

THE AMBASSADOR

*“So we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us.
We beseech you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God (2 Corinthians 5:20).”*

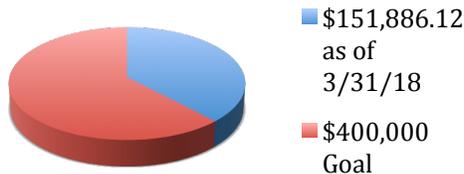
Volume 16, Issue 4 A newsletter for the Pastors and Lay Leadership of the Charlottesville District

April 2018

C'Ville Apt. Project

The Apartment That Love Built

Contributions



C'ville Apt. Project Donations

There is a change in the procedure for giving to the Charlottesville Apt. Project. As we continue our fund raising efforts for this ministry, please make your checks payable to Charlottesville District UMC and in the memo line write "Apt. Project." Mail your contributions to:
C'ville UMC District Office
914 E. Jefferson Street, Suite 104
Charlottesville, VA 22902
Or you can send the gift with your district apportionments. Please specify the amount for the Apt. Project. Thank you!

Fundraiser for Apt. Project

Aprons are now available for \$10.00 each. Please contact Linda Truslow in the District Office to order:
charlottesvilledistrict@vaumc.org.

The Virginia Annual Conference Vision – to be Disciples of Jesus Christ who are lifelong learners who influence others to serve.

Preaching that Connects in the 21st Century

Laitly and Clergy Are Invited

Date & Time: Wednesday, May 2, 2018 - from 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Please RSVP to Linda Truslow at 434.977.4254 or charlottesvilledistrict@vaumc.org

Location:

Cunningham United Methodist Church
3389 Thomas Jefferson Parkway
Palmyra, VA 22963

In this workshop we will focus on the opportunities and challenges of preaching in the 21st Century as we seek to effectively communicate the timeless truths of the Gospel in a rapidly-changing culture. Rather than proposing a singular "right" method, this workshop will focus on practical communication principles that can be applied to various styles of preaching.

Reading list:

Talk Like TED: The 9 Public-Speaking Secrets of the World's Top Minds ~ Carmine Gallo

https://www.amazon.com/Talk-Like-TED-Public-Speaking-Secrets/dp/1250061539/ref=tmm_pap_swatch_0?encoding=UTF8&qid=1519578052&sr=1-1&dpID=41JSw4A-O2L&preST=SY291_BO1,204,203,200_QL40_&dpSrc=detail

Communicating For A Change ~ Andy Stanley and Lane Jones

https://www.amazon.com/Communicating-Change-Irresistible-Communication-Resources/dp/1590525140/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1519577911&sr=8-1&keywords=communicating+for+a+change+andy+stanley

Preaching at the Crossroads: How the World—And Our Preaching—Is Changing ~ David J. Lose

https://www.amazon.com/Preaching-Crossroads-World-Preaching-Changing/dp/0800699734/ref=sr_1_1_twi_pap_2?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1519577959&sr=1-1&keywords=preaching+at+the+crossroads

CEUs:

Those attending the workshop will receive 0.5 CEUs.

Those attending and reading two of the books on the reading list will receive 1.25 CEUs.

Those attending and reading all three of the books on the reading list will receive 1.5 CEUs.

Bishop's Convocation on Race and Reconciliation

Saturday, April 14, join Bishop Lewis and the Virginia Conference in the difficult conversations we need to have related to issues of racial division, justice, and God's call to ministries of reconciliation and peace. It will be held at Annandale UMC (6935 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA) from 9 am – 5 pm. Register on the Conference calendar: <http://www.vaumc.org>, (\$10.00 including lunch.) There is a flier attached to the email with this newsletter with more details.

Emanuel Youth Mission

Emanuel Youth Mission is a 501-c-3 non-profit charity. 100% of donations go to support these projects: student scholarships, clean water, and medical clinic in El Salvador. To read more about John and Jonna Clarkson and their mission, see their newsletter, attached to the email with this newsletter.

Open House at Westview on the James

April 29, 2018
12:30 pm – 4:30 pm at Westview on the James.
Lunch and refreshments provided. Come tour the camp, try some activities and meet the staff.

The Westview Spring 2018 Newsletter can be read by following this link:

<http://myemail.constantcontact.com/Westview-Spring-2018-Newsletter.html?soid=1123157168103&aid=gYMPI8bTr58>.
[If you have difficulty connecting with this link, please copy and paste it into your web browser.]

