



THREE NOTCH'D
DISTRICT
VIRGINIA CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



December 2023 District Dispatch

Peace on Earth

BY REV. HYO J. LEE, PH.D., DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

As we are in this holy season of Advent, the season of "hope, peace, joy, and love," this year the longing for peace is very strong. As I ponder the meaning of "peace," I remembered a sermon topic request. Someone asked, "Pastor, could you talk about peace? Will there be ever peace in the Middle East between the Palestinians and the Israelis?" That was about twenty years ago. Now, as we live in 2023, the conflict in Gaza is agonizingly prolonged, every day more killing and endangering precious lives. The war in Ukraine and Russia is in its second year, still hurting civilians, military personnel, and God's created world. The civil war in Sudan is spiraling out of control, forcing more than a million to flee. And what about the bipartisan politics of our country as we head into an election year? It seems things just keep getting worse and worse. All this makes us desperately search for peace everlasting. How and where will this longing be met? Changing or having another leader does not work. Ending one military conflict is proven to be a temporary solution. Providing peacekeeping troops and necessities of life is good, and we should do it. But all these do not bring us the peace we deeply long for. Then, what?

You may regard me as naïve or idealistic. But this is what I believe. When a person believes in Jesus Christ, who was born in Bethlehem of Judea, and chooses the way of forgiveness and love, rather than the way of vengeance with legions of angels, they are reconciled to their Maker. That they are reconciled to God means they are now bound up, to be whole from their brokenness and the power of death. They become God's beloved and are made anew in the image of God. So, the angels announced, "*Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!*" (Luke 2:14 NRSVUE)

As you celebrate this holy season of Advent, I pray that you, your beloved, and your congregation experience and enjoy God binding you in God's ever-present and everlasting peace.

Peace,
Hyo Joong Lee
District Superintendent

IN THIS ISSUE

DS Message
page 1

Good Shepherd
UMC & Ground-
breaking Initiative
page 2

District Conference
Update,
District Admin
Leader Training,
Upcoming Dates
page 3

District Staff
Messages,
Madison Charge
Serves Firefighters
page 4



Ground-breaking Initiative and Historic Partnership Announced



A NATIONAL PILOT WITH YOUNG ADULTS AGING OUT OF FOSTER CARE

Good Shepherd United Methodist Church (GSUMC) has partnered with the national non-profit **Open Table, Anthem HealthKeepers Plus**, and local organization **Fostering Acadia** to develop a whole health model at the former Chamberlayne Heights UMC campus that will provide housing for young adults ages 21-26 who have aged out of the foster care system.

Through initiatives created to address social determinants of health (SDOH), Anthem HealthKeepers Plus has identified housing instability as it impacts youth aging out of foster care as a priority. As part of this priority, Open Table was selected to implement its Core and Network Table models as part of a national pilot project in collaboration with a local church that could provide housing. Open Table selected Good Shepherd UMC as the partner. This unique partnership model is built on sustainable solutions, a continuum of whole health care, and shared investment built on shared interests and outcomes.

The four individuals living in the house on the GSUMC's 6100 campus will receive:

- Social support and direct community connection through church and community volunteers.
- Focus on economic mobility to enable successful transitions (and potential alleviation of burden on the social support system).
- A housing model through housing placement rather than relying on the already over-burdened continuum of care.

"We thank Anthem HealthKeepers Plus for its funding in establishing this shared purpose initiative to transform the future for these youth, together with Good Shepherd United Methodist Church as the community leader implementing Open Table's relational and social capital support models and employer partnerships," said Jon Katov, CEO and founder of Open Table.

A grant from the Three Notch'd District Board of Church Location and Building, Anthem HealthKeepers Plus sponsorship, and funds from GSUMC financially support the house's renovation. Volunteers from GSUMC, Open Table, Anthem HealthKeepers Plus, and Fostering Acadia recently cleaned and landscaped the house, removing brush and trimming overgrown hedges. The group also removed the carpeting and began preparing the kitchen for renovation.

"I love that we live in a community that places such incredible emphasis on providing safe environments for our youth," said Jennie Reynolds, President of Anthem HealthKeepers Plus of Virginia. "Creating stable homes for older youth who aged out of foster care helps establish the firm foundations needed for positive growth and development."

Jason Brown from Fostering Acadia, an organization that provides independent living arrangements licensed by the Virginia Department of Social Services, added, "Fostering Acadia is grateful to the teams at Anthem, Open Table, and Good Shepherd United Methodist Church for going above and beyond in supporting older youth transitioning out of the foster care system that desperately need housing assistance and support."

