



The Shoreline

EASTERN SHORE DISTRICT UMC NEWSLETTER

JULY-AUGUST 2011 ; VOLUME 23, ISSUE 1



Don and Bonnie Jamison

New places, new faces —E.S. pulpits July 3

Grace UMC in Parksley welcome their new pastor Don Jamison and his wife Bonnie. The Jamisons are coming from the Farmville District. Other appointments were made within our district. Retired E.S. Pastor Elizabeth Freund (chaplain at Riverside Shore Memorial Hospital) is appointed to Calvary UMC in Hunting Creek. Her predecessor, Rev. William Jefferson will be serving the Sanford-Saxis Charge. Rev. Glenda Turlington will be moving from Sanford-Saxis to serve Melfa UMC. Christy Spurlock, pastor at Melfa UMC is appointed to the Atlantic-New Church Charge. Rev. Brenda Laws is interim pastor at Horntown Charge.

Being a pastor moving to a new community and starting a new appointment means facing more than a few challenges. Let's offer these pastors and their families who begin their new ministry on July 1, radical hospitality in the name of Jesus Christ! *...may we be one in service to others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.*



Safe Sanctuaries Training
coming in October! (see inside)

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Annual Conference wrap-up by Neill Caldwell

"Meeting in Roanoke, members of the 229th Virginia Annual Conference elected the largest U.S. delegation to the 2012 General Conference, considered almost 20 resolutions and welcomed a familiar face filling in for their bishop as "substitute teacher."

Richmond Area Bishop Charlene Kammerer became very ill the week before conference due to an adverse reaction to a typhoid vaccination she had in preparation for an upcoming trip to Mozambique. She asked Bishop Timothy Whitaker of Florida – who was elected to the episcopacy from Virginia in 2001 and will retire to the Eastern Shore next year – to preside, and it proved to be a very comfortable fit.

The theme of the gathering was mission, "Being Christ to Others: Snapshots of the Kingdom." Thirteen children from the conference-supported Shade and Fresh Water project in Brazil were special guests at a celebration of mission. Forty-three "Mission Mentors," who will make themselves available to speak at local churches about mission opportunities, were commissioned. The Annual Conference Offering, which will go to mission partners in Brazil, Mozambique, Roanoke and Horntown (Agape Children's Center) on the Eastern Shore, collected \$186,670 (as of July 8) with additional receipts expected. (continued on next page)

Eastern Shore, a strong presence at 2011 Annual Conference in Roanoke!

(see photos below)



D.S. Estep delivered the closing sermon on Sunday.



Hannah Perez, District Youth Delegate from the Leemont Charge led the opening prayer Thurs. morning.



Rev. Alex Joyner, pastor of Franktown UMC was the memorial service preacher on Sat. evening.



Sunday morning, the E.S. District Bd. of Laity presented each District Office with a servant pottery bowl and towel.

The Agape Children's Ctr. was 1 of 4 recipients of AC Offering!



Franktown UMC's Choir sang on Sat.



Annual Conference wrap-up —continued from page 1

Thomas Kemper, General Secretary for the General Board of Global Ministries, announced that the Virginia Conference was again the denominational leader for designated giving for mission support in 2010. Kemper talked about United Methodist ministries in Haiti, Mongolia, Eastern Europe and Vietnam, and introduced Clara Biswas, a missionary in Southeast Asia.

Members collected 53,469 kits for the United Methodist Committee on Relief, including 26,617 health kits and 944 cleaning buckets. The Society of St. Andrew's "Potato Drop" involved more than 220 participants who unloaded and packed 39,000 pounds of sweet potatoes that went out to 12 feeding agencies in Virginia and West Virginia.

Conference preacher the Rev. Dr. Sam Wells, Dean of Duke Chapel, preached on the indifference faced by persons doing Christian ministry, and the passive-aggressive behavior of many members of the typical congregation. "Isn't this why pastors burn out?" Wells asked. He encouraged everyone to not be discouraged by indifference, but to "shake it off" and "see what a God who makes all things new will do."

At the Ordering of Ministry service there were 25 persons licensed as local pastors, one received as an associate member, 20 commissioned as provisional members, one ordained as a deacon, 19 ordained as elders.

Forty-one retiring clergy were recognized. Together they represented 1,170 years of service.

Members passed resolutions on the election of additional lay members, on a call to fast and pray, the priority of proclaiming Christ, support of "20/20: Visioning an AIDS-Free World," on peace-making efforts between Palestinians and Israelis, and honoring the 50th anniversary of the founding of Virginia Wesleyan College. They narrowly defeated a resolution of affirmation of the retired bishops' "Statement of Counsel to the Church," which urges a change in the Book of Discipline in regard to views on homosexuality and ordination of gays and lesbians.

