

# 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 With Praises and Thanks! January 2025

Join us every month as Rev. Jay Carey, District Superintendent, Rev. Tim Beck, Director of Church Vision and Vitality or Rev. Thomas Wynn, District Youth Coordinator, share their thoughts and perspectives to inspire us and make us think.



For years I was a high school varsity basketball coach. The school I coached at had a storied football tradition complete with district, regional and state championships, players who went on to have great college careers and even a couple who made it all the way to the NFL; the basketball program, not so much. The gym in which the basketball team played was tapered with banners that commemorated the season accomplishments of several of the school's sports programs, with one noticeable exception, the basketball team! No one could recall the last winning season that the basketball program had. Each new generation that played football at this school came onto the team with pride and the knowledge of the great winning legacy that was forged before them, and that the expectation for them was to carry that legacy on. Basketball on the other hand had a legacy of losing, disappointment and low expectations.

The second year of my tenure, things changed. We had a team of talented, disciplined and smart players. We started the season off with them doing something that neither they

nor anyone else had ever seen, they were winning! Then one night in the middle of the season the best team in our district, who was a perennial championship contender, came to our gym with a boat load of fans, winning history and confidence. During the pregame warmups they were brash and their skill and overt confidence was on full display in front of a raucous crowd of both fan bases. As I looked at the opposing team's confidence and their "We're going to win this game" attitude, I also noticed the sheer blankness and fear that rested on the faces of my team. Everything that the past had taught them pointed to the inevitable conclusion that they were going to lose, and fear of that familiar, disappointing outcome overtook them.

I interrupted their warmup routine, huddled them on our bench, and went biblical. The words of the Apostle Paul filled our huddle. The words that Paul used to encourage his mentee Timothy (2 Timothy 1:7), I used to encourage these wide-eyed, blank-faced teenage athletes. I shared that I could visibly see the fear in their faces and that the fear that they were experiencing did not come from God. I preached that God has not given us a spirit of fear, but what He has given us is power, love and a sound mind! I shared that God had given them the power to go on that court and do what they had trained and prepared to do; that He had given them the requisite love for the game of basketball and for each other; and that He had given them all a sound mind to quiet the noise and to execute at a high level. It is my pleasure to tell you that they threw off their fear and went out and played a hard fought game and did something that they nor a good portion of the crowd in attendance that night thought they could do...They won!

In this New Year know that God, our Father, has not given us the spirit of fear, so whatever you face in 2025, do not fear! What He has given us is Power to handle whatever is in front of us; He has also given us His very nature to walk in and to share, which is Love, for God is Love; and lastly, He has given us a Sound Mind to stay balanced and to victoriously maneuver through all situations as we keep our minds focused on Him. Fear not, and win in 2025! Happy New Year!!!!

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## DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

**January 6 - Have you registered for the District Empowerment Event at Crenshaw UMC? The deadline is TODAY!! Sign Up Here**

**January 15** - Statistical Table I due.

**January 18** - District Empowerment Event at Crenshaw UMC in Blackstone from 9:00 am-3:00 pm. Register now!

**January 21 - The last day to submit 2024 Apportionments to the Conference Business Office is noon.**

**January 31** - The final date for W2s to all Employees/Clergy; 1099-Misc to all Contractors; all Payroll Tax Forms due to the Virginia Department of Taxation; and all Payroll Tax Forms due to the Social Security Administration.

**January 31** - Statistical Tables II and III are due.

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L I V I N G   W A T E R S  
D I S T R I C T



**EMPOWER**

E Q U I P P I N G  
L E A D E R S

You asked and we listened!!!! On Saturday, January 18th, at Crenshaw UMC, from 9:00 am until 3:00 pm, DS Jay Carey, Rev. Alan Layman, Richard Speirs, and VA Conference Staff will present a District Empowerment Event specifically designed for Finance, Lay Servant Ministries, Nominations and Leadership Development, Simplified Accountable Structure (SAS), Staff/Pastor Parish Relations, and Trustees.

If your church wants to grow in 2025, **register NOW** for this event. All attendees may apply for District Missions and Outreach Grants for their church (\$1,000, \$750, \$500, \$250). See flyer for details. Additional details will be shared as we continue to plan.


Please contact [Terri Riggs](#) if you have any questions.



