



THE SHORELINE

EASTERN SHORE DISTRICT UMC NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY-MARCH 2012 ; VOLUME 23, ISSUE 4



"All United Methodist churches in every place are asked to join in this intentional effort to grow in faithfulness!"

Setting goals to grow congregations

Throughout the Virginia Conference this fall, congregations are hearing the news of a new focus for the entire United Methodist Church: "Vital Congregations." All United Methodist churches in every place are asked to join in this intentional effort to grow in faithfulness.

"The United Methodist Church is adverse to metrics. We do not like to set goals and account for our progress toward the goals. The bishops and other church leaders recognize that our primary concern is souls not numbers. Metrics and numbers do not tell the whole story, but numbers do represent souls. When our numbers are declining, we are reaching fewer souls, and we are reducing our capacity to reach new souls for Jesus Christ and transform the world. When we do not set goals, we are susceptible to continuing to do the same things that are not working. Goals help us not only to measure outcomes but also to evaluate the effectiveness of ministries and strategies.

—continued on pg. 4

It seems a long way off—but in reality, it's just around the corner!

What are we talking about? SPRING! Your District Board of Laity has been hard at work in preparation of Spring; planning events for our churches to help them become more effective in their ministry.

Congregations will want to take advantage of the many workshops that will be offered at the Saturday, March 17th *Spring Training* event at Nandua Middle School in Onley. The day begins with sign-in at 8:30 and concludes at 2:30 pm. Classes are two-hour sessions; one in the morning and one in the afternoon. You can choose to take one class or two. There are workshops for church council chairs, communications areas, lay speakers, committees on nominations, youth and youth workers, treasurers and finance committees, trustees, pastors, musicians, mission areas and there's a workshop for you! Traditionally, we've had over 200 to attend these events. This caliber of training only comes to the Shore every 2 years, so don't lose out on this opportunity! Schedule the date on your church calendars. Look for the *brochure early February!*

During Lent, basic and advanced lay speaking courses will be offered on Monday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 at two locations. The basic course (first step in becoming a lay speaker) will be offered at Downings UMC, Oak Hall and two advanced courses will be offered at Franktown UMC, Franktown. *Check inside for the brochure!*

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Another story of how one church is reaching out to their community ▶



Save the date! Clergy Spouses' Retreat, VUMAC in Blackstone on March 15-17, 2012. Key note speaker will be the President of Ferrum College, Dr. Jennifer L. Braaten. For a brochure call the District Office or go to www.vaumc.org and click on calendar of events then the date.

70 signed on to help, another mission possible

Meals for the Hungry is a new outreach ministry of Epworth United Methodist Church in response to the needs in the community of Exmore. It began as a dream of a parishioner who prefers to be anonymous but who broached the idea with Rev. Ray McGarr. He in turn mentioned it to the Faithful Followers Sunday School class, who had been wanting to take on such a project. With financial backing in place, the church felt that a good opportunity to serve the community should not be easily dismissed. Seventy people showed up after church one Sunday at Epworth to express their interest in serving in the new program which began with the hiring of a cook, Jennie Bull. Six serving teams rotate for each dinner and hot, nutritious meals are offered every Wednesday evening from 5:30 – 7:00 PM in the downstairs fellowship hall. Everyone is welcome to come and eat free of charge; the only prerequisite is that they arrive hungry and in need of a meal. No take-out dinners are provided but the program can accommodate people who are unable to navigate the stairs to the basement where the meals are served.

On the debut night of the ministry program, 21 guests were served along with numerous volunteer staff.

Epworth United Methodist Church is located at 4158 Seaside Road in Exmore, near the corner on Willis Wharf Rd.

Local churches invited to define their needs

Tampa Miller, District Children's Ministry Coordinator has been working over-time to develop a children's ministry that will be effective on the Shore. Last year the district sponsored a children's Stop Hunger Now mission event (also in 2012) and a Safe Sanctuaries Training for workers of children, but she realizes there are needs in our churches that have not been met. She wants to hear from you! What would you like to see offered?

