

LIVING WATERS

A DISTRICT IN THE
VIRGINIA CONFERENCE OF
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

EMBRACE EVERYONE. EMPOWER PEOPLE. INSPIRE HEARTS. EMBODY CHRIST.

The Living Waters District eJournal



Happy and Holy Ash Wednesday Living Waters District!

As we begin a new Lenten journey and prepare our hearts, minds, and souls for an Easter celebration in front of us, I invite and challenge each of us to observe a Holy Lent in 2023. Allow the upcoming six weeks to be a time of purposeful reflection of your own spiritual journey. Allow time each day to “be” with Christ. We can become so busy “doing” for Christ that we miss the deep blessing of being with our Lord. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you, inspire you, and to lead you to a deeper journey with Jesus – not just during the Lenten season, but every day.

In spite of all of the many obstacles and challenging decisions facing each of our church families during this unprecedented time within the United Methodist Church, may we never forget that God is with us and is calling us to draw near to God during this holy Lenten season!

I deeply appreciate all of those who have contacted me and our staff with words of support and prayers over the past months. Many have asked me what they can do and how they can help. Here are four things that I ask for us to do please:

1. Pray. Let us all remember and embrace the truth that prayer changes things. Be diligent in prayer.
2. Stay informed about what is really happening within the United Methodist Church - The Book of Discipline hasn't changed!
3. Have a Holy Lent, individually and corporately. It is a spiritual journey.
4. Focus on the mission and ministry needs within your community and get involved. Let's be the hands and the feet of Christ every day!

Again, have a Holy Lenten season. Embrace the promise found in James 4:8 "Draw near to God and God will draw near to you."

Lenten Blessings,

Jay Carey
Living Waters District Superintendent
LivingWatersDS@vaumc.org

The Rev. Craig Armistead Buxton
March 10, 1956 – February 20, 2023 (age 66)

The Rev. Craig Armistead Buxton, 66, of Midlothian, VA, passed away on February 20, 2023 at home after a brief illness.

Born in Portsmouth, VA, he grew up in Monumental United Methodist Church as a 5th generation Portsmouth resident and an 11th generation Virginian. He was the son of the late Samuel Edward Buxton and Louise Pope Buxton of Portsmouth and brother to Brian (of Chapel Hill, NC) and Larry (of Ashburn, VA). Larry is a retired pastor in the Virginia Conference.

Craig received his M. Div. from Union Theological Seminary, Richmond in 1984. He went on to serve Rocky Mount (Franklin County), Phoebus (Hampton), Centenary (Portsmouth), Faith (Alexandria), and Crawford (Dinwiddie). He was the beloved pastor of Trinity UMC (Petersburg) at the time of his death. Craig also served as pastor of First Congregational UCC in Midlothian for 6 years.

In addition, Craig was a seasoned chaplain. He served chaplaincies in a funeral home, a mental health facility, a prison, and several hospice organizations for many years. He was a skilled pianist and cartoonist whose generous spirit, uplifting music and quirky humor brought smiles to many.

His ancestry qualified him to be a member of the Jamestowne Society, the National Society of Washington Family Descendants, and the Sons of the American Revolution. More important to him, however, was being a child of God and a servant-brother of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Plans for a Celebration of Resurrection service at Trinity UMC are currently pending. Craig is survived by two brothers, two sisters-in-law, four nephews, three great-nieces and three great-nephews. He will be deeply missed.



Did you miss Bishop Sue's
Installation Service?
You can watch it here!!!

[Click here](#)

SMALL & RURAL CHURCH COMMUNICATIONS WEBINAR
Wednesday, March 8 | 9:00 am-noon on Zoom



You are invited to attend this free training session on Zoom.

Register @ <https://bit.ly/small-rural-comm>

This training webinar will specifically focus on the communication needs of small and rural churches that often face limited resources, budgets, technology, and staff but who want to reach their community and members in effective ways.

GUEST SPEAKERS & TOPICS

Rev. Keon Huh

Lead Pastor of Woodstock UMC, VAUMC Board of Communications Member

Topics: Livestreaming set up and equipment, upgrading technology and internet, websites, and social media for churches with little or no budget.

Jonathan Lemaster-Smith

Professor of United Methodist Studies, Rural Ministry, and
Christian Education and a United Methodist Pastor

Topics: Utilizing traditional rural communication avenues to spread the gospel, communicating with minimal internet, and using social media in rural spaces.

