



The Shoreline

EASTERN SHORE DISTRICT UMC NEWSLETTER • NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2011 ; VOLUME 23, ISSUE 3



“The vision is that every U.M. church, in its own unique way, will be alive and growing!”



Ken Jackson, preacher for District Conference, Nov. 13

What is “Vital 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. So, let me share some of the basic ideas that are a part of this focus.

The Vital Congregations Invitation: The mission of The United Methodist Church is to “Make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.” (Matthew 28:18-20 and Matthew 22:36-40). This mission is achieved through vital congregations that equip and empower people to be Disciples of Jesus Christ in their homes and communities around the world.

—continued on pg. 4

Ken Jackson, preacher for District Conference

Sunday, Nov. 13th our churches will gather for the 144th session of the Eastern Shore District Conference at Grace UMC, Parksley. We’ll begin at 4 pm and conclude around 5 with refreshments in the fellowship hall. Alexandria District Superintendent, Rev. Kenneth J. Jackson will be the preacher. Our theme: “taking Christ outside our church walls”

We’ll also be electing laity (both adults and young persons) to represent us as the 2012 Annual Conference in Roanoke, as well as affirming laity and clergy to district leadership positions. Everyone is invited, whether you are a voting member or not. Come and celebrate the many ways God blesses us in ministry here on the Eastern Shore!

—see page 3 for a list of the voting members of district conference

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Lay Speakers’ Convocation, “the hats we wear”

Participants of Lay Speakers’ schools are always telling their instructors that they want to spend more time with their fellow lay speakers. They want more time to ask questions and learn about the vast and varied opportunities and ways to minister that are available to lay speakers.



Well, here’s your chance! The District Committee on Lay Speaking Ministries is sponsoring a Lay Speaker’s Convocation on Saturday, Nov. 5, 11-2 pm to recognize and celebrate your achievements and willingness to serve through Lay Speaking Ministries. Snead Memorial UMC, 33016 Seaside Rd. in Painter is hosting the event. Brunch will be served. There is no cost. Registration is a must—find out how to on page 3.



The story of how one church did not hesitate to reach out. ▶



Shaping God's People — Bread for the Journey is the theme of the 2012 Minister's Convocation. Here's how to register ▶



Ocohanock on the Bay Camp and Retreat Center is sponsoring another Polar Duck Dip on Jan. 28.

It's dark; you're alone; you just step out the back door of the church and you see a stranger walking toward you. What do you do?

Most of us would probably get scared and fumble in our handbags or pockets for our cell phone to call for help or try to find something to protect ourselves. After all, who would be wondering out late at night if they weren't up to "no good". Here's a very different response.

Another church meeting completed and it was time to get home. As I walk down the steps of the church, just to my right, is a person walking towards me. "Hello, can I help you?" I ask. He said, "I need to talk to the pastor." I answered, "That's me." He goes on to say, "I am homeless, I need you to pray with me." "That I can do." I replied.

I called a few members and they came back to the church where we made some phone calls. We prayed with our new friend and I invited him to come to church and worship with us. We got him somewhere safe for the night.

That gentleman came back later in the week. He said, "Your prayers worked. I'm back staying with my mom. I want to come to church and so does my mother."

Prayer does work. We are our sisters' and brothers' keepers and we must always keep an open heart, open mind and open door mentality alive. —a true story from one of our pastors on the E.S.

What are you waiting for?

You've received the brochure; you can see that it will be a wonderful event; so register today for the Ministers' Convocation.

The 2012 Ministers' Convocation will be Jan. 17-19, 2012, at the Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center in Blackstone. Theme is "Bread for the Journey: A time for personal renewal and fellowship to regain joy and vitality in our lives and our vocation." Keynote presenter will be Wayne Muller, therapist, minister, community advocate, public speaker and best-selling author of Sabbath; A Life of Being, Having and Doing Enough and Legacy of the Heart: the Spiritual Advantages of a Painful Childhood. Click on the following link for more information and to register: <http://www.vaumc.org/Page.aspx?pid=424&cid=3&ceid=484&cerid=0&cdt=1%2f17%2f2012>

Save the date! Another Polar Duck Dip, Jan. 28

It's freezin for reason! Don't delay, register today for the High Noon Dip on Saturday, January 28 at 12 noon, to be followed by a lunch of chili and pigs-in-a-blanket, topped off with Miss Emily's cinnamon buns! Come early at 11 for all the pre-dip social fun. Start early on getting folks to sponsor you for your chilly dip in the Ocohanock Creek. Contact Jerry at the Camp Office (ootbay@verizon.net; 757-442-7836) for information and a sign-up sheet. Proceeds go for the camp's ministry.

