



January 2009

DISTRICT DISPATCH

A Newsletter of The Richmond District • Virginia Conference • The United Methodist Church

We envision churches where all God's people are welcomed at table, nurtured and transformed to be Christ to others in the world.

Instructor has a mission to spread music

Any hint of idleness at Central UMC flies out the door the minute Penny Drew flies in. Once a week, with stringed instruments in tow and a handful of high school-age players not far behind, she's zooming in to share a zest for music and life that's as contagious as her music is infectious. The little group—String Improv N Me, she calls it—is part of the South Richmond church's plan to trade its glorious past for a vibrant future.

"What music does for you, it's so much more than notes on a page," said Drew, who plays viola in the Petersburg Symphony Orchestra, teaches violin and cello to her students and, she said, spends every minute of every day trying to figure out how to get more music into the world.

For a couple of hours on Thursday afternoons, Drew trains her enthusiasm on her students: her son, David, 15, who's home-schooled; Sarah Jennings, a senior at Patrick Henry High School; Shanice Harris, a junior at the Appomattox Regional Governor's School for the Arts and Technology; and Kameron Adams, a senior at Maggie L. Walker Governor's School for Government and International Studies.

"We have an agreement," Drew said. "I tell them, 'If you really want this, I can make it happen.'" With violin in hand, she makes it happen by showing as well as telling. When a student misses a note, Drew plays it then patiently—and pleasantly—demands that it be matched. When Jennings struggled to hit a particularly high note, Drew just smiled and said, "You gotta just not worry about it and hit it." It took a few tries, but when Jennings did hit it, Drew was all smiles and arms waving around and acting as giddy as a kid on Christmas.

The group is part of the Manchester Music Exchange, an outreach program started at the church in May 2006. The church's former pastor, the Rev. Matt Bates, and a local clarinet player, Nicholas Lewis of the Richmond Symphony, created the program as a way to use the church's abundance of space for music practice and performance to lure the community into the historic, though often underutilized, church at 13th and Porter streets. The building, which dates to 1899, has thousands of square feet of classrooms and a two-part sanctuary—a push-up wall of stained-glass windows separates the sides—but fewer than 100 members.

Tom Sweat, who has been pastor there for six months, is as committed to keeping the music program going as he is to keeping the church open. The music is "just one way we open our doors to the community," he said. "I'm trying to keep this place hopping and busy. I am bound and determined to not let it die."

So is Clementine Pollok, who grew up in the church in the 1950s then returned to it in 1994 when her husband retired. "There's a lot of opportunity here for children and families," she said. "It's a safe place to come learn about music. This congregation is very receptive to them," she said. "It's wonderful. It's energizing."

"If I see something in them," Drew said of her players, "and they trust me to bring it out of them . . . they never let me down."

—Article by Zachary Reid, <zreid@timesdispatch.com>, reprinted by permission from the Richmond Times-Dispatch.



Penny Drew works with Shanice Harris (right) and Sarah Jennings (left) during a violin lesson at the Central UMC as part of a program that offers free violin and cello lessons to kids. (Alexa Welch Edlund / Times-Dispatch)

Members at-Large Elected

The following individuals were elected by the District Conference to be members of the 2009 Annual Conference representing the Richmond District.

Congratulations to Karen Albro, Patricia Atherholt, Bill Barden, William Boice, Jim Branscome, Kate Brown, Russell Busch, Carolyn Byrd, Dale Childrey, Bob Childrey, Larry Cochran, Mary Kaye Cochran, Ann Davis, Leila Denton, Rebecca Rigel Donald, Loyce Edwards, David Ellwanger, Andrew Forest, Betty Gillis, Garth Griffith, Gloria Johnson, Stephanie Kimec, Rosa Lewis, Rebecca Mendoza, Emmanuel Nkrumah, Jane H. Nuttall, Jin Wook Oh, Deb Olson, Linda Porter, Jean Richardson, Meghan Roth, Suzanne Schmid, Kathy Smith, Wayne Smith, Yoon S. Song, Jessica Squires, Gladys Stephens, Roth Sykes, Tom Wagstaff, Ruth Wilkinson, and Angie Williams.

Annual Conference will be held in Norfolk Sunday, June 14-Wednesday June 17. Elected members will receive registration information in February. Copies of the Book of Reports will be sent out in May and an Annual Conference orientation session is planned for June.

If for any reason elected delegates are unable to attend reserve members will be invited in order of their election.