Jeremy Brown

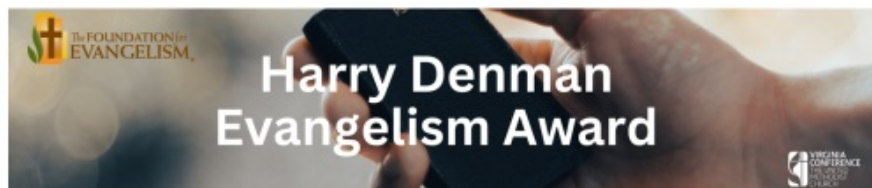
Director of Training and Development at United Methodist Communications

Topics: How your small church can utilize UMC Communications as a resource in reaching your community and members.

Presented by the VAUMC Board of Communications

The webinar will also be recorded and shared with all registered attendees after the event.

Harry Denman Evangelism Award



Greetings in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,,

As a member of the Board of Discipleship, I wanted to invite members of the Virginia Annual Conference to nominate a Clergy, Laity, or Youth who have exhibited outstanding efforts in Wesleyan evangelism for the Harry Denman Evangelism Award.

The award is named for the late Dr. Harry Denman, a distinguished lay evangelist whom Dr. Billy Graham called "my mentor in evangelism." The awards are made possible by The Foundation for Evangelism (www.foundationforevangelism.org), founded in 1949 by Dr. Denman, who felt it was the business of every Christian to be an evangelist.

A candidate to be nominated can involve personal witnessing, speaking, and inspiring individuals or the local church to be actively involved in helping people experience God's transforming love through Jesus Christ. Neither the size of the local church with which the person is affiliated, the age or gender of the person, nor the length of their service should limit one's eligibility. What is essential are the persons whose lives have been changed by the life and ministry of the nominee.

Once nominations are received, the Board of Discipleship will select one clergy, one laity, and one youth to receive the award and those persons will receive the award at the Virginia Annual Conference gathering in June.

Please use this nomination form, which can be found on the Harry Denman Award page on the Virginia Conference website (<https://vaumc.org/denman/>). Nominations can be made by March 1, 2023, to be recognized at the Annual Conference gathering in Roanoke, VA.

Thank you for your attention to this award nomination.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

In Christ,

Rev. Matt Sergent
Member of the Board of Discipleship

New webpage to highlight VAUMC clergy books

A new webpage on the conference website will share books written by VAUMC clergy (books focusing on faith, UM mission, ministry, and polity) as a way to share with conference clergy and laity potential resources for individual and group study. Clergy can share their information by emailing communications@vaumc.org. Books listed on the webpage are not endorsed by the conference. [Learn more:](#)

Youth Events

Youth Mission Encounter events offered at four locations

The Virginia Conference Serving Office is offering four locations for a winter Youth Mission Encounter Event on the theme Community in the Midst of Challenging Times. A time to learn and share will be held at the following:

- March 4 – Shenandoah University (led by the Rev. DeLyn Celec)

The registration deadline is January 20 for Occohannock on the Bay and January 30 for all other locations. Youth leaders may register your group of middle and high school students **at this link**

Each group attending must have their own adult chaperones who are Safe Sanctuary trained and background checked by their local church. Events will be from 10 am until 4 pm with lunch and snacks provided. Cost is \$25/person. Questions? Contact **kendragrimes@rmc.edu** for more information.



HIGHLAND SUPPORT PROJECT
WITH
THE PACE CENTER AT VCU

Young Adult Trip
Santa Catarina, Guatemala

- Stove Building
- Maya Arts Program- working with indigenous schools
- Coffee Coop Tour
- Fellowship with young adults outside your congregation

\$1300 not including airfare

**June 24-July 1
2023**

Email hello@highlandpartners.org to sign up!

HIGHLAND SUPPORT PROJECT

A Richmond based Advance Special of the UMC. We have partnered with indigenous communities for over 30 years to facilitate cross cultural exchange and transformational development alongside the Pace Center at VCU. We are putting together a young adult mission trip for high school and college students in Virginia to Guatemala this summer. The cost of the trip is \$1,300, not including airfare. For additional information, contact Rebecca Andrews.