Tampa is scheduling a gathering on Saturday, February 25, 11 am at the District UMC Office in Parksley designed to discuss ideas and to make plans for future events and resources for our children. She's inviting 1 or 2 representatives who work with children from each church. (ex. Sunday school teacher, children's choir director, children's ministry coordinator, Sunday school superintendent etc.,). Interested? Contact the District UMC Office: at 757-665-6295; esdsumc@verizon.net

District UMW Fellowship Luncheon, Sat. Feb. 18

at St. John's UMC in Atlantic. Registration begins at 11am followed by lunch at 11:30. Ms. Linda Porter, Virginia Conference UMW Social Action Mission Coordinator is the planned guest speaker. All UMW members and pastors are encouraged to attend this event to start our new year off with fellowship, food, and information. Our area leaders will be contacting you by February 10th for your unit's total count for attending. If you do not hear from your area leader or have questions, call District Vice Pres. Debbie Barber at 757-787-2412 or deb@hotmail.com. The cost of the meal will be \$7. An offering will be collected to benefit the 'All God's Children' 2012 summer camp session.

IMMERSION: youth leadership lock-in!



Youth (6-12 grades) are invited to register for "IMMERSION" -a youth leadership lock-in that begins 7p.m. on Friday, Feb. 10th and concludes 11:30 a.m. Sat., February 11th at the House of Prayer on 25585 Shoremain Dr. in Bloxom. Come work on your skills and have a great

time! Admission is free with your completed registration form and youth covenant of conduct. *Registration enclosed in this newsletter.*

Registration is also available at www.easternshoredistrictumc.org >>district youth ministry or contact Karen Hatch@757-414-0339 or the District Office 757-665-6295 for more information.

An immensely fun, hands-on rewarding experience for your children!

The District Board of Laity's Area on Children Ministry is sponsoring another "Stop Hunger Now" meals packaging event at St. Johns UMC in Atlantic on Sat. June 9 (10-12 noon). This event is unique, because *just children* will be participating! It takes approximately 2 hours and a minimum of 40 children need to volunteer. We're asking individuals, churches, and church groups to participate by bringing their children and also to give toward the cost of the meals (\$75 per church or other donation). For more information and registration contact the District UMC Office at 757-665-6295; or go to the district website at www.easternshoredistrictumc.org >> Stop Hunger Now.

Youth Service Fund Grants Available!

Are you interested in starting a program ministry or mission project for youth? Do you currently have a program in need of seed money? If so, the Youth Service Fund may be able to help! We are currently accepting YSF Grant Applications for 2012. Grants generally range from \$200 - \$1,500. Applications are due by **Monday, February 27**, to be considered. Grant applications and guidelines for qualifying can be obtained by accessing our website at <http://www.vaumc.org/page.aspx?pid=701>



Photo: 2011 Stop Hunger Now Children's Mission Event.

Continuing education seminar at Virginia Wesleyan

"Virginia Wesleyan College's annual Continuing Education Seminar is set for Monday and Tuesday, March 19-20, 2012. (8:30AM-4 PM Monday; 8:30-Noon Tuesday). Registration is \$ 75.00. This year's topic is "Transforming Conflict in the Church," led by Dr. Nancy Good, who was for many years on the faculty at Eastern Mennonite University in Harrisonburg. 15 of those years was devoted to EMU's Center for Justice and Peacebuilding, specializing in trauma healing, church conflict, worker care resiliency, stress management and diversity-based conflict transformation. From the start of her counseling career she found the need to help churches deal with tensions and conflict, thereby helping them to "build up the Kingdom."

Pastors and other church leaders are invited to register. Kari Kelly, VWC staff member, is the college's contact person regarding the event kkelly@vwc.edu or 757-455-3217."

