

THE CHANNEL MARKER

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

JANUARY 2012



From our DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

When I was a pastor in the local church I used to occasionally do a series of sermons on the current movies of the time. I can remember one time sharing the ending of a current movie in a sermon and a man jumped up and said, "Thanks a lot, I was going to go and see that movie this afternoon!" Oops.

Although I don't preach very often now, I still love to go to current movies. Over the last ten years or so, there have been animated movies put out by Pixar which is a part of Disney movie studios. (In case you don't know what I am talking about I am referring to movies like "Toy Story", "Cars", "Finding Nemo", "Ratatouille", and others.) While these movies attract a lot of children there is a lot of grown-up understanding about life in them. Whether it is toys that become alive, bugs who seek justice, cars on unexpected adventures, or futuristic robots who find love, these Pixar movies entertain us, move us, and teach us. In each of these movies — now 12 of them — there are different life themes. There are themes such as justice, identity, friendship, family, courage, hope and imagination, adventure, ambition, technology, and love. Sounds a lot like the life you and I live.

Although there is no direct mention of Christian faith in these movies, there are correlations to faith. For example, each of these movies tell a story about a lead character, whether it be a bug, a car, a toy, a rat, or a robot. There is moral truth in these stories. I have mentioned them as themes earlier. It is not surprising that God, too, tells stories. We read in the Bible of stories about justice, friendship, family, courage, adventure, and love. Like these movies, these stories that captivate us.

During 2012 each of our churches will have new stories that will unfold. These too, will be stories of courage, justice, adventure, and family. Their foundation is love. These Pixar movies don't escape the world around them, but seek to understand the culture. These movies invite us as Christians to do the same: understand and participate in the culture around us in positive ways. In the movie, "Toy Story" the character Buzz Lightyear said, "To infinity and beyond". Our call as Christians is to love God and others. We can make eternal differences in lives — to infinity and beyond.

Love,

Brad

YEAR-END / CLOSE-OUT DATES

- Jan 13** Preference Forms Due
- Jan 15** Table I due
(Membership)
- Jan 18** Final Date 2011 Receipts*
Accepted Conf. & Dist.
- Jan 20** 1st Day for 2012 Receipts*
- Jan 31** Statistical Tables II & III
(Expense/Income)
- Jan 31** Final Date for W2's to
All employees/clergy
- Jan 31** Final Date for 1099-Misc
To all contractors

**All apportionments received through Jan 18th will be applied to 2011. Please do not submit 2012 apportionments until Jan. 20th.*

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FROM YOUR DISTRICT LAY LEADER



There is a story about a man who through a tragic auto accident lost his wife and two children. He grieved endlessly. Even time did not ease the pain. Memory of his loss haunted his every waking hour and he found it difficult to even sleep. Then one night, in a dream, he met God and asked Him if He could wipe away his bad memories. "Yes, I can rid your

mind of everything bad that has ever happened in your life," God told him. "But you should know that with it would go all the wonderful memories you have, too." From the sorrowing man's dream of night came the dawn of understanding and the first light of healing.

As you look back on 2011, how do you assess it? Do you have mostly positive memories or mostly negative ones? Did you accomplish the things for which you'd hoped? Did you make new friends? Grow spiritually? Suffer some setbacks? Achieve some victories? If you are like most people, you experienced both pluses and minuses. I wish I'd done better, been more faithful, more helpful, more understanding, more sensitive, more caring. But other than ask God's forgiveness for my sins of omission and commission, and make restitution if possible, I can only go forward praying that He will help me do better in the future.

We will all fall short of Christ's high calling many times in the year ahead. Our human nature does not include perfection. Furthermore, we can't control every circumstance that happens in our lives. But we can control our reactions to things that happen to us and our attitudes about them, and with God's help become more the person we and He wants us to be. We have His promise, for the New Year and all the years of our life.

*God, we thank You for the year just past,
For the good times and the bad,
We thank You for your mercy and Your grace,
That temper memories of the sad.*

*Now grant us wisdom for the coming year,
Obedient minds that listen, still,
Trusting hearts that conquer fear,
Steadfast love to do Thy will.*

I wish you a very Happy New Year! May God continue to bless you throughout 2012!