NEW! Lay Speaking for Youth!



Young people have talents and gifts that should be acknowledged, shared, and honored in all aspects of ministry. That's the purpose for *Lay Speaking for Youth*. This basic course encourages and provides training for youth (grades 6-12) to claim the ministries to which God is calling them and to help them identify their unique style of ministry.



Lay Speaking for Youth is being offered 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. There is no cost!

Interested? Contact the District UMC Office at 757-665-6295 or register on-line at www.easternshoredistrictumc.org; select "District Youth Ministry" link on the right of the page.

Questions related to either this event or District Youth Ministry in general, contact Peter Surran at 757-709-1480; peter.surran@gmail.com; 757-441-3481 (office) or Karen Hatch at 757-414-0339

Want to Serve?

If you're interested in serving on a Conference board or agency, please complete a Nominations Profile Form at the district website <http://www.easternshoredistrictumc.org/813173>; Submit the completed form to the E.S. District UMC Office, P.O.. Box 317, Parksley, VA 23421 before Dec. 1 for the District Superintendent's signature. The District Nominations Facilitation committee will submit the form to the Virginia Conference Connectional Ministries Office for consideration by the Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team (CLDDT). The website also offers information and a description on each board and agency. If you do not have access to the internet, call the District UMC Office at 757-665-6295 and we will be glad to talk to you about the various boards and agencies and the process for nominations.

Lay Speakers' Convocation —continued from page 1

Come explore how we can work together and use our God-given spiritual gifts to find unique and individual niches in ministry!

Register by calling the District Office at 757-665-6295 or on-line at <http://www.easternshoredistrictumc.org/templates/System/details.asp?id=40906&mast=Events&PG=Events&CID=1187679>

Randolph-Macon SCHOLARSHIPS

Are you aware of a high school senior who you think has potential or has expressed interest in the ministry? Let them know that Randolph-Macon College has several scholarships for high school students who think they may be experiencing a call to the ministry. The A. Purnell Bailey Program offers 1/2 tuition freshman and sophomore years and full tuition junior and senior years. In addition there is peer support and mentoring with the Bailey Advisor. March 1 is the deadline for applications. If interested, please contact Rev. Margie Turbyfill at (804) 368-7276; mturby576@aol.com

Who are the Voting Members of District Conference?

All clergy, lay leaders, church council chairs, S.S. superintendents, UMM and UMW presidents, district stewards, lay members to annual conference. District trustees, district treasurer, district lay leader and associate lay leaders, district UMM and UMW presidents, and district coordinators and directors are also voting members.





Mark Ogren, Virginia Conference Director of Congregational Development will lead a workshop on Vital Congregations. Every pastor is encouraged to attend!

Vital Congregations –continued from page 1

Vital Congregations Are:

- * Spirit-filled, forward-leaning communities of believers that welcome all people (Galatians 3:28)
- * Places where Disciples of Jesus Christ are made through the power of the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 28:18-20)
- * Communities that serve like Christ through justice and mercy ministries. (Micah 6:8, Luke 4:17-21)

A Vital Congregation Has:

- * Inviting and Inspiring Worship
- * Engaged Disciples in mission and outreach
- * Gifted, Empowered and Equipped Lay Leadership
- * Effective, Equipped and Inspired Clergy Leadership
- * Small Group Ministries
- * Strong Children’s and Youth Ministry

The vision of The United Methodist Church is that every church – in its own unique way – will be alive and growing. May there be a renewed commitment to this vitality in our churches. —Rev. Steve Jones, author



Coat Drive at Onley!

Onley UMC on 25642 E. Main

St. in Onley is sponsoring a Coat Drive. Coats can be dropped 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.

ES Clergy Assoc. sponsoring Vital Congregations teaching session with Mark Ogren

Tuesday, Nov. 8th from 9 am to 12 noon, our District Clergy Association will host a teaching session for our pastors on the Vital Congregations’ website and reporting procedures. Rev. Mark Ogren, Conference Director of Congregational Development will be the facilitator. Franktown UMC will host. *Every pastor is encouraged to attend!*

It’s coming...Spring Training, Saturday, March 17

Spring! The weather is warmer, trees are budding, flowers blooming and we’re staying outside longer! It’s a great time to exercise –get rid of those extra pounds we put on over the winter. And it’s a good time to exercise our minds as well—developing skills to help our churches and our own spiritual growth. Church members will want to take advantage of the many workshops that will be offered at the Sat., March 17th Spring Training event at Nandua Middle School, Onley.

