

# Connector

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

## A WORD FROM THE DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT:



Dear Friends,

A new conference year has started! A brand new opportunity to live for the glory of God is given to us! May the blessings and guidance from the Lord be with you all in this new conference year.

First, I would like to welcome the pastors who have received new appointments this year. Most of these new appointments are associate positions (part-time or full-time), and they are not new to N. Virginia. I pray that your transitions go smoothly and well, and that the churches show them love and radical hospitality in Christ.

When I served the Korean UMC of Greater Washington, the church used to have an order of welcoming me when I returned to their church each year. During the worship service, an Annual Conference delegate made a report on the Virginia Annual Conference, and introduced me as a returning pastor whose appointment was renewed. I thanked the congregation and shared my thoughts and plans for a new conference year.

Though many of the clergy in the Arlington District return to their current appointments, I hope and pray that we serve the Lord's church with a renewed spirit and commitment.

During the summer months I would like to ask your prayer on two plans: first, Sterling UMC has discerned that the Lord is calling them to start a new ministry for Latino/Hispanic people. Pastor Luz Zuleta, who graduated from Wesley Seminary last May, was appointed to this mission. Your prayer will be the strong source of support and encouragement.

Another prayer request is for the Arlington District clergy retreat, which is scheduled for September 14 to 16 at Priest Field Pastoral Center in West Virginia. The retreat leader will be the Rev. Dr. Marjorie Thompson, well-known retreat leader on spiritual formation, and the theme will be "Prayer and Discernment in Pastoral Ministry." We want to start a new conference year with prayer and by seeking guidance from our Lord. Your prayer for this retreat will be deeply appreciated.

Closing my article, I would like to share the prayer of Harry Emerson Fosdick, found in *The United Methodist*



FAITH.



FIRE.



FRUIT.

Pursuing Vitality in the 21st Century  
A Conference on Church Vitality

**Save the Date**  
**September 25, 2010**

**Floris United Methodist Church**  
Herndon, VA 20171

**(Following the Arlington District Conference)**

[www.florisumc.org](http://www.florisumc.org)

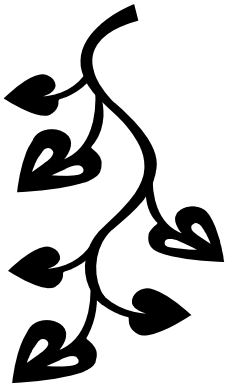
(Details will be available online beginning July 15)

*Book of Worship, #506:*

O God, you have built your Church  
upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets,  
Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone.  
Save the community of your people  
from cowardly surrender to the world,  
from rendering unto Caesar what belongs to you,  
and from forgetting the eternal gospel  
amid the temporal pressures of our troubled days.  
For the unity of the Church we pray,  
and for fellowship across the embittered lines of race  
and nation;  
to growth in grace, building in love, enlargement in  
service,  
increase in wisdom, faith, clarity, and power,  
we dedicate our lives;  
through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Have a joyful and meaningful summer!

In our Lord,  
**Young Jin Cho**



## Abiding in the Vine

The Abbas and Ammas of the ancient Egyptian desert were clear in their teachings that no one way of prayer was right for everyone. They emphasized time and again that God reveals God's self to each person according to that person's needs. Therefore, they taught a wide variety of ways to pray.<sup>1</sup> Most all of them drew heavily on the psalms in prayer. But beyond that, some held that

prayer was very hard work, while others utilized a simple call to God for help and mercy in the face of temptation, with many other ways in between.

Prayer is the expression of our relationship with God, so it will be different for different ones of us. Robert Bondi teaches that, in order to pray, we all need a measure of humility.<sup>2</sup> We need to let go of any notion that we need to be good enough or in a holy mood before we can pray. We are always in God's presence. God knows us better than we know ourselves, and loves us immeasurably. We need to enter into prayer exactly as we are and relate to God with our whole being.<sup>3</sup>

With the understanding that humility is a foundation for our prayer, we will continue to explore a number of ways to pray. Last month, we looked at praying through the Scriptures, or *Lectio Divina*. Next, we will explore two other ancient ways of prayer that come to us through someone who came to be known as Dionysius.<sup>4</sup> In the first way of prayer, we draw closer to God the more we learn about who God really is for us and the world. This way is called *kataphatic* prayer. It's also known as "calling God by name," or knowing God through created things. In the second way, we come to realize the ways that the things we know about God can often hinder our being with God, and learning how to set that knowledge aside. This way is called *apophatic* prayer, or "the way of unknowing."<sup>5</sup> Both ways of prayer are important and essential to Christian prayer.

