

THE CHANNEL MARKER

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

DECEMBER 2011



From our DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

I love being United Methodist because we celebrate Advent. It is the season of preparing ourselves to celebrate Christmas. I remember growing up as an Episcopalian looking forward to the Sunday after Thanksgiving when the church would pull out great hymns, such as “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”. This was a signal that Advent was here and the Christmas carols we all loved were not far behind. Other faith groups do not celebrate Advent and thus jump directly into Christmas music and observances. We observe Advent readings and Advent music that lead us on a journey to Christmas. By the time we get to Christmas Eve and we begin to sing the Christmas carols, we have been prepared to do so by having observed Advent.

It is hard to believe that it is almost Advent and Christmas. The older you get the quicker time goes. With Advent and Christmas comes music appropriate for the season. My satellite radio is already playing Christmas music and it is not even Thanksgiving yet. We all love the music of the season. We hear it everywhere we go this time of the year. I own over 100 Advent and Christmas CDs. I have to start early to listen if I have any chance of hearing many of them. I am always reminded that Christmas is not about carols: carols are about Christmas.

Advent and Christmas carols can teach and show us a great deal about our faith and can help us in our pilgrimage through life, reminding, cajoling, and inspiring us to take the incarnation of Jesus seriously. Carols help us to live our lives in the marvelous light of the love that God shows us by sending Jesus as Savior.

As we journey through the season of Advent, and from there to Christmas and Epiphany, let us look for inspiration, hope, solace, and encouragement through music. We remember that our ultimate desire is the praising of God, creator, savior, and sustainer not only this time of year, but always.

Kay and I wish all of you a
very wonderful season of Advent,
A Celebrative Christmas,
and a most Happy New Year!

Love,
Brad

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Calendar	Back Cover
Church job openings.....	3
Church events	6-7
District Lay Leader	2
District Leadership Training	3
Historical Society.....	5
Resource Center	5
United Methodist Men	5
United Methodist Women	5
United Methodist Youth	4

DECEMBER

FROM YOUR DISTRICT LAY LEADER

“Meditation for Christmas Day”

Luke 2:7, 15-16, Matthew 2:7, 10-11

And she gave birth to her first born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened”And they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the babe lying in a manger. Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star appeared, and he sent them to BethlehemWhen they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy; and going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts; Gold and Frankincense and Myrrh.

Now it’s over.

The Baby has been born.

And the Wise Men have laid their gifts before the Christ Child, and they too, have gone home. But not by the same route.

According to St. Matthew, “Being warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country by another way.”

Whatever road they took from Bethlehem, one thing is for sure, they would have journeyed home a different way. That is because no one ever travels the same path after coming to Jesus.

Once we have found Bethlehem, bowed down before the Master and surrendered our lives in service to Him, He tops our offering with an incomparable gift of His own. The Wise Men brought Him the World’s riches – Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh. He gave them, in exchange, something priceless – a vision of life more abundant – one in which they could claim that very day. He will do the same for you and me right now.

Lord, in the spirit of Christmas, we recommit ourselves to You and Your Service - - now and in all the days of the year to come. Alleluia, Alleluia.

My prayer for you, this season, is that you all have a most blessed

“Merry Christmas”

Coming up in the life of the Elizabeth River District is a date many of you will want to put on your 2012 calendar, Saturday, January 21! That is the day we will be gathering at Centenary UMC for our **District Training Event**. We will be gathering for registration and light refreshment at 8:30 a.m., after which our training sessions will convene. There will be training sessions for virtually every local church leader and committee member. Brochures and registration information will be available as we get closer to this event, but place the date on your calendar and plan to be with us at Centenary UMC on Saturday, January 21, 2012.

Shalom, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Keith

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

District Leadership Training

Saturday

January 21, 2012

Refreshments/Registration 8:30-9:25 a.m.

Courses begin 9:30 a.m.

Centenary U.M.C.