Clergy and lay delegates were elected to 2012 General and Jurisdictional Conference. From the Eastern Shore: D.S. Tammy Estep was elected to General Conference and Rev. Alex Joyner (pastor of Franktown UMC) is an alternate. District Lay Leader Iris Gunter-Smith was elected as a lay alternate.

Membership stands at 335,275, down 3,806 from the previous year. Worship attendance stands at 108,420 down 4,204."

For more information on 2011 Annual Conference and Ballot results go to our Conference Website, <<http://www.vaumc.org/Page.aspx?pid=1786>>

-Neill Caldwell, Editor, *Virginia Advocate*

We're doing a new thing with Hispanic Ministry

You could easily pass by it if you didn't notice the guard shack near the road. Across a field and some houses off to the side sits a community of migrant workers and their families. Down a long road tucked away from the world is where some of our brothers and sisters live in their temporary home. Outside, some men were resting on benches trying to cool off



from the hot afternoon temperature and a few children were playing when we pulled into the middle of the housing area on the evening of June 23rd. Will we be accepted, or distrusted and turned away?

There were approximately 20 of us (clergy, lay and young people) from Eastern Shore United Methodist churches. Our purpose —not to preach or be another arm of social bandage but to begin building a relationship. We began setting up in preparation of offering a meal —that was until we notice we didn't have the right propane tanks for the grills! However, we had health kits —thanks to you! So while we waited for more grills, some of our group went around passing out kits while others started playing soccer with the kids. Then God showed up! Little by little people began walking out of their houses on to their front porch and watched us. With assistance from our volunteer interpreters, Hector and Roberto we invited them to have dinner with us. The Holy Spirit began to intervene. There was laughter as stories were being exchanged —which was a miracle in itself, since so few of us spoke Spanish!

Finally a yellow truck emerged with David and his grill ready to begin cooking hot dogs and hamburgers! Gary and Alex returned as well with smaller propane tanks and another grill was fired up. Before you knew it we had food and more people gathering around the picnic tables! The evening turned into dusk and then night —it was time to go. With grateful hearts we began to pack up, and then someone from the camp asked, "When are you coming back?"

We'll we *are* going back. We're planning on July 22nd at 6 PM for another night of relationship-building and you're invited. If you're able to participate please email me, Carl Perez at cperez17@netzero.net or call me at 757-787-7004. Also, if you feel led by God to this vital ministry you may want to consider serving on the Hispanic Ministries Board. Just give me a call. —Rev. Carl Perez, Chair of the District UMC Hispanic Ministry

Children package over 10,000 meals on a Saturday morning



On Sat., June 11, approximately thirty-five children and thirty adults gathered at St. John's UMC in Atlantic for the children's "Stop Hunger Now" packaging event. The children's participation was quite overwhelming. They stayed focused and worked hard for two hours packing a total of 10,100 meals. The children's excitement was contagious. The adult volunteers had as much fun as the children, singing and moving to the music while we worked. *Can you believe that some of the children loved wearing those hair nets?*

My special thanks and gratitude to all the churches who made financial contributions and to the adults who transported the children to the event. I believe that this will be one of the most memorable events in the lives of the children who participated. It is important that our children learn that it is more blessed to give than to receive. One of the groups led a fund raiser through their Church School class by putting out a large glass jar and asking all the members of the church to bring change every week for "Stop Hunger Now" —they collected over \$200!

After the meals were all packaged, boxed and loaded onto the truck the group had lunch together compliments of the St. John's UM Women. Thank you for your prayers, and participation in our first ever "Stop Hunger Now" children's mission event. *Make today matter! Tampa Miller, District Children's Coord.*



The Eastern Shore's "House of Prayer" in Bloxom is a new faith community that began when Bloxom UMC passed their ministry mantle on to the District Board of Mission to begin an outreach of prayer and mission to those who have no church home.

All Things New identifies a new faith community

by the following criteria —a new faith community in the Virginia Conference: did not exist before; ministry is consistent with the doctrine and polity of The U.M. Church; is an entity that has a primary focus of reaching new people who are not in existing churches; is different from a parent congregation (geographically, language, ethnicity, and/or generational); knows why it exists and has a clear sense of mission/vision and who God is calling to reach; gathers for regular worship; receives new members; has intentional disciple-making, mission and financial stewardship systems; has the understood expectation of starting a new faith community in 10 years. Since the approval of "All Things New" by the 2008 annual conference, several congregations have begun new faith communities that meet these criteria. We have one right here on the Eastern Shore, "House of Prayer" in Bloxom under the leadership of Rev. Greg Duncan. Go to <<http://www.vaumc.org/Page.aspx?pid=491>> to view the House of Prayer video as well as four other new faith community videos.