Reserve delegates are Justin Hicks, Ellen Kincheloe, Regina Leftwich, Rives Priddy, and Martha Stokes.

Thanks to all our members-at-large and reserve delegates for your willingness to serve Christ in this important responsibility to the work of Christ through the United Methodist Church. ♦

INSIDE

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Letter from the Superintendent | 2 |
| UM Day at General Assembly | 2 |
| Financial Peace University | 3 |
| District Youth Retreat..... | 3 |
| Opportunities..... | 4 |



Richmond District

The Virginia Conference • United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 1719 • Glen Allen, Virginia 23060
Telephone (804) 521-1124 • Fax (804) 521-1175 • RichmondDistrict@vaumc.org

January 2009

A Word from the Superintendent:

I once knew a preacher who began every sermon he preached with the same one sentence prayer; he simply said, "Less of me and more of you, O God. Amen."

It would be difficult to find a prayer that is more simple or direct. It would also be difficult to find a prayer that is more applicable to most of us, and that is whether we are preachers or not. For in most of us – in the living out of our lives – there is too much of "me" and not enough of "God." Our lives reflect our needs, values, and priorities; too often, God's desires and priorities are not evident in those lives.

Thus, we should pray that the opposite might be true: each day when others meet, work, live, talk, and go to school with us, they might see and know the God who came to us in Jesus Christ. And we should constantly challenge ourselves to "picture" what our lives would look like if God were visible in them. What kind of parents, spouses, co-workers, students, neighbors, and friends would we be if there were...less of me and more of God?

The great goal of all discipleship is that the student will be a reflection of the master; may our discipleship enable us to be Christ to others.

In Christ,

Steven R. Jones

In the Richmond District and Virginia Conference in November and December, Steve Jones...

- ◆ Participated in worship at Brookland UMC.
- ◆ Attended worship at Christ UMC.
- ◆ Led 14 fall Charge Conferences in District churches and one called Conference.
- ◆ Attended District committee meetings and consulted with district and local church leaders.
- ◆ Hosted District clergy meetings at Central and Good Shepherd UMCs, and the VUMCC.
- ◆ Presided over the District Conference at Ginter Park UMC. ◆

Prayers for...

- ◆ Estelle Pruden, Administrative Assistant to Bishop Kammerer who is recovering from cancer treatment in December.
- ◆ Neill Caldwell, Virginia *Advocate* editor, who is recovering from a second knee replacement surgery in December.
- ◆ Rev. John Peters and wife Julie on the death of her father, William Ross Keyser, Jr. on December 6.
- ◆ Anna Gail Workman, Conference director of Church Development and Evangelism who is recovering from foot surgery.
- ◆ Rev. Ben Hadley-Goggin, disability leave, who was hospitalized in December for pain management
- ◆ Rev. Donna Holder who is recovering from hand surgery. ◆

UM Day at Assembly

United Methodist Day at the General Assembly will be held Thursday, February 5 for all United Methodists concerned with issues before the Virginia General Assembly. Registration begins at 7 a.m. at Ginter Park UMC, 1010 W. Laburnum Avenue. A \$20 fee includes continental breakfast, lunch, materials and transportation to and from the General Assembly building. For more information visit <www.vaumc.org>. ◆

Clergy Convocation

The 2009 Ministers' Convocation will be held from Monday, January 19 to Wednesday, January 21 at Blackstone, the Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center. This year's theme is "The Challenge: Reaching Young People for Christ." The convocation will feature nationally known experts in the field including Kendra Creasy Dean, Michael Ratliff, and Fred Smith. The Ministers' Convocation is a great opportunity for learning, fellowship, and worship with other Virginia Conference ministers. CEU's are available. Call 521-1126. ◆

Oberammergau 2010

The "once every decade" performance of the Passion Play in Oberammergau, Germany is just 18 months away! We want to invite you to join Bishop Kammerer and us for this inspiring experience as we witness faith in action by a community, demonstrated through music and drama for more than 370 years. Departure date is June 22, 2010, and the costs start at \$2998. We look forward to serving as the Richmond District Coordinators for this Education Opportunities Tours (EO) trip, as well as to meeting you and sharing more about this trip. Questions? Call us at 359-1044 (Brookland UMC), or email <neillcaldwell@vaumc.org>.

