

Connector

Connecting Local Churches to One Another, the United Methodist Church, and the World

Rising Hope's Provides Gifts of the Season:

Warm Clothing, Food, and God's Love

Thank you! Rising Hope thanks the many churches and individuals who support its ministries on an on-going basis. We could not be in ministry without your generosity and will to keep the needs of Rising Hope close to your heart and in your prayers.

In the fall and early winter, our on-going needs in the food pantry and clothing ministry increase and even take on a sense of urgency as we strive to provide warm clothing and a bit of holiday spirit in the form of Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets. We continue to see an increase in those who need the extra support during this time, and thank you for opening your hearts to these needs. By sharing your own bounties with the least, the lonely, the lost, and the left out on the Route One Corridor, you provide our clients with the hope realized by the Christ child during this most important season.

Here are ways in which you can support Rising Hope as we head towards Christmas:

Christmas food baskets and pantry needs: We provided a record 360 food baskets during Thanksgiving. This year, our need outgrew our donations and Rising

Hope dipped into its coffers to provide the extra turkeys and food to complete the number of baskets needed. We expect a similar number, if not greater for Christmas. Your donations of food items for the baskets (turkey/ham/chicken and all the trimmings) is greatly appreciated.

Full or partial baskets are appreciated. If you can help out with the food ministry, please contact Linda Surridge (lsurridge@risinghopeumc.org or 703-360-1976).

Christmas Shoppe Volunteers: The shoppe will be open Dec. 13-15 to provide gifts for those who were not included in the Angel Gift program. We are in need of gifts for teens, e.g., gift cards from stores such as Kohl's, Target, Wal-Mart and Best Buy.



Winter Clothing Donations: Donations of new or gently-used items are greatly appreciated, especially large-sized clothing, men's jeans, and men's shoes. Donations of new or gently-used winter-weight items are greatly appreciated.



Can you help fill a basket with a Christmas meal?

Clergy Association Christmas Celebrations with Ken Jackson

Fauquier - Dec. 1, 12 noon to 2 pm
Mimi's Cafe, 5005 Wellington Road, Gainesville
RSVP by 11/28

Prince William - Dec. 12, 12 noon to 2 pm
Olive Garden, 14405 Gideon Dr., Woodbridge
RSVP by 12/5

Fairfax - Dec. 13, 11:30 am to 1:30 pm
Mike's American Grill, 6210 Backlick Rd., Springfield
RSVP by 12/6

Alexandria - Dec. 15, 12 noon to 2 pm
Chili's, 6601 Richmond Highway, Alexandria
RSVP by 12/8

Clergy: attend whichever celebration fits your schedule.
This is in lieu of the monthly clergy meeting for December.
RSVP to Martha or Herb at the District Office (703-820-7200)



District Lay Leader Corner:

Proclaiming the Message of Jesus this December

By the time you read this, we will be busy with Christmas preparations. I hope that as you are very busy with remembering friends with cards or emails, considering gifts for those close to you, and sharing in dinners and other festive gatherings, you remember to ask yourself, "Whose birthday is it anyway?" And don't hesitate to remind others that this is why you are celebrating Christmas with the many preparations. When we do not share the reason for our faith, then we are not actively proclaiming the message of Jesus. I know that many times the opportunity presents itself for someone to question me and to hear about my faith. A recent connection I made came while I was walking the dog. A new neighbor a couple of blocks away

began talking about playing a zither and how he had played at a church in another part of the state. I made a suggestion that he visit a church nearby that would appreciate his music and other talents he mentioned, and he joined that church six months later. Conversation leads us in many directions and we have to be willing to listen and respond with the appropriate Christian messages.

Whose birthday are you celebrating on December 25? Do your neighbors and friends know about this special birthday?