-posted on ClergyNet by Bishop Hasbrouck Hughes



Clarence Brown will be the Lenten Lectionary teacher for the upcoming E.S. Clergy Association program on Tuesday, February 7, 9-12 noon at Downings UMC, Lankford Highway, Oak Hall. Every pastor is encouraged to attend!

Vital Congregations –continued from page 1

Why set goals? Churches set goals to:

1. Give clarity and focus to ministry. Clarity and focus connects disciples to purpose and focuses attention toward the purpose of the church.
2. Move the church forward. Without goals, congregations can become stuck in a rut, doing the same things over and over without making progress.
3. Create greater accountability. Goals that are prayerfully developed and discerned with God in mind keep us accountable to the ministry of Jesus Christ. Holy Spirit inspired goals that are achieved make us more like the body of Christ.
4. Make the congregation better. There is a saying, “*you do not have to be sick to get better.*” Good goals make us better. Not for better sake but to make us better for serving the community... (GoalMaker, by Kevin Seerup)” —reprinted in part from “Frequently Asked Questions” at The United Methodist Church Website <www.umvitalcongregations.org>
Bishop Kammerer is asking us to submit our goals by March 1, 2012.

Ok, your church has set their goals so how do they go about implementing them?

The Virginia Conference Cabinet and Connectional Ministries staff will be coordinating Vital Congregations training events in April and May. Our district will be attending The Elizabeth River District event that will be held on May 19, 2012, at Community UMC-VB, 1072 Old Kempsville Road, Virginia Beach 23464. The day will begin with registration from 8:30 to 9 a.m., followed by a short welcome and introductory session, and two rounds of workshops ending at 12:30 p.m. For more information, contact the Center for Lay Leadership Excellence by phone at (804) 521-1154 or (804) 521-1153 or e-mail at marthastokes@vaumc.org You can call the ES District Office to talk about car-pools.



Coat Drive at Onley!

Friends, as you know, we've been waking up to very cold mornings and there's more in the forecast! Coats are still needed at Onley UMC on 25642 E. Main St. in Onley for their Coat Drive. Drop them off at the church the 2nd Sat. of each month from 9-11 am or the Town Office in Onley. Or, to arrange a pick-up, contact Jeannette Edwards at 757-787-1436. If someone needs a coat, call the church office at 757-787-4155 or Jeannette Edwards.

Scouting Ministries and the local church!

Within the local church, a Scouting Coordinator is appointed to be the liaison between the Boys Scouts' and/or Girl Scouts' groups and the local church. This person serves on the church Administrative Board and Council on Ministries, or the Administrative Council. One of the responsibilities is to assist the pastor and the worship committee in planning the Scouting Ministries' Sunday (usually February or March). For more info about the role of the local church Scouting Coordinator or Scouting Ministries in general, contact Chris Trapp, District Scouting Ministries Coordinator at cbeartrapp@aol.com or call him 757-442-2545



Spencer and Schmid and Wesley makes three!



Rev. Suzanne Schmid, pastor of the New Hope Charge (Evergreen, Mears Memorial and Harborton) and Dr. John Spencer were united in marriage on November 25, 2011 at Pender UMC in Fairfax. The churches of New Hope Charge gave the couple a wedding reception at the Pavillion across from Evergreen UMC after their return home.

Spencer, a retired radio astronomer with the Naval Research Lab, is a life-long Methodist who grew up in the Northern Virginia area. He is a certified lay speaker and has spoken regularly at nursing homes and assisted living facilities. He has a passion for missions and prison ministry. This past year, Spencer has traveled to Peru twice, Paraguay and Brazil on mission trips.

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Congratulations, Suzanne and John! (Pictured: Suzanne and John and John's golden retriever, Wesley —what else would you call a Methodist dog?). All three, along with Suzanne's cats are very happy and residing in their parsonage in Pungoteague!

Barbara Cousar preaches first Sunday on New Year's Day!

Barbara Cousar, native of Richmond, Va. was assigned by District Superintendent Estep to serve the Horntown Charge beginning January 1, 2012.