The day begins with sign-in at 8:30 and concludes at 3:30 pm. Classes are two-hour sessions; one in the morning and one in the afternoon. You can choose to take one class or two unless the class is designated as a 4-hour course. There’ll be a workshop for youth and adults of all ages —clergy and laity! Registration and more information will be available by December at www.easternshoredistrictumc.org and in the January-February newsletter! Look for it and sign up soon! Traditionally we have had over 200 to attend these events. This quality 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. There’s a workshop for you!



Spring Training
Get ready!

Tips to deal with conflict in your church



"Whenever minds meet, the potential for conflict arises. As church leaders, you may have been involved in or witnessed differing opinions or views. Conflict is inevitable, but it can be managed. Here's some tips from [The United Methodist Communications website](http://www.UMC.org) .
(photo: UMC website)

1. **Practice acceptance.** Conflict gets a bad rap, but it also can be good. It reminds us that we are different and provides an avenue for a healthy resolution acceptable to both parties. When conflict arises, take a deep breath and work through it, reminding yourself of its benefits.
2. **Sharpen listening skills.** Resist the urge to become defensive or argumentative. Truly listen with body and mind to the other party – and do not interrupt.
3. **Start positively.** When you speak, begin with something positive. Listeners become more receptive to what you are saying if they know what you like about them or their thoughts on the subject.
4. **Use your body.** Envision yourself and the other person as a team. Face the same direction as the other person, angle your body toward him or her. Make eye contact and maintain a relaxed body posture. Watch your body language so it is nonthreatening and collaborative.
5. **Don't add to trouble.** If the conflict is between you and someone else and outside assistance is needed, involve only one other person, perhaps a pastor or a group leader, as a neutral party or mediator. The chairperson of your staff/pastor-parish relations committee may be a helpful resource if it involves a member of the church staff. Avoid adding others to the argument, especially if you are inviting them only to reinforce your opinion.
6. **Set a goal.** Identifying the goal for your discussion is helpful for both parties: Do you need the other person ultimately to agree with everything you say? Do you simply want to make sure the other person understands what you are saying, even if she or he disagrees? Compromise is often necessary.
7. **End on a good note.** Don't leave mad; depart with appreciation. Thank the person for his/her time & willingness to discuss the issue.
8. **Go to mediation.** At times, conflict reaches a level where mediation is needed. <http://justpeaceumc.org/who-we-are/about-justpeace/> is the website for a United Methodist related organization that provides a wealth of free resources.
9. **Virtual conflict.** If your website, blog or social networking pages allows comments, make sure you have a communication policy that addresses what type of comments are allowed."

Upcoming CEU program for clergy at Virginia Wesleyan College in Norfolk:

"Managing Church Conflict." The 2012 event will take place on Monday, March 19, 8:30-4 p.m. and Tuesday, March 20, 8:30-12 noon. Dr. Nancy Good will be the presenter.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES:

-Immediate opening at the Agape Center for a Teacher Aide in the afternoon from approximately 1 to 6 PM. Hours may vary depending on the staffing needs of the center. Contact the Agape Center at (757) 824 0072 for an application.

-Market Street United Methodist Church has immediate need for a weekly Nursery Worker on Sunday mornings. This is a paid position and hours are 8:15 AM-12:15 PM. Applicants must be at least 18 years old, have child care experience, successfully complete CPR and First Aid Training, be friendly, outgoing and enjoy working with children. For application and more information, contact the church office at (757) 787-4873.



Lay Speakers in ACTION

A spiritual gift is a specific divine enablement for spiritual service. As lay speakers, it is important for us to recognize the significance of spiritual gifting for the benefit of the church as a whole and for our own spiritual maturity. On the believer rests the responsibility of discovering and developing these wonderful gifts of grace. It is essential to purposefully seek the will of God for our placement and progress within the body of believers. We are each fully equipped to fulfill our own unique call to service within the divine plan.

A friend of mine, Robert Kelly is a fine example of a man of God who strives in love to allow the full manifestation of his gifting potential. A leader, he is the President of the United Methodist Men and a Certified Lay Speaker from Painter-Garrison's UMC. One might refer to Rob as

the "really tall guy;" however, his stature isn't necessarily what makes him the most memorable to those who know him. What is most striking about him is a humble heart and gentle spirit in combination with a zeal for truth and witness. Rob is the drummer for Painter-Garrison's Praise and Worship Team and a local contemporary Christian band called Full Circle. He is a gifted speaker, often serving as pulpit supply for UMC churches up and down the Eastern Shore. His pastor, the Rev. Rebecca McGee says, "Rob Kelly delivers a very enthusiastic message from the pulpit. He is also a strong advocate for the youth."