Full-time Director of Music Ministries Position

Culpeper United Methodist Church in Culpeper, Virginia is seeking a full-time Director of Music Ministries. This position will oversee the music program of children, youth, and adults. Playing organ and knowledge of hand bells is a plus, but not required as splitting the position into conductor and organist positions is possible. To apply go to: <http://www.culpeperumc.org/cumcemployment>. Please submit further questions to Kelly Weiss, Executive Director at Culpeper UMC at kellyweiss@culpeperumc.org.

Friday's After Five

The Friday's After Five volunteer program is open to all nonprofits and Heart Havens volunteers have worked several events the last two summers. The event is at the downtown pavilion at the east end of the Charlottesville mall. We need four people each event, April 13, June 1 and August 3. There are two soft drink stations, with two people at each location. The times are 5:15 pm to 8:30 pm. The carts with the soft drinks are ready to go and there is no setting up or taking down. This is a fun, easy way to raise money for Heart Havens and to enjoy some good live music. If you are available to help, please contact Bob Forrest at: bobforrest19@gmail.com or 434-531-2387.

Come Pray with Us at the Kindred Project

The Kindred Project is a group of clergy and laity who gather together for the practice of spiritual disciplines, contemplative prayer, and fellowship.

A new group has started in the Charlottesville District. We gather on the second Tuesday of each month at First United Methodist Church, 101 East Jefferson Street, Charlottesville, VA 22902.

We meet from 8:00 am until about 10:00 am. We pray, have some time of silence, share, and celebrate Holy Communion. Beginners and long-time practitioners of spiritual practices are welcome.

Our next meeting is *Tuesday, April 10*. Join us in our stillness, as we discover the Holy One in our midst.

For more information or to get on our email reminder list please contact the Rev. Bruce Lugn at brulugn@gmail.com or the Rev. Tom Frost at tefrost@aol.com.

Save the Date

The Virginia Conference UMM 40th Annual Spiritual Advance will be held Oct. 26-27, 2018 at Baylake UMC, Virginia Beach. Speakers will be Bishop James Swanson, Mississippi Conference UMC and Gregory Koukl, Author and Apologist. Workshops will include: Wesleyan Small Groups, Mentoring, Young Adult Ministry, Spiritual Growth and Discipleship. There will be group rates at Virginia Beach Resort & Conference Center, and Early Bird specials, discounts for Spouses and Clergy. More details will be announced soon.

Charlottesville Apartment Project

PANERA BREAD FUNDRAISER

for

Charlottesville Apartment Project

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

4:00 to 8:00 PM

Hollymead, 5th Street Station, Culpeper

The Charlottesville District United Methodist Church has partnered with Panera Bread at three locations in order to raise funds for the Charlottesville Apartment Project. It is super easy for you to participate... Just follow the instructions listed below:

1. Make sure you have a copy of the Panera fundraising form (paper or electronic copy)
2. Go to a Panera Bread Restaurant listed above on April 18 between the hours of 4 & 8 PM
3. Present your Panera fundraising form to the cashier
4. Order and pay for your food
5. Panera will donate 20% of your ticket to the DISTRICT UMC for CAP

Thank you for being part of the Charlottesville District UMC and having the heart for "Connectional Ministry" in the name of the Kingdom!

District Youth

Dates for 2018 Fifth Sunday Praise and Worship

April 29 the Fifth Sunday Praise and Worship will be at Mineral UMC from 3-5 pm. All are welcome. Future dates are July 29, September 30, and December 30. We need Host Churches for all of these dates. The District Youth Council plans and leads the worship service. We just need a sanctuary where we can gather with friends from across the District.

Save the Dates!

District Youth Rally

August 26, 2018

Host church needed!

Mission Blast Saturday

November 3, 2018

Aldersgate UMC in Charlottesville

Teams will be going to different sites around Charlottesville for service projects and there will be a RAH Packaging Event that afternoon. All District Churches are challenged to raise at least \$160 for Rise Against Hunger. Money is already being raised for this event. We normally pack 10,000 meals, but let's see if we can top that this year!

Questions or to host an event, contact Rebecca Wagner DCYM Coordinator @ wagnerwimps@yahoo.com or call 434-823-4645

Pictures from the District Youth Retreat



Ready for the challenge?

Bishop Lewis has charged the conference to read the Bible all the way through 2018 chronologically. You can find the whole year's schedule at the link: <https://www.vaumc.org/pages/bishop-lewis/2018biblechallenge>.

