



Hope and Hoping in God

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

We just recently celebrated Thanksgiving and Black Friday, followed by yet another shopping phenomenon—Cyber Monday, which some of us may not be as familiar with. Meanwhile, many of us are still either excited or trying to make sense of the election results.

Amidst all this, there is at least one piece of good news: about a week ago, a ceasefire was reached between Hezbollah and Israel. However, today, CBS's Debora Patta reports:

"Last week's truce between Israel and Hezbollah in Lebanon gave renewed impetus to negotiations for a Gaza ceasefire. But in Lebanon, people had not even had time to bury those killed in the past two months before the ceasefire started looking shaky, with accusations of violations on both sides."

(<https://www.cbsnews.com/video/ceasefire-between-israel-and-hezbollah-on-shaky-ground/>).

As we enter the season of Advent and reflect on the first Sunday of Advent—the Sunday of Hope—some important truths come to mind:

- Isn't it obvious that buying newer, shinier things at a bargain price cannot give us the lasting hope or joy we truly long for?
- Isn't it true that pinning our hopes on a human figure, no matter how promising he or she may seem, is not wise—and might even be idolatrous as Jesus is our only Savior and Lord?
- Further, hasn't history repeatedly shown us that while military ceasefires are far better than ongoing violence, sadly they are never permanent?

This is why the Psalmist calls us to place our attention and trust in God, who alone offers true and everlasting hope. Psalm 146 reminds us:

Praise for God's Help

1 Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord, O my soul!

*3 Do not put your trust in princes,
in mortals, in whom there is no help.*

*4 When their breath departs, they return to the earth;
on that very day their plans perish.*

*5 Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the Lord their God,*

(Continued on page 3)



THREE NOTCH'D
DISTRICT
BOLDLY FORGING DISCIPLESHIP PATHS

District Dispatch December 2024

Message from District
Superintendent

PAGE 01 & 03

Senior Luncheon,
Pace Center Thanksgiving,
UM Day at General Assembly

PAGE 02

NoVa District Training,
District Youth Retreat

PAGE 03

District Conference Update,
Cluster Thanksgiving Service

PAGE 04

Madison UMC Senior Luncheon

BY REV. LIZ PETRY

We hosted our first senior luncheon on November 7. Forty senior citizens attended. We enjoyed soup, ham biscuits, and cookies. A local group of seniors provided music and we had an impromptu hymn sing. (Pictured on first page)



Pace Center Thanksgiving Potluck

BY JEAN LINNELL

Before fall break, Pace students, along with members of Reville United Methodist Church, hosted a Thanksgiving Potluck. The event marked the beginning of the holiday season for many of the students. People brought dishes - some from their family's culture - and each table talked about what they were thankful for and how their family shows thankfulness and gratitude. Here are some of the things participants shared:

"My family tradition is having a prayer before we have our meal."

"I'm thankful for my new friends and how vibrant the community is!"

"I learned from my parents that sharing thankfulness happens through prayers, gifts, service, and being there."

"I'm thankful for my family - both blood and chosen."

"I'm thankful for support from my community, family, and friends to make change in my community."

"Thankful for friends, family, and FASFA!"

At Pace, we're thankful for your prayers and support this holiday season!

Your church can get involved by making Exam Goody Bags: Final exams are right around the corner. Your Sunday School class can encourage VCU students to keep going by making Exam Goody Bags. Goody Bags should be delivered by December 9. [Learn more](#)



UM Day at General Assembly January 30, 2025

United Methodist Day at the General Assembly will be held on January 30, 2025. We will have arranged visits with our Senators to discuss issues that are relevant to our faith with direction from our friends and partners at Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy (VICPP). You also have the opportunity to speak to your Delegates if you plan the visit and we can help you schedule that if needed. One of the ways we put our faith in action is by advocating for the least, the last, and the lost at the General Assembly. We hope that you will come and join us in Richmond as we continue our legacy as change makers here in our Commonwealth.

LOCATION: Pace Center, 700 Franklin Street, Richmond

TIME: 7:30am - 3:00pm

COST: **Early registration \$25 through December 20.** Regular registration \$35 through January 17. Student registration \$10. Includes light breakfast, lunch and transportation to and from the General Assembly building.