# LIVING WATERS DISTRICT EMPOWERMENT EVENT 2025


## Topics :

- Finance
- Lay Servant Ministries
- Nominations & Leadership Development
- Simplified Accountable Structure (SAS)
- Staff/Pastor Parish Relations
- Trustees

 Saturday, January 18, 2025

 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

 Crenshaw United Methodist Church  
200 Church Street, Blackstone, VA 23824

 Lunch will be served (no charge)

*This event is free and open to all members. All attendees will have the opportunity to apply for limited Living Waters District Missions and Outreach church grants of \$1,000, \$750, \$500, and \$250.*



## FINANCE

**Carol Draper**

VA Conference Controller



## FINANCE

**Tina Gudel**

VA Conference Accounting Manager



## LAY SERVANT MINISTRIES

**Richard Speirs**

VA Conference Coordinator of Lay  
Servant Ministries



## NOMINATIONS & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

**Rev. Jason Stanley**

VA Conference Director of Call and  
Candidacy



## SIMPLIFIED ACCOUNTABLE STRUCTURE

**Rev. Alan Layman**

Pastor, Trinity United Methodist  
Church, Chesterfield



## STAFF/PASTOR PARISH RELATIONS

**Rev. Jessie Colwell**

VA Conference Director of Clergy  
Excellence



## TRUSTEES

**Rev. Jay Carey**

Living Waters District Superintendent

## Registration required:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0845AEAD2BA1FDCE9-52644973-living>





Questions? Call (804) 732-2538 or email [TimBeck@vaumc.org](mailto:TimBeck@vaumc.org), [TishBorden@vaumc.org](mailto:TishBorden@vaumc.org), or [TerriRosser@vaumc.org](mailto:TerriRosser@vaumc.org)





# Clergy BOOK STUDY

Led by Rev. Jesse Moffitt

 Wednesdays (8 sessions)  
January 8 - February 26

 9:30 until  
11:30am


 Meetings will be  
held by Zoom

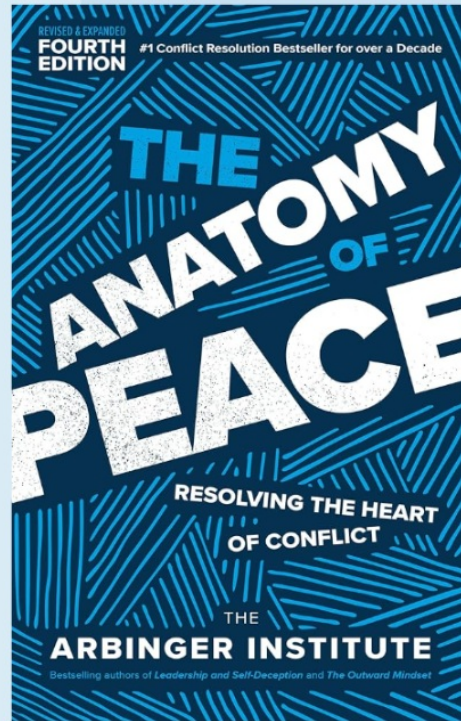
 1.5 CEUs  
Awarded

**REGISTER NOW**

<https://tinyurl.com/TheAnatomyofPeaceBookStudy>

 Questions? Contact  
**JesseMoffitt@vaumc.org**

 Call the Living Waters District  
**804-732-2538**



[Click Here to Register](#)

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Youth

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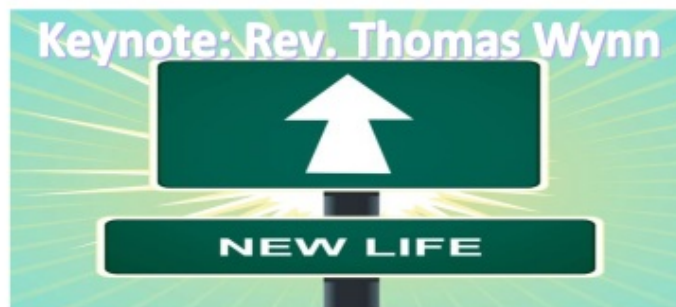


## Jesus Camp 2025

February 7-9<sup>th</sup> @ the 4-H Center in Wakefield

NEW NAME-NEW ROAD-NEW LIFE

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17



For registration packet and information please email

[lwdistrictyouth@gmail.com](mailto:lwdistrictyouth@gmail.com)

Cost is \$150 per person. Due by 1/22/25.

This covers 2 nights lodging, 4 meals, and entertainment!

You will also be participating in Mission work to support those in need to include those affected by the 2024 Hurricanes.

The DYC has worked hard to prepare this weekend for you.....come learn about how God changed the lives of several in the bible and it may just change yours!