Gun Violence Family and Survivor Retreat

Gun violence kills 93 people daily in the United States and our faith communities are not immune. People in our congregations, communities, and families suffer the pain, trauma, and loss of gun violence. Church and Society and Heeding God's Call to End Gun Violence are hosting a **Gun Violence Family and Survivor Retreat** on Wednesday, April 11 – Thursday, April 12 in Washington, D.C. This two-day, all-expenses paid retreat is for individuals in the Washington, D.C. and surrounding areas who have lost loved ones to gun violence or have themselves survived gun violence. It will provide a space of healing and empowerment for these persons who have suffered from gun violence, encouraging their presence and action in the movement to end gun violence. The retreat is open to any survivor of gun violence, regardless of faith affiliation. For more information and to register, contact the Rev. Jeania Ree Moore (jmoore@umcjustice.org) and Rebecca Cole (rcole@umcjustice.org).



Lee Baines leading worship



Chelsea Morse, Rebecca Wagner & Pastor Neil McLaughlin



Electric Fence, Team Building activity

Raising Funds for Missionary Work

The High Street United Methodist Church And the Christian Motorcycle Association "Wings Of Eagles" Chapter are holding a charity ride event "Ride Against the Wind." It is Sat. May 19, 2018 from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm, starting at High Street UMC, 31164 Camp Parkway, Franklin, VA 23837. All proceeds will go to U.M.C.O.R (United Methodist Committee on Relief) to help storm victims past, present, and future.

Registration is at 9:00am.

Kickstands up: 9:45am

There will be a 70 mile ride through the country side ending back at the church for lunch.

Bike Blessing

Silent Auction

Price: \$20.00 per bike

For questions Contact Richard Walker (757)617-1052 or walkerral@live.com

FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT OF REV. STEPHEN CLARK

(Glen Allen, VA) – The Foundation Board of Directors announces the retirement of Rev. Stephen Clark from his position as President of the Virginia United Methodist Foundation and Development Company effective March 23, 2018. Under Rev. Clark's tenure, the Foundation and Development Company experienced tremendous growth and expansion, currently managing thirty loans and serving over three hundred churches within the Conference. "We cannot thank Stephen enough for the vision and strategies he has put into place. We wouldn't be where we are today without his unique abilities. We celebrate our achievements and wish him the very best retirement can offer," stated Pete Moon, Cabinet Representative to the Board of Directors.

Currently, loan commitments for the Development Company are projected to significantly increase over the second quarter of 2018 and the Foundation is in a position of financial strength and stability that creates confidence amongst executive leadership. Having formed a search committee to begin identifying Rev. Clark's replacement, the Board of Directors believes that the next president can continue this growth trend while serving United Methodist churches across the Conference as a partner in ministry. Finding a new president will come with its challenges and complexities; however, Search Committee Board members, Mark Manasco and Neal Wise, believe that the Foundation is positioned to recruit a list of exceptional candidates for the position of President.

In the interim, Ted Soto, Chief Operating Officer; Randy Shelton, Vice President of Lending and Capital Development; and Harrisonburg District Superintendent Tommy Herndon, recently appointed as the Vice President of Education and Donor Development, will provide leadership as a transition team under the direction of the Board of Directors. Together, the trio will continue to develop what Rev. Clark has created and build upon the confidence of investors and account holders while a search for a new president is underway.

The Foundation is dedicated to serving all districts within the Virginia Conference and is proud to be a supporting organization of the Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church. Its relationships with the Conference, clergy and laity are key to the success of fulfilling the mission that God has bestowed upon the Foundation: Stewarding potential to build His kingdom! As the Board and Foundation team continue to serve following Rev. Clark's retirement, they appreciate and thank him for the service he provided to The United Methodist Church and hope that his retirement be blessed with the wonder of God and grace for his family.

For more information about how the Foundation can assist you in meeting your investing and/or stewardship goals, contact the Foundation team at foundation@vaumc.org or 804-521-1121.

Virtual Promo Packet

In an effort to be good stewards of the environment and the financial resources of the conference, the annual conference "promo packets" will continue to be virtual. Electronic copies will be accepted for inclusion in the Virtual Promo Packet, which will be posted on the conference website, www.vaumc.org under Resources>2018 Annual Conference Information. The Virtual Packet will be available for viewing on the website beginning June 1. Those organizations still wishing to disseminate their information in a hard-copy format (and who qualify, according to the Display Guidelines) may arrange for a display table at the Hampton Convention Center by contacting the Rev. Eric Vaudt at 757-759-7484 or EricVaudt@vaumc.org. Display guidelines and a Display Request form are available on the [2018 Annual Conference Information page](#) of the conference website. Information for the Virtual Promo Packet needs to be submitted in pdf format to the Office of Connectional Ministries (BevMyers@vaumc.org) for approval by Friday, May 18.