Rebecca Andrews
Highland Support Project
(804) 796-0689
highlandsupportproject.org
rebecca@highlandsupportproject.org



Spring Retreat: (aka) Jesus Camp

For all Living Waters District Youth and Friends
(Middle School and High School Youth)

"I Will Carry You"

Isaiah 46:4

(And Disney's: *Toy Story 4*)

Rev. Nickie Moreno-Howard – Keynote Speaker

Friday Evening – Sunday Morning

March 17-19, 2023

Mark Your Calendars! Plan Your Life Around It!

A Weekend of Fellowship, Fun, Friendships,

Thought provoking Conversation and Spiritual Growth.

Airfield 4H Conference Center in Wakefield, VA

Registration Deadline March 1, 2023: \$120/person

Early Registration deadline February 20, 2023: \$100/person

(Family discount 10% off for households with two or more participants)





Go ahead and mark your calendars to come mentor with us next summer at All God's Children Camp. Below are the dates. Please email Lori Smith at agcc@vaumc.org for more information.

Camp Chanco-June 18-23
Camp OOTB-August 6-11
Camp Chanco August 13-18

Lori Smith, Coordinator
All God's Children Camp
P.O. Box 8506
Glen Allen, VA 23058

Mentors needed for summer camps

All God's Children Camp is looking for mentors this summer. There are three opportunities to serve: June 18-23, August 6-11, and August 13-18. This is a wonderful opportunity to serve locally. Also, this is a great mission trip for youth groups and other small groups and it's free. Please contact Camp Coordinator **Lori Smith** for more information. A ministry of the Virginia Annual Conference, All God's Children Camp is a weeklong overnight camp for children ages 7 to 12, with an incarcerated parent. Campers have an opportunity to participate in all the physical activities the camp has to offer such as boating, swimming, hiking, archery, music, crafts, and Bible study, along with a conflict resolution/self-esteem-building class. **Learn more...**

For more information, check the website at www.vaumc.org/agcc/ or contact Lori Smith agcc@vaumc.org

A PURNELL BAILEY SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE

RANDOLPH-MACON COLLEGE

A. PURNELL BAILEY PRE-MINISTERIAL PROGRAM

For those discerning a call to full-time Christian ministry - pastors, chaplains, missionaries, faith-based non-profit leaders, music ministers, youth & children's ministers and more!

WWW.RMC.EDU/ACADEMICS/PRE-MINISTERIAL

Randolph-Macon College Bailey Scholars receive half tuition for two years, full tuition for two years, a weekly peer group meeting, two internships, and support discerning next steps in theological education/vocational call.

Application deadline is March 1, 2023.



BAILEY SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN AT R-MC!! DEADLINE IS MARCH 1st!!!!!!

Young people are searching for meaningful vocations as they make plans after high school. Do you know someone considering a call to Christian ministry? Whether it's a call to preach, mission work, faith-based non-profit leadership, music ministry, youth ministry, chaplaincy... the Church needs young leaders who are prepared to guide us into the future.

Randolph-Macon College in Ashland, VA is the oldest continuously operating Methodist College in the U.S. and is committed to nurturing a new generation of church leaders. Our Bailey Scholars program awards a half-tuition scholarship for the first two years followed by a full tuition scholarship for a student's final two years at R-MC. Bailey Scholars also benefit from two internships (one for academic credit and one for a \$3,000 stipend) and a weekly meeting with other pre-ministerial students.

Please share this information with young people and youth ministers whom you know. Learn more at www.rmc.edu/academics/pre-ministerial. The application deadline for next year's incoming class is March 1, 2023. Contact R-MC Chaplain and Pre-Ministerial Program Director Rev. Kendra Grimes at kendragrimes@rmc.edu for more information.

Scholarships Available for United Methodist Students!

Applications are now open for scholarships from the United Methodist Higher Education Foundation.

Every year, UMHEF awards \$2+ million to students planning to attend one of the 100+ UM-related colleges, universities, and seminaries across the country. Don't let finances get in the way of achieving your dreams of a quality education! Apply by March 1 at <https://umhef.org/apply>.