Anthem HealthKeepers Plus sponsorship supports the Open Table evidence-based models for two years. GSUMC has donated the use of the house to provide housing for eight participants over this timeframe. Fostering Acadia hopes to screen and select its first tenants in January of 2024.

"The partnership between Anthem HealthKeepers VA Medicaid, The Open Table, and Good Shepherd United Methodist Church is the collaboration that young adults need not only to see but to receive," said Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson, Resident Bishop for the Virginia United Methodist Conference. "It should not be unique that a health organization, a non-profit, and a local church come together to bring about transformation in the lives of those often on the margins of society. We can do better, and the innovative opportunity that this group is offering is a model of how we move beyond our walls - not just buildings but our walls - to offer hope, grace, and love to a world that is hurting."

Anthem HealthKeepers Plus has been a state-wide Medicaid-managed care company since 1996, offering health insurance to over 570,000 Virginians across the Commonwealth, including many low-income mothers and their children. An ongoing commitment to investing in communities is essential to Anthem's whole health strategy. Anthem's Foundation in Virginia strives to improve health by addressing inequities and developing strategic partnerships and programs supporting historically marginalized communities' health. The company's focus areas include improving maternal and child health, encouraging food as medicine, reducing substance use disorder, and providing emergency relief, spending \$5.5 million in the past year throughout Virginia's communities.

District Conference Update

HELD NOVEMBER 18 @WOODLAKE UMC, CHESTERFIELD



On Sat. Nov. 18, 150 laity and clergy gathered at Woodlake UMC for the Called District Conference and Installation of District Superintendent Hyo Joong Lee. The Woodlake Praise Team led us in singing praises to God. Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson gave the charge and blessing for Dr. Lee serving as the District Superintendent for the Three Notch'd District. Youth, clergy and laity participated in the presentation of items representing the ministry of the district superintendent. Dr. Lee gave the message "Interim Discipleship Invite" and communion was served.

For the business portion of the District Conference, reports were heard from Mr. Don Vaught and the District Leadership Board (DLB), Ms. Susan Custer and the District Board of Church Location and Building (DBCLB), Rev. Sarah Sealand and the District Committee on Ministry, and district staff - Rev. Pam Anderson and Rev. Jim Chandler. Rev. Wayne Snead (retired) and Rev. Liz Petry (Madison Charge) were elected to serve on the DLB. Rev. Diana Foster (Kenwood UMC), Ms. Katie Frooman (Trinity UMC - Orange), and Mr. Kelly Weiss (Culpeper UMC) were approved to serve on the DBCLB. Their names will be brought forward for election at the 2024 Annual Conference. Dr. Lee recognized the service of outgoing Associate Lay Leader Mr. John Glass (Restoration UMC) and welcomed incoming Associate Lay Leader Mr. George Batten (Charlottesville First UMC).

Eight youth will serve as youth lay members to Annual Conference: Adeline Sokolowski, Chloe Pruitt, Ethan Foster, Hannah Foster, Lydia Green, Peyton Smith, Rilee Feagan, and Ryan Zimmerman.

The following persons were elected to serve as our 82 Lay Members to Annual Conference: Angela Coleman, Angela Sokolowski, Arthur Utley, Ashley Bailey, Bane Vaughn, Bert Asby, Bessie Owens, Betty J. Walker, Bill Stead, Brad McCoy, Brenda NeSmith, C. Rives Priddy, Carol Chase, Carol Justis, Chad Sokolowski, Chris Reffett, Clark Williams, Claude Stocky, Claudia Evans, David Conant, David Goodwin, Dawn McCoy, DeAnn Posey, Deborah Dietrich, Dian McNaught, Elicia Preslan, Emily Eaton, Emma Tompkins, George Batten, Hardy Graves, Harry Newman, James Crowder, Janie Nuttall, Jessie Swann, Jill Gaynor, Jill Lynn, Joanne Barreca, Joanne Davis Worley, Joe Posey, John D. Glass, John Fuller, Judee Showalter, Judy Morris, Katy White, Kay Lee, Kevin Keeney, Kip Robinson, Kitty Mann, Larry O'Dell, Laura Maher, Lew Byrd, Linda O'Dell, Linda Stead, Lisa Turner, Margaret Ann Webster, Maria Maxwell, Mark V. Snider, Marshall Bailey, MaryKaye Cochran, Mike S. Nelson, Myrna Graves, Nancy Tingle, Nina Cortada Winkler, Rebecca Wagner, Robert Stephens, Roberta Smith, Ron Sims, Rosa Lewis, Ryan Thore, Sandra B. Thornton, Sandra Sowder, Sandy Parker, Scotty Doyle, Steve Holliday, Sue Lewis, Susan Custer, Susan Gross, Susan S. Newman, Tim Chase, Tina Taylor, Tom Wagstaff, and Victoria Megginson



