



FEBRUARY 2025

# DISTRICT DISPATCH

Official Newsletter of the Three Notch'd District

## Following Christ in Times Like These

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

As we seek to follow and serve the Lord in an ever-changing world, the words of Dietrich Bonhoeffer come to mind: “The Church is the Church only when it exists for others . . . not dominating, but helping and serving. It must tell [humans] of every calling what it means to live for Christ, to exist for others.”

I also find myself returning to the inaugural message of our Lord and King, Jesus Christ, in Luke 4: “When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

*‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor.*

*He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives  
and recovery of sight to the blind,  
to set free those who are oppressed,*

*to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.’” (Luke 4:16-19, NRSVUE)*

When leaders are inaugurated into office, they deliver an address outlining their vision and priorities. For Jesus, His mission was clear—it was about caring for the poor.

I see a pattern at work here. When people fall into extreme “poverty”, they sell everything, sometimes even their own children. If they still have nothing to eat, they borrow at exorbitant rates, sinking further into debt. With no means to repay, they become “captives,” imprisoned by their circumstances. Sickness—“blindness,” malnutrition, and other ailments—soon follow. No wonder Jesus healed the sick, the crippled, the invalid, the lepers, and the blind. These individuals were truly “oppressed”—weighed down by multiple layers of hardship and an unjust social system.

Anointed by the Holy Spirit, Jesus proclaimed the good news, fed the hungry, and set the captives free, restoring them to the dignity of those created in God’s image—in the spirit of “Jubilee”.

This is not about protesting with signs and slogans, nor about intentionally obstructing or breaking the law. It is about living out the core teachings of Scripture—caring for the poor, the orphans, the widows, and the downtrodden.

Would you, as laity and clergy, come together to pray, study relevant resources, and discern the best ways to follow Christ’s example in action? When we do this, we will truly be known as His disciples by our love (John 13:35).



## This issue:

Message from our D.S.  
PAGE 01

February Events,  
Rose Park UMC is Back,  
Website Training to be Offered  
PAGE 02

Conference Resources,  
Accompanist Needed,  
District Youth Retreat,  
Lay Servant Academy,  
AGCC Mentors Needed  
PAGE 03

March Events  
PAGE 04

# FEBRUARY EVENTS & TRAINING OFFERED

**FEBRUARY 15** - The United Women in Faith are inviting you to their annual Racial Justice Program honoring the United Methodist Charter for



## United Women in Faith

Racial Justice. On Sat. Feb. 15, 9:00-11:30am, Just Neighbors is presenting "Racial Inequality in Immigration Law," a program that focuses on racial inequity by their Director of Legal Services, Ms. Dominique Poirier. The agenda, resource information, and Zoom link will be shared when confirming each registration. Click [HERE](#) to register.

**FEBRUARY 18** - MLK Jr.'s Unfinished Agenda:

Tues., Feb. 18, 7:00pm-8:30pm via Zoom  
This one session workshop focuses on the last two years of Dr. King's life when he emphasized confronting the "giant triplets of evil" - racism, war, and poverty. His unfinished agenda is a call to continue that journey today.



Click [HERE](#) to view the electronic flyer. Click [HERE](#) to register.

**FEBRUARY 20 - Church Admin Training - Finance Committee and Lay Leader Sessions** will be offered by Zoom at 7:00

pm. To register, click [here](#) for Finance training or click [here](#) for Lay Leader training.

NOTE: Trustee and Pastor-Parish Relations Training Sessions were offered last month. Recordings of the session are available on the district website at [www.threenotchd.org/resources/](http://www.threenotchd.org/resources/). For questions or assistance, please contact the District Office, 804-521-1124, [TNDistrict@vaumc.org](mailto:TNDistrict@vaumc.org).



### FREE WEBSITE TRAINING AVAILABLE



Why create and improve your website? In order to increase your accessibility, outreach and engagement, community building, online giving, modern image, mobile responsiveness, and search engine optimization. Websites are hubs for information, attracting new members, values, and providing essential details like service contact information to both existing and newcomers,

while also enabling features like on-line giving, event registration, and access to digital sermon archives, which can significantly enhance engagement and outreach within the community. The District has a relationship with the Ridgefield Group to help you kick off a basic website infrastructure. They offer free training for those identified as **church content developers**. Please prayerfully consider volunteering to maintain your local church site and reach out to [pamelaanderson@vaumc.org](mailto:pamelaanderson@vaumc.org) to schedule an information session!



## ROSE PARK UMC TWO YEARS LATER

Pictured above - worship at Rose Park UMC two years after a fire devastated their sanctuary

Pictured below - restored transom at Rose Park UMC

*"Two years ago, some of you walked in this very place with me and everything was black. One year ago a few of us gathered in the evening and prayed for the restoration. It was dark, the walls and ceilings were gone, but we focused on the light and the hope as we prayed in this space. Today, we are back. Look around for a moment. Close your eyes and smile at the memories you've shared in this place. It is a new space, a divine space, and all of the time, work, and energy has been given in honor of the glory of God." - The Rev. Liz Petry, Madison Charge pastor's opening words for worship on Sun., Jan. 26, 2025.*



*"[Love] always protects,  
always trusts,  
always hopes,  
always perseveres.  
Love never fails."  
- 1 Cor. 13:7-8*

## CONFERENCE RESOURCES

AVAILABLE ON WEBSITE

Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson shared a pastoral letter on Jan. 30 regarding our need to see each other and support one another during this pivotal time in our nation. To read her letter, click [HERE](#). In addition, the Conference has shared a resource for churches regarding Immigration Guidance. To access this document, click [HERE](#). Please contact the District Office regarding any questions around this issue.