Shalom,

Keith Willyard <><

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



Winter Banquet, Ministry Team Installation & Life Member Recognition

Tuesday, January 24, 2012, Centenary UMC

Centenary UMC is located at 3312 Cedar Lane, Portsmouth VA 23703 and a delicious pork dinner will be served. The cost is \$15.00 per plate.

Due to limited seating, **this is an RSVP event.** All men are welcome to **bring their spouse or 1 guest at no charge for their plate as long as an RSVP is received.** Please respond early! Fellowship begins at 6:30 pm and dinner is served at 7:00 pm.

The guest speaker for the evening is Mr. Gil Hanke, General Secretary of the United Methodist Men. Mr. Hanke is a dedicated Christian servant leader who has much to share with us about his faith journey and his experience with the United Methodist Men of the Virginia Conference.

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

RSVPs are needed no later than January 12th. You may respond to:

Alan Burtchell—689-2189
team.lead.erdmmt@gmail.com
Jeff Hall—615-4191
rjeffhall@cox.net
Johnnie Draughon—366-0051
johnnie.draughon@cox.net

We look forward to seeing all of you at the first event of the new Elizabeth River Men's Ministry Team!

Elizabeth River Men's Ministry News

Brand new website

www.gb-gm-umc.org/elizabethriverumm

Now on Facebook

Elizabeth River District Men's Ministry Team

Now on Twitter

ERDMMT



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).

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



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:

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

February 2nd UM Day at General Assembly, Richmond

February 24th 9 am District Prayer Breakfast, Call to Prayer, Beech Grove (4251 Driver Ln, Suffolk)

March 24th, 9am-3pm District Day Apart, Christ UMC

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.

DISTRICT CLERGY SPOUSES

Elizabeth River District Clergy Spouses, retired and not retired! We have a district clergy spouses' group that meets the third Wednesday at 10:30 AM in the following months, January, March, September and November. We currently meet in homes for all except the January meeting. We have a great time together. We have lunch after our sessions. If you have a mate they are welcome also as we are open to all.

Next meeting: **JANUARY 18th**, Restaurant TBA
If you have questions please do call me at 416-9574 (Virginia Beach). If you wish to send me email please do put Clergy Spouses in the subject line so I won't delete your message.

God bless you in all that you do.

Phyllis Nuckols
President

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
2007-2011
Questions, 464-6034



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 and Global Justice Office

Church Mission representatives and pastors are being sent information on making reservations.
If you are interested, check with your mission rep 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) a recent or ongoing mission project, there will be tables along the side or back wall where you may put a little something.



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

ElizabethRiverDYC@gmail.com

The Elizabeth River District Youth Council presents . . .

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 youth council is excited to host the first Elizabeth River district retreat! In order to ensure that all who want to attend can do so, our retreat will be held at Rockbridge in Goshen, VA. The center can accommodate over 550! Check Rockbridge out at

www.rockbridge.younglife.org

Our keynote speaker is Rev. Dr. Justin Allen, Dean of Spiritual Life for Shenandoah University. Make sure to register early to join us for this exciting event!

- 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



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

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

**Music & Worship
presented by
Keith Elgin Band**



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
Saturday, January 14	January 9
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

CHURCH POSITIONS AVAILABLE

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

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>

Visit the Holy Land and Jordan

Travels with Brad and Kay

Holy Land and Jordan



October 1 - 10, 2012

Register now... a few seats are still available.

Informational meeting AND meeting for registered travelers

Mon, Jan. 30 at 7pm

Thalia United Methodist Church

4321 Virginia Beach Blvd, VB

QUESTIONS??? call 464-5392 or

email kphillips53@cox.net

Coming Friday, Saturday & Sunday
January 20-22, 2012

Stories by the Sea



Special Guest
DONALD DAVIS
Master Storyteller & Teacher of Storytellers

FREE STORYTELLING for adults & school age children

- Friday • 7:00 to 8:30 PM - for all ages
- Saturday • 7:00 to 9:00 PM - for teens & adults
- Sunday • 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:00 AM - Donald Davis will bring the message at all 3 worship services.