Cousar says, "God has shown her favor in her faith journey to be sought-out to preach the gospel." Being obedient in service and receiving the grace from God, she accepted her call to ministry in 2006. God has awarded her the opportunity to now serve her first year as pastor of Deas Chapel, Friendship and St. Mark United Methodist churches here on the Eastern Shore."



Cousar is a member of the Board of Directors for the Bishop's Foundation and a member of the Seven Sisters Sharing Seven Sayings. She is known for her dedicated work with shelters, the sick and shut-ins, pastoral care giver at the Kindred Acute Hospital and as spiritual care volunteer for Hospice of Virginia. Her academic education: J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College, Cum Laude, Computer Operations, Phi Theta Kappa National Honor Fraternity, VUU Evans-Smith Leadership Training Institute (Certified in Religious Studies and Pastoral Care, Level III Advanced Theology) in Richmond, VA; Cortez Peters Business College Washington, DC, and Armstrong High School, Richmond, VA. Currently a senior at the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University, Richmond, VA in the Master of Divinity program. She was previously employed as a Business Instructor at the Centura College West campus in Richmond. Her Pastoral assistant internship was served at Brookland United Methodist Church under the leadership of Dr. Lynne B. Caldwell.

MERIT AWARD SCHOLARSHIPS

Nominations are now being accepted for the Wasena F. Wright, Jr., Conference Merit Award for high school seniors who are planning to attend a United Methodist college or university in the fall.. These awards are made possible by the General Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry and range from \$500 - \$1,000 per award. Applications are due by FEBRUARY 27, 2012. For more information contact Becky Tate at 1-800-768-6040 ext. 139 or go to the Conference website to download the information at www.vaumc.org; click on "ministries"; "higher education"

Got Projects?

Virginia United Methodist Credit Union has a solution. Our Project Loans can be used to fund roof repairs, kitchen upgrades, parking lot improvements, heating/ac systems, painting or parsonage repairs. Project Loans are unsecured, for amounts up to \$50,000 with rates as low as 4.75% APR*. Call 866-657-0004 for applications and details. *Credit restrictions apply and rates are subject to change. VUMCU is federally insured by the NCUA and is an equal housing lender.

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. They support men and women with intellectual disabilities by building and operating 12 group homes throughout Virginia. This February, help support this mission by donating, volunteering or advocating for Heart Havens. Go to their website at www.hearthavens.org For more information or if you would like a Heart Havens speaker at your church, please contact them at 804 237 6097; 877 442 8368; e-mail: info@hearthavens.org



Lay Speakers in ACTION

At the moment, we may not see the divine plan that God has for us, but we can be sure that there is one. God can use us where ever we are and turn our greatest failings into the biggest successes when we are faithful. As we mature in Christ we learn to recognize and trust that small, quiet voice for direction and timing. Everything that happens in our life prepares us but we are sometimes required to step out in the midst of uncertainty to fulfill our calling and that takes courage. God doesn't call the qualified but qualifies the called.

Recently, I had the privilege of meeting Stephane Taylor, a Certified Lay Speaker from Friendship UMC. I was fascinated by his quiet reserve, passion for God and the special gift of insight that he has into the world of our youth. His pastor, the Rev. Brenda Laws says, "Stephane has a way with the youth. They flock to him, always wanting to talk to him and share with him. [He] always has an ear for youth." Stephane serves as the Youth Choir Director for the three churches in the Horntown Charge. This placement is so important because music production and arrangement has always been a significant part of Stephane's life. He says, "There are answers in music. Music tells a story and its one way we can reach people – sometimes the only way." According to Rev. Laws, Stephane encourages the youth "to write songs for their choir...and under [his] leadership, our youth have recorded their songs and music in "the studio", a huge treat for them! He's definitely a positive influence for our Charge and Community youth. I'm so glad Step is following God's lead in Youth Ministries!"