3312 Cedar Lane, Portsmouth 23703



District Leadership Training Day

will offer the following

Topics:

Called to be a LAY LEADER

NOMINATIONS & Lay Leadership Committee
(Helping Develop Leadership Abilities in others)

EVANGELISM

FINANCE

Managing Membership/Reporting STATISTICS

STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS Committee

Staffing Issues in MULTI-STAFF Churches

VISIONING: Seeing what God See's

WEB Training

Registration Forms with details of the courses will be available in the first full week of December.

If you are on the newsletter email list,
we will email it to you.

All others, keep an eye out on the district webpage,
www.elizabethriverdistrict.org

and on your church bulletin boards.

CHURCH POSITIONS AVAILABLE

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRY - Great Bridge UMC, in Chesapeake, VA- Part-time salaried position available, January, 2012. This position will oversee all aspects of children's ministries (birth – 5th grade), such as Sunday School, VBS, serving on the Education Committee and other ways that will engage our children in the faith. Other duties include recruiting and training volunteers, serving as a resource to volunteers and staff, and additional duties as assigned. Send resume by December 9, 2011.

ATTENTION: Kathryn Maguire by Email: kittymagoo@aol.com, Fax: 482-0432 or by Mail: 201 Stadium Dr, Chesapeake 23322. Church phone: 757-482-1049

MUSIC DIRECTOR -Chesapeake Avenue UMC 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 www.vaumc.org/jobs

CHURCH OFFICE SECRETARY -Larchmont UMC, Norfolk, VA, is seeking a Secretary to support the Church Office functions. This is a part-time position (24 hrs/week, Monday-Friday). 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 resume at larchmontumc@gmail.com. Include Secretary Search in the subject header. Resumes will be accepted until the position is filled.

Please keep Job Announcements at
60-words or less.

More church jobs can be found
on the conference webpage

[vaumc.org / select Resources / Job Opportunities](http://vaumc.org/selectResources/JobOpportunities)
Or <http://vaumc.org/Page.aspx?pid=498>

**Elizabeth River District Youth Council
Retreat 2012**

“The E.R.”

Register Now!

**Retreat Dates:
Jan. 27-29, 2012**

**Times:
8:30 pm Friday
to 11:30 am
Sunday**

**Location:
Rockbridge Alum Springs:
Young Life Retreat Center
170 Spring House Road
Goshen, VA 24439**

Our new merged district is excited for our first district retreat! In order to accommodate everyone who wants to attend, we are having our retreat at Rockbridge in Goshen, VA. The center can accommodate over 550 people! Check Rockbridge out at www.rockbridge.younglife.org

Our guest speaker will be announced shortly—so make sure to register to attend as soon as possible!

- Early Registration BEFORE Dec. 15, 2011 is \$115 per person
- Registration ON OR AFTER Dec. 15, 2011 is \$125 per person
- \$25 non-refundable deposit per person will reserve your spot!
- Registration BALANCE DUE AND PAID IN FULL BY Jan. 16!
- QUESTIONS?
elizabethriverdyc@gmail.com



*Come and join us for:
Fun & Fellowship
Talent Show
Small Groups
YSF*

*Music & Worship
presented by
Keith Elgin Band*

Mail deposits and registration info to:

Checks made payable to:
Elizabeth River DYC

Betsy Parsons, Coordinator
5649 Gregory Court
Portsmouth, VA 23703

Phone: 757-537-7297
E-mail:
elizabethriverdyc@gmail.com



VOICES OF YOUTH 2012

2012 Applications
NOW AVAILABLE
on our website www.voyva.org

Applications for new and returning youth participants as well as Adult and College Staff are available.

Adult and College Staff apps are due by Dec 19.

Youth applications are due by Jan 6.

The Tour dates for 2012 are June 27- July 20.

We will be participating in tornado and disaster recovery in the North Alabama Conference of the Southeastern Jurisdiction.

Please encourage all youth and adults who have a **love of mission, music, and witness** to apply to be a part of VOY 2012.