Rob is passionate, optimistic and filled with a fiery energy and assurance that compels one's attention. He invests much of his time purposefully ministering to our youth through speaking engagements at special events. He is also active in the youth events held at Occohannock on the Bay Camp and Retreat Center. Pastor Glenda Turlington who has often called on Rob to minister in her churches recently told me, "There's something special about him. The kids just love him. They follow him around like he's the Pied Piper!" Rob has become quite popular with the kids and where ever Rob goes, they are bound to show up in growing numbers.

Having committed his life to serving the Lord through ministry, Rob is currently a certified candidate in the UMC Candidacy Program. His testimony concerning this decision is very inspiring because it was actually through the opportunities created by Lay Speaking Ministries that Rob heard the call of God on his life! As would anyone discerning such a serious call, he prayed for confirmation. Shortly thereafter, Rob happened to run into an old friend who was keenly aware of his Lay Speaking involvement. During their conversation, Rob discovered that even back in the day when he had not been living for God there was a very important someone who always held faith for his future. The friend conveyed that even though he had personally been very concerned, Rob's grandfather "wasn't worried at all because he believed that one day, Rob would preach." Deeply moved by learning of his grandfather's prophesy, Rob received the confirming word that he needed. By stepping out in faith as a Lay Speaker, Rob found his calling, received an affirmation and renewed strength. He diligently continues to cultivate the spiritual gifts that have been entrusted to him, willingly entering the doors that the Lord opens before him.

—Continue to share ministry efforts with us! Let us encourage and inspire one another through sharing ideas, stories & testimonies. Contact: JoLynnHart@gmail.com

Preserve your church's story.

Send a copy or original of your church history to the Archives Dept. at The U.M. Conference Center in Glen Allen. Preserving the record of our historic conference is the Archives' task. It is a secure, spacious, and well-appointed facility where valuable records of the conference are maintained in a controlled environment. The Conference archivist is Stephanie Davis who can be reached at the Conference Center on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 am until 1 pm at 1-800-768-6040 ext. 132; or e-mail her at stephaniedavis@vaumc.org

from our district superintendent

November 2011

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I attended our General Conference delegation meeting on October 22 where Dr. Lovett Weems, from the Lewis Center on Leadership at Wesley Seminary, presented the "Realities, Challenges and Opportunities in The United Methodist Church". (You can see his presentation at <http://vimeo.com/22392014>.) He shared with us the reality that the average age of UMC church members in the US is 58, while the average age of US citizens is 38. What is the average age of your congregation and how does it compare with the age of our society?

Today, I read an article that stated "the declining membership of mainline denominations is based on our grief". Our grief over the fact that church is not like it used to be in the 50's and 60's is killing our churches... for in our grief, we keep longing for the good old days of YESTERDAY rather than moving ahead to the ministry God has for us TODAY and TOMORROW. Is your church longing for the days of yesterday when the pews were packed and the Sunday Schools classes were overflowing with children or is your church moving ahead into a vision for tomorrow?

I read a sermon by Rev. Alex Joyner in which he states, "We tell the story about how the church has lost its way rather than how the church reveals the way". Does your church talk about and envision new ways of offering Christ to the community or does it count down the days when your church doors will close?

The preacher for our delegation meeting was Rev. Kristin Holbrook who is a young adult. She preached her sermon in Spanish while Rev. Ileana Rosario translated. Rev. Holbrook shared how many people tell her that they wish they could learn to speak in Spanish. She also shared how she longed to tell those folks, "No you don't. For if you really wanted to speak Spanish, you would make it happen, no matter what the time, energy and cost would be, you would make it happen if you REALLY wanted to speak Spanish." We in the church say that "we want more people, more young people, more diverse people" but we really don't. Because if we really did, THEN we would do whatever it took and whatever it cost to make sure we were reaching out to more people beyond our church walls, to more young people and to more diverse people in the name of Jesus Christ.

The truth is, the fields are ripe but the laborers are few. Are we willing to let the church of Jesus Christ die from grief or do we really want to be the Body of Christ alive in the world today just as in the days of Pentecost. The future of The United Methodist Church is in our hands...not in the general conference's, not in the cabinet's, and not in our children's. It is in **our** hands, no matter what our age, the future of the church is in our hands. Do we really want to be the Body of Christ in the world, or are we content to be a closed community confined by the walls of the church building? Do we really want to live out our faith and transform the world, or are we content to just sit in our pew every Sunday morning?