In upcoming issues, we will examine these two ways of prayer more closely.

Blessings in the Vine,  
**Betsy Caudill**

<sup>1</sup> Roberta C. Bondi, To Love as God Loves: Conversations with the Early Church (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1987), p. 85.

<sup>2</sup> Bondi, p. 85.

<sup>3</sup> Bondi, p. 86.

<sup>4</sup> Bondi, p. 92.

<sup>5</sup> Bondi, p. 92.

## Prayer and Discernment in Pastoral Leadership

An Arlington District Clergy Retreat with Marjorie J. Thompson

**ALL ARLINGTON DISTRICT CLERGY ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND**

**Start the new conference year with a very special retreat for prayer and guidance. Brochure with registration information is available on line ([www.novaumc.org](http://www.novaumc.org)).**

**Register right away!**

**3 PM Tuesday, September 14 -  
1 PM, Thursday, September 16, 2010**

at

**PriestField Pastoral Center  
4030 Middleway Pike  
Kearneysville, WV 25430-3742**



### Are You Ready for "E-News?"

Electronic copies of our newsletter are available for reading on our website. If you can forego your paper copy and view the newsletter there, please contact Artabia, 703-820-7200.

## District Dates to Note



Fall planning will soon be upon us! Please remember to note the dates of these District events first:

...September 18: District UMW Annual Meeting, Oakton UMC

...September 25, 9 AM: District Conference, Floris UMC

...September 25 - following District Conference - Church Vitality (see more information on page 1) at Floris!

**ALEXANDRIA DISTRICT—CLERGY CHANGES**

Church	New Clergy	Who Comes From	Former Clergy	Who Went To
Dist. Superintendent	Kenneth Jackson	St. Matthew's (A)	Alan Reifsnnyder	Retirement
Dist. Program Coord.	Herbert Brynildsen	St. Matthew's (A)	Phyllis Earley	Trinity, Alexandria (A)
St. Matthew's	Denise Honeycutt	Conference Dir., Missions	Kenneth Jackson	District Superintendent (A)
Trinity, Alexandria	Phyllis Earley	Dist. Program Coord. (A)	Scott Davis	Aldersgate (C)
Manassas St. Thomas	David Forrest	District Superintendent (W)	Tommy Herndon	District Superintendent (H)
Fairfax	Timothy Gerde	Peakland (L)	Stephen Bray	First UMC Salem (Rn)
Prince of Peace	Paula Werner	St. Matthias (Ad)	Edwin Clever	Peakland (L)
New Light	Hyeon Ho Lee	Korean of Gr. Washington (Ar)	Yong Hwan Kim	North Boston Korean (New England Conf.)
Wesley	Janet Salbert	Burke Associate (A)	Tony Forstall	Aldersgate (N)
Montclair Area New Faith Community	Matthew Meisenhelter	Manassas St. Thomas Assoc. (A)	New Position	
Mount Horeb	Gayle Porias	First Appointment	Mary Ann Buscher	Leave of Absence
Faith	To Be Supplied		M. Garey Eakes	Sydenstricker Associate (A)
Annandale Assoc.	Eduardo Carrillo	First Appointment	Rebecca Rumburg	St James (S)
Burke Assoc.	Morgan Guyton	First Appointment	Janet Salbert	Wesley (A)
Manassas St. Thomas Assoc.	Deborah Porras	First Appointment	Matthew Meisenhelter	Montclair Area New Faith Community (A)
Sydenstricker Assoc.	M. Garey Eakes	Faith (A)	Scott Beck	Prince Edward Charge (F)
Fairlington Assoc. PT	Barbara Parnell	Also is PT Chaplain at The Hermitage in Northern VA	Tonya Douce	Leave of Absence
		First Appointment	Ryan Schaeffer	AugustaSpring/Criagsville/Goshen (S)
	Hired Position	St. Matthew's Assoc. Minister for Youth (A)	Herbert Brynildsen	District Program Coordinator (A)
Christ Assoc.		Position Discontinued	Robert Riggles	Leave of Absence
Burke Assoc.		Position Discontinued	Carl Perez	Leemont Charge (2) (E)
St. John's Assoc.		Position Discontinued	Lou Ann Frederick	Henderson (R)
	Change of Status	Incapacity Leave	David Manner	Retirement
	Change of Status	Leave of Absence	Christina Suerdieck	Retirement