Rev. Lynne Caldwell
Pastor, Brookland UMC and
Neill Caldwell,
Editor, Virginia *Advocate*

Holiday Closings

The Richmond District Office and the Virginia United Methodist Conference Center will be closed Monday, January 19, in observance of Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday. ◆

District Youth Retreat

The Richmond District Youth Retreat “Are You Afraid of the Dark” will be held February 20-22 at the Eagle Eyrie Retreat Center in Lynchburg. The keynote speaker will be Rev. Derrick Parson, former James Madison University Wesley Foundation director and pastor of Asbury Memorial UMC in Chesterfield. Music will be presented by The Logan Jones Band. This will be a fun filled weekend, so make plans now to attend. The cost is \$105 per person. Deadline for registration is February 1. For more information contact Rick Vance at <RVance36@comcast.net> or call 512-9725. ♦

True North

Virginia Conference director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries Angie Williams will be the keynote speaker at the May 1-3 True North: A Confirmation Retreat at Westview on the James. The Steve Kropp Band from Fredericksburg will provide worship leadership. True North is a retreat from Claim the Name and is specifically for middle school students. This is a retreat designed to supplement the local church confirmation training. For more information or a registration brochure go to <www.westviewonthejames.org> or call Cat Holbert Rudys at 457-4210. ♦



Wesleyan Building Brothers

A Pastoral Overview of the UMMen’s Ministry “Wesleyan Building Brothers (WBB)” will be held January 13 at the Virginia United Methodist Conference Center in Glen Allen. This one-day event is for all pastors, accompanied by one or more men of the church who have an appetite for service and growth in their spiritual maturity, and a heart for intentional discipleship with men of the church. 0.6 CEU credit is available. Watch for registration details. Then mark your calendars for a WBB event to be held April 28-30 at VUMAC. For more information call 453-4004 or visit <www.vaumc.org>. ♦

Financial Peace U

Debt is all around us. It’s in our church, too. More than 70% of Americans live paycheck to paycheck. Over 35% of Christian marriages end in divorce, and money problems are the number one cause. Financial Peace University, founded by Dave Ramsey, has a long history of helping families successfully confront these problems head on. Discovery UMC, 13000 Gayton Road, will host this 13-week program on Sunday evenings, beginning January 11 at 7 p.m. For registration information call Jerry Esposito at 364-0163. ♦

Restless Hearts

Restless Hearts: Where Do I Go Now, RGod? is an overnight event March 27-28, for all young adults (18-30) interested in discerning how God might use their lives for good, not simply those interested in ordained or other forms of full-time service in the church. Keynote speakers are Alex Joyner and Rhonda VanDyke Colby; music and worship will be coordinated by Shenandoah University’s DeLyn Celec; and a variety of small groups will provide time for reflection and focus on more specific topics. Activities (meals, large and small groups, and worship) will be at Williamsburg UMC, with accommodations at Williamsburg Hospitality House (a brief walk across W&M’s campus). Registration is \$50 but the entire amount will be refunded to participants who stay for the entire event. For registration information go to <www.vaumc.org>>events>. ♦

2009 College Scholarships

Do you know a well deserving high school senior who is looking for money for college? Any member of a United Methodist Church or organization within the Virginia Conference is eligible for membership at the Virginia United Methodist Credit Union and just \$5 opens an account and gives students access to apply for the following scholarships:
 ♦ VUMCU –(1) \$1500 Scholarship
 ♦ Accel College Grants- (4) \$5000 Grants & (30) \$1000 Grants

The scholarships are for entering freshmen and applications are due beginning mid-March. For information email <jhightower@vumcu.org>. ♦

Career and Connect

In these times of job loss and challenging economic situations, it is helpful to have a place to discuss “what’s next?” Good Shepherd UMC’s Career and Connect is such a place. Here you will find human resource professionals who can offer practical tips to aid in job searches as well as a group that shares how to walk through the emotional changes job loss brings. Career and Connect meets the second and fourth Tuesday at 7 p.m. in room 122 at Good Shepherd UMC, 9155 Hungary Road. For more information call 270-7613 or visit <welcomehome@goodshepherdumc.us>. ♦

HSP seeks Volunteers

The Highland Support Project is looking for youth and adult volunteers interested in traveling to Guatemala this summer the weeks of June 27-July 4, July 4-18, July 18-25, July 25-August 1, and August 1-8. Opportunities include:

