

JANUARY 2025

DISTRICT DISPATCH

Official Newsletter of the Three Notch'd District

Faithfulness to the End

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

I wish you a Blessed New Year filled with God's abiding presence and guidance for you, your family, your church family, and the community you serve, bringing forth the fruits of love, joy, and peace.

As we celebrated New Year's Eve, hoping for a better and more peaceful 2025, we were met with the sad news of the passing of Jimmy Carter, the 39th president of the United States and the 2002 Nobel Peace Prize laureate. President Carter passed away peacefully on Sunday, December 29, at his home in Plains, Georgia.

Regardless of political affiliations or perspectives, many recognize President Carter as a humble, kind, and faithful servant of God who dedicated his life to caring for the poor and advocating for peace. I recently watched footage of the hearse carrying him to his childhood home in Georgia, accompanied by reflections on his modest beginnings in a home without running water or a bathroom. It was clear how deeply he cherished the values of family, community, and faith.

Hearing these stories brought to mind the Apostle Paul's words in 2 Timothy 4:6-8:

6 As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come.

7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

8 From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

President Carter exemplified these words. He was a man of faith who lived with humility, kindness, and respect, embodying core Christian values. To me, he stands as a symbol of Christian faithfulness and servant leadership. Reflecting on his life, I find myself praying: "Lord, let me be faithful as Paul was, as President Carter was—to You, to sharing Your love with all, and to finishing the race of faith until the day of Christ."

I pray that you, your family, and your church family remain steadfast in faithfulness to the Lord and His kingdom work until the day we are called home.



THREE NOTCH'D
DISTRICT
BOLDLY FORGING DISCIPLESHIP PATHS

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DISTRICT TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

JANUARY 11, 12, 23, 26, & FEBRUARY 20

It's a new year and we are looking forward to being together in numerous training opportunities. As a leader, we know how valuable it is to continue learning and growing so our ministries may flourish and grow.

District Training opportunities this first quarter are the following:

Saturday, January 11 - NoVa District Training - "Go! Make disciples! Transform the world!" - in person or at a satellite location (Culpeper UMC or St. Mark's UMC - Midlothian). The deadline to register is today, January 8, by 12noon. Please click [here](#) to access the registration link.

Sunday, January 12 - Mission Rivers Training for Lay Leaders at 7:00pm by Zoom. Please click [here](#) to register.

Thursday, January 23 - "The impact of social media on the spiritual development of teens and young adults" presented at the Hermitage Richmond, 10:00am-1:00pm. This event is free and includes lunch. Clergy may receive .5 CEU for the event. For more information and/or to register, please contact Chaplain Steve Flowers, 804-474-1881, sflowers@pinnacleliving.org.

Sunday, January 26 - Church Admin Training - Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Committee and Trustees Sessions will be offered by Zoom at 2:00pm. Please click [here](#) for SPPRC training or click [here](#) for Trustee training.

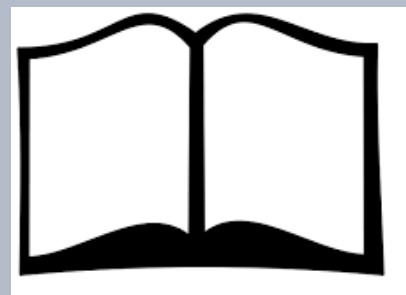
Thursday, February 20 - Church Admin Training - Finance Committee and Lay Leader Sessions will be offered by Zoom at 7:00pm. To register, click [here](#) for Finance training or click [here](#) for Lay Leader training.

For questions or assistance, please contact the District Office, 804-521-1124 or TNDistrict@vaumc.org.



“Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other.”

-JOHN F. KENNEDY



District Youth Retreat - "Building Blocks" February 21-23, 2025

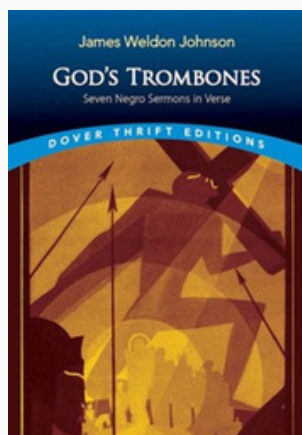
All interested youth and youth leaders are invited to the Three Notch'd District Youth Retreat at Westview on the James February 21-23. The cost is \$135 per person and includes lodging and six meals. Please note that the price increases to \$150 after January 17. To sign up your group, click [here](#). For more information, please contact Andy Glascott, andy@notminebutyours.net, or Rebecca Wagner, wagnerwimps@yahoo.com.