The church I believe in and am called to be a part of leads the way of offering love and grace to a hurting world, no matter the age, ethnicity, orientation, or social standing of a person. Now, it is up to me to put action behind my belief...how about you? I wish you grace upon grace, Tammy



We in the church say that "we want more people, more young people, more diverse people" but we really don't. Because if we really did, THEN we would do whatever it took and whatever it cost to make sure we were reaching out to more people beyond our church walls, to more young people & to more diverse people in the name of Jesus Christ.

Catch the "UMC Realities" video at <http://vimeo.com/22392014>



by church leadership expert Dr. Lovett H. Weems, Jr., Director of the Lewis Center for Church Leadership at the Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington, DC



We're on the Web
@
<www.easternshore-districtumc.org>

RELIEVE EDITORIAL STRESS:
TURN IN YOUR ARTICLES EARLY!
RE M I N D E R :
DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES IS DEC. 15

- **Tuesday, November 1, 2011**, 8 am, Morning Prayer for Pastors @ Franktown UMC
- **Friday-Sunday, November 4-6, 2011**, Conference UMMen Spiritual Retreat @ VUMAC
- **Saturday, November 5, 2011**, 11-2 pm, District-wide Lay Speakers' Convocation @ Snead Memorial UMC, Painter. (Registration needed)
- **Sunday, November 6, 2011**, Daylight Savings time ends
- **Tuesday, November 8, 2011**, 9-12 noon, District Clergy Assoc. Prog. "Vital Congregations" with presenter Mark Ogren at Franktown UMC
- **Tuesday, November 8, 2011**, 6:30 pm, Leadership Training Committee at the District Office
- **Tuesday, November 8, 2011**, 7:30 pm, (if needed) District Nominations Committee Mtg.
- **Saturday, November 12, 2011**, 10-11 am OOTB General Board Mtg at Camp OOTB
- **Sunday, November 13, 2011**, 4-6 pm, District Conference @ Grace UMC, Parksley
- **Thursday, November 17, 2011**, 7 pm, Agape CCC Board Meeting at the Agape Center (Personnel Committee will meet at 6 pm)
- **Saturday, November 19, 2011**, 9 am, District UMW Day Apart @ Johnsons UMC
- **Monday, November 21, 2011**, 11:30 am, District Lay Leader and Associates meet at D.O.
- **Monday, November 21, 2011**, 7 pm, District Board of Laity meeting at the District Office
- **Tuesday, November 29, 2011**, 8 am, Morning Prayer for Pastors @ Mears Memorial UMC
- **Friday, December 2, 2011**, 6-9 pm Lay Speaking for Youth Part I @ The House of Prayer in Bloxom (continuing on Sat., Dec. 3)
- **Saturday, December 3, 2011**, 10-3 pm Lay Speaking for Youth Part II @ The House of Prayer in Bloxom
- **Tuesday, December 6, 2011**, 8 am, Morning Prayer for Pastors @ Capeville UMC

- **Thursday, December 8, 2011**, 7 pm, OOTB Executive Committee Meeting at Onley UMC
- **Thursday, December 15, 2011**, 7 pm, Agape CCC Board meeting at the Center, Horntown
- **Tuesday, December 27, 2011**, 8 am, Morning Prayer for Pastors (Accomack County)
- **Monday, January 9, 2012**, 7 pm, District Board of Mission meeting at the District Office
- **Thursday, January 12, 2012**, 9-4 pm, District Bd of Ordained Ministry local pastor interviews
- **Thursday, January 12, 2012**, 7 pm, OOTB Executive Committee meeting at Onley UMC
- **Tuesday, January 17-19, 2012**, Ministers' Convocation at VUMAC, Blackstone
- **Wednesday, January 18, 2012**, Deadline for receipt of 2011 apportionments
- **Thursday, January 19, 2012**, 7 pm, Agape CCC Board meeting at the Center, Horntown
- **Saturday, January 28, 2012**, 11 am, Occohannock on the Bay's High Noon Polar Duck Dip
- **Saturday, March 17, 2012**, 8:30 am-3 pm, District Leadership Spring Training @ Nandua Middle School, Onley

(*other District Clergy Association programs and events will be announced by the officers soon. Charge Conference dates have been sent to the pastors and are posted on our website)



Rev. Judy Worthington is one out of 42 persons trained in our conference to serve as a Mission Mentor. She is available to local churches as they begin the process of setting goals and visioning for 2012 and is ready and willing to offer her experience as well as her listening ear to churches seeking renewal and service in mission.

757-678-5228 or jqf@worthington.to

"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
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