[Click here to register online.](#)

For more information, contact Heather Wray, heatherwray@vaumc.org.

NOTE: Buses/vans and drivers are needed to transport attendees to and from the Pace Center on January 30. Please email [Joe Brancoli](#) or [Wenda Singer](#) if you can help.

NoVa District Training Offered January 11

IN-PERSON AND SATELLITE OPTIONS AVAILABLE

NoVa District Training Day returns on Saturday, January 11, 2025! This year features three Keynote Speakers and three different ways to engage with Training Day.

This year's theme is Go! Make Disciples! Transform the World! and features keynotes from Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson (Richmond Episcopal Area) and Bishop Ken H. Carter, Jr. (Charlotte Episcopal Area) as well as an afternoon workshop with Michael Beck (Director of Fresh Expressions for The United Methodist Church). The Three Notch'd District is partnering with the NoVa District and offering two satellite locations - Culpeper UMC (Culpeper) and St. Mark's UMC (Midlothian) for the training.*


Event Schedule

- 8:00 a.m. -- Doors Open (Host & Satellite Sites)
- 8:30 a.m. -- Welcome & Worship
- 9:00 a.m. -- Keynote 1 (Bishop Sue)
- 10:45 a.m. -- Keynote 2 (Bishop Carter)
- 12:15 p.m. -- Lunch Break
- 1:15 p.m. -- Afternoon Workshop (Michael Beck - Satellite & Virtual, or Workshop Choice - In Person)

Ticket Types

- In Person \$65:** In Person attendees will select their choice of Afternoon Workshop and will have full access to the Video Library. Lunch is provided with optional Lunchtime Roundtable conversations.
- Virtual \$50:** Purchasing a Virtual Ticket gives you access to the live Keynote Sessions as well as Michael Beck's Afternoon Workshop. Also includes access to the Video Library at the close of the event.
- Satellite \$45:** Satellite Tickets include two Keynote presentations and Michael Beck's Afternoon Workshop. Lunch is provided.

[Click here to register.](#) Registration closes January 8. For questions about satellite registration, please contact Rev. Pam Anderson, pamelaanderson@vaumc.org, 804-521-1125. All other questions may be directed to NoVaDistrict@vaumc.org.



NORTHERN VIRGINIA DISTRICT TRAINING DAY



Go! Make Disciples! Transform the World!

In Person, Satellite, & Virtual Options

+ ADDITIONAL WORKSHOPS, SPEAKERS, & TRAINING!

Saturday, January 11, 2025



District Youth Retreat February 21-23, 2025

All interested youth and youth leaders are invited to the Three Notch'd District Youth Retreat at Westview on the James February 21-23. The cost is \$135 per person and includes lodging and six meals. For more information, please contact Andy Glascott, youth@mtpisgahva.org or Rebecca Wagner, wagnerwimps@yahoo.com.

D.S. Message (Continued from p. 1)

*6 who made heaven and earth,
the sea, and all that is in them;
who keeps faith [faithfulness]
forever;*

*7 who executes justice for the
oppressed;
who gives food to the hungry...*

*10 The Lord will reign forever,
your God, O Zion, for all
generations.*

*Praise the Lord! (Bold and [] are
added, NRSV)*

As we journey through this season of Advent, I wish you and your loved ones the blessings of Christ's hope, joy, peace, and love. Above all, may your heart be filled with God's everlasting hope.

In the Lord,

District Conference Update

HELD NOVEMBER 17 @ALDRERSGATE UMC

On Sun., Nov. 17, approximately 120 laity and clergy gathered at Aldersgate UMC for District Conference. Rev. Chip Giessler welcomed everyone to Aldersgate UMC and Revs. Hosub Sung and Liz Petry led the opening hymn "Here I Am, Lord". District Superintendent Jay Carey, Living Waters District, delivered the message "Sharing God's Love." D.S. Hyo Lee and Rev. Renee Delgado presided at the Service of Word and Table.