- Sue Stewart
District Lay Leader



**55 DISTRICT LAY DELEGATES TO THE VIRGINIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
JUNE 22-24, 2012 IN ROANOKE, VA**

Shirley Alexander	James Hudson	Leon Newbanks	Clyde Saunders	Barbara Warren
Deb Angerman	Edna Joyner	Barbara Newhart	Sally Saunders	Gerald Warren
Mary Baker	Rick Kottemann	Allan Nixon	Daniel Selby	Dorothy Weibel
Sue Boltz	Jacqueline Martin	Hannah Nixon	Gail Sutcliffe	Fran West
Suzanne Bottoms	Patricia Martin	Mary Jane Padgett	Gail Sztanko	George "Bud" West
Connie Collins	Mattie Mayes	Charles Pearre	Jerry Taylor	Nancy West
Laura Derby	McKinley Mayes	Amy Phillips	Maria Teel	Jackie White
Lorraine Duncan	John Meeuwissen	Nancy Randolph	Jim Templeton	Mike Wilson
Cynthia Elmore	Rachel Miller	Robby Robinson	Tom Thompson	Emmett Wright
Rebecca Flynn	Carl Moravitz	Janet Petty Sabo	Norma Turner	Mary Wright
Ryan Held	Wyley Neal	Kevin Sabo	Gayle Urban	Kitty Yang

At the Alexandria District Conference on 10/15/2011, 13 Reserve District Lay Delegates were also elected.

Bi-District Training Day:**More Highlights of 2012 Bi-District Training Day**

There's still time to register for only \$30 for Jan. 7, 2012's Bi-District Training Day (BDTD)! Be sure and register, either on-line at www.novaumc.org/bdtd.html or by mail-in registration, by December 18! After that, registration is at the door only on the day of the event, and the fee goes up to \$60.

You and your fellow church members will not want to miss this year's BDTD, featuring the Rev. Jorge Acevedo as the keynote speaker. His theme is, "Turbo Charge the Tradition: Claim It and Live into It." Along with our exciting keynote speaker, we are offering 44 workshops on a variety of topics relevant to engaging in ministry today through the United Methodist tradition. Here are some more highlights:

A number of the workshops will focus on United Methodist theology and practices. Our main book of focus (for clergy/certified laity who wish to earn .5 CEU credit) is *The New Creation: John Wesley's Theology Today*, by Theodore Runyon, former Professor of Systematic Theology at Candler School of Theology, Emory University. Dr. Runyon, himself, will be present to offer two workshops. The first workshop, "What Makes Methodists Methodist," will cover his book in a general way, including the main topic of the book, that Methodists proclaim the new creation, God's re-creation of human beings in the image of God. It will also cover prevenient, justifying, and sanctifying grace. Dr. Runyon's second workshop, "How Wesley Speaks to Current Issues," will go more deeply into his book's sixth chapter, "Wesley for Today." This will apply Wesley's theology to such modern issues as Human Rights; Women's Rights; Overcoming Poverty; the Environment; and Living in a Multi-Religious Society.

We are also pleased to have the Rev. Dr. Dan Garrett coming to offer workshops on "Wesleyan Sacraments: A Font and Table in our Midst," and "Wesleyan Stewardship: Then and Now." Dr. Gattett, former

Adjunct Faculty Member at Eastern Mennonite Seminary and other seminaries in Virginia, will explore the challenges of Wesleyan sacramental life for our day in his first workshop, covering both baptism and Holy Communion. His second workshop will discuss the relevance of eighteenth century British evangelism to modern economics.

Another crucial part of Wesleyan tradition is spiritual formation small groups. This year's BDTD offers a number of workshops on forming small groups. These include: "Creating Small groups with Big Draws," for seekers or inquirers, by Mike Weaver; "Small Group Experiences for Hispanic/Latino Congregations (In Spanish)," by Pastor Jacqueline de los Rios; "Small Group Ministries (in English)," modeling the small group program at Korean UMC of Greater Washington, by the Rev. Dr. Young Bong Kim; and "Big Group/Little Group," on creating a large group/small group environment for children, by Deone Perdue.

Finally, Northern Virginia's own Rev. Dr. Young Jin Cho will present a workshop in Korean on "Korean Churches within the United Methodist Church," discussing the situations that Korean churches face in the connectional system of the UMC.

These are only a few of the workshops to be offered on Jan. 7th. There will also be training offered for all of the main church leadership positions and for church committee members. A number of Virginia Conference staff members will be present to offer these trainings. Be sure and explore the workshops you need or would like to attend, and register before they fill up. Workshop listings can be found at the bi-district's website:

www.novaumc.org/bdtd.html

Remember: this year, BDTD will be at a new location and a new time – Floris UMC, 13600 Frying Pan Road in Herndon; 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM (see more details below). We hope to see you there!