Stephane has always been around lots of children and credits much of his understanding about kids to his beloved mother. According to Rev. Laws, Stephane doesn't push the kids, but "challenges them to do a little better, step out of their box and do something different." Stephane doesn't candy-coat the truth, but tries to meet them where they are, spelling it out in terms they can understand and apply to everyday life. He says, "It's too late after they have gotten involved with drugs and alcohol and have a couple of babies. They need to know the truth before they go in that direction." Stephane aims to battle the seductions and enticements of the world that are constantly stealing youthful innocence from our children. He hopes to help them see that "in the end, it's just you and God and that is all that matters. It doesn't matter what your friends think."

Stephane believes that "the children are the future of the church." It is our responsibility as leaders in the church to adapt to their needs and to help them "want to be in church." He continues, "The Bible doesn't claim that generations are supposed to stay the same. The world never stays the same. We need to move into the newness that God gives to us." Stephane sees this as a challenging necessity because "technology is nurturing our children." They are exposed to things in this day and time that we never had to face while growing up. But it isn't all about what the kids learn from us, it is about what we can learn from them. Working with kids should make us all strive to be better role models. Stephane reminds us to remember that they are "watching us every day and we've got to get it right." —*Share ministry efforts with us! Let us encourage and inspire one another through sharing ideas, stories & testimonies. Email: JoLynnHart@gmail.com*

from our district superintendent

January 2012

Dear Friends,

In Philippians 2:4-6, Paul tells us "Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave..." *Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus.* What does that look like for us in the 21st century? What does it look like in our churches? I believe it means we look beyond ourselves to the needs of others in the world. It means we give beyond that which we receive. It means that we forgive others when it is beyond anything we can hope to do. It means we pray and read scripture daily so that all that is Christ can enter into our being and transform us from our humanness into the holiness of Christ. It means we live in community with others so that we can focus on others rather than on ourselves.

This is my deepest desire and yet I live so far away from who Christ calls me to be. Instead of emptying myself I tend to fill myself up with all kinds of thoughts, food, feelings, desires which are not of Christ at all. So I set my desires, my hopes, my goals on the highest grace that I might become all that Christ desires of me.

You and I are asked to set goals around specific areas concerning our life as a people of God. The greatest hope is that these goals will move us to an emptying of ourselves so that we can have the same mind that was in Christ Jesus. Our Bishop hopes to take these goals to General Conference and offer them on the altar as a gift from us to God, but also as our commitment to empty ourselves and become the Body of Christ alive in the world. The areas we are to focus our goals on are as follows: 1. Deepening our worship of Christ; 2. Making disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world; 3. Growing our faith in small group studies and prayer and accountability for our faith journey; 4. Engaging in mission and outreach for the transformation of the world; 5. Giving our resources to mission and ministry in the world.

You and I are asked to have these goals in my office by March 1st so I can get them to our Bishop in time to take them to General Conference at the end of April. These goals will be prayed over by your church council, then by our District Leadership team, then by our Bishop, and then by the delegates of General Conference that represent churches and conferences from around the world. The goals will be well prayed over and you will be well prayed for. It will be up to God's working in you and in your commitment to work for God so these goals can become a reality in our community and in our world. Let us be the Body of Christ alive in the world that has the same mind as Christ...emptying ourselves in order to become Christ to others. It is an incredible hope and dream but with Christ all things are possible.

I wish you grace upon grace, Tammy L. Estep



Rev. Tammy L. Estep
District Superintendent

*"...Let the same mind be
in you that was in
Christ Jesus..."*

*What does that look like
for us in the 21st century?
What does it look
like in our churches?*

Goal setting by March 1:

1. Deepening our worship of Christ
2. Making disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world
3. Growing our faith in small group studies and prayer and accountability for our faith journey
4. Engaging in mission and outreach for the transformation of the world
5. Giving our resources to mission and ministry in the world.



