initial point of contact for visitors to the Church Office, receiving and acting on incoming phone calls and e-mails, providing administrative support to the Senior Pastor, Associate Pastor, and staff, and supporting committee chairs and staff on special projects. Position requires excellent interpersonal skills. Applicants must be knowledgeable in operating office equipment such as copier, postage machine, answering machine, fax, and folding machines. Expertise in Microsoft Office is a must. Qualified applicants should submit a cover letter and resume: [SecretarySearch@baylakeumc.org](mailto:SecretarySearch@baylakeumc.org), 4300 Shore Dr., Va Beach 23455.

**YOUTH MINISTER**—**Community UMC [Virginia Beach]** This full-time position entails planning, organizing and implementing Christian programs and events for youth (grades 6 thru 12). A strong Christian faith, with strong relational and communication skills are required. The salary range is \$25,000 to \$30,000 with benefits. For a written job description, visit website 'cumcvb.org' and click on 'get connected' tab. Resumes should be addressed to Community UMC, Attn: SPR Committee, 1072 Old Kempsville Rd. Va. Beach, VA, 23464.

# MSABCs with Brad and Kay

## Minister & Spouse Anniversary Birthday Celebrations



We want to celebrate Elizabeth River minister and spouses birthdays and anniversaries with you this year. Choose either the month of the minister's birthday, spouses birthday OR wedding anniversary and plan to have dinner with us at our home (4113 N. Witchduck Road, Virginia Beach) 6:30 PM. The dinner dates and RSVP dates are listed below. Let's celebrate!

### DINNER DATE

### RSVP by no later than

Friday, February 24	February 20
Friday, March 9	March 5
Saturday, April 21	April 16
Friday, May 4	April 30
Saturday, June 2	May 29
Saturday, July 28	July 23
Saturday, August 11	August 6
Friday, September 14	September 10
Friday, October 19	October 15
Saturday, November 3	October 29
Saturday, December 1	November 26

**Note:** This is an event for both minister and spouse.



Blackstone Conference  
and Retreat Center  
Blackstone, VA  
March 15-17, 2012

***The Best of the Past  
Going Into the Future***

### Praise and Worship

#### Keynote Speaker:

Dr. Jennifer Braaten

#### Interest Groups

#### Anniversary Celebration Fellowship and Fun

Elizabeth River spouses,  
join Kay Phillips  
and others from across  
the Conference as we  
celebrate 50 years of this  
special gathering.

Send registration directly to  
Blackstone and contact Kay  
Phillips (464-5392)

[kphillips53@cox.net](mailto:kphillips53@cox.net) if you  
would like to carpool.

*"I'm going to be there Friday  
and Saturday...won't you go  
with me???" ~Kay*



"ReFirement: A Creative Spark," a retreat sponsored by the Older Adult Ministries Council will be held on April 20-21, 2012, at Blackstone Conference and Retreat Center. The retreat will focus on fostering the spark of creativity in order to enrich the lives of older adults and enhance the ministries of the church. A variety of workshop sessions including watercolor and acrylic painting, music, liturgical movement, and knitting/crocheting as well as fellowship opportunities will be available. Why attend a retreat focused on the arts? A resolution to the 2005 White House Conference on Aging stated: "Research suggests that active participation in the arts and learning promotes physical health, enhances a sense of well being among older Americans, improves quality of life, and reduces the risk factors that lead to the need for long-term care...." Plan to join us for the overnight retreat and see where new creative fires may develop that will fill your heart and soul.

## All Things New:

### Meeting Your Vital Congregation Goals Training Event

The Virginia Conference Cabinet and Connectional Ministries staff will be coordinating Vital Congregations training events for churches averaging up to 150 in weekly worship attendance. Vital Congregations movement has grown out of the “Call to Action” report on The United Methodist Church issued earlier this year.

The Elizabeth River District event will be held on **May 19, 2012**, at **Community UMC-VB, 1072 Old Kempsville Road, Virginia Beach 23464**.

Workshop topics will be directly tied to the key areas for goal-planning in the Vital Congregations Ministry Plan and report:

#### Worship

*A Church for All Ages:*

*Invite, Invite, and Invite Again*

#### Professions of Faith

*They Need Jesus, Too*

*“Know Your Story...Confirm Your Faith...Live Your Commitment”*

#### Small Groups

*Relational Discipleship*

*Connecting*

#### Mission

*Who is Your Neighbor?*

*Sharing God’s Gifts:*

#### Leadership

*Discerning God’s Will for Your Church and Community*

*Church Leadership Essentials*

Additional training opportunities of this type were one of the recommendations of the Small Church Leadership Initiative Task Force, based upon feedback received in surveys of clergy and local church Lay Leaders.



#### LEARN HOW TO:

- Create a game plan to get out of debt
- Make a plan for your money—that works!
- Save money like never before
- Invest with confidence

#### DETAILS:

12:45-6 p.m. at Community UMC  
For ticket info visit [www.cumcvb.org](http://www.cumcvb.org)

For more info, call 888-22PEACE or visit [daveramsey.com/simulcast](http://daveramsey.com/simulcast)

Friday, Saturday & Sunday  
March 9, 10 & 11, 2012

women's retreat

Zachariah 2:5

Building a Beautiful Home



Emily Crouch  
Retreat Leader



Anne Porter  
Music Leader

Ramada Plaza at Nags Head

Registration and brochures available online at [www.vbumc.org](http://www.vbumc.org).  
Registration deadline is February 15<sup>th</sup>.

Contact Brenda Stahl,  
[bstahl@vbumc.org](mailto:bstahl@vbumc.org) to request color brochures for your women's group.

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 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 email address above.

Job Announcements 60-100words 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)

**FEBRUARY**

- 2 UM DAY at General Assembly, Richmond
- 8 District Clergy, 9am, McKendree
- 11 District Trustees, 10am, district parsonage
- 12 MISSIONS DINNER, 5pm, Oak Grove (Ches)
- 13 District YOUTH, 7pm St Paul's (Chesapeake)
- 16 Committee on Ministry, 9am

22



- 24 UMW Prayer Breakfast, 9am, Beech Grove (Suffolk)
- 24 MSABC, 6:30pm district parsonage (see page 4)

**MARCH**

- 9 MSABC, 6:30pm district parsonage (see page 4)
- 12 District YOUTH, 7pm St Paul's (Chesapeake)
- 14 District Clergy, 9am, Deep Creek (Chesapeake)
- 24 UMW Day Apart, 9am-3pm, Christ UMC (Norfolk)