**[Click Here for Payment](#)**

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## Books By VAUMC Clergy

We have many pastors within the Living Waters District and the Virginia Conference that have published books. If you would like to check them out, [Click Here](#)

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# VAUMC Training Videos

It has come to our attention that there is a need for training in Leadership & Development, Trustees, SPRC and other areas of leadership within our churches. Here are a few videos developed by the VAUMC and we hope to bring additional resources to you as the year progresses.

[Click Here for Videos](#)



Have you heard what is happening at **Journey Community Center**? Sign up to get their newsletter and see the progress!

[Follow their story!](#)

## LOCAL CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Cameron Foundation Proactive Grant Awarded to Living Waters District

The Living Waters District is pleased to announce The Cameron Foundation approved a proactive grant of \$73,000 for the Ettrick Community Building Project.

The District is committed to repurposing the property for The Gathering at Washington Street, Inc. to use in community development work in the Ettrick community.

The Gathering and Open Table will serve as consultations to lead an evidence-based Community Convening model that aligns with the principles of asset-based community development. OpenTable and the Gathering will guide and train community partners and stakeholders to implement strategies that fully involve the people of Ettrick. By inviting and integrating their voices, gifts, strengths, and action, the community will drive and define their own vision for the closed Ettrick UMC property to create the solutions and social innovations they see possible.

For more information, contact Audrey D. Smith at [audreysmith@vaumc.org](mailto:audreysmith@vaumc.org).

Five Korean-American pastors and their families in the Living Waters gathered on Nov. 17 (Sun) at the parsonage of Kenwood



UMC (Rev. Joseph Sung serving) to celebrate this year Thanksgiving holiday. We had a potluck style dinner, and shared how God blessed us through each congregation this year. We hope to meet again next year in May. (from left Revs. Hyungsuk Oh, Kay Ryu, Stephen Lee, Sangjung Lee, Hannah Lee, and Joseph Sung)



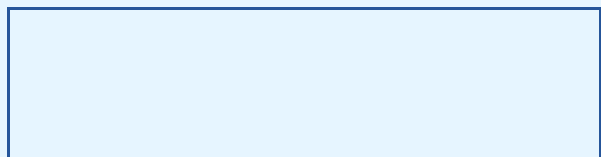
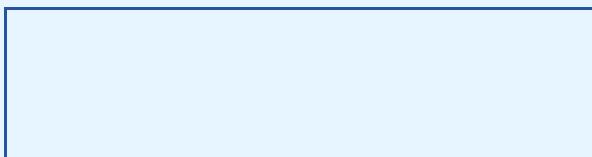
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These are pictures from the Thanksgiving Community Dinner at Kenbridge UMC on Nov. 26 (Tue). We served our community members with over 120 plates. Also this year we invited a Guatemalan congregation in our neighborhood, and 14 of them joined us for the supper. We hope and pray this new relationship grows and bears fruits in missions next year. You can find a picture from the link, taken with the pastor Ramirez and his family with me:)

[Click Here for Pictures](#)

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The United Methodist Women of Faith of the Mt. Carmel/Phenix U.M.C. Charge held their annual fundraiser on Friday, December 6, 2024. Below are some photos of the stew being cooked on site, tables of delicious food and desserts, taken prior to the start of the sale along with some of our dedicated volunteers. This year we served over 200 people. Proceeds go to Missions. We appreciate and are blessed for this generous opportunity given to us by Knoll Crest Farms located in Red House, Va. Glory be to God!







# PGHS CHOIR DINNER FUNDRAISER AT CARSON UMC



All proceeds help PG Choir families with transportation to and from Nashville for our choral competition. We hope you join us at Carson UMC for an evening of food and song!



26th January 2025  
Early Dinner 4:30 - 5:30

or

Late Dinner 6:00 - 7:00

**Tickets \$15**



[pgchoirboosters@gmail.com](mailto:pgchoirboosters@gmail.com)



17407 Halligan Park Rd, Carson, VA 23830

**Darwin Edwards has a black and white clergy robe available. If interested and for more details, please contact Darwin at (757) 650-8400.**



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## UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

To download the latest Messenger newsletter please visit:

[Click Here](#)

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This year, we are adding a very special  
***Journey to Joy Women's Weekend.***

On March 21-23, we will host a ***Journey to Joy: A Special Journey for the Wives of Pastors.***

This weekend, held at the historic and beautiful Lambuth Inn at Lake Junaluska, is designed to support and encourage the wives of pastors-- women who play vital roles in their families, congregations, and communities. During our time together, we will provide opportunities for networking, encouragement, and personal development.

We will bring together scripture and psychology as experts in the field employ resilience writing and the evidence of *Four Behaviors of Flourishing Clergy* to provide tools and strategies to help navigate the unique aspects of this role. Panel discussions and group interactions will address topics such as soul-

care, balancing expectations, and stress management.  
There will be time to listen and time to be heard.  
Encourage the wife of your pastor to sign up for this enriching event.