RELIEVE EDITORIAL STRESS:
TURN IN YOUR ARTICLES EARLY!
 REMINDER:
DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES IS MARCH 15

- **Tuesday, February 7** –no Morning Prayer for Pastors scheduled.
- **Tuesday, February 7**, 9-12 noon, District Clergy Association Program with Clarence Brown @ Downings UMC, Oak Hall
- Thursday, February 9, 7 pm, Occohannock on the Bay Executive Committee @ Onley UMC
- Friday, February 10, 7 pm—Sat., February 11, 11:30 am, IMMERSION youth lock-in @ House of Prayer, Bloxom
- Monday, February 13, 7 pm, District Board of Mission @ District UMC Office, Parksley
- Tuesday, February 14, 9 am, District Committee on Ordained Ministry (L.P. Interviews)
- Thursday, February 16, 7 pm, Agape CCCC Board @ Agape Center, Horntown
- Saturday, February 18, 11 am, District UMW Fellowship Luncheon (RSVP) @ St. Johns UMC
- Saturday, February 25, 11 am, Reps. From local churches meet for Children's Ministry brainstorming with District Coord. Tampa Miller
- Monday, February 27, 6:30-8:30 Lenten Lay Speaking Courses begin. (offered every Mon. in Lent) Downings UMC and Franktown UMC
- Tuesday, February 28, 8 am, Morning Prayer for Pastors @ Grace UMC, Parksley
- Thursday, March 1, Deadline for Spring Training registration and deadline for Vital Congregations goal setting.
- Tuesday, March 6, 8 am, Morning Prayer for Pastors @ Epworth UMC, Exmore
- Thursday, March 8, 6:30 pm, Committee for Spring Training mtg. @ District UMC Office
- Thursday, March 8, 7 pm, Occohannock on the Bay Executive Committee @ Onley UMC
- Tuesday, March 13, District Clergy Association sponsors a Habitat for Humanity work day
- Thursday, March 15, 7 pm Agape CCCC Board mtg @ Agape Ctr., Horntown
- **Saturday, March 17**, 8:30 am-2:30pm, District Leadership Spring Training @ Nandua Middle School, Onley
- Tuesday, March 27, 8 am, Morning Prayer for Pastors @ (need church to host in Accomack)
- Tuesday, April 3, 8 am, Morning Prayer for Pastors @ (need Northampton church to host)
- Tuesday, April 10, 10-3 pm, District Clergy Association sponsored "Fun Day" @ OOTB
- Thursday, April 12, 7 pm, Occohannock on the Bay General Board mtg. @ Onley UMC
- Thursday, April 12—Sunday, April 15, E.S. Emmaus Men's Walk @ Camp Occohannock
- Thursday, April 19, 7 pm, Agape CCCC Board meets @ Agape Center, Horntown
- Tuesday, April 24, 8 am, Morning Prayer for Pastors @ (need Accomack church to host)
- Thursday, April 26—Sunday, April 29, E.S. Emmaus Women's Walt @ Camp Occohannock
- Tuesday, May 1, 8 am, Morning Prayer for Pastors @ (need Northampton church to host)
- Tuesday, May 8, 9-12 noon, District Clergy Association sponsored program with Rev. Scott Davis "The Relational Side of Ministry"
- Thursday, May 10, 7pm, Occohannock on the Bay Executive Committee @ Onley UMC
- Thursday, May 17, 7 pm, Agape CCCC Board meeting @ Agape Ctr., Horntown
- Saturday, May 19, 8:30 -5:30 pm, tri-district Vital Congregations Workshops, Elizabeth River District (location TBS)
- Sunday, May 20, 3 pm, Camp Rally Day at Camp Occohannock
- Tuesday, May 29, 8 am, Morning Prayer for Pastors @ (need Accomack church to host)
- Saturday, June 9, 10-12 noon, Stop Hunger Now Children's Mission Event @ St. Johns UMC

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



The Eastern Shore District of
 The United Methodist Church
 18291 Jones Ave., P.O. Box 317
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