For the business portion of the District Conference, reports were heard from Mr. Don Vaught and the District Leadership Board (DLB), Mr. Jim Mallon and the District Board of Church Location and Building (DBCLB), Rev. Sarah Sealand and the District Committee on Ministry, and Rev. Pam Anderson, District Vitality Coordinator. In addition, Rev. Giessler gave a brief presentation on "Faith Sharing", which will be a district training topic offered in the spring. Laura Vassar (Mt. Pleasant - Amherst) and Mark Snider (Shady Grove - Mechanicsville) were elected to serve on the DLB. Rev. Mike Mayton (Bon Air), Kip Robinson (Lakeside), and Bessie Owens (Wesley Memorial Richmond) were approved to serve on the DBCLB. Their names will be brought forward for election at the 2025 Annual Conference. Dr. Lee recognized the service of outgoing Associate Lay Leaders Bill and Linda Stead and Dian McNaught.

Three youth will serve as youth lay members to Annual Conference: Lydia Ohlendorf, Rilee Feagan, and Ryan Zimmerman.

Four young adults will serve as young adult lay members to Annual Conference: Adeline Sokolowski, Amanda Armstrong, Ashley Bailey, and Emma Megginson.

The following persons were elected to serve as our 87 Lay Members to Annual Conference: A. Regina Leftwich, Amy Tompkins, Angela Coleman, Angela Sokolowski, Ann Marie Pfaff, Arthur Utley, Bane Vaughn, Bert Asby, Bessie Owens, Bill Stead, Brad McCoy, Brenda NeSmith, Bruce Sofinski, Bruce Wagner, C. Rives Priddy, Carol Chase, Carol Justis, Chad Sokolowski, Clark Williams, Claude F. Stocky, Claudia Evans, David Goodwin, Dawn McCoy, De Ann Posey, Debra George, Dian McNaught, Diane Ladd, Elicia Preslan, Frank Osburn, Gayle L. Reese, Harry E. Newman, Jack Dalaba, James Byers, Janice Fitts, Jessie L. Swann, Jill Gaynor, Jim Berlin, Jim Crowder, Joanne Davis Worley, Joe Posey, John D. Glass, John Fuller, Judee Showalter, Judy Morris, Karl Helmstetter, Kathryn (Kitti) Mann, Kathy Berlin, Katy White, Kay Lee, Kip Robinson, Laura Maher, Linda Guilmar, Linda Stead, Lindsay Walton, Lisa Hanrahan, Margaret Ann Webster, Maria Weiss, Mark V. Snider, Marshall Bailey, MaryKaye Cochran, Maureen McKay Riley, Mike S. Nelson, Miky Reaux, Myrna Graves, Nancy Anderson, Nancy Seese, Nina Cortada Winkler, Priscilla Scherrah, Ray Reaux, Rebecca Wagner, Robert Pattison, Roberta Smith, Sandra Sowder, Sandy Parker, Scotty Doyle, Sharon Wray, Stephanie McClain, Sue Lewis, Sue Smith, Susan Custer, Susan Leonard Little, Susan S. Newman, Tim Chase, Tina Taylor, Tom Wagstaff, Vicki Keith, and Wilma (Willi) Dalaba.



Cluster Thanksgiving Service November 24

The Culpeper Cluster gathered for worship at Hopewell UMC on Sunday, November 24. Helping lead the service were the following clergy: Mike Evans, Won Lee, Liz Petry, and Hosub Sung. Church and family members enjoyed the lovely service and fellowship.

Three Notch'd District Leadership

Three Notch'd District Office
10330 Staples Mill Road
Glen Allen, VA 23060

MAIL: PO Box 5606, Glen
Allen, VA 23058

PHONE: 804.521.1124

EMAIL: TNDistrict@vaumc.org

Area Bishop - Rev. Sue Hauptert-Johnson

District Superintendent - Rev. Hyo J. Lee, Ph.D.

Innovation Coordinator - Rev. Jim Chandler

Vitality Coordinator - Rev. Pam Anderson

Property Manager & DBCLB Chair - Jim Mallon

DLB Chair - Don Vaught

Executive Administrator - MaryKaye Cochran

Lay Leader - Elizabeth Farrell

Associate Lay Leaders - George Batten, Susan Custer

Treasurer - Tina Gudgel

Youth Coordinator (Richmond area) - Andy Glascott

Youth Coordinator (Charlottesville area) - Rebecca Wagner

UWF President - Linda Porter