**SCHOLARSHIP
APPLICATIONS
OPEN NOW!**



Lake Junaluska to hold three women retreats in 2023

Lake Junaluska will host three Journey to Joy Women's Retreats in 2023, bringing women together for meaningful weekends of laughter, sharing, worship and fellowship. [Learn more...](#)

Offered in partnership with Leigh Young, author of "Journey to Joy: A Seven-Week Path to the Joyous Life God Intended" and "Lessons from the Letters," the retreats will be held March 24-

26, Aug. 25-27, and Nov. 10-12. Lake Junaluska in North Carolina is a place of Christian hospitality where lives are transformed through renewal of soul, mind and body. All are welcome at the beloved retreat center nestled in the mountains of Western North Carolina. The 1,200-acre property is perfect for personal getaways, family vacations, conferences, retreats, weddings and reunions.

PENNIES FOR POUNDS!!!

Lent Fundraiser for Veteran Suicide Prevention. Click the link below to learn more and support this worthy cause.

[Click here](#)

JOB POSTING

Main Street UMC (Suffolk)

Bookkeeper



Main Street United Methodist Church
202 North Main Street
Suffolk, VA 23434
757-539-8751

**Part-time Bookkeeper
Job Description- February 2023**

QUALIFICATIONS

High School Diploma, minimum
Minimum of 5 years bookkeeping experience
At least 21 years old
Accounting skills and experience
Computer proficiency
Organizational skills
Ability to work well with office staff and church members

ACCOUNTABILITY

The Bookkeeper is responsible to the Staff-Parrish Relations Committee with accountability to the Senior Pastor.

FUNCTION

The Bookkeeper, under the supervision of the Senior Pastor and the Staff-Parish Relations Committee, and Finance Committee, shall perform the bookkeeping duties of the church. **Most of the work performed by the Bookkeeper is of a confidential nature only to be shared with the pastor.** The Bookkeeper position is part-time with hours to be determined.

RESPONSIBILITIES

FINANCIAL RECORD KEEPING/REPORTING

Maintain records of financial transactions by establishing/maintaining accounts; posting transactions; ensure legal requirements compliance using ACS church financial software.

- Adhere to standard accounting principles and church procedures.
- Assist the Treasurer in areas related to budget management.
- Assist the Treasurer with banking transactions and relationships.
- Prepare and provide timely financial statements and reports to committee chairs, staff, and Treasurer.
- Monitor fund balances of internal accounts; reporting issues of concern to the Treasurer.
- Monitor expenditures for proper approvals and adherence to policies.
- Conduct bank transfers.
- Reconcile bank and investment accounts.
- Process payroll and maintain payroll records.
- Maintain General Ledger and chart of accounts.
- Facilitate the auditor with the annual audit.

1 | Page

UNITED METHODIST MEN
UNITED METHODIST MEN/VAUMC
BEACON NEWSLETTERS & NOTICES/VAUMC

Lebanon UMC (Dinwiddie)

UMM All You Can Eat Pancakes, Sausage & Baked Apples!!!

March 2nd, 6pm-8pm \$7
12450 Courthouse Road
Dinwiddie, VA 23841



Prayer Requests

The Family of Rev. Craig Buxton
The Family of Charles J. Piluso
(Rev. Phyllis Pilsuo's Husband)
Rev. Rich Meiser
Churches and Pastors in transition

Please send your prayer requests
to terrirosser@vaumc.org



Check out our Updated District Website!

We have been working very hard to update our new Living Waters District website. Some of the areas are still under construction, but we would like you to check it out and let us know what you think! Many of the tabs contain lots of useful information about the District Office hours, Contact Information, Mission and Ministries Links and Newsletters. If you have any questions, please contact Terri Rosser at terrirosser@vaumc.org

[Click Here](#)



NewsLetter DEADLine

March 21st, 2023

Email: TerriRosser@vaumc.org

Living Waters District UMC | TishBorden@vaumc.org | 804.732.2538
Area Bishop: Rev. Sue Hauptert-Johnson
District Superintendent: Rev. Jay Carey
Director of Church Vision & Vitality: Rev. Tim Beck
Administrative Assistant: Leticia Borden
Office Support: Thelma Watts
Communications Coordinator: Terri Rosser
Lay Leaders: Gerry Fuss, Keith Jordan, Geraldine Sanderson
Treasurers: Kay Mims, Jennifer Honeycutt

Living Waters District UMC | P O Box 3413, 11605 S Crater Rd, Petersburg, VA 23805

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