**ARLINGTON DISTRICT—CLERGY CHANGES**

Church	New Clergy	Who Comes From	Former Clergy	Who Went To
Dranesville	Samantha Tuttle	Centreville (Ar)	Richard Daily	Retirement
Pender Assoc.	Daniel Elmore	Parkview (Pn)	Sandra Boone	Leave of Absence
Centreville Assoc.	Jennifer Coffey	First Appointment	New Position	
Mt. Olivet Assoc.	Kevin Havens	First Appointment	New Position	
Mt. Olivet Assoc.	Bruce Lugn	First Appointment	New Position	
Mt. Olivet Assoc.			Susan Cutshaw	Retirement
First Korean Assoc.	David Chang	Lay Supply Pastor	Paul Kong	GBGM
First Korean Assoc.		Position Discontinued	Kiok Chang Cho	Leave of Absence
Sterling Assoc.	Luz Zuleta	First Appointment	New Position	
Herndon Assoc.	Ryan Oswald	First Appointment	New Position	
Arlington Assoc.	Chenda Lee	Lay Supply Pastor	Raymond Max-Jones	Resigned
Galilee Assoc.		Position Discontinued	Sarah Calvert	Page (H)
Korean of Gr. Washington	TBA		Hyeon Ho Lee	New Light (A)
Bi-Dist. Church Dev. Coordinator		Position Discontinued	Melissa Dunlap	Leave of Absence

**DISTRICT ABBREVIATIONS:** A-ALEXANDRIA, AR-ARLINGTON, AD-ASHLAND, C-CHARLOTTESVILLE, D-DANSVILLE, E-EASTERN SHORE, F-FARMVILLE, H-HARRISONBURG, L-LYNCHBURG, N-NORFOLK, PN-PENINSULA, PT-PETERSBURG, PR-PORTSMOUTH, RP-RAPPAHANNOCK, RD-RICHMOND, RN-ROANOKE, S-STAUNTON, W-WINCHESTER

## Virginia Conference School of Christian Mission July 22-25 & 26-29, 2010

**What Is It?** The School of Christian Mission is a cooperative school offered by the Virginia Conference Board of Global Ministries and United Methodist Women (UMW). It offers an opportunity for women, men, youth and children to come alive to mission by participating in the weekend school or the weekday school, both held at the Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center (VUMAC) in Blackstone.

**Two opportunities to meet your schedule:**

**July 22-25 - Weekend Session**

**July 26-29 - Weekday Session**

**Register** on line or download the brochure for mail-in registration at [www.vaumc.org](http://www.vaumc.org). Financial scholarships are available; please contact Chris Cole for more information. Chris will also handle any other inquiries about special needs, etc. Contact information is 540-289-5182 or [ChrisCole@intelios.net](mailto:ChrisCole@intelios.net).

## Handbell Training Opportunity is Coming!

Asbury UMC in Harrisonburg is hosting the American Guild of English Handbell Ringers Area III 2010 "DiscoverING KIDZ" Festival on Saturday, Sept. 18, 2010. Clinicians will be Kath Wissinger and Bettie Dollins Tindall.

For more information on this one-day event, contact Laura Douglass at 540-434-2836 or [lbdouglass@asburyumc.cc](mailto:lbdouglass@asburyumc.cc)

## Questions? Go to [infoserv.umc.org](http://infoserv.umc.org) for Answers!

InfoServ, the official information service of The United Methodist Church, now offers an online "Live Chat" feature that allows customers to communicate directly with representatives. Launched June 1, "Chat with Infoserve" encourages real-time conversations between members, church pastors, agency staff and others with questions about The United Methodist Church. Customers are able to submit questions via e-mail at [infoserv@umcom.org](mailto:infoserv@umcom.org). Answers to frequently asked questions are also available online at [infoserv.umc.org](http://infoserv.umc.org).



## July-August Dates to Note

*([www.novaumc.org/community\\_events.html](http://www.novaumc.org/community_events.html))*