If you have any questions about how your congregation can begin or partner in beginning a new faith community or if you would like to talk about a new faith community that your church has already begun, please contact Rev. Marc Brown at <MarcBrown@vaumc.org> or phone 800-768-6040 ext. 133 —*author of this article is Marc Brown*

Thanks to the UMM at Market Street there are a few more beds at Camp Occohannock

Market Street UMC's United Methodist Men built and installed 5 sets of bunk beds at Occohannock on the Bay Camp and Retreat Center in May. Pictured below is Heman Holt and Will Cumming inspecting the beds after installation. The beds were built by Mr. Holt and installed by the UMM of Market Street.



Eastern Shore Youth receives Evangelism Award at Annual Conference

Each year annual conferences are encouraged to honor one youth, one lay person and one clergy person for the Harry Denman Evangelism Award, and this year the Virginia Conference has honored Franktown UMC's Daniel Hiler as its youth recipient.

Begun in 1981 to honor UM clergy and lay persons in each annual conference who exhibit unusual and outstanding efforts for the work on Christian Evangelism, the Harry Denman Evangelism Award helps draw attention to evangelism in the local church. Those eligible for these prestigious awards are persons who are effective in helping others to experience the transforming love of God through Jesus Christ.

Hiler was recommended for the outstanding leadership shown in both the local church and the district —from teaching Bible study to his founding and promotion of a youth worship band that is active locally and across the Eastern Shore of Virginia. Known initially as Sanctifying Grace, the band is an instrument of Christian witness that offers praise-filled music along with heartfelt testimonies from the youth band members. Daniel shows a lot of commitment to his roles and he pursues his work with a lot of initiative.

We offer congratulations in recognition of Daniel's discipleship, and thanks for the reminder that we all possess gifts that we're called to share to grow God's Kingdom. —*Karen Hatch, ESDUMC Youth Ministry Coordinator*

Commissioning of local church lay leaders

We had a great group at our recent training session for local church lay leaders under the theme: *"I am the vine, you are the branches."* from John 15:5. Onley UMC hosted the event for us on Sunday, June 12. We worshiped, had small discussion groups and received information on the roles and responsibilities of the lay leader in the church. It was an opportunity for lay leaders to fellowship and be in covenant with one another. District Superintendent Tammy Estep commissioned each lay leader and associate lay leader to carry out their ministry in the church as part of "a lay leaders' fellowship".

The District Lay Leader Team is heading up four (4) clusters of local church lay leaders in order to pursue training and developing covenant relationships with one another. Lay leaders, if you were unable to attend the training on June 12, you'll be receiving a packet of information soon that lists your cluster group. Plans for future training and "fellowship" events will be announced in the near future. —*Iris Gunter-Smith, District Lay Leader; igunter@verizon.net; 757-787-3807*

Lay Speakers In Action

Lay Speakers have a unique calling that can reach far beyond the pulpit. Certainly we can find numerous possibilities for ministry within the body of Christ; however, the world is our mission field. In prayerful consideration, let us strive to think "outside of the box," listening for the prompting of the Holy Spirit to lead us in our core anointing. Whether our personal world is narrow or broad, opportunities can show up in the most unusual and surprising ways when we keep our hearts tuned to the Spirit.

The first inspiring action story is about Dave Peffer, a Certified Lay Speaker from Melfa UMC. Faithfully each week, Dave travels to Accomack County Jail to deliver Bibles and to share the message of Jesus. A dedicated servant of God, Dave's heart is filled with the compassion and mercy of Jesus. His commitment to inmates is long term, as he often writes letters with words of fatherly wisdom to continue leading the men forward in the faith of Jesus. But Dave's ministry doesn't end at the jail. He also organizes Christmas Angels and Easter Angels, both projects to serve and meet the needs of struggling families with children. In obedience, Dave lives by Hebrews 13:3, "Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering."