It is indeed a LIFE-CHANGING experience for all involved!

If you have any questions, or for more information please contact the VA Conference Voices of Youth Coordinator Jennifer Dixon at 757-348-7084 or email at coordinator@voyva.org





DISTRICT UMW

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.

UMW DATES:

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

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



LIFE MEMBER Pastor Appreciation Banquet

Tuesday,
Jan 24, 2012,
Centenary UMC

The church is located at 3312 Cedar Lane, Portsmouth, VA 23703 and a delicious pork dinner will be served. Spouses are welcome to this event!

The installation of the 2012 Men's Ministry Team will also take place that evening.

Fellowship begins at 6:30 pm and dinner is served at 7:00 pm.

This banquet is for all men and spouses of the Elizabeth River District – mark your calendar for a great night of fellowship!

DISTRICT RESOURCE CENTER

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

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.)

VIRGINIA BEACH UMC—www.vbumc.org
212 Nineteenth St at the Oceanfront—428-7727

Please plan
to join us as
Music
Ministries
presents...

Down from His Glory

Please join us as we present
"The Love Story of Christmas"
in word and music, featuring
the Sanctuary, Chamber, Youth
and Children's Choirs, House
and Gr8ful Praise teams &
Orchestra. Prelude music by the
Notabells Handbell Choir.

Saturday, December 17, 2011 - 7:00 pm
Sunday, December 18, 2011 - 6:30 pm
in the Sanctuary



Courthouse Community United Methodist Church

Potluck,
Christmas
Music,
Tacky
Christmas
Photo Booth,
Children's
Christmas Card
Making & Cookie
Decorating

25 Years of Christmas Celebration & Alternative Gift Fair

This is an opportunity to do holiday shopping that benefits others. Various international and national non-profit organizations, fair trade companies, local missions, and other ministries will be represented at this event.

Give a gift that
makes a difference.

December 3rd 6:30-9:00pm

Miles Memorial UMC
9450 Granby St, Norfolk



"Chris Myths"
Miles Drama group
Sat. Dec 9 @ 2 PM
followed by reception
Sun. Dec 10 @ 6:30 PM



Christmas Tree Sales
Corner of Granby St & Government Ave
in Norfolk (Oceanview)

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE FOR FAMILIES WHO HAVE LOST A CHILD

Thursday, December 1st 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 30th.

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

Sometimes it feels like a
Blue Christmas



Many people may find it difficult to experience the Joy of Christmas while dealing with loss—of a loved one, divorce or health or job loss.

Join us for a service of Comfort and Hope in the Advent Season

December 10, 2011 - 5:00 p.m. in the Chapel

Community UMC
1072 Old Kempsville Road; Virginia Beach, VA
(757) 495-1021

**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
or through the office at (757)427-1765

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.

Don't let this spiritual journey pass you by...
Truly the trip of a lifetime.



2012 MINISTERS' 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.



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

Non-Profit
 Organization
 U.S. Postage PAID
 Norfolk, VA
 Permit No. 332

Return Service Requested



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:

2012 DISTRICT TRAINING
 Jan. 21st ~ Centenary UMC



1 Historical Society
 Wesley Service Center, 6:30pm
5 Dist. Clergy Christmas Dinner,
 TBA 6:30pm

10 UMW Advent Breakfast, Great Br 9am
12 District Youth, St Paul's UMC, Chesapeake, 7pm
13 District Finance, district office, 7pm
25 CHRISTMAS DAY

26-30 DISTRICT OFFICE CLOSED for CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY



Worship Christ Christmas Day!

JAN 2 DISTRICT OFFICE CLOSED, NEW YEARS HOLIDAY



17-19 Minsiter's Convocation, VUMAC
18 Clergy Spouse lunch, TBA
21 District Training, Centenary UMC
27-29 District Youth Retreat, Rockbridge (Goshen, VA)
28 UMW Prayer Breakfast & Officer Training, Wesley Memorial, 9am