Space is limited! Please go online to save a spot for yourself, your pastor's wife, and/or a friend as we are only able to accommodate sixty (60) women.

Register at **this link** or call 800.222.4930. Look below to see the other ***Journeys to Joy*** offered in 2025.

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## Women's Weekends Journeys to Joy 2025

March 21-23- Pastors' Wives  
April 4-6 - Women of the Cross  
August 22-24 - Lessons from the Letters  
November 14-16 - Blessed, Not Stressed

For more information:  
[Lakejunaluska.com/joy](https://Lakejunaluska.com/joy)  
or call 800.222.4930

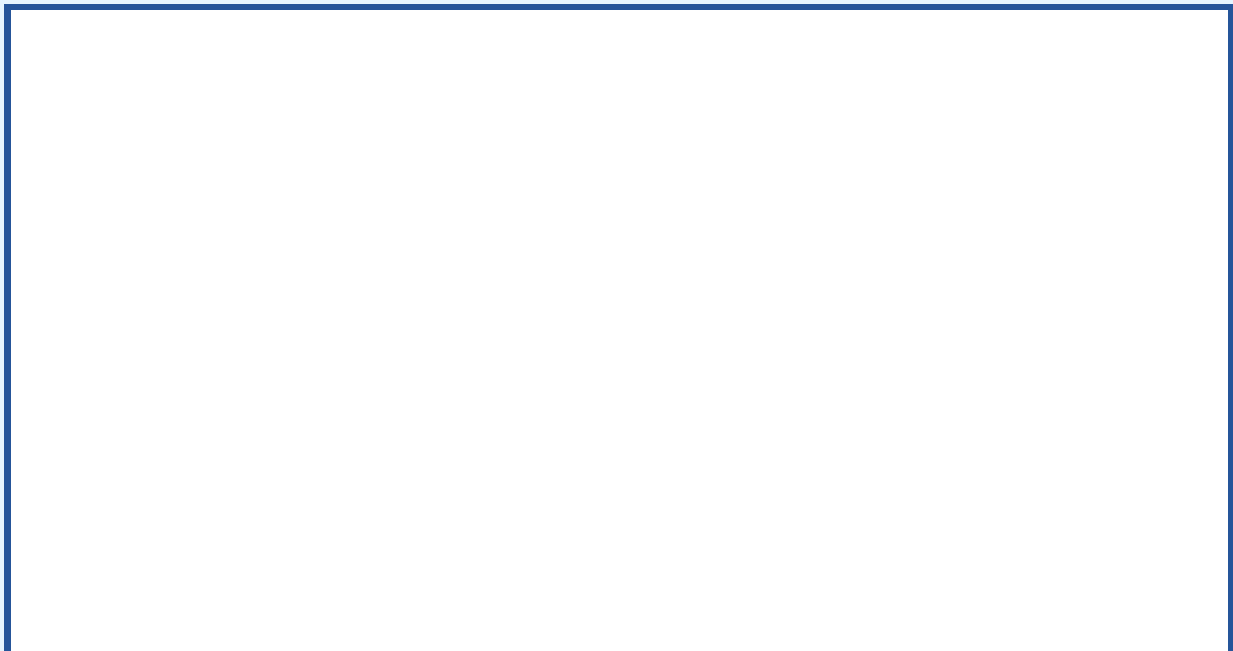


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## UNITED METHODIST MEN

UNITED METHODIST MEN/VAUMC  
BEACON NEWSLETTERS & NOTICES/VAUMC

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## Prayer Requests

Please send your prayer requests to [terrirosser@vaumc.org](mailto:terrirosser@vaumc.org)

The Family of Rev. Lorenzo D. Hill **Click Here for Obituary**

The Family of Mary Patricia Meiser (Rev. Rich Meiser's mother) **Click Here for Obituary**

The Family of William H. Talley, III **Click Here for Obituary**

The Family of Rev. William Campbell "Gus" Wright, Jr. **Click Here for Obituary**



# NewsLetter DEADLine

January 29th, 2025

Email: [TerriRiggs@vaumc.org](mailto:TerriRiggs@vaumc.org)

Living Waters District UMC | [TishBorden@vaumc.org](mailto: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: Phyllis Goin & Thelma Watts  
Communications Coordinator: Terri Riggs  
Lay Leaders: Thelma Crowder, Tommy Johnson  
Treasurers: Kay Mims, Tina Gudgel

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

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