**... This year's location is Floris UMC
13600 Frying Pan Road, Herndon
... BDTD Schedule is 9 AM-3:30 PM:**



**Location and
start time for
BDTD!**

9:00 AM - On-site registration, refreshments, Cokesbury bookstore
9:30 AM - Opening remarks and brief orientation
10:00 AM - Workshop #1 or Keynote address
11:45 AM - Workshop #2 or Keynote address
1:15 PM - Lunch Break (on-site)
2:00 PM - Workshop #3
3:30 PM - Depart

Employment Opportunities

- P/T Director of Youth Ministries**, Church of the Good Shepherd, Vienna
- P/T Organist**, Great Falls UMC
- P/T Nursery Worker**, Arcola UMC, Dulles
- P/T Director, Children's and Program Ministries**, Del Ray, UMC, Alexandria
- P/T Director of Technical Ministries**, Christ UMC, Fairfax Station
- P/T Assistant Teacher**, Fairfax UMC Preschool
- F/T, P/T Teaching Staff and Enrichment Specialists**, The Vine Preschool, Dunn Loring
- Children's Ministry Assistant, Spirit & Life UMC**, Montclair
- P/T or F/T Director of Children's Ministries**, Mount Olivet UMC, Arlington
- F/T Director of Children's and Youth Ministry**, Sydenstricker UMC, Springfield
- P/T Youth Ministries Director**, Christ Church Fairfax Station
- F/T Office Manager**, Herndon UMC, Herndon
- P/T Children's Ministry Director**, Arlington Forest UMC, Arlington
- 3/4 T (30 hrs) Church Treasurer**, Pender UMC, Fairfax
- F/T Administrative Assistant**, St. Matthew's UMC, Annandale
- Contact the listing church or see employment opportunities at www.novaumc.org**

Nominees for Conference Boards/Committees Now Due

Interested clergy/laity who would like to apply to serve on a Conference Board or Committee can download the application at www.vaumc.org. On the right column, click on the link under "Want to Serve?" Completed applications must be sent to your specific District Office by Dec. 14.

December Dates to Note

(www.novaumc.org/community_events.html)

- **Tuesdays, 7 AM - Young Adults Women's Book Study**, Uptowner Café, 1609 King St., Alexandria, VA
- **Tuesdays, 7:30 PM - ESL Classes**, Bruen Chapel UMC, Fairfax
- **Wednesdays, 6 PM - Centering Prayer**, Trinity UMC, Alexandria
- **Wednesdays, 7 PM - DivorceCare**, Burke UMC
- **Wednesdays, 7 PM - DivorceCare for Kids**, Burke UMC
- **Thursdays, 7 PM - Bi-District Young Adults Bible Study**, St. Matthew's UMC, Annandale
- **1st Tuesdays Bi-District Young Adults Social Hour** - contact Rachel@wsumc.com for details
- **1st Fridays, 9:30 AM - Alzheimer's Support Group**, Manassas St. Thomas UMC
- **2nd Saturdays, 8:30 AM - Hiking Group**, Friendship UMC
- **2nd Saturdays, 5:30 PM - Hearts Afire Contemporary Worship Experience**, Church of the Good Shepherd, Vienna
- Dec. 1, 9:30 AM, Arlington Committee on Ordained Ministry**, Church of the Good Shepherd, Vienna
- Dec. 1, 12:00 PM - Alexandria District Clergy Christmas Celebration**, Fauquier Cluster, Mimi's Café in Gainesville
- Dec. 2, 7:30 PM - Hope for Africa Children's Choir**, Crossroads UMC, Ashburn
- Dec. 4, 4 PM - Messiah Sing-a-long**, Fairlington UMC, Alexandria
- Dec. 4, 7 PM - Hope for Africa Children's Choir**, Great Falls UMC
- Dec. 4 - Bi-District Ice Skating/Broom Hockey Event** at two times and locations. See page 6 of this issue for details!
- Dec. 6, 11 AM-2 PM - Bi-District Christmas Open House**, 5001 Echols Ave., Alexandria
- Dec. 7, 9:30 AM - Alexandria Dist. Comm. on Ordained Ministry**, Burke UMC
- Dec. 7, 7:47 PM - 747 Creative Worship for High School Juniors and Seniors** Hosted by United College Ministries at the George Mason University Campus
- Dec. 8, 2 PM - Holy Conferencing Open to All**, Christ Crossman UMC, Falls Church
- Dec. 11, 2 PM - Bi-District Youth Costa Rica Planning Meeting**, Sudley UMC, Catharpin
- Dec. 11, 7 PM - Candlelight Christmas Concert**, Mount Olivet UMC, Arlington
- Dec. 12, 12:00 PM - Alexandria District Clergy Christmas Celebration**, Prince William Cluster, The Olive Garden in Woodbridge
- Dec. 13, 12:00 PM - Alexandria District Clergy Christmas Celebration**, Fairfax Cluster, Mike's American Grill in Springfield
- Dec. 13, 7 PM - Bi-Dist. Young Adults Roundtable**, St. John's UMC, Springfield
- Dec. 14, 9:30 AM - Arlington District Clergy Association Meeting**, Saint Luke's UMC, Falls Church
- Dec. 15, 12:00 PM - Alexandria District Clergy Christmas Celebration**, Alexandria Cluster, Chili's on Route 1
- Dec. 17, 10 AM - Bi-District Young Adults Gift Wrapping at Christ House**, Washington, DC (see page 4)
- DEC. 18 - DEADLINE FOR \$30 REGISTRATION FOR BI-DISTRICT TRAINING DAY (PRICE IS \$60 AT THE DOOR AFTER 12/18)**
- Dec. 23 - 27 District Offices Closed for Christmas (at noon on 12/23)**
- Dec. 25 - Christ is Born!**