STORYTELLING WORKSHOP

Saturday • 10:00 AM - NOON
This workshop is for ages 10-110

Cost is \$25.00 for ages 18 and up with special rates for families. Registration Required

Workshop registration forms are available at www.vbumc.org or call Martha Jo Wilson, 757-340-8689.

Virginia Beach United Methodist Church • at the Oceanfront • 212 Nineteenth Street
Virginia Beach • www.vbumc.org • 757-428-7727



Elizabeth River District Leadership Training Day

Saturday, January 21, 8:30 am - 12:30 pm

Centenary UMC, 3312 Cedar Lane, Portsmouth, VA 23703
(757) 484-5051



DIRECTIONS: Centenary UMC is located on Cedar Lane in the Churchland area of Portsmouth. Centenary is about a quarter-mile north of the intersection of Cedar Lane and US-17 (High Street West). Directions from all points of the Elizabeth River District is available on their website, <http://www.cumcport.org>

Schedule

8:30 - 9:30 am Check-In and Light Refreshments (Fellowship Hall)
9:30 - 12:30 pm Workshops (Choose One from Nine Offerings)

What's in Store at the January 21st Leadership Training Day?

Our annual training event is back, with courses that offer some of the basics for church leadership. We believe that effective leadership begins with quality training. This half-day event is designed to provide quality training to our church leaders in each congregation throughout the district. Please make it a priority to attend and bring with you a leadership team that includes your key leaders—lay leader, staff parish chair, treasurer, finance committee chair, mission and witness chairs—as well as any others who have a heart for empowering disciples of Jesus in the 21st Century. We look forward to receiving your registration and to seeing you and your team at this important event.

COURSE OFFERINGS

1-CALLED TO BE LAY LEADER: THE NEXT STEPS - Keith Willyard, Elizabeth River District Lay Leader

Layity are partners in ministry with clergy. We must take seriously this call to be ministers: to be involved, exercise spiritual disciplines, be evangelists, help our churches become missional, and celebrate our connectionalism. This workshop will focus on the role of the local church and/or district lay leader. Although this workshop is geared toward those currently serving as elected lay leaders, it can also pertain to any person in lay leadership.

Recommended for elected Lay Leaders (particularly those new to the position or those who have not yet taken this workshop).

2-EVANGELISM - Greg West, Conference Evangelist & Chaplain, Virginia Wesleyan College

This workshop will explore our motives for Evangelism: Through obedience to The Great Commandment, to love God and love people, we are lead to live out the Great Commission and compelled to share our faith. This workshop will provide information for equipping and empowering us to share Christ with others and connecting them with the church.

Recommended for those working in Evangelism in the local church and community.

3-FINANCE - WHAT YOU NEED AND HAVE ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW - Mary Stroh, District Treasurer & General Council on Finance & Administration for the UMC.

This workshop will cover the functions and responsibilities of the local church Committee on Finance & Treasurers, along with training geared for the church Treasurer. Some hands on training for the Treasures on filing the pastor's W-2 will be provided as well as an overview of the annual responsibilities of the Finance Committee. *Recommended for Pastors, church Treasurer, Finance Chairs and committee members.*

4-MANAGING MEMBERSHIP & STATISTICAL REPORTING-Carol Draper, Conf. Staff Accountant, Business Office
Local Church Statistics - Come learn all you need to know about year-end church statistics, including membership, expenses, and income that should be reported and why!
Recommended for Pastors, church secretaries, membership secretaries, finance persons

5-RECLAIMING THE BIBLICAL UNDERSTANDING OF ALL CHRISTIANS AS MINISTERS - Martha Stokes, Conference Director of Leadership and Inclusivity
All church leaders have the responsibility to assist in identifying, equipping and deploying leaders for the church who understand that we are empowered by our baptisms to be disciple-makers. This workshop will focus on how members of the Nominations and Leadership Development Committee and others, working throughout the year, can help to develop leadership abilities in others, helping us to understand the culture of call for laity. *Recommended for clergy, and members the Lay Leadership Committee and those in Leadership Development*