## 2025 LAY SERVANT ACADEMY FEB. 21-22

The Lay Servant Academy will be virtual only and will take place February 21st and 22nd. Courses will include standard courses such as The Basic Course and Preaching, in addition to Mission Encounter and CLM Orientation.

Registration: <https://vaumc.org/layservantacademy/>

## ACCOMPANIST JOB OPENING

Christ UMC, Richmond, is seeking a part-time piano accompanist for our 10:00 am worship service. The accompanist would be responsible for supporting our small congregation in singing as well as sharing a prelude and postlude. Our choir meets at 9:40 am to review unfamiliar hymns and sometimes a short choir response. The accompanist would also be expected to occasionally accompany soloists. Playing at a limited number of extra services, such as Maundy Thursday, would also be expected. Compensation would depend on experience, education, and proficiency. Please contact Pastor Shayne Estes with inquiries: 804-357-1107 (cell).



## MENTORS NEEDED

All God's Children Camp (AGCC) will be offering two weeks of camp this summer (June 15-20 and August 10-15) and we need you to make it happen! We are looking for compassionate and enthusiastic mentors, who are 17 years or older, to join us this year as we serve the incarcerated community and their families. AGCC is a place to share God's love, spread kindness and to hear the words "I Am Somebody!" So grab some friends and come be a part of this wonderful opportunity to serve your community and help break the cycle of incarceration. And for clergy: Participating as a mentor at All God's Children Camp qualifies for CEU credits! For more information, email Lori Smith at [agcc@vaumc.org](mailto:agcc@vaumc.org) or check out our website [www.vaumc.org/agcc](http://www.vaumc.org/agcc).



## DISTRICT YOUTH RETREAT "BUILDING BLOCKS" FEB. 21-23

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 \$150 per person and includes lodging and six meals. To sign up your group, click [here](#). For more information, please contact Andy Glascott, [andy@notminebutyours.net](mailto:andy@notminebutyours.net), or Rebecca Wagner, [wagnerwimps@yahoo.com](mailto:wagnerwimps@yahoo.com).

# MARCH OPPORTUNITIES

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**MARCH 1** - The Racial Justice Network and Cornelius Corps ([www.corneliuscorps.org](http://www.corneliuscorps.org)) will host a conference, "Journey to Healing", on Sat. Mar. 1, 9:30am-4:00pm, at Belmont UMC in Richmond. The focus of the conference is building authentic relationships across racial lines as a step toward racial healing. The conference will include worship, speakers, and time for small group conversations. The cost is \$20/person and includes lunch and light refreshments. [Registration is available here.](#) Questions? Email [racialjnetwork@gmail.com](mailto:racialjnetwork@gmail.com), or call 804-521-1124.



**MARCH 8** - The Creation Justice Team of the Board of Church & Society is holding the 1st VAUMC Climate Summit on Sat., Mar. 8, at Randolph-Macon College in Ashland. We will gather to connect and learn why we are the key to VAUMC response to sustainability in climate change, and our response to the "Net Zero by 2050" resolution passed at the 2024 Annual Conference. Please invite youth--there are special workshops for them and for youth leaders at a reduced price of \$5. We have a nationally known Keynote Speaker (Michele Roberts, Scientist turned Climate Activist), time to connect with other conferees, and the choice of two afternoon workshops. Lunch is included in the \$25 registration fee. A .5 CEU is available for clergy. Click [here](#) for a flyer. Click [here](#) to register. If you have questions, please contact Ellen Comstock at [ellencomstock@vaumc.org](mailto:ellencomstock@vaumc.org) or 757-373-3137.



**MARCH 8** - There will be a "Faith in Troubled Times" Seminar featuring author Amanda Held Opelt at Main Street UMC in Waynesboro on Sat., Mar. 8. The event will include a keynote talk and book signing, as well as a choice of breakout sessions led by local and regional experts on various topics. Lunch and refreshments are included in the \$30 registration fee. Sponsored by Main Street UMC and the Valley Ridge District. Click [here](#) to access a flyer. Click [here](#) to register.



## 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](mailto: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 & 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



**March 15** - Every Christian is called by God in a myriad of ways! Discernment Day is an opportunity offered by the Virginia Annual Conference for you to explore your sense of call with others. Through prayer practices, age-appropriate small groups, and topical discussion groups, you will be provided with space to learn more, connect with others, and discover next steps. This is a free event on Saturday, March 15, at Ebenezer UMC in Stafford. It is open to all high school aged and older. To learn more and to register, go to <https://vaumc.org/discernment-day/>