- Mondays at 7 PM - Body and Soul Class, Chesterbrook UMC, McLean
- Tuesdays at 7 PM - Divorce Care Class, Centreville UMC
- Tuesdays at 7 PM and Thursdays at 10 AM - New Horizons Job Transitioning Group, Floris UMC, Herndon
- Wednesdays at 6 PM - Centering Prayer, Trinity UMC, Alexandria
- 1st Sundays at 12:15 PM - Grief Support Group, Cherrydale UMC, Arlington
- 1st Fridays at 9:30 AM - Alzheimer's Support Group, Manassas-St. Thomas UMC
- July 5 - Bi-District Offices are closed (Independence Day)
- July 7, 7 PM - Jesus & Java Summer Youth Bible Study open to all in the bi-district, Friendship UMC, Falls Church
- July 8, 7 PM - Bi-District Young Adults Book Study, St. Paul UMC, Woodbridge
- July 10, 5:30 PM - Hearts Afire Contemporary Experience, Church of the Good Shepherd, Vienna
- July 11, 11 AM - Bishop Charlene Kammerer will preach in Northern Virginia, Roberts Memorial UMC, Alexandria
- July 11, 4:30 PM - Alexandria District Clergy Welcome Picnic, St. John's UMC, Springfield
- July 13, 10:30 AM - Alexandria and Arlington Districts Clergy Orientation Meeting and Luncheon, St. James UMC, Alexandria
- July 14, 7 PM - Jesus & Java Summer Youth Bible Study open to all in the bi-district, Friendship UMC, Falls Church
- July 17 and 24, 10 AM - Bi-District Lay Speaking Ministry Basic Training, Ghana Wesley UMC, Arlington
- July 20, Noon - Voices of Youth Concert, Rising Hope UMMC, Alexandria
- July 20, 7 PM - Voices of Youth Concert, Sterling UMC
- July 21, 7 PM - Jesus & Java Summer Youth Bible Study open to all in the bi-district, Friendship UMC, Falls Church
- July 22, 7 PM - Bi-District Young Adults Book Study, Greenberry's Coffee Company, McLean
- July 22-25 - School of Christian Mission, VUMAC
- July 26-29 - School of Christian Mission, VUMAC
- July 28 - Jesus & Java Summer Youth Bible Study open to all in the bi-district, Friendship UMC, Falls Church
- July 30-31 - Mission Possible: A Two Day Mission Experience for Children, Calvary UMC, Arlington
- Aug. 4, 7 PM - Jesus & Java Summer Youth Bible Study open to all in the bi-district, Friendship UMC, Falls Church
- Aug. 7 - Alexandria District UMW Executive Committee Meeting, Good Shepherd UMC, Woodbridge
- Aug. 11, 7 PM - Jesus & Java Summer Youth Bible Study open to all in the bi-district, Friendship UMC, Falls Church
- Aug. 11, 7 PM - Bi-District Young Adults Book Study, St. John's UMC, Springfield
- Aug. 18, 7 PM - Jesus & Java Summer Youth Bible Study open to all in the bi-district, Friendship UMC, Falls Church
- Aug. 25, 7 PM - Jesus & Java Summer Youth Bible Study open to all in the bi-district, Friendship UMC, Falls Church
- Aug. 26, 7 PM - Bi-District Young Adults Book Study, Wegman's Food Court, Fairfax

## Bi-District Lay Speaking News

The 10-hour basic Lay Speaking training will be offered on July 17 & 24 at Ghana Wesley UMMC, 2315 S. Grant St., Arlington, starting at 10 AM each day.

Soon a date will be announced for a session on Lay Speakers Leading in Worship - watch for more information soon!

Questions about Bi-District lay speaking should be directed to your District's Director of Lay Speaking (Alexandria: Rick Kottemann, Arlington: Co-directors Vicki Poindexter and Rick Dawson).

## Wesley Housing Sets Dates for Fall "Camp GiveHope" Opportunities

Wesley Housing (WH) is planning Camp GiveHope events, homelessness education/experience overnights for the fall - and you're invited! Call or email now to find out about participating in this Friday night - Saturday noon event on your preferred fall dates below:

**Camp GiveHope events for children grades 3 - 6 and their parents:**

**Oct. 15/16:** Community Bible Church, Fair Lakes

**Oct. 22/23:** Sterling UMC, Sterling

**Oct. 29/30:** Fairfax UMC, Fairfax

**Camp GiveHope events for youth groups:**

**Oct. 1/2:** St. Paul UMC, Woodbridge

**Date TBA:** Faith Temple Church, Manassas

**Meanwhile, this summer. . .**

- ... Invite WH to lead a Vacation Bible School session on homelessness and how to help;
- ... Participate in WH's school supply drive as a Vacation Bible School mission project;
- ... Dedicate a VBS offering to WH's affordable housing mission.