Bi-District Training Day is Sat., Jan. 7. The deadline for \$30 registration is Sun., Dec. 18 - register today to get your first choice of workshops! See page 3!

SPOT-LIGHT ON... ESLIM

The fall 2011 English classes are coming to an end at the 13 churches in the English as a Second Language and Immigrant Ministries (ESLIM) confederation. More than 650 hard-working adult immigrants attended classes this fall and are looking forward to starting classes again next semester.

The dates for the winter/spring English classes will be updated on the ESLIM website (www.eslim.org) this month.

If you know of any adult immigrants who would like to attend English classes at one of the ESLIM locations, or if you would like more information on volunteering in one of the classrooms, please contact the ESLIM office at 703 841-0292 or send an email at office@eslim.org.

The ESLIM ministry started in 1989 as a three-church Hispanic outreach project in the basement of Mount Olivet UMC in Arlington. Twenty-plus years on, it has grown to include multiple locations in Northern Virginia, serving more than 1,000 clients each year, with hundreds of volunteer teachers. For more information, please visit their very informative website at www.eslim.org.



Youth News!

The Confirmation Retreat is Jan. 13 / 14 at Camp Highroad. This retreat is for smaller Confirmation classes/groups that may not have a retreat experience otherwise. The cost (includes lodging at Camp Highroad and all meals) is \$50 per person.

Scholarships are available; contact Herb Brynildsen (alexandriapc@novaumc.org or 703-820-7200). On-line registration is now open at www.novaumc.org/youth.html

The Annual Bowling Lock-In is scheduled for Jan. 27/28, 2012. We're back with three locations for bowling and rallies: Falls Church (Galloway UMC), Chantilly (Pleasant Valley UMC) and Woodbridge (St. Paul UMC). Registration and details coming soon!

Book of Discipline now offered as free online version

The United Methodist Publishing House is offering the 2008 edition of *The Book of Discipline* in a free, online searchable version. The free option has basic functionality and is readable and searchable online at <http://www.cokesbury.com/Forms/DynamicContent.aspx?id=87&pageid=920>. *The Book of Discipline* is also sold as an e-book that is compatible with most popular e-readers and e-reading mobile applications, as well as in CD-rom and other formats which offer advanced features not available in the free version. For more information on this, go to www.cokesbury.com. The next *Book of Discipline* will be released in 2012, rendering the 2008 edition obsolete.

Young Adult News!

THE BI-DISTRICT YOUNG ADULTS ROUND TABLE

(BIDYART) will meet on Tues. Dec. 13 at St. John's UMC, Springfield. All who are interested in YA Ministry are encouraged to attend.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

... 1st Tuesday Social Hours continue! See calendar on page 4
Questions? E-mail Rachel Miller at rachel@wsumc.com.