We invite you to share your ministry efforts and ideas with us! Let us encourage and inspire one another to action through sharing ideas, stories and testimonies. No effort that is inspired by the Spirit is insignificant. Contact: JoLynnHart@gmail.com. —*JoLynn Hart, Certified Lay Speaker, District LSM*

Did you know being involved in lay speaking ministries means YOU could wear many hats? Eastern Shore Lay Speakers are active in their churches and communities...now that's GOOD NEWS! Don't you feel proud? The Lay Speakers' Convocation on November 5th at Snead Memorial UMC will be a time of celebration of gifts and talents and of course those many hats that lay speakers wear! Take note of our upcoming trainings and share your stories with Jolyn Hart or me! See you at the Convocation!-Rev. Brenda Laws



Photo: Jo Lynn Hart from Melfa (on the right); Vernon Gunter from Metropolitan UMC (Middle); and Susan Beasley of Painter-Garrisons at the "Lay Leader Training Event", June 12

Robbin Thompson to perform in Onancock



Tickets are now available for a concert by Richmond musician Robbin Thompson, who will appear at Historic Cokesbury Church in Onancock at 7:30 p.m. Friday, July 15.

Thompson has shared the stage with many recording artists, including Bob Dylan, Bonnie Raitt, Bruce Hornsby and longtime friend Bruce Springsteen. In the early years, Thompson was the lead singer in Springsteen's band Steel Mill. Thompson has won two awards at the American Song Festival and has recorded more than a dozen albums. One of his more notable songs is "Sweet Virginia Breeze," co-authored with friend Steve Bassett.

Proceeds will benefit the Historic Cokesbury Church Fund. Tickets are \$15 and are available at Blue Crab Bay Co. in Melfa, Shore Bank's Onley branch, Mallard's at the Wharf in Onancock and The Book Bin in Onley. Only 150 tickets will be sold.



Charge Conference preparation, a little different than past years.....

“Taking Christ Outside the Church Walls” is the theme of 2011 Charge Conference sessions which will begin late September and conclude mid-November. Our scripture will be from Hebrews 13:12-16.

Reporting at charge conference is important –this is one way we achieve congregational accountability to each other, but we’ve also been making strides toward developing relational conferences as well; so we’ll continue clustering charges as we have for several years now. *(To find your “cluster”, see the information on the left of this page.)*

Something new—this year there will be 2 key elements that will attribute to the fruitfulness of our Charge Conferences and it involves more than just completing the reports:

1. Between now and Charge Conference, I am asking that the churches in the clusters for Charge Conference plan and carry-out a mission project together in the community. This will take conversation, planning, and praying together. I don’t care what the mission is, just that you work together towards the kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven. We are called to be one in Christ and in our outreach to the world. I would like a member from each congregation to give some part of a report to the charge conference. This can be a video of the project, a written reflection, a witness, a piece of art, pictures, etc. I look forward to hearing AND participating with as many of you as I can in your mission project. Be creative, prayerful, and Christian in your work with each other!
2. Each local church in the Virginia Annual Conference is being asked to prayerfully set goals for its mission in the community and in the world around the following areas
 - a. Disciples in worship (increasing average worship attendance)
 - b. Disciples making new disciples (bringing people to profession of faith in Jesus Christ)
 - c. Disciples growing in their faith (small groups that meet together in order to support, encourage, and hold one another accountable in their relationship with Christ)
 - d. Disciples engaged in mission (how will you involve people in mission)
 - e. Disciples sharing their resources for mission (financial generosity to the work and mission of the Church)

What goals will you set to see the above disciple-making and disciple-living a fruitful reality in your congregation and outside the church walls?

Charge Conference sessions clustered in these groups:

- Drummondtown
Hallwood,
Woodberry
- Christ, St. Johns
- Guilford, Calvary,
Bloxom
- Snead, Melfa,
Ocean View,
Oak Grove
- New Hope,
Painter-Quinby
- Franktown,
Market Street
- Cape Charles-
Capeville, Trinity
- Johnsons, New
Mission, Epworth
- Oak Hall, Sanford-
Saxis, Pittsville-
Pocomoke-
Wattsville
- Onley, Grace,
Leemont, Cashville
- Horntown,
Atlantic,
Greenbackville
- Craddockville, Belle
Haven-Bethel

Opportunity to provide shelters for the homeless



If you are not already familiar with Shelter 2.0 and the work that God is doing through this organization, then I'd like to share some information with you.

Our mission statement: The mission of Shelter 2.0 is to shelter the homeless people of the world while creating educational and economic opportunity. We do this by designing and producing shelters for people impacted by natural disasters and economic hardships. Through providing shelters we build relationships that allow us to set up local, community

owned manufacturing facilities which increase the capacity to respond to future needs and provide income and employment opportunities.