**Contact WH now to reserve your date:**

Linda Honea: 703-642-3830, ext. 218; 571-237-8920 (cell); lhonea@whdc.org or Rev. Joanne Maughlin: 703-536-4153; jmaughlin@yahoo.com

## Generosity at the AC...

**Tallies of contributions at the 2010 Annual Conference were as follows as of Tuesday, June 15:**

**For UMCOR:** Kits and more kits! 25,137 health kits; 10,155 school kits; 4,856 birthing kits; 1,154 sewing kits; 1,734 layette kits; and 30 flood buckets, plus cash donations of \$73,523, bringing the total value of kits and cash donated to \$600,000.

## Employment Opportunities

**Pianists (Saturdays),** Sydenstricker UMC, Springfield

**P/T Organist,** Sydenstricker UMC, Springfield

**P/T Youth Minister,** Washington Farm UMC, Alexandria

**P/T Director of Children's Ministries,** The Vine, Dunn Loring

**P/T Youth Director,** Oakton UMC

**P/T Preschool Director,** Pender UMC, Fairfax

**3/4 T Preschool Director,** Fairlington UMC, Alexandria

**3/4 T Youth Director,** Burke UMC

**F/T Communications Coordinator,** St. Matthew's UMC, Annandale

**F/T Director of Traditional Music,** Floris UMC, Herndon

**F/T Director of Student Ministries,** Christ Church, Fairfax Station

**F/T Director of Children's Ministries,** The Vine, Dunn Loring

**P/T Director of Children's Ministries,** Cherrydale UMC, Arlington

Contact the listing church or see employment opportunities at: [www.novaumc.org.employment.html](http://www.novaumc.org.employment.html)

## DID YOU KNOW?

### HIRE Act offers tax breaks for churches hiring previously unemployed workers

On March 18, 2010, the Hiring Incentives to Restore Employment Act (the "HIRE Act") became law. The HIRE Act provides incentives for employers to hire new employees who are currently unemployed. One of those incentives - an exemption from the employer's share of Social Security taxes - is available to non-profit employers, including churches. If an employer hires a previously unemployed individual, the employer will be exempt from paying the employer's share - 6.2% - of Social Security taxes on that new employee's wages through the end of 2010. (The employer is still required to pay its share - 1.45% - of the new employee's Medicare taxes.) Employers claim the HIRE Act Social Security tax exemption on their quarterly Form for more information, contact David Dommissee, Conference Treasurer, at 804-521-1109, 1-800-768-6040, ext. 109, or [DavidDommissee@vaumc.org](mailto:DavidDommissee@vaumc.org).

**Conference Offering:** The Tuesday morning conference offering was \$180,500.

**Other Giving:** The conference's contributions to relief efforts in Haiti is up to \$1.6 million in the latest total from the General Board of Global Ministry.

**Stop Hunger Now:** Meals packaged on Monday and Tuesday totaled 102,000.

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

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### 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

## Voices of Youth to Perform in Northern Virginia on July 20

Voices of Youth 2010 - *Celebrating 25 Years of Awakening the United Methodist Church to Mission* will mount a tour that will take them to every district in the Virginia Conference this summer. The group will be performing locally as follows:

**Tuesday, July 20, noon:** Rising Hope UMMC  
(Alexandria District)

**Tuesday, July 20, 7 PM:** Sterling UMC  
(Arlington District)

Voices of Youth (VOY) is a mission outreach and education program of the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church whose purpose is to Awaken the UMC to Mission. VOY is a summer youth vocal choir that participates in mission work in the US and abroad, and then shares their mission experiences via music and testimonies. Each year 30-40 high school youth travel to a mission site for approximately one week, followed by vocal concerts at a dozen or more VA UMC churches over the following 2 weeks.

To apply to be part of VOY, visit their website, [www.voicesofyouth-va.org](http://www.voicesofyouth-va.org)

## "Jesus & Java" Returns July 7!



Open to all youth in the bi-district! As you enjoy your summer break, don't fall asleep spiritually.

**Revive yourself with Jesus & Java!!**

*Friendship United Methodist Youth* would like to invite you to join them for a summer Bible study series on Wednesday evenings in July & August. (The Church is located at 3527 Gallows Road, Falls Church.)

You will be invigorated by experiencing God's word, laughing with friends, and enjoying milkshakes or coffee.

The topic of our Bible study is **"Walk the Talk!"** - a study of the letter of James. Each week we'll explore a different passage to see how it applies to our lives. Together we'll discover what James means when he claims that, "faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead."

To RSVP, or for more information, contact Jim Harrington, [Harrington.Jim@gmail.com](mailto:Harrington.Jim@gmail.com) or call 703-409-9350.

Keep up-to-date at the Bi-District Website: [www.novaumc.org](http://www.novaumc.org)