YA ADVENT BIBLE STUDY: All Young Adults in both districts are welcome to participate in the fellowship of exploring together the meaning of the season of Advent. Gather at St. Matthew's UMC (8617 Little River Turnpike, Annandale) on Thursday evenings starting December 1 to discuss *Call Him God's Son*, an Advent Bible study. The discussion and fellowship will start at 7 PM each week. The Rev. Deborah Porras of Manassas St. Thomas UMC will lead two of the sessions, and Matt Osborn, a young adult and youth director at Community of Faith UMC will lead the first session on December 1. Come and be a part of the fellowship and discussion.

CHRIST HOUSE CHRISTMAS GIFT WRAPPING EVENT IS DEC. 17, 10 AM! Come and bring a friend to help wrap gifts for Christ House's clients. Christ House is located at 1717 Columbia Road, NW, in the Adams Morgan area of Washington, DC, accessible via public transportation. Use of public transportation is recommended since parking in their neighborhood can be difficult. For more information or to RSVP, check out the YA facebook page (The UMC Young Adults in Northern Virginia) or email Rachel Miller (rachel@wsumc.com). More information about Christ House can be found at <http://www.christhouse.org>

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH THE BI-DISTRICT YOUNG ADULTS! Join us at St. John's UMC in Springfield on Jan. 8, 6 PM as we celebrate Christmas! Don that tacky Christmas sweater one more time this season, bring the worst gift you received and trade it for something that's probably just as horrendous! Bring a dessert or dish to share for our Christmas dinner. (Last names beginning with A-N: please bring your favorite holiday side dish, and last names beginning with M-Z: please bring your favorite holiday dessert.) RSVP not needed, hope to see you there! Bring a friend!

Applications For Virginia Voices of Youth 2012 Now Due

Applications for new and returning youth participants as well as adult and college staff are available at www.voyva.org. Adult and college staff applications are due by Dec., 19; the youth applications are due by Jan. 6. The tour dates are June 27- July 20, 2012. The VOY will participate in tornado and disaster recovery in the North Alabama Conference of the Southeastern Jurisdiction. All youth and adults who have a **love of mission, music, and witness** may 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 Virginia Conference Voices of Youth Coordinator Jennifer Dixon at 757-348-7084 or email at coordinator@voyva.org

THE UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH OF NORTHERN
VIRGINIA
5001 Echols Avenue
Alexandria, VA 22311
703-820-7200

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

The Connector

The monthly newsletter of the Arlington and Alexandria Districts of the United Methodist Church is mailed at no charge to clergy and key leaders within local Northern Virginia churches.

Alexandria District Staff:

Kenneth Jackson, District
Superintendent
Herb Brynildsen, Program
Coordinator

Martha Flanagan, District Secretary

Arlington District Staff:

Young Jin Cho, District
Superintendent
Betsy Caudill, Program Coordinator
Artabia Campbell-Marshall, District
Secretary

Bi-District Staff:

Leon Newbanks, Business Manager
Sharon Sheldon, Program Secretary
Submit copy by the 10th of each
month to: Sharon Sheldon,
programsecretary@novaumc.org

Annual Bi-District Youth Event:

Ice Skating/Broom Hockey

Sun. Dec. 4

Two times/locations

#1: 5-7 PM, Fairfax Ice Arena

3799 Picket Rd., Fairfax

**#2: 4-6 PM, Prince William
Ice Center**

5180 Dale Blvd., Woodbridge

- ..\$10 per person (covers rental of skates and admission - bring extra cash for snacks)
- ..Visit www.novaumc.org/youth.html for flyer, liability waiver, and permission slip
- ..Advance registration is NOT necessary; bring your group and pay at the door
- ..Bring a canned good donation to benefit a local food bank
- ..Contact Herb Brynildsen with questions (alexandriapc@ovaumc.org; 703-820-7200)



Join the bi-district staff for a time of fellowship
and delicious food

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Invitation extends to all clergy, church staffs,
and lay leadership in the Alexandria and
Arlington Districts

Location: 5001 Echols Ave., Alexandria

Please note: Due to City of Alexandria parking
changes, the St. James lot or The Hermitage's lot
will be available for ease of parking. Thanks!

Keep up-to-date at the Bi-District Website: www.novaumc.org