To date, a shelter has been placed in Atlanta, Georgia in cooperation with the Mad Housers Organization as well as a shelter set-up in Exmore in response to a request from a homeless individual. This summer, in mid-September, five shelters will be shipped to Haiti along with people to assist in setting them up. One of the shelters will be used as a clinic in a tent-city known as New Canaan. The goal is to send five more shelters shortly after that. The team in Haiti will work with local people to train them in producing and setting up shelters so that they can be made and put up more quickly. Robert Bridges, co-founder of the organization, has already been to Haiti to begin preliminary work for the mission there.

We are also partnering with Northampton High School's building trades class so that the students can help produce shelters, learning skills and providing a great service.

We would like your congregation to become involved with what God is doing in four ways:

1. Pray! Pray that God will provide for the needs of this organization so that we can provide for the housing needs of many people.
2. Learn! We would be willing to come and speak to your churches about Shelter 2.0 & show pictures of the work done in Haiti & Atlanta.
3. Act! Look out for upcoming Shelter 2.0 fundraising events as we prepare for our Haiti trip. Consider participating in a future trip.
4. Donate! We are encouraging people to purchase "shares" of the September mission trip for \$30. Shareholders will be invited to a dinner after the trip to see pictures and hear stories about what the team accomplished and experienced!

If you would like more information, please see the website at <www.shelter20.com>, or contact me with questions or to arrange for a speaker to come to your church. Thank you so much for your prayers! We thank God for the privilege of ministering to the poorest of the poor.

*Yours in Christ, Rev. Peter Surran, President,
Shelter 2.0 Bd. of Directors, PO Box 130, Franktown, VA 23354
Phone: 757-442-3481; Email: peter.surran@gmail.com*



Becoming Disciples through Bible Study

"If you make my word your home, you will indeed be my disciple. John 8:31" Several members of Metropolitan UM Church received their certificate for completion of Disciple Class after 20 weeks (Jan. -May 2011) of Bible Study and fellowship. Pictured left to right: Back row: Marva Matthews, Peggy Corbin, Cleandrus Gunter. Front row: Iris Smith (Facilitator), Marsha Tull and Sherida Gunter. Herman Pettit and Katrina Perez (not pictured)

Consider supporting All God's Children Camp

This summer children of incarcerated mothers will come together for a week-long adventure at camp where they will swim, fish, hike, sing, and discover that they are not the only ones with an incarcerated mother. Occohannock on the Bay Camp and Retreat Center will again be hosting one of the All God's Children Camps sponsored by the Virginia Conference on August 14-19, 2011. Prayerfully consider how you can help by mentoring, providing supplies, prayer, financial contribution. Interested? Contact Casey Torrence at 800-768-6040 ext. 138 or visit the website at <www.vaumc.org/agcc>



Youth, if you missed it, you sure missed out on a lot of "mud"I mean "fun"!!!!

Recently, a group of 45 Eastern Shore Youth and 10 adults traveled to Port Isobel, owned by The Chesapeake Bay Foundation to learn more about God's creation. We also toured Tangier and helped to lead worship at Swain Memorial UMC. Many thanks to all the youth workers and church mem-

Photo above: Youth at Port Isobel. Read what one youth had to say about the June District Youth Retreat (article on the right)

bers who worked hard to insure we had a great District Youth event, and special thanks to the leadership at the CBF for their generosity, warmth, and expertise. Here's what one of the participants had to say!

—Karen Hatch, District Youth Coordinator

COMING SOON!

District Youth Retreat at Camp Occohannock on the Bay on the weekend of Oct. 14-16, 2011. Information and registration will be available in the Sept-Oct. Issue of The Shoreline Newsletter. And ...brand new is the "Youth Advent Lay Speaking Event" on Fri. Dec. 2, (6-9 pm) and Sat. Dec. 3 (10-3 pm) at The House of Prayer in Bloxom. Rev. Peter Surran and District Youth Coordinator Karen Hatch will be the facilitators.

"At Port Isobel, I found more ways to save and love the bay than recycle, reduce, and reuse. I found myself loving marsh mud and picking up tons of shrimp, a few isopods (little water "caterpillars" that give you tongue massages), and crabs, which I hadn't touched for years. I even found myself in some pretty intense finger jousting tournaments during the evening after the Tangier group left and only those of us from the shore were left.