JOB OPENINGS

SEEKING CHILDCARE PROVIDER, CHOIR DIRECTOR

Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church (Charlottesville) is looking for a **weekly childcare provider** to care for children 0 – 5th grade every Sunday morning from 10:45 am - 12:15 pm. The children will be separated ages 0-2, 3-kindergarden, and 1st-5th grade, and one childcare provider will be assigned to each group. Attendance typically ranges from 1 to 10 children, depending on the week. The childcare provider will work alongside at least one volunteer from the congregation every week. Pay is \$30/Sunday. For a complete position description and/or to apply, please send an email to tatum@wesleymumc.org.

Ivy Creek UMC (Charlottesville) is hiring a **part-time choir director** to join our leadership team and reinvigorate our Chancel Choir program. In the past, our Chancel Choir has led the Sunday morning worship service and has presented special music performances during Advent/Christmas and Lent/Easter. Our choir currently has approximately 12 volunteers who can perform a wide variety of pieces and styles. Rehearsals are typically once weekly. Expected time commitment is 10-15 hours and pay is \$28/hour. For more information and or to apply, please email icumcmusic@gmail.com.



BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION FOR FOR MLK JR

This Sunday, January 12, 2:00pm at Asbury UMC located in Richmond's historic Church Hill area, will host a special birthday celebration in honor of Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday and based on the book by James Weldon Johnson "God's Trombones". James Weldon Johnson (1871–1938) was a revered African American civil rights leader, diplomat, lawyer, novelist, poet, and songwriter in the Harlem Renaissance. Johnson coauthored the hymn "Lift Every Voice and Sing," known as the Black national anthem. *God's Trombones*, one of Johnson's most celebrated works, transforms seven uplifting spiritual sermons of African American preachers into poetry. *God's Trombones* equates the Black oral tradition and its characteristic cadence with the sweeping tonal ranges of the trombone, which most closely resembles the human voice. This service will feature seven female pastors, mostly United Methodist clergywomen from our District, who will be reading the sermonettes. The service will also include diverse music, including the Chester UMC praise team, a flutist, and well-known African American spirituals. Asbury UMC is located at 324 North 29th Street, Richmond, VA 23223, and is pastored by the Rev. Lynda Moore. For more information, please contact Pastor Lynda, lyndamoore@vaumc.org.



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: 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](mailto:Joe.Brancoli) or [Wenda Singer](mailto:Wenda.Singer) if you can help.

WESLEY FOUNDATION NEWS

CAMPUS MINISTRIES AT UVA, VCU

The Wesley Foundation at UVA continues to prioritize relationships. At a university with over 20,000 undergraduate and graduate students, Wesley at UVA helps students find meaningful community, listening to their stories and valuing them. This is a place where transformative relationships with God and others happen. Wesley invites students to ask questions that help them navigate their faith, join small groups to share about their highs and lows and in-betweens of life, and find a community that nurtures their college experience. This fall saw the completion of Phase 1 of the Game Room renovation. Lighting, ceiling tiles, walls and furniture were all updated. New flooring is scheduled to be put in this summer. For more information, visit www.wesleyatuva.org.



The Pace Center, the Wesley Foundation at Virginia Commonwealth University, enjoyed two recitals at the end of the fall semester. Bailey held her Junior Voice Recital and Janelle held her Senior Dance Recital. Rev. Russ Kerr noted “It’s meaningful to students when their community comes together to support their creative endeavors. It lets them know that we are here for them and we care. That’s why we go to these events and why I encourage other Pace students to attend with me.”

Ways your church can get involved:

Food Donation Sign Up: Last year, local congregants served over 1275 meals to hungry college students at VCU. We need your help to continue fighting food insecurity on VCU’s campus next spring! [Sign up to donate food or prepare a meal in Spring 2025](#)

Racial Justice Network Hosts Conference March 1

The Racial Justice Network and the Cornelius Corps (www.corneliuscorps.org) will host a conference, “Journey to Healing”, on Sat. Mar. 1, 10:00am-4:00pm, at Belmont UMC in Richmond. The conference will focus on building relationships as noted in Jemar Tisby’s A.R.C. model for racial justice. Churches are encouraged to send a team of 10 people. The cost is \$20/person and includes lunch and light refreshments. Registration is available [here](#).

Three Notch’d District Leadership

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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 & District Board of Church Location & Building Chair - Jim Mallon
District Leadership Board 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