- ♦ Stove-building and Reforestation
These projects directly address the two leading causes of death (upper respiratory and intestinal infections) in the Mayan communities with which HSP works. Building stoves and planting trees helps to stop the environmental causes of these illnesses.
- ♦ Mayan Arts Program (MAP)
This project gives volunteers the opportunity to teach art projects to Mayan children in elementary schools. This enhances children’s learning, keeps them connected to their cultural heritage, and develops a respect for art in all its forms.
- ♦ Women’s Support Circles
This project unites Mayan women, giving them an opportunity to improve their self esteem, maintain their physical health, and improve their economic situation. Volunteers work with the women’s circles by educating the women on how to improve their mental and physical health and prevent illness or by teaching art and helping to expand the women’s small businesses.
For more information, please contact Alison Keller-Micheli, Service Coordinator, at <akellermicheli@yahoo.com>. ♦

January Lay Speaking Schedule

Dr. Russell M. Busch, Director, Lay Speaking Ministries, 262-1904.

| Date | Place | Speaker |
|------|-----------------|--------------|
| 1/4 | Beth Shalom | R Arnold |
| 1/4 | Guardian Place | B Iglehart |
| 1/11 | Elmcroft | L Brayton |
| 1/11 | University Park | Cindy Butler |
| 1/18 | Chippendale | Ann Arnold |
| 1/18 | Guardian Place | B Stephens |
| 1/25 | Elmcroft | Les Deane |

Lay Speaking Academy

The Virginia Conference Lay Speaking Ministries Academy for 2009 will be held February 27-March 1 at VUMAC, Blackstone. This year's academy will offer four sections of the Basic Course for Adults. Advance courses will be offered in fourteen areas including LSMs Discover God's Call, the Joy of Journaling Your Prayers, I Love to Tell the Story, and more. For information go to <www.vaumc.org>>events> or call 521-1124. ♦

District Opportunities

- ♦ January 9-10—Lord, Teach Us to Pray, Walmsley Blvd. UMC, 275-8505.
- ♦ January 11-April 5—Financial Peace University, Discovery UMC, 364-0163.
- ♦ January 13—Wesleyan Building Brothers, VUMCC, 453-4004.
- ♦ January 19-21—Clergy Convocation, VUMAC, 521-1126.
- ♦ February 5—UM Day at General Assembly, (540)363-5905.
- ♦ February 6-7—School for Children's Ministries, VUMAC, 521-1138.
- ♦ February 13-15—Celebrate Your Marriage Retreat, Camp Overlook, (540)269-2267.
- ♦ February 15—Peace with Justice Grant application deadline, (202)488-5600.
- ♦ February 20-22—Richmond District Youth Retreat, Eagle Eyrie, 521-1124.
- ♦ February 27-March 1—Virginia Conference Lay Speaking Ministries Academy, VUMAC, 521-1124.
- ♦ March 14—Basic "Safe Sanctuaries" Training, VUMCC, 521-1128.
- ♦ March 21—Advanced "Safe Sanctuaries" Training, Williamsburg UMC, 521-1128.
- ♦ March 27-28—Restless Hearts: Where Do I Go Now, God?, Williamsburg, 521-1135.
- ♦ March 29-30—VA PAUMCS, Spring Retreat, Explore the Art of Practicing the Presence, VUMAC, 521-1124.
- ♦ April 25—Responding to Family Violence-Radical Hospitality: Risk-Taking Mission, UMFS, 521-11143.
- ♦ April 28-30—Wesleyan Building Brothers Men's Ministry Male Leadership Experience, VUMAC, 453-4004.
- ♦ May 1-3—Confirmation Retreat, Westview on the James, 457-4210.
- ♦ June 14-17—Annual Conference, Norfolk, 521-1124. ♦



DISTRICT DISPATCH

**Richmond District
Virginia Conference**

The United Methodist Church

10330 Staples Mill Road
P.O. Box 1719

Glen Allen, Virginia 23060

Phone: (804)521-1124

FAX: 521-1175

E-Mail: RichmondDistrict@vaumc.org

Charlene Payne Kammerer *Area Bishop*
Steven R. Jones *District Superintendent*
Susan Petrey *Administrative Assistant,
Web Administrator*
Cindy Payne-Ingroff *District Treasurer*
Garth Griffith *District Lay Leader*
Pat Compton *District Lay Leader*
Bill Davis *Chair, Parish Development*
Donna Patterson *District President, UMW*
Roth Sykes *District President, UMM*
Bill Chaffin *District Ministry of Scouting Coord.*
TBA *Director, Lay Speaking Ministries*

We're on the web at:

[http://gbgmchurches.gbgm-umc.org/
RichmondDistVA](http://gbgmchurches.gbgm-umc.org/RichmondDistVA)

**The DEADLINE for the NEXT
ISSUE is the 15th of the month.**

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 423
Richmond, VA