Have you ever been completely covered, head to toe, in marsh mud? Have you even imagined it? It sounds gross, but being drenched and sinking down to my waist in wet mud was my most memorable and favorite part of the whole trip! We only got *half* covered in mud playing elbow tag and penguin diving on our bellies to see who could slide the furthest. But then we cannon-balled into a mud pool, so the other half of us got dunked in too. To top off our marsh adventure, we raced across another mud pool to try and become Mud Queen or Mud King.

Our other activity was crab scraping, another new experience for me. With a large net, we scooped up sea grass with assorted species of marine life and took out the smaller animals to keep for the fish tanks on Port Isobel. Crab scraping showed us how important the grasses and marsh were to preserving the shore from eroding and serving as a habitat for the different species that we caught while scraping.

In all, Port Isobel taught me a more thorough appreciation of the Chesapeake Bay and its habitats, Tangier, and God. I really enjoyed and hope that I can revisit Port Isobel and experience its awesome activities again!"

—Carolyn Olmsted, Market Street UMC

You can help end hunger! The Society of St. Andrew is a national hunger relief organization founded in 1979 that connects volunteers, farmers, and food distribution agencies to bring produce from the field to the table. Volunteers go out into the fields and glean produce that would otherwise be left in the fields. That produce is then distributed by Foodbanks and Soup kitchens in our local community. It is through the generous donations of farmers and the hard work of volunteer produce pickers that gets fresh produce into the hands of "the least of these" in our neighborhoods.

Interested in becoming a gleaner, or if you're a farmer, willing to open your fields? Please contact John Haynes, Jr., tidewater Gleaning Coordinator for the Society of St. Andrew at 757-620-1575 or email him at <http://www.endhunger.org/va_coordinators.htm>

TAKE THE SELF-EVALUATION ON THE BACK

Every church will want at least one participant at this **two-hour workshop!**

“safe sanctuaries for children and youth”

What is Safe Sanctuaries?

“Safe Sanctuaries is an overt expression of a faith community in making a congregation a safe place where children and youth may experience the abiding love of God and fellowship within the community of faith.

In 1996, the UMC’s General Conference delegates passed a resolution requiring all conferences to adopt policies to safeguard children and youth. Through the program, churches train and certify persons as safe workers with children and youth in United Methodist ministries. Safe Sanctuaries policies include such things as screening and checking references for paid employees and volunteers; preventing abuse, recognizing signs of abuse and reporting incidents of abuse; making sure insurance coverage is adequate; and developing building usage policies.”

**Sunday
October 2, 2011
3-5 pm
at Grace UMC
18484 Wilson Ave
Parksley, VA**



This workshop is being sponsored by the Eastern Shore District UMC’s Board of Laity’s Area on Children’s Ministry

To register, see back of this page →

Take the Self-Evaluation

Use this checklist to help your congregation assess its policy needs for the prevention of abuse in your church's ministry with children and youth. You'll see at a glance the areas needing attention.

- We screen and check references for all paid employees, including clergy, who have any contact with children and/or youth. () YES () NO () UNSURE
- We screen all volunteer workers for any position involving work with children and / or youth. () YES () NO () UNSURE
- We train at least annually all volunteer and/or paid workers with children/youth to understand the nature of abuse and to recognize indicators of abuse. () YES () NO () UNSURE
- We train at least annually all volunteer and/or paid workers with children/youth in how to carry out our policies to prevent abuse. () YES () NO () UNSURE
- Our workers and volunteers are informed of state law requirements regarding abuse and their responsibility for reporting incidents. () YES () NO () UNSURE
- We have a clear reporting procedure for a suspected incident of abuse that follows the requirements of our state law. () YES () NO () UNSURE
- We have insurance coverage available in case a complaint of abuse occurs. () YES () NO () UNSURE
- We have a clearly defined building usage strategy as a component of our abuse prevention plan. () YES () NO () UNSURE
- We have a clearly defined response plan to be implemented in case an allegation of abuse is made against someone in our church. () YES () NO () UNSURE
- We offer at least annual education opportunities to parents of children and youth about how to recognize and reduce risks of abuse. () YES () NO () UNSURE
- We take our policies to prevent abuse seriously, and we are committed to their enforcement for the safety and security of all our children, youth and the adults who work with them. () YES () NO () UNSURE

—from *Safe Sanctuaries: Reducing the Risk of Child Abuse in The Church*

Ms. Angie Williams, Conference Director for Children's and Youth Ministry will be the facilitator. For more information about this event, contact Tampa Miller, District Children's Ministry Coordinator at 757-824-6241 or email her at tampa23303@yahoo.com

Please complete the information below and **send before September 26, 2011** to the Eastern Shore District UMC, P.O. Box 317, Parksley, VA 23421. Or go to www.easternshoredistrictumc.org and select "Safe Sanctuaries Training" from the menu on the right and complete the information there.