Evelyn Jones Memorial Spring Tea

Saturday, April 14 at 2:00 pm, the Missions Committee of Ivy Creek UMC invites you to the Evelyn Jones Memorial Spring Tea. Join them to support the Hope House of MACAA with monetary gifts or donations of gift card for gas, clothing, groceries and home goods. RSVP to Laurie Martin at 434-9673-4793 or ivyreekumc@gmail.com. The address is 674 Woodlands Road, Charlottesville. Please see the flier attached to the email with this newsletter.

The Credit Union Wants To Donate To Your Church

*Our vehicle loan program is benefiting churches across the Virginia Conference and so far we've donated over \$4700 to conference churches. Each time a church member finances their next vehicle purchase with the credit union or refinances a vehicle loan that they currently have with another lender, The United Methodist Credit Union will donate \$25 to their church. Our current rates start as low as **2.45% APR** and we finance church vehicles too! Visit www.tumcu.org or contact Mike at 866-657-0004 for details. (For Virginia Conference clergy, church members and their churches. All loans are subject to approval and credit restrictions apply. Not applicable to the refinance of current TUMCU vehicle loans)*

Janie Hightower
Marketing Manager
The United Methodist Credit Union
(866)-657-0004 Toll Free
(804) 672-0200 Office
(804) 672-0444 Fax
www.tumcu.org

The Faithful Aging Conference

The Faithful Aging Conference attempts to address opportunities related to an aging congregation and meeting the needs of older members, inside and outside the walls of our faith communities. **Presented by the Beard Center on Aging at Lynchburg College and Pinnacle Living, the conference will be held this year at Williamsburg United Methodist Church on Tuesday, April 24th.** The conference is supported by a range of sponsors, including the Virginia Conference Older Adult Council. A request for .5 CEU for clergy and certified professionals has been submitted to the Virginia Conference Board of Ordained Ministry and Conference Committee on Lay Servant Ministries.

The registration deadline is **April 6, 2018**. Cost is \$40/individual, which includes lunch, refreshment breaks, and all conference materials. Adults 65+ can register for \$30/person. Groups of 3 or more individuals from the same church or organization can register for \$25/person. Limited scholarship funds, sponsored by Pinnacle Living, are available for Virginia Conference United Methodist Church congregational teams. For more information about the scholarship assistance, contact me directly.

To register on-line, visit www.lynchburg.edu/beard. Registration can be completed by mail using the last page of the conference guide. The guide can be found by going to the April 24th date on the VAUMC website calendar: <https://vaumc.org/Events?cid=3&ceid=1739&cerid=0&cdt=4%2f24%2f2018>

Bowling for a Cause

On Sunday, March 18th, our third annual "Bowling for a Cause" was held at Keglars Bowling Alley. We filled 14 lanes this year with 81 bowlers. We had a wonderful time bowling, getting to know other members from eight congregations throughout the District, and raising money for the Charlottesville Apartment Project. We even had TV coverage. See link below.

<http://www.nbc29.com/clip/14207253/central-va-methodist-church-bowling-fundraiser-draws-attention-to-mental-health>

Thank you to our bowlers, the spectator/cheering section of 25-30 people from our churches, prayers from those who could not attend and, of course people who sponsored our bowlers. Though all money has not been collected, the event raised over \$8,000. Thanks be to God.
Deb Reynolds, Event Chair

Newsletter Deadline - April 15

Please send your submissions for the **May 2018** newsletter by April 15 to Carol Frost at cifrost@aol.com.

Great Day of Service

Want to share more about the Great Day of Service 2018 with your Annual Conference members? Want to learn more yourself? Information: <https://www.vaumc.org/AC2018> View three teaser videos about the event: <https://vimeo.com/virginiaumc> Share this poster about the event (jpg file attached and on main AC website):



The Ambassador by email

If you would like to receive The Ambassador by email, or if your email address has changed recently, please send an email to the District Office with your request to CharlottesvilleDistrict@vaumc.org

Dates to Remember

April 10	Kindred Project – First UMC
April 13	Friday's After Five
April 14	Bishop's Convocation on Race and Reconciliation
April 14	Evelyn Jones Memorial Spring Tea
April 18	C'ville Apt. Fund Raising at Panera
April 24	Faithful Aging Conference
April 29	Open House for Westview on the James
April 29	District Fifth Sunday Praise and Worship
May 2	Preaching that Connects in the 21 st Century

Attached to this email are fliers about the March 5 Talent Academy, Bishop's Convocation on Race and Reconciliation, VBS workshop, Charlottesville District UMW Annual Breakfast, Westview on the James summer information, Charlottesville Apartment Fundraising Flier for Panera, and Bowling for a Cause