6-S/PPRC TRAINING - Rev. Brad Phillips, District Superintendent, Elizabeth River District
This workshop includes an overview of the responsibilities of the Staff/Pastor Parish Committee, characteristics of effective S/PPRC's. The role of the S/PPRC with the Sr. Pastor and other staff, a model for discussion prior to completing the "appointment preference form", information about the Virginia Conference Annual Evaluation of clergy and staff by the S/PPRC. *Recommended for SPRC Chairs and SPRC Committee Members.*

7-STAFFING ISSUES FOR MULTIPLE STAFF CHURCHES - Beth Downs, Conference Director of Ministerial Services
This workshop will address a variety of issues that relate to multiple staff ministry including job descriptions, staffing for your church's mission and vision, finding and hiring staff, training staff, staff meetings, strategies for working together effectively as a staff team, and supervision. *Recommended for clergy, SPRC Chairs & committee members.*

8-VISIONING - SEEING AS GOD SEES - Mark Ogren, Conference Director of Congregational Excellence
This workshop will do a summary overview of: "Does Your Church Have a Prayer?" - Brown, Merry & Briggs, "Checking Vital Signs" - Rankin & Coppley, "Natural Church Development" - Schwarz. In addition, this workshop will introduce participants to "Mission Insight," the demographic resource company used by the Virginia Conference. *Recommended for Pastors, members of Church Councils and those setting goal setting goals for the Vital Congregational Report.*

9-GETTING MY CHURCH ON THE WEB - Frank Holley, Pastor, Sandbridge Community Chapel U.M.C.
(Pending)

***** REGISTRATION FORM *****

Name _____ Phone _____ E-mail _____

Address _____ Church _____

Choose One Workshop: _____



I NEED CHILDCARE FOR THIS MANY CHILDREN: _____ AGE(S): _____



Send completed registration form no later than January 13th by mail to Elizabeth River District, P. O. Box 12654, Norfolk, VA 23541-0654, by fax to 473-1790, or by e-mail to ElizabethRiverDistrict@vaumc.org. While this is a free event, you need to register so that ample materials are available for you. Questions? Call the District Office at (757) 473-1592 or Keith Willyard at (757) 479-0232.



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

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VA Conference Bishop Charlene P. Kammerer
 District SuperintendentBradford L. Phillips
 District SecretaryDeborah 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



2 DISTRICT OFFICE CLOSED, NEW YEARS HOLIDAY

- 3 District Disaster Meeting, 7pm, Courthouse Community
- 9 District Youth, 7pm, St. Paul's (Chesapeake)
- 11 District Clergy, 9am, Indiana (Chesapeake)
- 13 Clergy/SPRC preference forms due**
- 13 District Board of Missions, 10am at district office
- 14 MSABC, 6:30pm district parsonage (see page 5)
- 17-19 Minister's Convocation, VUMAC
- 18 Clergy Spouse lunch, TBA
- 21 District Leadership Training, 8:30-12:30, Centenary
- 23 District Superintendency Committee, at district office, time TBD
- 24 UMM Winter Banquet, Centenary, 6:30
- 26 Committee on Ministry, 9am at district office
- 27-29 District Youth Retreat, Rockbridge (Goshen, VA)
- 28 UMW Prayer Breakfast & Officer Training, Wesley Memorial, 9am



- 2 UM DAY at General Assembly, Richmond
- 4 District Trustees, 10am, district parsonage
- 8 District Clergy, 9am, Chesapeake Ave.
- 12 MISSIONS DINNER, 5pm, Oak Grove (Ches)

- 13 District YOUTH, 7pm St Paul's (Chesapeake)
- 16 Committee on Ministry, 9am
- 24 UMW Prayer Breakfast, 9am, Beech Grove (Norfolk)
- 24 MSABC, 6:30pm district parsonage (see page 5)

To: **Clergy Association**

From: **District Office**

THANK YOU for the
 CHRISTMAS GIFTS!!!