I would like to register for the Safe Sanctuaries for Children and Youth Workshop at Grace UMC on Sunday, October 2, 2011, 3-5 PM, Grace UMC. I understand there is **no fee** for the course.

Contact: (name) _____

Church: _____

Participant's phone: _____

Participant's email address: _____

from the District Superintendent

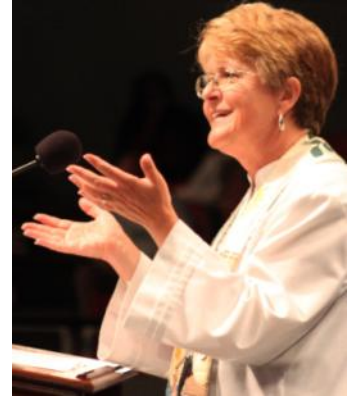
Dear Friends,

I am still dragging from the grueling schedule of Annual Conference in Roanoke! But let me tell you loud and clear, THE EASTERN SHORE DISTRICT WAS SEEN, HEARD AND APPRECIATED by the entire annual conference! De'Andre Burton, one of our young adult delegates read scripture for the opening laity session on Wednesday night. One of our two youth delegates Hannah Perez, gave the opening prayer for all of Annual Conference on Thursday morning. Thursday evening, Barb Mason carried the banner of the Agape Center on stage for our mission celebration while each church delegate brought pictures of their mission in the world. Friday, Bishop Whitaker of the Florida Annual Conference was announced to be retiring to the Eastern Shore in 2012. Bishop Whitaker's comment to this announcement was "Wouldn't you?". Carl Perez, pastor of the Leemont Charge, was ordained Elder on Friday evening as was Don Jamison, the new pastor at Grace UMC. Alex Joyner, pastor of Franktown, preached the memorial service "A love song for those who will not die" on Saturday evening and captivated the entire conference with his words and his description of the Eastern Shore. Franktown UMC's choir sang as well and brought the grace of God's presence very near. On Sunday morning, the Eastern Shore Board of Laity presented each District Office with a servant pottery bowl and towel to remind the conference that God's call to serve God's people is the priority of our ministry together.

It was a great conference! I was brought to my knees in confession by the preacher, Dr Sam Wells, and the Bible study teacher, Mr. Thomas Kemper. Both reminded us of our call from God that is sacrificial and must be lived out in ministry and outreach to the poor, the sojourner and the lost. Their words also stirred up in me a desire to serve Christ at a deeper level than I ever have before. It was good to be part of holy conferencing, powerful worship and brothers and sister in Christ who view the world differently but love Jesus passionately.

It has been a busy spring for me. Six moves (none anticipated), redistricting work, retreats, workshops, family care and many miles of traveling. In the midst of it all, God has been so incredibly faithful, giving me what I need, protecting me in my travels, and blessing me with love, support and care from family, colleagues and strangers. Beginning July 1st, I will be on renewal leave for 2 months. Connie, other District Superintendents and elders on the district, will be available to you. Personally, I look forward to spending time with my grandchildren, resting, putting together jigsaw puzzles and deepening my relationships with family, friends, but most importantly with my God. I look forward to long spans of time for prayer, for scripture reading and for listening. I know God is calling me to a new thing and I have yet to perceive the specifics. How about you? Is God calling you to something new in your mission and ministry in the church? Are you listening for the specifics of God's deepest longings for you and your life and your faith? I know God has the specifics and is anxious to tell us the details and to lead us to the next step we need to take in God's name. Know that you will be in my heart and in my prayers during this time of leave. I can't wait to see what God has in store for us in the new year!

I wish you grace upon grace, Tammy L. Estep



District Superintendent Estep preaching at Annual Conference



Rev. Michelle Linsley molded and shaped a clay jar on a pottery wheel on stage during Rev. Estep's sermon at Annual Conference on Sunday, June 19.

Annual Conference Closing Worship Litany:

We have our treasure in clay jars

The clay is dry, it has been fired, it has been fixed

Yet God longs to mold us again

To reshape, reform, renew

God longs to take who we are and who we have been

And shape us into what we can be

What God is calling us to be

Who God is calling us to be

New life is exciting

But transformation is painful.

We are afraid.

We don't know who we are.

Remind us that our identity lies in your clay stained hands

Not in the forms, names, and structures of the past

Help us to be a living snapshot of your kingdom

As it breaks into the world, right here, right now

This extraordinary power comes from God

And not from us.



