



NOVEMBER 2024

DISTRICT DISPATCH

Official Newsletter of the Three Notch'd District

Heartfelt Thanks & Inspiring Story Shared

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

On Sunday, November 3, at 5:00 PM, we held our final cluster charge conference of the year at Duncan Memorial UMC in Ashland, with the theme “More Joy,” inspired by abiding in the love of Christ and seeking out and saving the lost (Luke 15:1-7). The conference was well attended, and the stories and plans shared deeply touched my heart and the hearts of the attendees. I know that charge conferences involved extensive preparation and was very time-consuming. So, from the bottom of my heart, thank you for a job well done and for your diligent and faithful ministry.

During the 13 cluster charge conferences, the most exciting moments were during the sharing times, when we learned about what you are doing to reach out to people in the community and your plans for new and innovative outreach. Many wonderful stories and plans were presented: the Welcome Neighbor Wagon Outreach, Young Adult and Young Family-Focused Outreach, Monthly Community Luncheons to address food shortages and connect with neighbors, Medical Supply Ministries, a Cluster Serve Day with over 500 worshipers who then went out to serve their neighbors, Cluster Youth Collaboration, building handicap ramps, supporting foster care youth and young adults, and an Outreach Program for underprivileged neighborhood children with arts and fun activities. These are just some of the many faithful and inspiring efforts being made—thank you for sharing these wonderful stories.

One initiative in particular stood out to me: a new small-group ministry started by Palmyra UMC. Pastor Sung Yoo and Palmyra have launched five new small groups that meet in homes and local restaurants. According to Pastor Sung, “People have fun, pray together, and share, and through these small groups, they even invite their friends and neighbors to experience God’s love.” This reminded me of what Jesus did with his twelve disciples and what John Wesley accomplished through Class and Band meetings. With data showing that as many as 50% of Americans suffer from loneliness, offering an authentic and caring small group experience in our communities could truly change and even save lives. Would you consider utilizing this biblical and Wesleyan model of discipleship through small groups for your church?

As we enter the season of Thanksgiving and the anticipation of our Savior’s birth, may you be filled with heavenly peace and joy.

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Louisa/Orange Cluster Rise Against Hunger Event

BY REV. DAN ALBRANT, MINERAL - MT. PLEASANT CHARGE

On October 20th, the Louisa/Orange Cluster gathered for a Rise Against Hunger event. We had 35 people (including three pastors) from four UMCs (Trinity Orange, Louisa, Mount Pleasant and Mineral). In just under two hours, we packaged 10,152 meals. New relationships were formed and all had a fun and meaningful time to celebrate Laity Sunday.



District Conference

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17

On Sunday, November 17, 3:00pm, laity and clergy are invited to attend the annual District Conference to be held at Aldersgate UMC, 1500 Rio Road, Charlottesville. Please note that **this is a change in location**. This year's District Conference will include a message by District Superintendent Jay Carey from the Living Waters District. We will celebrate communion and hear reports from district board chairs. In addition, voting will take place for district board leaders and district lay members to the 2025 Annual Conference.

UM Day at General Assembly

JANUARY 30, 2025

In the Virginia Conference, we have been change makers in our great Commonwealth for over 30 years. The 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.



Three Notch'd District clergy & laity at the 2024 UM Day at the General Assembly

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.



District Superintendents Jay Carey, Victor Gomez & Hyo Lee & Bishop Sue at the 2023 District Conference

NOVA District Training Day January 11

TWO SATELLITE LOCATIONS - CULPEPER & ST. MARK'S UMCS

The Three Notch'd District is excited to partner with the Northern Virginia District for this year's Training Day on Saturday, January 11. The NOVA District Training Day is an annual event designed to equip, encourage and empower clergy and laity in their ministry. This year's theme is *Go! Make Disciples! Transform the World!* and features keynotes from Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson, Bishop Ken Carter, Jr., and Rev. Michael Beck. We will have satellite locations at Culpeper UMC (Culpeper) and St. Mark's UMC (Midlothian). The cost to attend a satellite location is \$45/person and includes three keynote presentations, fellowship and conversation, and lunch. To register, use this link: <https://2025.novatrainingday.com>. For questions or assistance registering, contact Rev. Pam Anderson, pamelaanderson@vaumc.org, 804-521-1125.

What Are We doing in Worship?

BY JOHN WITVLIET

D.S. Lee recommends this podcast provided by Alban at Duke Divinity School. In the podcast, Prince Rivers talks with John Witvliet, director of the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship and Professor of Worship, Theology, and Congregational Ministry Studies at Calvin University and Calvin Theological Seminary. Discussion topics include:

- How worship leaders can balance maintaining tradition and being innovative
- Creating opportunities for pastors and musicians to learn together
- Involving youth in worship
- And more!

[Click here to access the podcast link.](#)

Congregational Care Workshop

BY REV. BRYAN MCCLAIN,
PROVIDENCE UMC (CHESTERFIELD)

On Sunday, November 3, the RVA Cluster met at Bon Air UMC for a Congregational Care workshop. The Rev. Judy Oguich (Trinity UMC - Richmond) and The Rev. Shayne Estes (Central and Christ UMCS) presented. The clergy and laity very much appreciated the workshop and were interested in doing more beyond the workshop. The RVA Cluster hopes to have a follow-up meeting as everyone found the time together to be helpful and encouraging.



THREE NOTCH'D
DISTRICT

BOLDLY FORGING DISCIPLESHIP PATHS



NORTHERN VIRGINIA
DISTRICT TRAINING DAY



Go! Make Disciples! Transform the World!

In Person, Satellite, & Virtual Options

+ ADDITIONAL WORKSHOPS, SPEAKERS, & TRAINING!

Saturday, January 11, 2025

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Innovation Coordinator - Rev. Jim Chandler
Vitality Coordinator - Rev. Pam Anderson
Property Manager - Jim Mallon
Executive Administrator - MaryKaye Cochran
Lay Leader - Elizabeth Farrell
Associate Lay Leaders - George Batten, Susan Custer, Dian McNaught, William & Linda Stead
Treasurer - Tina Gudgel
Youth Coordinator (Richmond area) - Andy Glascott
Youth Coordinator (Charlottesville area) - Rebecca Wagner
UWF President - Linda Porter