District Admin Leader Training

SUN. JAN. 21 BY ZOOM

All newly elected church leaders should make plans to attend the District Administrative Leader Training being offered by Zoom on Sunday, January 21, 2024. To register for the training and receive the Zoom link, please use the links below:

Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Training, 2:00-3:30pm, register [here](#)

Trustees Training, 2:00-3:30pm, register [here](#)

Finance Training, 4:00-5:30pm, register [here](#)

Lay Leader Training, 4:00-5:30pm, register [here](#)

If you need assistance with registering, please contact the District Office.

Upcoming Dates

WWW.THREENOTCHD.ORG/CALENDAR/

Dec. 25-Jan. 1 - District Office closed

Jan. 1 - Joint Pastor-S/PPRC Appointment Preference Form Due to District Office

Jan. 11 - District Board of Church Location and Building meeting 4pm by Zoom

Jan. 16 - Youth Ministry Lunch 11am at Discovery UMC

Jan. 18 - District Leadership Board meeting 1pm by Zoom

Jan. 21 - District Administrative Leader Training by Zoom

Feb. 1 - United Methodist Day at the General Assembly (visit www.vaumc.org/umday/ for more info)

At the Edge of Uncomfortable

BY REV. JIM CHANDLER, INNOVATIONS COORDINATOR

One of my favorite poems is one attributed to Sir Francis Drake in 1577:

Disturb us, Lord, when
We are too well pleased with ourselves,
When our dreams have come true
Because we have dreamed too little,
When we arrived safely
Because we sailed too close to the shore.
Disturb us, Lord, to dare more boldly,
To venture on wider seas
Where storms will show your mastery;
Where losing sight of land,
We shall find the stars.
We ask You to push back
The horizons of our hopes;
And to push into the future
In strength, courage, hope, and love.

It is one of my favorites, but it is also one of the most haunting poems because these words constantly challenge me to not settle for the safe and easy paths already forged, but to be willing—even eager—to lean into faith, to take risks in order to live more fully into mission and calling.

It is at what someone called “the edge of uncomfortable” that we begin to learn more, grow more, and become more effective in reaching new people with the grace and love of Christ. As you and your church prepare to move into a new year, I encourage you to pray boldly and then to act boldly in trying some new approaches to reach people in your community. I encourage you to not just approach “the edge of uncomfortable”, but to go beyond it, taking faith-filled risks in pursuing your mission.

Blogger Seth Godin said, “The problem with putting it all on the line is that it might not work out. The problem with not putting it all on the line is that it will never (ever) change things for the better. Not much of a choice, I think.”

If your church is interested in experimenting with new ways to reach people in your community in 2024 through things like Fresh Expressions, please reach out to me at jimchandler@vaumc.org. I would love to help in any way I can!

Shift 2.0

BY REV. PAM ANDERSON, VITALITY COORDINATOR

Looking for More Effective Ways to Do Ministry? Your District can help! Assessing your Hospitality, Worship Lifestyle, Discipleship, Service, and/or Generosity are base areas to start. We can work through Phil Maynard’s Shift 2.0 Activation worksheets together. Schedule a chat with Pam Anderson @ (804) 521-1125 or pamelaanderson@vaumc.org.



Madison Charge Serves Firefighters

BY REV. LIZ PETRY, PASTOR, MADISON CHARGE

On Monday, November 6, members of the Madison Charge (Madison UMC and Rose Park UMC) were privileged to serve our local firefighters and forestry officers who are fighting the Quaker Run Fire in Madison County and Shenandoah National Forest. We created 95 lunch bags, and 200 breakfast sandwiches and coffee. We ask for prayer for all those who are working to keep us safe. Many of these same firefighters were instrumental in saving Rose Park back in January.



District Leadership

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Associate Lay Leaders -
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Dian McNaught, William &
Linda Stead
Treasurer - Tina Gudgel
Andy Glascott - Youth
Coordinator (Richmond area)
Rebecca Wagner - Youth
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(Charlottesville area)
Linda Porter - United Women
in Faith President



Merry Christmas!