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

- **Thurs., July 21, 2011**, 5 pm, OOTB Executive Committee has Dinner with Campers followed by meeting @ OOTB
- **Fri., July 22, 2011**, 6 pm, Hispanic Ministry Committee and volunteers at Migrant Camp (contact Carl Perez for more info.)
- **Tuesday, July 26, 2011**, 8 am, Morning Prayer for Pastors @ Downings UMC, Oak Hall
- **Saturday, July 30, 2011**, 10 am, District UMW Executive Officers meeting @ TBA
- **August**, Welcome Picnic for all clergy and their families (TBA)
- **Tuesday, August 2, 2011**, 8 am, Morning Prayer for Pastors @ Belle Haven UMC
- **Tuesday, August 8, 2011**, 7 pm, District Stewards & Pastors Meeting to consider 2012 District Budget @ Onley UMC (Tentative)
- **Monday-Friday, August 8-12, 2011**, 8:30 am —3 pm, Special Needs Day Camp at OOTB
- **Thursday, August 11, 2011**, 7 pm, OOTB Executive Committee at Onley UMC
- **Monday, August 15, 2011**, deadline for articles for *The Shoreline* newsletter
- **Monday, August 15, 2011**, 7 pm, District Board of Laity meeting @ District UMC Office
- **Wednesday, August 17, 2011**, 10-1 pm, District Committee on Ordained Ministry Training session with Beth Downs @ Franktown UMC
- **Thursday, August 18, 2011**, 7 pm, Agape Board meeting at Agape Center, Horntown
- **Monday, August 22, 2011**, 11:30-12:30 pm District Lay Leader Team meeting at District UMC Office, Parksley
- **Tuesday, August 30, 2011**, 8 am, Morning Prayer for Pastors @ Drummondtown UMC
- **Monday, September 5, 2011, Labor Day**, District UMC Office Closed
- **Tuesday, September 6, 2011**, 8 am, Morning

- Prayer for Pastors @ Cheriton UMC
 - **Tuesday, September 8, 2011**, 7 pm OOTB Executive Committee @ Onley UMC
 - **Saturday, September 10, 2011**, 9-3 pm, Fall School of Lay Speaking Ministries (advanced courses only) @ Franktown UMC –to be continued on Sept. 24
 - **Monday, September 12, 2011**, 7 pm, District Board of Missions @ District UMC Office
 - **Tuesday, September 13, 2011**, 9-4 pm, Clergy Day Retreat at Camp Occohannock
 - **Thursday, September 15, 2011**, 7 pm Agape Center Board meets @ Center, Horntown
 - **Saturday, September 17, 2011**, 11 am, District UMW Annual Meeting @ Market St. UMC
 - **Saturday, September 24, 2011**, (9-3 pm) conclusion of Fall School Lay Speaking Franktown UMC (begins Sept. 10)
 - **Tuesday, September 27, 2011**, 8 am, Morning Prayer for Pastors @ Grace UMC, Parksley
 - **Sunday, October 2, 2011**, 3-5 pm, Safe Sanctuaries Training at Grace UMC, Parksley
 - **Tuesday, October 4, 2011**, 8 am, Morning Prayer for Pastors @ Bethel UMC, Jamesville.
 - **Thursday-Sunday, October 6-9, 2011**, Men Emmaus Walk at Camp Occohannock
 - **Thursday, October 13, 2011**, 7 pm OOTB Executive Committee meeting at Onley UMC
 - **Friday-Sunday, October 14-16, 2011**, District Youth Retreat at Camp Occohannock
 - **Thursday, October 20, 2011**, 7 pm Agape Center Board meeting @ Center, Horntown
 - **Thursday-Sunday, October 20-23, 2011**, Women's Emmaus Walk at Camp Occohannock
 - **Tuesday, October 25, 2011**, 8 am, Morning Prayer for Pastors @ Melfa UMC
- (*District Clergy Association programs and events will be announced by the officers soon. Charge Conference dates have been sent to the pastors)

"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 UMC website: <www.umc.org>
 Virginia Conference website: <www.vaumc.org>
 Website: <www.easternshoredistrictumc.org>
 E-mail: <esdsu@verizon.net>

Phone: 757-665-6295
 Office Hours: 8:30-4:30, Mon. thru Thurs.
 Connie M. Owens, District Administrative Assistant

Barbara Mason, District Lay Leader
 Tammy L. Estep, District Superintendent

Parksley, VA 23421

18291 Jones Ave., P.O. Box 317

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